

MESSAGE FROM CLAIRE DAVIES, DOWMAT CEO



Dear All,

We are now reaching the end of another school year, and this will be my last newsletter to you all as I am retiring at the end of August. It has been a privilege to hold the CEO role for the last seven years and to be part of the transformation of the Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust from its early beginnings to the flourishing Trust we have here today; with 16 schools and 1 pre-school. From September, the new DoWMAT CEO will be Mrs Victoria Shelley, currently an Executive Leader and Headteacher in the Inspire Education Trust based in Coventry. Mrs Shelley has already begun the process of meeting all our Headteachers / Heads of School / LAB Chairs and has visited all our academies. She is looking forward to taking up the role in September and we all wish her every success in leading the next stage of the Trust's journey.

Our Vision

'To Love, To Learn, To Serve' sums up the DoWMAT's vision for those who come together to create the MAT, enabling all to flourish both as individuals and in community with each other; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

A collaborative approach sits at the heart of our Trust, inspired by our Vision of enabling all to flourish, and all staff are fully committed to working together to develop and secure high quality educational provision in our schools, so that each and every one of our 2,500 children benefits from an excellent school place. Our academies are all inspiring places to be and there is much to celebrate throughout the Trust. This term, I have been able to visit each academy and I have been privileged to see for myself the remarkable work taking place in our classrooms. I have also met with committed Local Academy Board members, clearly ambitious for their pupils, who are working closely with their school leaders to continually ensure the focus on providing excellent teaching and learning remains a priority.

A special mention and a big well done to all our Year 6 / Year 7 pupils who will soon be leaving their school and moving on to their Year 7 / 8 adventures. We are particularly proud of the huge contribution these cohorts of children have made to their individual schools and especially for all the hard work on the run up to the recent SATs tests. We wish them all the best for the next stage in their learning journey!

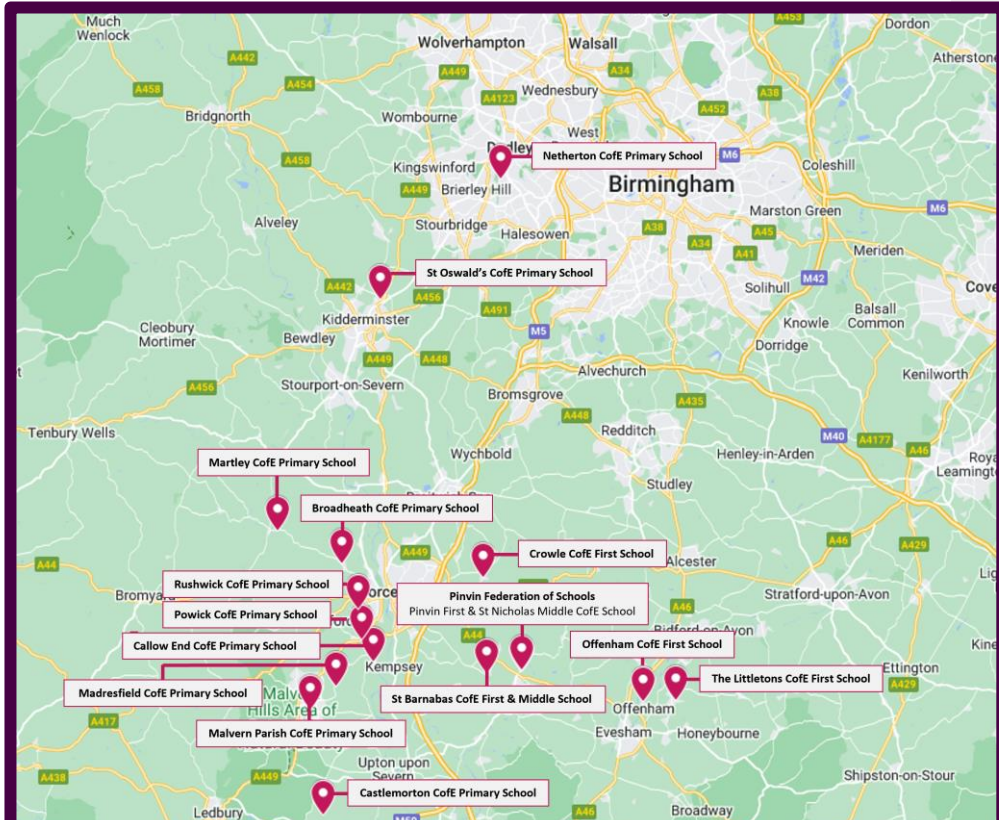
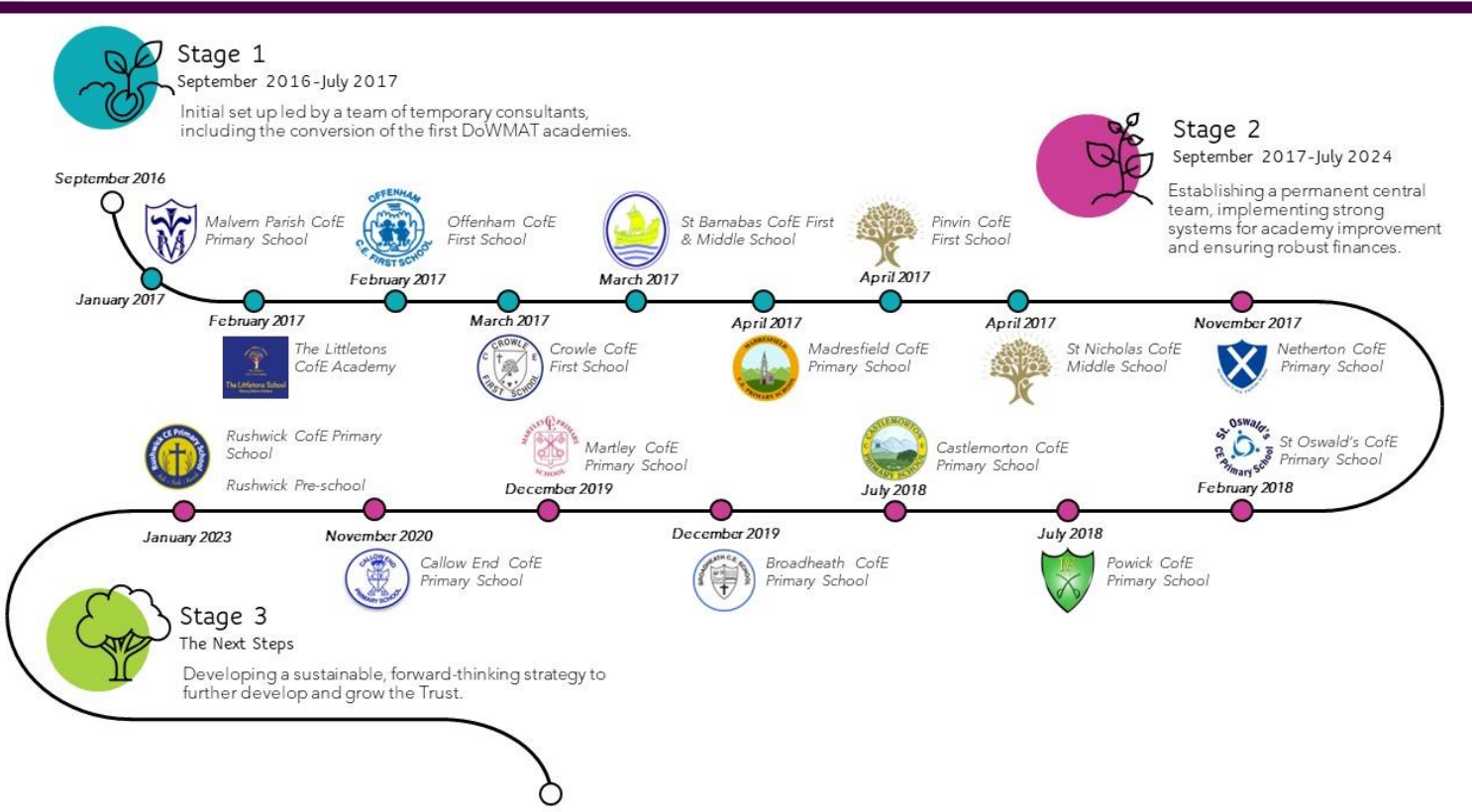
With the end of term approaching, I have some particular thanks to make on behalf of the Trust. Firstly, congratulations to those staff who have secured new jobs either within the Trust or beyond, many to a promoted position, thank you for your significant contribution to the lives and education of our children. Additionally, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Sue Parker, our Director of Education, and Mr. James Hawthorn, Headteacher of The Pinvin Federation of Schools. We wish them both all the very best for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their amazing work on behalf of our children, and to wish all children, families, staff and Governors a happy and restful summer break.

With kind regards,

cdavies

Claire Davies
DoWMAT CEO



ACADEMY NEWS

BROADHEATH CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Happy Children, Successful Learners'



We love being active at Broadheath!

We are very proud to be sharing the prestigious **Platinum School Games Award** for the second time which has been awarded for participation and contribution to sport. This is no mean feat, as a Platinum Mark is only awarded to a handful of schools nationwide, who have consistently achieved a Gold Mark in previous years and have shown sustained dedication to sport and activity in their region.



CASTLEMORTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOVE- LIGHT- ALL
'Love learning, enjoy life and care for one another'



As we approach the end of the academic year, it has been a pleasure to pick out the highlights from a very busy and eventful summer term. We got off to a slightly damp start as our KS2 children travelled to Ogmores-by-Sea, in the Vale of Glamorgan, to carry out their geography fieldwork project, the torrential rain did not dampen our spirits and lots of fun was had.



There have been many sporting activities too, including Bell boating, a Tag Rugby tournament and Sports Day, where children displayed true sportsmanship, demonstrating respect, teamwork and resilience. Other highlights include our Reception and KS1 children visiting Cotswold Wildlife Park and a visit from the local police, who arrived on the playground to much excitement, in a whirl of lights and sirens.



In the final weeks of term, our UKS2 children are heading off for their Residential before delighting our community with their production 'School-o-Vision Song Contest' which we are very much looking forward to. Finally, we are preparing to give our Year 6s the sendoff they deserve and open our doors wide to the children joining us in September.

MADRESFIELD CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Ignite Illuminate Inspire'



In June, both our Owl and Buzzard classes attended Lifepath at the Malvern Priory. This trip is a highlight for the children each year where they are able to experience many activities associated with Priory life. It is memorable, fun and an opportunity for reflection.

Owl Class tried spinning wool, held leaches, learnt about medieval medicine, created reflection bracelets and brass rubbings, and participated in creating a Prayer Journey. Buzzard Class climbed the Priory Tower, rang the bells, tried code breaking in Latin, spinning wool and contributed to the Prayer Journey.



CALLOW END CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Building a foundation for love and learning'



What a busy and productive summer term we have had at Callow End CE Primary School! The children have worked really hard, showing an excellent attitude to learning across the curriculum and have enjoyed lots of trips and visits.



We have had lots of sporting opportunities this term. Holly Class competed in a multi-skills tournament, Oak class took part in a tri-golf completion and the highlight was the DOWMAT Bell-boating Regatta. We took three teams from Years 4, 5 and 6 and they thoroughly enjoyed their day on the river. One of our teams even won a trophy and were very proud of their achievement.

In June, we had an inspirational visit from Rebecca Redfern MBE. Becky is a Paralympic swimmer who has overcome many challenges, in order to succeed. She showed us her medals from the Rio and Tokyo Olympics and the Commonwealth games. We were even allowed to hold the medals and try them on! Becky is the current World Champion and world record holder in her event and has just been awarded an MBE. We wish Becky all the best in Paris this summer and will be cheering her on!

Out of school, Willow class enjoyed a fantastic World War 2 experience at Bewdley Museum where they visited an air raid shelter, made rag rugs, tried on gas masks and learnt many new and interesting facts about daily life during the war. They also went to Lifepath at Malvern Priory. It was such a fantastic day of feeling connected with others, worship and prayer.

All children behaved beautifully and threw themselves into all of the lovely activities, including bell ringing, brass rubbing, cooking and a prayer journey. They left with their hearts and our hands full!

Our musical achievements have included singing at the Three Counties show, our end of year play and a ukulele concert. The younger children have also enjoyed singing and percussion after school clubs.

Oak class had fun-filled day of learning at the Languages Festival with our friends at Hanley Castle High School. They learnt Italian, Hindi and Ukrainian and also visited a French café and ate croissants. They ended the day with a super French presentation all about our school.



CROWLE CofE FIRST SCHOOL

'Caring. Confident. Committed to Learning'



Crowle CofE First School have been focused on developing Maths across the school this academic year. To celebrate our success in this we invited Subject Revolution to come in, to carry out Maths Workshops with all our pupils. It was very exciting as pupils had to work together to crack separate missions, in order to break the code. We had to use our skills in Maths to solve puzzles and problems. There was a real buzz for learning around the whole room, and the children had great fun!

Years 1/2 also had a visit from the "History Man" to bring their learning about Florence Nightingale to life. They learnt about the Crimean War and all the wonderful work Florence did to help soldiers, in this war. They were able to dress up, pretend to heal soldiers and fire a musket! (Please note - No children were harmed in the delivery of this learning!)



MALVERN PARISH CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Learning together for an exciting future'



We have thoroughly enjoyed this academic year at Malvern Parish and it's very nearly the time to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 class and their families.

What better way to do it by seeing them all flourish in their end of year production of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies! Year 6, supported by Key Stage 2, put on their production for 2 nights at Rogers Theatre, Malvern Collage to a sold-out audience.

Have a wonderful Summer holiday and embrace the next chapter of your schooling!



ACADEMY NEWS

MARTLEY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Compassion, Creativity, Commitment, Courage And Cooperation'



Musical Martley

We are very proud of our music provision at Martley, and this was recognized in our recent SIAMS inspection which took place in March:

"Singing is loved by all and brings a real sense of belonging. The musical talents of both adults and pupils are performed as the school enter and leave celebration worship. This develops confidence and an appreciation of others."

We have experienced a range of exciting musical events this year. Examples include singing events such as 'iSingPop', 'Young Voices' and 'Sing Up' as well as peripatetic music teaching of piano, cornet, guitar and drumming. Our children (and sometimes teachers) regularly play in worship and are proud to showcase their musical talents. Several children are part of the Worcester City Brass Youth Band and were invited to play for Her Majesty Queen Camilla at The Royal Maundy Service at Worcester Cathedral. The children were each presented with a very special Order of Service.



NETHERTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Where dreams are made and futures created'



Heritage Project Showcase

The Heritage Project was a special highlight of the Summer term - combining the teaching and learning of History and Geography, to study our local area. It has been impressive to hear our pupils speak confidently and with great knowledge, about Netherton.

This project is unique to our school and has been enthusiastically developed and led by Mrs Powell & Mrs Ryall-Whyte. It is such a strength now, that they have spoken to other teachers from other schools, about how to develop a Heritage Project in their setting and those teachers visited last Thursday, to see Heritage lessons, speak to the pupils and see the wonderful Heritage Showcase. On Thursday 27th June, parents, teachers from other schools and friends from the

local community came to see our Heritage Showcase—the culmination of this year's learning about our local area. Pupil representatives from each class shared their year group's key question and talked confidently about what they had learned, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding.



OFFENHAM CofE FIRST SCHOOL

'LOVE, TRANSFORMATION, GROWTH'



Grandparents Sessions

On Wednesday the 28th June we held our annual Grandparents Day Session. Grandparents were invited into school for either a morning or afternoon session – we welcomed over 80 grandparents into school over the two sessions. It was another wonderful occasion where families could come together and enjoy one another's company.

Children invited their Grandparents into school to share in some activities. We started with a little quiz and we found out who the youngest and oldest grandparents were, which grandparents had travelled the furthest to be with us (one set had travelled over 200 miles!) and the grandparents with the most grandchildren. The children then sang a song to their adoring audience and after that the activities started.

Amongst the many activities was a photobooth where children could have a silly photograph taken with their grandparents. The sessions were a real success and a time of true joy.



Here are some kind words we received from one set of grandparents who came along, "Thank you for inviting us into your Grandparents Day. We had a wonderful time with our [grandchild]. The event was such a thoughtful idea which has given us some lovely memories to treasure for ever."

PINVIN FIRST CofE SCHOOL ST NICHOLAS CofE MIDDLE SCHOOL

'Be happy, grow and flourish'



DoWMAT Bell Boating Day

Pinvin Federation were so delighted to take part in the Bell-Boating Regatta! The children and staff had the best day and were very proud to walk away with 1st, 3rd and 4th!



Inclusive Quality Mark

The incredible work of our inclusion and SEN team was recognised with the IQM award this term! We had such wonderful feedback from our parents and wider community and are so pleased.



Trip to All Things Wild

Years One and Six enjoyed a day out to All Things Wild.



POWICK CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Embracing Learning Together'



Inter-House Competition

This year, we have been working on a regular series of Inter-House competitions to complement the PE curriculum and promote the importance of keeping active and healthy.

We held out Inter-House School Sports Day last week. It was brilliant to see all of the children enjoying themselves while taking part in their races and we are always so proud of the kindness and support that the children show their classmates and friends by cheering for everyone, not only those who come first.



Earlier in the term, Year 3 and 4 visited the University of Worcester PE department for an Inter-house multi skills competition led by the university students. The children had the chance to compete in adapted sports such as Wheelchair Basketball, New Age Curling and Boccia. They loved trying out all of the different sports and, as a result, we are starting an Adapted Sports after school club in September.

In the Spring Term, we held an Inter-House Orienteering Competition. The children raced to solve challenges in their house groups while exploring our outdoor spaces using maps and directions. This helped build problem solving and team work skills as the children had to communicate effectively to decide where to go next. With the competition turning into a real running race, they dashed to return all of the accurately solved problems in time.



ACADEMY NEWS

RUSHWICK CoFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Ask, Seek, Knock'



The summer term saw the Year 6 children of Rushwick CoFE Primary School visit two places of worship: a Sikh Gurdwara and a Jewish Synagogue. The children were welcomed to the Gurdwara by the volunteers - people from the Sikh community who give their time to the service of others - and given a tour of the building. In the prayer hall, the children listened intently to the Siri Guru Granth Sahib being read and were amazed when a two-year old child copied his mother by bowing at the holy scriptures before taking their place in the hall. After a tour of the building, all made by the Sikh community volunteering their time, skills and resources, the children were served lunch in the langar. This is a free, vegetarian meal which everyone can receive.

In the afternoon, the children moved from experiencing one of the world's newest religions, to one of the world's oldest: the Jewish Orthodox religion.

The children were welcomed into the synagogue by Geoffrey and led into the children's synagogue which had the most beautiful stained-glass windows depicting important events from the old testament. After entering the main synagogue (boys one side, girls the other), the children were shown the Ark which contained the Torah: the Jewish religious scriptures. These are beautifully present scrolls which are read in Hebrew using a special pointer as they are not allowed to be touched.



ST BARNABAS CoFE FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

'Let all that you do be done in love'
1 Corinthians Ch.16 vs.14



Scarecrow Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre this year had a Scarecrow competition and theme, including a Scavenger Hunt with clues from The Scarecrow's Wedding. It was a wonderful afternoon with over £1000 being raised for the Friends of St Barnabas. It was Year 3 who won the competition with their Betty O'Barley scarecrow!



Building Works

We are very excited to share that the building works have started at St Barnabas to extend our classrooms. The project is starting with extensions to the Year 1 and 2 classrooms before moving into middle school for work to begin in Years 3 and 4. The end result will be a huge benefit for the children and their environment.

ST OSWALD'S CoFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Inspire Embrace Succeed'



St. Oswald's CoFE Primary School and Nursery's vision for a prayer garden has finally come to fruition, thanks to the remarkable efforts and generosity of the school community.

The Headteacher, Carol Reece said, "We would like to thank both Cllr. Tony Muir who made a donation to fund the garden and also to Mr. Minnard, one of our dedicated parents who has brought our concept to life, creating a serene space for reflection and prayer with God. The prayer garden stands as a testament to the strong bonds within our school community and our commitment to nurturing the spiritual well-being of our students."



To mark this significant milestone, St. Oswald's were honoured to welcome Bishop Martin Gorrick of Dudley to school. In a moving ceremony, Bishop Gorrick officially opened the prayer garden and bestowed upon it a heartfelt blessing. His presence and words of wisdom added a profound sense of reverence to the occasion, underscoring the importance of this new addition to our school grounds.



THE LITTLETONS CoFE FIRST SCHOOL

'God has given you gifts. Use them well to serve one another'.
Peter 4:10



As part of Healthy Living Week, Kanes Foods visited our school. They talked about which foods they grow locally, the benefits of eating healthily and the product development of their new salads.

The children all had a chance to taste a variety of salad ingredients and were able to design (and eat!) their own salads. We have never seen children so excited about eating raw cabbage!



A group of our children also had the opportunity to visit Wimbledon to watch a number of live tennis matches, after we managed to secure tickets for Court 1 through the schools' ballot. They had an amazing day, topped off with a big helping of strawberries and cream!

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