WEST MIDLANDS ACADEMY TRUST

PARENT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2026



A Message from the CEO

As we progress with the second half of the Autumn term, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support and partnership.

Staff from across the Trust have had the privilege of visiting schools, meeting staff and students, and seeing first-hand the many ways in which our communities work together to support young people. What has impressed us most is the shared commitment to helping every child succeed. Whether in the classroom, through enrichment activities, pastoral support or wider opportunities beyond school, there is a collective determination to ensure that all pupils can thrive.

The theme of this edition, Achieving More Together, reflects a principle that is central to our Trust. The strongest outcomes for young people are achieved when schools, families and communities work in partnership. By supporting one another, sharing expertise and maintaining high aspirations, we create the conditions in which children and young people can flourish both academically and personally.

Last half term and the start of this one have seen a positive start to the academic year across our schools. Students have approached their learning with enthusiasm, embraced new opportunities and represented their schools with pride. Alongside this, colleagues across our Trust have continued to strengthen collaboration between schools, helping to ensure that every pupil benefits from the collective expertise, resources and support available across our organisation.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the year, I am excited by the opportunities before us. It is also a real privilege to be beginning our work with Moseley School and Sixth Form and REACH School as they progress towards joining our Trust. There is much to celebrate already, and I am confident that by continuing to work together, we can provide even greater opportunities and experiences for the children and young people in our care.

With best wishes,

Mr M Dunn
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Headteacher, Swanshurst School



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WEST MIDLANDS ACADEMY TRUST

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OUR VALUES
"ICARE"

Integrity
How we behave

Collaboration
How we work

Aspiration
What we want to achieve

Respect
How we treat ourselves, others, and the environment

Equity & Inclusion
What we believe in

ASPIRATIONS ACHIEVED: SUMMER EXAM RESULTS

This summer, students across West Midlands Academy Trust celebrated a year of hard work, determination and resilience as they received an excellent set of GCSE, A Level and vocational examination results.

Across our schools and sixth forms, students achieved outcomes that reflect not only their academic ability, but also the ambition, perseverance and commitment they have demonstrated throughout their education. These results represent countless hours of study, the guidance of dedicated staff and the unwavering support of families and carers.

At Hall Green School, students secured another strong set of GCSE results, with many progressing onto further education, apprenticeships and training opportunities that will help them take their next steps with confidence. The achievements of this cohort are a testament to the positive relationships, high expectations and commitment to learning that define the school community.

Students at Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form also excelled, achieving strong GCSE, A Level and vocational outcomes. The results enabled many students to progress to leading universities, higher apprenticeships and a wide range of future pathways, reflecting both their hard work and the school's commitment to academic excellence and personal development.

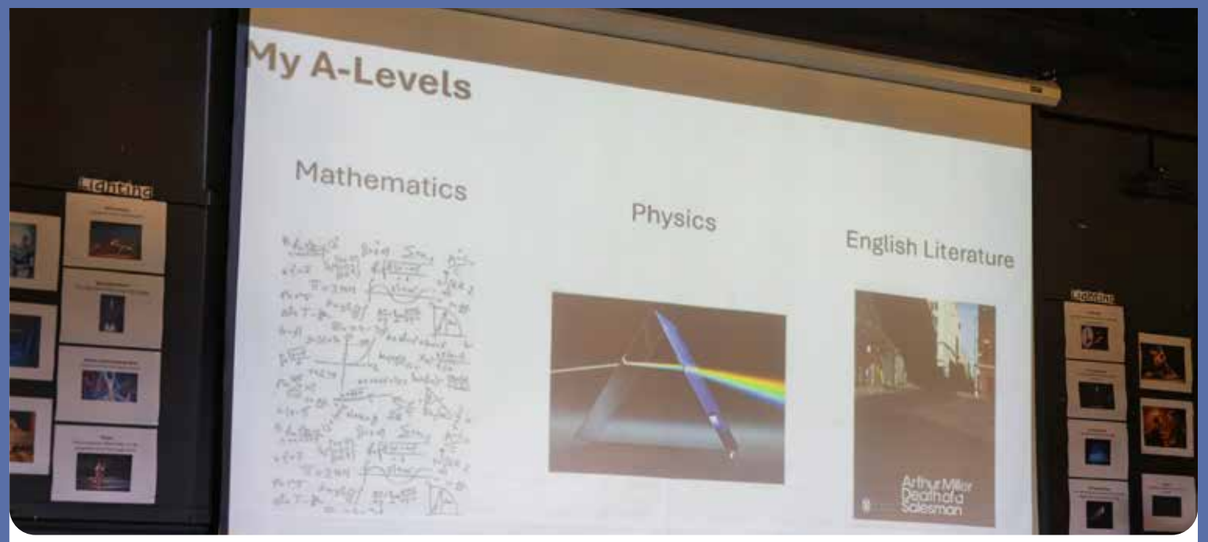
Swanshurst School similarly celebrated outstanding GCSE and post-16 results, with students achieving exceptional outcomes across a range of subjects. These achievements open doors to exciting opportunities and are the culmination of years of dedication, resilience and aspiration.

We congratulate all students on their achievements and look forward to seeing the exciting paths they take as they continue their educational and professional journeys.



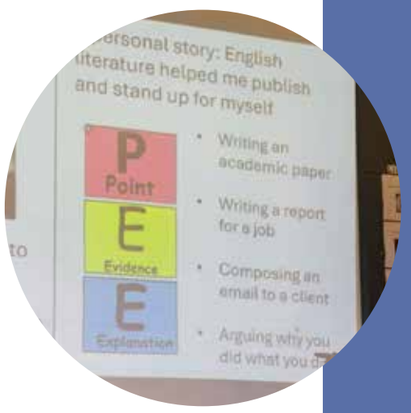
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ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER THROUGH COLLABORATION



Where can studying English at A Level lead?

This term, pupils from Hall Green School and Kings Norton Girls' School came together to explore the many future opportunities that can stem from studying English beyond Year 11.



Hosted by the Kings Norton Girls' School English team, the event brought students face-to-face with professionals working across a diverse range of sectors, including law, science, design and policing. Through a series of engaging discussions, guest speakers shared insights into their career journeys and highlighted the important role that communication, critical thinking and literacy skills continue to play in their professions.

The event provided students with a valuable opportunity to ask questions, gain real-world perspectives and discover how the skills they develop in English can open doors to a wide variety of career pathways. By connecting classroom learning to future aspirations, students were able to see first-hand how subjects they study today can support success in many different industries tomorrow.

We would like to thank our guest speakers for generously sharing their expertise and experiences, and the Kings Norton Girls' School English team for organising another successful and inspiring event.

Investing in our schools

A strong financial position enables West Midlands Academy Trust to continue investing in its schools, ensuring students benefit from safe, modern and inspiring learning environments. Throughout the summer break, a programme of capital improvement works was delivered across the Trust, reflecting our commitment to providing high-quality facilities that support learning and wellbeing.

Projects included roofing improvements funded through successful CIF bids, the replacement of fire doors to further enhance site safety, and the redecoration of classrooms across our schools. At Hall Green School, EV charging bay markings were installed to complement the electric vehicle charging facilities available across all WMAT sites, supporting the Trust's sustainability ambitions.

Meanwhile, Swanshurst School saw the completion of the final stages of its new Sports Hall development, alongside the demolition of the former Centre and Lower Gyms. Together, these investments demonstrate how careful financial stewardship and long-term planning allow us to continually improve our learning environments, creating facilities that will benefit current and future generations of students.







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HALL GREEN SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity in Girls' Football

Congratulations to Miss H Reed at Hall Green School, who received the Outstanding Contribution to Diversity Award at this year's Barclays Girls' Football in Schools Conference. The award recognises her commitment to ensuring young people have equal access to sporting opportunities and celebrates the positive impact she has made through her work in school.

The conference brought together individuals from across the country who are helping to develop opportunities for girls in football, with former England internationals Rachel Brown-Finnis, Anita Asante OLY and Steph Houghton MBE among those sharing their experiences. Congratulations Miss Reed, Mr Kelly, Mr Homer and the wider Hall Green School team on this well-deserved recognition of their commitment to inclusive sport.

Sustainability in Action



Hall Green School's commitment to sustainability was recently recognised in the media, showcasing the practical steps being taken to create a greener and more energy-efficient learning environment.

Recent improvements have helped increase the school's energy efficiency rating from F to C, while reducing energy costs by approximately £70,000 per year.

Alongside investments such as double-glazed windows, LED lighting, electric vehicle charging points and enhanced recycling initiatives, students are also developing a greater understanding of sustainability through curriculum activities and visiting speakers. By combining environmental improvements with education and awareness, the school is helping students understand the important role sustainability will play in their futures and the careers of tomorrow.

KINGS NORTON GIRLS' SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

European Day of Languages Bake Off



Pupils at Kings Norton Girls' School put their baking skills to the test as part of this year's European Day of Languages celebrations, with their Year 7 Bake Off competition serving up plenty of creativity and enthusiasm.

The standard of entries was incredibly high, making the judging no easy task. A huge well done to all of our talented bakers!

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Congratulations to the latest cohort of Sixth Form Wellbeing Ambassadors at Kings Norton Girls' School and Sixth Form, who successfully completed specialist training over the summer as part of the Worth It Wellbeing Ambassador Programme.

These students form the school's fourth cohort of ambassadors and will work alongside staff to support younger students, promote positive wellbeing and raise awareness of mental health through events and initiatives across the year, including World Mental Health Day.



SWANSHURST SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Celebrating Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, students at Swanshurst School had the opportunity to hear from a panel of inspiring speakers who shared their personal experiences of career progression, leadership and overcoming challenges throughout their lives.

The event provided valuable insight into a range of pathways and encouraged students to reflect on their own aspirations and future ambitions. Through an engaging question-and-answer session, students were able to hear first-hand perspectives and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of resilience, representation and opportunity.

Olympic Opening

Swanshurst School officially opened its brand new Sports Hall as part of the launch of its 70th anniversary celebrations.

The occasion was marked by a special event attended by Olympic bronze medallist Katherine Merry and Paralympic bronze medallist Ndidikama Okoh, alongside students, staff, governors, former students and teachers, parents, and members of the wider school community.

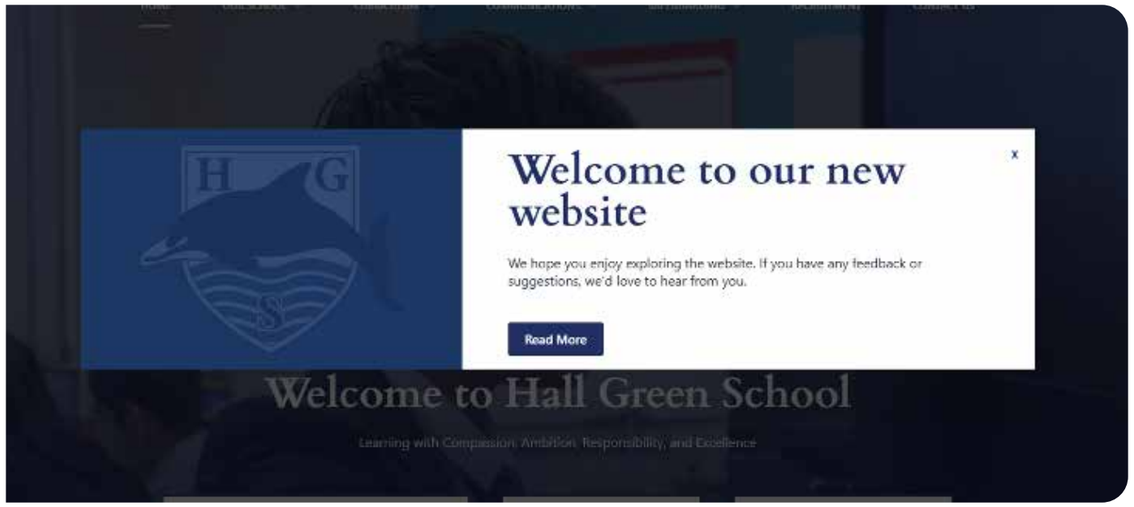


DELIVERING DIGITAL IMPROVEMENT ACROSS THE TRUST

A new website for Hall Green School

This term marked an important milestone in West Midlands Academy Trust's ongoing programme of digital development with the launch of the new Hall Green School website.

Designed and developed entirely in-house by the Trust's Shared Services team, the project demonstrates the value of bringing specialist expertise together to deliver high-quality services that benefit schools, families and wider communities.



The new website has been created to make it easier for parents, carers, pupils and prospective families to find information quickly and access key resources on any device. New features include built-in translation tools, enhanced accessibility options, improved navigation and a dedicated news area to showcase school achievements and opportunities. By designing and delivering the website internally, the Trust has been able to create a solution tailored to the needs of the school whilst ensuring value for money and long-term sustainability.

The Hall Green School website is the first step in a wider programme of website improvements taking place across WMAT this academic year. Led by Shared Services, the programme will support schools in strengthening communication, improving accessibility and creating a more consistent digital experience for families across the Trust.

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ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

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