

# CEO UPDATE

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026



Dear parents/carers

As we reach the end of this term, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your continued support. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding few months across all four schools, and I am delighted to share some of our key highlights across the Trust.

## A term filled with events, enrichment and achievement

Our schools have hosted a wide range of events and activities that have enriched students' learning, personal development and wider experiences.

### Reading & Literacy Focus

All schools delivered DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read) for Years 7 to 10 and Year 12, reinforcing our Trust wide commitment to reading, vocabulary and literacy. Engagement has been notably strong, with increased fluency and confidence particularly at Giles Academy and Cowley Academy, where library-based initiatives continue to make a visible impact.

### Year 11 Preparation

Preparation for GCSE and Level 3 examinations continues at pace. Students have been engaging with targeted interventions such as GCSEPod, lunchtime and after school revision sessions, and our new Loyalty Card initiative which rewards commitment and attendance at revision sessions. Our Year 13 pupils have just completed their PPE examinations and have been working hard to prepare for their summer examinations.

### Enrichment success across the Trust

This term has seen fantastic sporting and cultural achievements, including success in gymnastics, rugby, netball, basketball and Kin-Ball. Our sporting achievements across the Trust have been phenomenal. Spalding Academy's students have also been preparing for their EVOLVE Music concert, showcasing the creativity and talent within our Trust.

### Community, Care & Wellbeing

I am proud that Spalding Academy received a PRIDE award from the South Holland event for our charity work within the community. This week, all schools will host our first Young Carer Breakfast, offering dedicated support for students with caring responsibilities. Activities for Children's Mental Health Week are also planned to promote wellbeing and resilience. Early preparations are underway for World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, with Years 7 to 9 invited to dress as book characters - and staff are being encouraged to join in! I know my half term will be spent looking for book character costumes!

## Investing in Learning: New state-of-the-art Teaching Screens

As announced in my first CEO Update, I remain committed to ensuring that every young person benefits from high quality, modern classroom environments. As part of our ongoing investment across the Trust, we have continued upgrading classroom technology, including the installation of new state of the art teaching screens to enhance teaching and learning. These modern, reliable screens allow teachers to deliver interactive, engaging lessons and help ensure that learning remains accessible and stimulating for all students. This investment forms part of our wider commitment to maintaining excellent facilities for every school within the Trust.

## New Ofsted Framework

One of the key areas that I am preparing all schools in the Trust for, is their next Ofsted inspection under the new framework. The next school scheduled for an Ofsted inspection will be Bourne Academy.

Instead of single word overall judgement (such as Good, Outstanding or Requires Improvement) the grades will be presented in the form of a report card as on the example image opposite. There will now be five grades (Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention or Urgent Improvement) for up to seven individual categories as well as whether safeguarding responsibilities are 'met' or 'not met'.



The seven categories that will be graded are: Achievement, Curriculum & Teaching, Attendance & Behaviour, Leadership & Governance, Personal Development & Wellbeing, Inclusion and Sixth Form Provision (Bourne Academy only).

Our schools are always well prepared for Ofsted inspections and we look forward to them, as they give the opportunity for our schools to shine and be recognised as non-selective schools that provide high quality education for everyone. We will therefore be aiming for 'Exceptional' and 'Strong Standard' gradings in as many areas as possible. In the new Ofsted framework, if any category is judged as 'Needs Attention' or 'Urgent Improvement', Ofsted may return within 12 months to review just that specific area. This is simply part of the national process and ensures that all schools, where needed, have the opportunity to evidence rapid improvement.

Click this link for a video from Ofsted that explains the new framework: <https://youtu.be/kbl0FvY976g>

## Looking Ahead

As we move into the next term, our focus on high quality teaching, strong pastoral support, and rich extracurricular opportunities remains as strong as ever. I am extremely proud of the progress our students have made and grateful to our dedicated staff for their ongoing commitment.

Thank you once again for your support. Working in close partnership with families is vital, and together we will continue to ensure that every young person at SLAT is known, supported and inspired to **Aspire, Challenge, Achieve.**

Kindest regards,

**Mrs Jemma Curson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
South Lincolnshire Academies Trust