CENTRAL ENGLAND ACADEMY TRUST

CEO NEWS & UPDATES



Andrew Dickinson, CEO

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our pupils, families and staff across our Trust. This year marks an exciting milestone for Central England Academy Trust as we are now a family of seven schools, and I'm privileged to have been able to get round to all of them to see some of the wonderful things they are all doing, and importantly to meet and speak with lots of the students.

OUR SCHOOLS

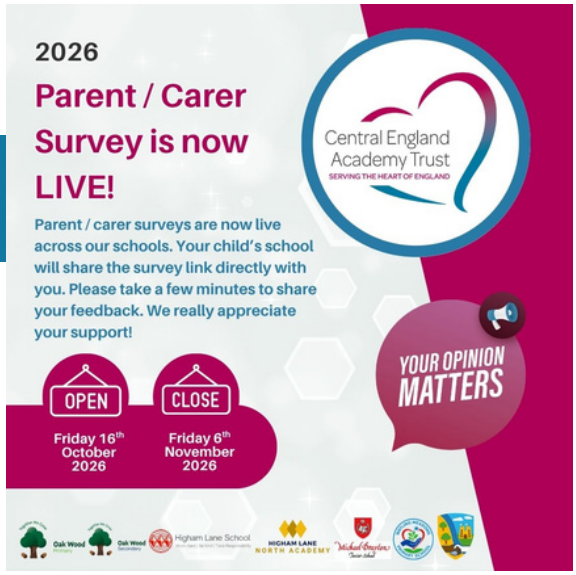
1. Oak Wood Primary School
2. Oak Wood Secondary School
3. Higham Lane School
4. Higham Lane North Academy
5. Michael Drayton Junior School

And we're delighted to have welcomed two new schools into our Trust in September:

6. Watling Meadows Primary School
7. Beaufort Special School

PARENT CARER SURVEY

Parent / Carer Surveys are now live across CEAT schools! Your child's school will have shared the survey link directly with you. Please take a few minutes to share your feedback before the closing date: Friday 6th November 2026.



NEWS STORIES

Michael Drayton Junior School

We're absolutely delighted to announce that Michael Drayton Junior School have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction for 2026–2027! This is a fantastic achievement and recognises pupils' commitment to caring for the environment, promoting sustainability and making a positive difference within the school and wider community.



Further congratulations to everyone at Michael Drayton on raising an incredible £1,020 at their Scarecrow Festival. A brilliant example of creativity, collaboration and community spirit in action! Proceeds are being shared with Ward 10 at Birmingham Children's Hospital. The Trust team had fun creating the Lilo & Stitch Scarecrow to play a small part in such a wonderful community event.

Higham Lane School
Work Hard | Be Kind | Take Responsibility

Higham Lane is celebrating exceptional exam success, with its best-ever A-level results and another outstanding set of GCSE outcomes. These achievements are expected to place the school among the highest-performing in Warwickshire once again, and reflect the hard work, dedication and success of both students and staff.

We're also thrilled to announce that Higham Lane School has been named Young High Sheriff School of the Year for 2026/27! As a result, a student in year 9-11 will have the honour of representing the school as the Young High Sheriff of Warwickshire. We look forward to hearing more about who was selected and their role as the academic year progresses.



Mrs Mitchell, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Susan Rasmussen and Young High Sheriff Programme Lead Gillian Fletcher, visited school to introduce the students to this fantastic opportunity.

Together We Grow
Oak Wood Primary

The building work at Oak Wood Primary finally comes to an end this half term, with lots of fantastic new classrooms and specialist spaces created as part of the school's expansion, with an additional 20 places being created.

There were plenty of smiles, laughter and autumn fun at Oak Wood Primary School's Pumpkin Patch Activity Afternoon! Families were invited to join their children for a fantastic afternoon of seasonal activities, with each class creating vibrant autumn-themed displays to showcase their creativity. The hall was transformed into a magical space filled with music, lights, sensory experiences and photo opportunities! A huge well done to all of the staff, pupils and families who helped make the event such a memorable celebration!



NEWS STORIES

There was plenty of coffee, cake and community spirit at Oak Wood Secondary School's Macmillan Coffee Morning! Students put their creativity and baking skills to excellent use, raising nearly £400 for a fantastic cause. Congratulations and thank you to all of the staff and students who contributed to such a successful event!

Preparation for adulthood remains a key priority at Oak Wood Secondary. Building on last year's success, which saw over 60 pupils complete work experience placements (two of which secured paid employment and three progressed into supported internships), the school continues to expand opportunities for students. This half term, school welcomed 16 local colleges and specialist providers to their Transition Event, and by Christmas, 40 pupils across all key stages will have accessed work experience, further developing their independence, employability skills and readiness for adulthood.

Higham Lane North Academy has been officially recognised as being in the top 10% of all schools nationally for attendance, and also in the top 10% of similar schools nationally! This fantastic achievement reflects a strong community of school and home working together.

At Higham Lane North, students are starting the day with 'walking and talking' house time, enjoying fresh air, conversation and a positive start to learning. Initiatives like this reflect our Trust-wide commitment to supporting wellbeing, helping children feel connected, ready to learn and able to thrive.



A huge well done to all Year 7 North Stars, who are settling in brilliantly and embracing secondary school life with the support and guidance of Higham Lane North's wonderful team. Students had a fantastic time at their Friendship Disco!



Watling Meadows Primary School Reception children have settled brilliantly into their temporary home at Higham Lane North Academy, making new friends, enjoying their learning, and having lots of fun along the way. We are excited to see them continue to thrive as they look ahead and move into their brand-new school building as soon as it is ready.

This half term, families were invited into school to enjoy a special assembly, where their children proudly showcased their singing and performance skills. The school community also came together to support the Harvest collection, with generous donations helping create hampers for a local care home and the Nuneaton Food Bank.

Children were also excited to meet Busy Bee Builder, who visited to share updates on the development of their new school building. To inspire imaginative play, Busy Bee kindly donated children's hard hats and visors, which have already become a popular addition to role-play activities.

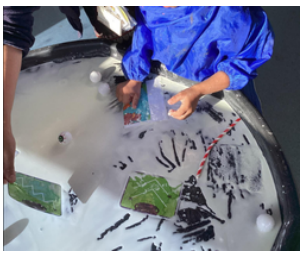


NEWS STORIES

Beaufort Special School has enjoyed exploring the theme All About Me: Me and My Body. Pupils have been discovering who they are in ways that suit them perfectly - from sensory stories, mirror play and early mark-making in Explorers, to making choices with symbols and PECS and beginning to read in Discoverers, to self-portraits, counting and real-life skills in Adventurers, and writing narratives, exploring number and creating artwork inspired by Monet and Kandinsky in Navigators.



We're also proud of the growing strength of pupil voice at Beaufort. This year children voted for the theme of the class names, and the clear winner was Under the Sea! Beaufort classes now carry wonderful ocean-inspired names chosen by the pupils themselves, helping every child feel a real sense of belonging.



Finally, we're delighted to share that attendance has improved significantly this half term, climbing from a low of 72.6% to a high of 87.2% per week, with the highest daily attendance reaching 90% - a real credit to Beaufort's pupils, families and staff working together.

LOOKING AHEAD

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year across our Trust, and we are now looking ahead to the next busy and enjoyable half term with plenty of festive cheer to come through our Christmas Choir Performance, Christmas Card Competition (see poster for entry details), and panto visit.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you all a happy and restful half term break.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Dickinson
CEO

