

## A word from our CEO...

As the festive season approaches, I am delighted to share with you the latest updates and achievements from across our trust. This year has been one of growth, resilience, and triumph as we have worked together to create brighter futures for every young person in our care.

Christmas is a time to celebrate, reflect, and come together, and this newsletter is a small way to share the incredible work that has taken place in our schools. From innovative projects to heartwarming success stories, there is so much to be proud of.

On behalf of everyone at Esteem, I would like to thank you for your ongoing trust, partnership, and belief in what we are building together. Wishing you a season filled with joy, relaxation, and special times with loved ones.

Here's to a prosperous and hopeful New Year!

Warm regards

**Julian Scholefield - CEO**



## Derby Pride Academy Maintains 'Outstanding' Ofsted Rating



We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised that DPA has taken effective action to maintain the outstanding standards identified at the previous inspection. The staff at the academy have worked tirelessly to transform the curriculum and evolve their provision to respond to the changing needs of the city. It is fantastic for the staff and students to receive the recognition that their hard work and determination deserves. It is also important for the city of Derby to know that for pupils who may struggle in mainstream education, DPA can offer a further chance for them to be successful.

A few of the standout comments can be read below:

- The immediate warmth, care and structure the school provides, allows pupils to develop positive, respectful relationships with staff
- The school has an exceptional strength in building pupils' character and resilience
- Pupils' behaviour transforms because of the intelligent and effective action that the school takes
- Many pupils describe Derby Pride Academy as their 'safe place'.



## Elmsleigh Infant & Nursery School Receives 'Good' Ofsted Rating

Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery School has been praised by Ofsted inspectors for helping all pupils 'grow to be the best they can be'.

Head teacher Nicola Price said: "All pupils, parents, carers, and staff are immensely proud of the recent inspection. At Elmsleigh, everyone puts in exceptional effort to help each child achieve their fullest academic potential, while also ensuring that their personal development is nurtured and reinforced."

Congratulations to all at Elmsleigh on this fantastic result!





# Fountains High School featured on BBC's The One Show

This term, BBC One's The One Show visited The Potting Shed in Burton to film a segment for the Royal Horticultural Society's *Britain In Bloom* finals announcement.



Post-16 students at Fountains High School get the opportunity to work at the potting shed, fostering a love for horticulture and equipping them with essential life skills that will benefit them long after their time at Fountains.



The segment highlighted the personal benefits of volunteering at the Greenhouse and celebrated this year's RHS theme of friendship.

Fountains are incredibly proud that their Post 16 students, who are involved in The Potting Shed had the opportunity to share their experiences and be featured in this special piece.

## Awards Ceremony at Esteem South Academy

Esteem South Academy had their first awards ceremony for pupils who had achieved the schools new values of respectful, responsible and resilient. Pupils and parents were really proud. It was wonderful to see the pupils striving for success!



## Awards Ceremony at Fountains High School

Fountains High School recognised students' achievements in their awards ceremony this term. From earning Post-16 accreditation to mastering sailing and completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award, their hard work and determination has truly paid off.

Amongst the awards were the Jack Shining Star Award and the Alice Shining Star Award. These were created in honour of Jack and Alice, reflecting the courage, kindness, and passion they brought to the FHS community. "Their light continues to shine brightly and their legacy will always inspire us".





# Quality Achievements at Fountains Primary



Jade Worth (our Geography and sustainability lead) recently gained Silver in the Primary Geography Quality Mark. Throughout the review by the Geographical Association they complimented Jade on her leadership and management skills, especially around the implementation of the Geography curriculum and the rigorous monitoring and evaluations that take place to ensure that there are high quality outcomes. The application was of an extremely high standard and we are incredibly proud of this achievement.



At the end of the Summer Term Jo Davies (Our PE and Sport Lead) achieved Gold in the School Games award 2023-2024. This award recognises the level of competitions we do with other pupils from other mainstream schools within our community. Also, many thanks to all of the staff and parents/carers who have supported our pupils in these competitions which almost always happen outside of the school day!



The Climate Taskforce has had a remarkable start to the year, with several academies actively participating in our sustainability events:

- Secondhand September: Fountains Primary School hosted a second hand stall at their Macmillan coffee morning, featuring pre-loved uniforms, toys, and books.
- Recycle Week: Fountains High School celebrated a seven-year milestone of zero waste to landfill, while Eco Committees evaluated and improved their schools' recycling practices.
- World Food Day: Stanton Vale offered students a variety of international foods.
- National Tree Week: Elmsleigh's Eco Committee planted new trees in their Forest School.

We are **Certified Carbon Literate**



Our Sustainability Leads completed Carbon Literacy training provided by Nottingham Trent University, becoming certified carbon literate. NTU also delivered Carbon Management Training to academy site staff and business managers, focusing on sustainability at the site level and carbon accounting in schools. Both of these training sessions were really well received and helped to expand our knowledge and look at what changes we can make as Trust to help combat climate change.



We have received significant support from the national campaign Let's Go Zero, which is aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030. Jo Pettifer attended our recent Sustainability Leads meeting to discuss what Lets go Zero can offer to our Academies to support our sustainability journey. She also met staff at Stanton Vale school to discuss how they can integrate sustainability into their lesson as well as providing hands-on experiences with thermal cameras at Stanton Vale.



Finally, we have been invited by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) to write a three-part blog series about our Trust's sustainability journey. The first blog, detailing our beginnings, was published in September, with the second blog on partnerships coming soon.

# Bennerley Fields School Awarded Ambassador School of Excellence by Thrive

Bennerley Fields School has achieved an outstanding milestone, becoming fully accredited in all five key areas of the Thrive Approach, earning the coveted title of an Ambassador School of Excellence. Bennerley Fields, a special school catering to pupils aged 4-16, has been recognised for its exemplary work in the following categories: Leadership, Environment, Right-time Support, Relationships, Reparative Intervention. These accolades reflect the school's commitment to nurturing emotional and social wellbeing, a vital aspect of every pupil's development. Thrive, an established approach that promotes emotional resilience and mental health, awarded the school for its excellence in supporting both pupils and staff alike. Rachel Raisin-Moss, Thrive Lead at Bennerley Fields, expressed her pride in the achievement: "This recognition highlights the hard work, passion, and dedication of our entire school community. From staff to pupils, and the invaluable support of families, we have worked together to create an environment where everyone can thrive."

Becoming a School of Excellence is no small feat. It signifies that Bennerley Fields has successfully embedded the Thrive Approach into every aspect of school life, from leadership and environment to individualised pupil support and interventions. This ensures that all pupils receive the help they need at the right time, allowing them to flourish both academically and emotionally.

Bennerley Fields has long championed inclusive education, tailoring its approach to meet the unique needs of every child. This new accreditation further cements the school's reputation as a leader in nurturing young minds and creating a supportive, empowering environment.



"We're beyond proud to receive these accolades and look forward to continuing our journey with Thrive and sharing our best-practise with other schools in our community," adds Head Teacher, Jenni Wright.

## Youth Engagement Scheme at ESA

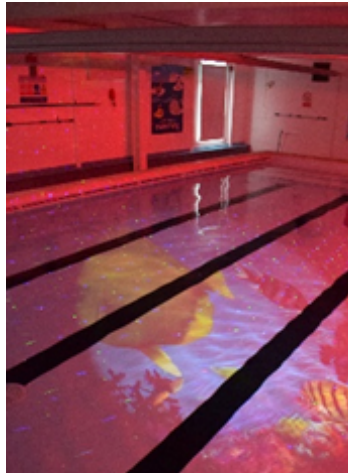
This term, pupils at Esteem South Academy participated in Swadlincote Community Fire Station's Youth Engagement Scheme. This 5 day YES! Compact uses the core skills of firefighting to develop and build confidence and self esteem and encourage teamwork and leadership. The Youth Engagement Scheme that is led by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service works in partnership with a wide range of other agencies, to support young people and address a variety of youth related issues. Rachel Hughes, Youth Officer at Swadlincote Community Fire Station said "In very short time, the group have learnt and demonstrated many fire service skills which are aimed at developing personal skills, such as increased confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and communication. We hope that this experience has given them food for thought about how they engage with friends, family, school, and their community, and will encourage them to have a positive outlook in the future."





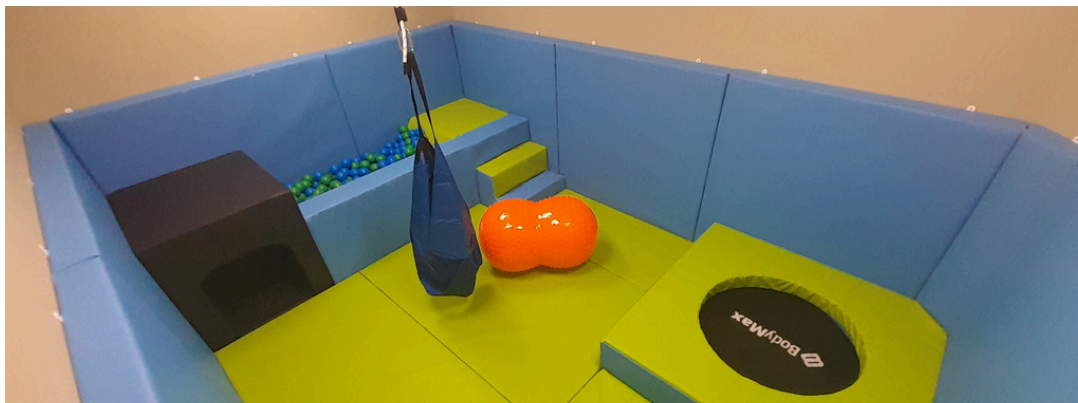
# Exciting Site Updates at Fountains Primary

Over Summer Fountains Primary have had some school improvements. Their swimming pool now has lights and sounds to ensure that the sensory swim and physiotherapy sessions are more inspiring. They have a new reading pod which was partly donated by the 'Miles for Smiles', a therapies room which has been paid for by the Friends of Fountains, new quiet areas around school and line marking chosen by their School Council.



## Elmsleigh opens new regulation room funded by capital bid

"We are extremely grateful for our new regulation room, which has quickly become a valuable resource for many of our students. This dedicated space provides children with a calming environment where they can take a break, regulate their emotions, and refocus before returning to their learning."



## Contributions

If you would like to feature an article in the Esteem Newsletter please email [ebaldwin@esteemmat.co.uk](mailto:ebaldwin@esteemmat.co.uk)





# New facilities at DPA

During the Autumn term DPA has introduced a state-of-the-art food tech room and a multi-purpose art and science room, further enriching their curriculum and providing students with modern learning environments. The newly repurposed Science and Art room has been christened with some exciting science practicals and art projects. Dr Bruce and Mrs Fowkes are thrilled with their new room and the students are also happy to be able to have a lovely suitable space to do their art work and science practicals.



Students have been busy baking bread and a range of cakes as well as well making pizzas and lasanga in DPA's fantastic new food tech facilities. Students have demonstrated how they can follow a recipe, measure quantities of ingredients and use appliances safely.



## Welcome On Board to Our New Trustee

In September, we were pleased to welcome Warren Porter ACMA to the Esteem MAT Trust Board as a new trustee. Warren is a qualified accountant with extensive experience in senior finance roles across both the public sector, including education, and the private sector. Living locally with his wife and two young children, Warren has welcomed the opportunity in taking on this voluntary strategic governance role. He is no stranger to Esteem, having previously held positions in the Trust central team as Management Accountant and Chief Finance Officer from 2019 to 2022. We are excited to have Warren join our Trust Board, and we are confident that his expertise, alongside that of our other trustees, will make a positive difference in the lives of the children and young people who attend our academies.



*Warren Porter ACMA*

## Events at Esteem North Academy

Esteem North Academy's Macmillan Coffee Morning raised an impressive total of £208.43. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed by baking, buying, and enjoying the delicious cakes. October was an inspiring month for pupils at Esteem North Academy, particularly those from BPT and Hasland. They participated in engaging sessions designed to introduce them to future careers and apprenticeship opportunities, including visiting United Cast Bar. On 10th October 2024, Esteem North Academy proudly joined the nation in celebrating Hello Yellow Day. This event aimed to raise awareness of mental health and break the stigma surrounding conversations about wellbeing. Pupils took part in activities fostering positive mental health discussions and connections. In September, Sheila from Safe and Sound led impactful sessions with High Peak, Pottery Lane & Hasland pupils. The sessions focused on raising awareness about knife crime and equipping pupils with strategies to stay safe. Thank you to everyone involved in making these events and activities a success.





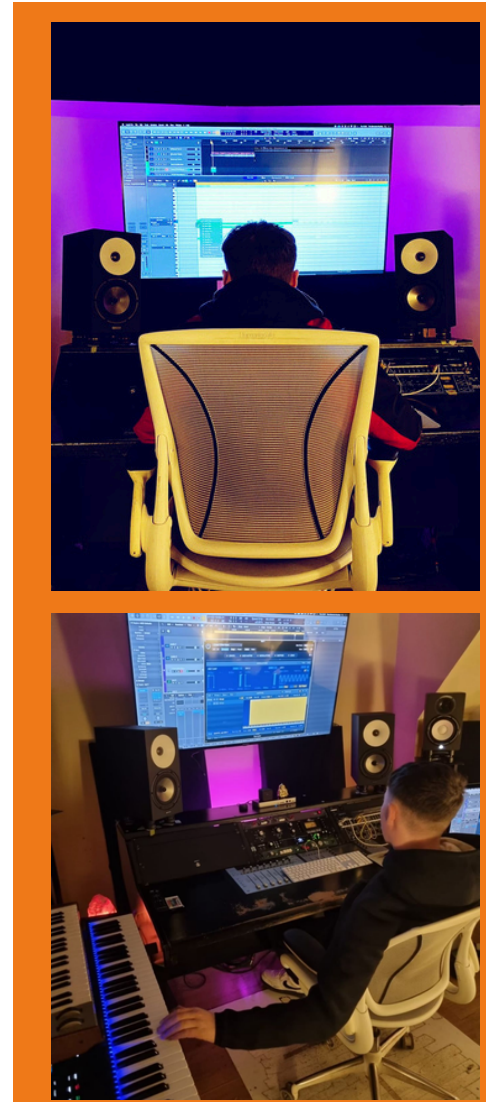
# Esteem Valley Academy Launches 'eVolve': A New Era of Alternative Provision

Esteem Valley Academy is excited to announce the launch of 'eVolve,' our innovative in-house alternative provision offer. This exciting new initiative provides our students with a range of engaging and practical learning opportunities, tailored to their individual needs and aspirations.

'eVolve' offers a variety of pathways, including Sport, Media & Esports delivered from our Kirk Hallam site. Students can develop their athletic abilities, explore the world of media production, develop their musical talents, and hone their gaming skills. Students accessing our 'eVolve' offer have the opportunity to achieve BTEC qualifications in Media, Esports, Music, and Sport and receive tailored support and guidance from experienced staff to help them achieve their goals.

In addition to our 'eVolve' offer we are delighted to continue our collaboration with Elementz Studio on the EVA x Elementz Studio - Music Collaboration project. Following a successful pilot last year, we have expanded this initiative to offer two full days of music production workshops for our students. This partnership provides our students with unique opportunities to develop their musical talents and work with industry professionals in a professional environment.

By offering a diverse range of vocational pathways, 'eVolve' aims to inspire students to pursue their passions and achieve their full potential. We believe that this innovative alternative provision offer will equip our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st-century workforce.



*Merry Christmas* *Happy Holidays* *Season's Greetings*

