

MITRE NEWS

Edition #002

June 2025

CONTENTS

“

Together we help every child
to flourish, opening doors
to fulfilling futures

”



01

CEO Welcome &
Introduction

In our second edition, MITRE CEO, Matthew Parris, reflects on our Trust PL Day, Coddington joining the Trust and thanks all staff for their continued support of pupils and students during this year's exam season.

PAGE 4

02

Trust
Development

Find out more about current and new schools joining our MAT family. This section also contains key information highlighting our School Improvement Team and our approach to environmental sustainability within the Minster Trust for Education family.

PAGE 6

03

Celebrating Our
Schools

In each edition of MITRE News we will include some spotlight articles about schools. There is far too much to celebrate in one edition so if your school doesn't feature this time there will undoubtedly be an article coming soon!

PAGE 12

04

Trust
Opportunities

Professional learning opportunities for MITRE employees – how to find out more. This section also includes information relating to OFSTED success at Holy Trinity Infant School.

PAGE 17

01

WELCOME



Matthew Parris
CEO, MITRE

“I would like to thank you all for supporting pupils and students in their endeavours and for helping them to achieve the best they possibly can”

In our previous edition we were looking forward to the professional learning day in February, focusing on meeting the needs of SEND learners and with keynote speakers from UCL.

The event was a great success with plentiful positive evaluations recognising the benefits from the day; it was a pleasure to welcome pupil-facing staff from across the trust to The Minster School. My thanks to all who worked hard to make the day possible including the site team and support staff at Minster, all who led workshops and to Trish O’Malley who took a lead in organising the event. We wish Trish all the best for the future as she moves to Shropshire.

Plans are already being considered for next year when we are looking to include all staff in the programme for the day. We are pleased to be able to add this extra day as a multi-academy trust above and beyond the training days available for staff in maintained schools and place considerable value on providing as wide a range as possible of training opportunities for all.

This year our training offer has focused on SEND provision and Marie Thompson has developed a range of sessions to support practitioners. This has included:

- SEND hot topic sessions

- SEND support staff network
- SENCO network

Many of these opportunities will continue into next academic year - thank you to the numerous staff involved for their engagement and for committing to help every child to flourish by adapting practice and meeting individual need.

I am pleased that Coddington CofE Primary School joined MITRE on 1st March. The school already provides a fantastic education to its pupils; we aim to help them continue to do so and to enhance the education they provide through our collaborative work together – a warm welcome to all pupils, staff and families.

As we come towards the latter part of the exam season in our schools I would like to thank you all for supporting pupils and students in their endeavours and for helping them to achieve the best they possibly can in SATs, phonics tests, GCSEs, A Levels and a range of vocational qualifications. I have no doubt there will be much to celebrate as results are published in the coming months.

Matthew Parris
CEO, Minster Trust for Education





02

MINSTER TRUST FOR EDUCATION OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Minster Trust for Education continues to be a popular destination for local schools. MITRE is soon to be a family of thirteen schools with a number of others beginning their journey to join in the future.

We remain committed to supporting all our schools to provide an education where every child is able to flourish and welcome enquiries from other local schools who share our mission.



The Minster School



Farnfield St Michael's
C of E Primary School



Bleasby C of E
Primary School



Holy Trinity C of E
Infant School



Halam C of E
Primary School



National Church of
England Academy



Lowe's Wong
Infant School



Kingsway Primary School



Coddington Primary
School

Our next two MITRE schools (Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School and Kirklington Primary School) will be officially joining the Trust on the 1st July 2025. The Kite Federation (St Matthew's Primary School and Norwell Primary School) are on track to join early next academic year.



Lowe's Wong Anglican
Methodist Junior School



Kirklington Primary
School



Kite Primary Federation

Introducing our School Improvement Team

We are fortunate to have such a committed and strong team working with schools and leaders to develop the best possible education for children and young people in MITRE schools. This small team continues to increase its capacity to make sure all schools receive the individual attention they need.



Dave Boothroyd is the Strategic Lead for Education and comes from a secondary background. He leads the team of school improvement advisors and co-ordinates the strategic approach taken to supporting schools. This includes the provision of training, support for schools and quality assurance.



Marie Thompson has been an Infant School Head Teacher and is an expert in Early Years provision and SEND. She acts as a school improvement lead and links with individual schools, while also developing trust-wide provision for SEND and EYFS.



Louise Carpenter splits her time between her role as a school improvement lead at MITRE and as Head Teacher at Farnsfield St Michael's CofE Primary School. She has successfully supported effective leadership development in primary schools through medium term deployments and has expertise in the development of the primary curriculum.



Andy Wall is Deputy Head at The Minster School and is commissioned to support the Christian Distinctiveness of our church schools. He supports the development of ethos, training for staff and the development of worship provision.



Nicole Lyons leads initial teacher training and early careers provision at MITRE. She works closely with colleagues across a range of local schools to co-ordinate initial teacher training; in particular Nicole works closely with Nottingham Trent University as our ITT provision partner.



Dave Llewellyn is an experienced Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Head at National Church of England Academy. He is commissioned to support the effectiveness of safeguarding in MITRE schools, in particular with annual safeguarding reviews.



Stacey Sills is the professional learning co-ordinator, supporting the team to administer school improvement services and training. She joined the central team earlier this term from Coddington.

The school improvement team has a number of priorities it will be pursuing into the coming academic year. These include:

- The development of a MITRE teaching and learning model
- A review of appraisal for teachers
- Training to support staff with the new Ofsted framework
- Responding to the curriculum review
- Implementing new trust wide systems, including for safeguarding.
- Further development provision for mental health and well-being.

Environmental sustainability at Minster Trust for Education

In recent months the trust has been developing a strategy to work with all schools and, over time, reduce their carbon emissions and support environmental sustainability. The strategy was developed with a team of school representatives including teachers, support staff, leaders, heads and central team staff. Thank you to all who have been involved and contributed.

Our approach is underpinned by our core trust principles:

The core principles underpinning our mission

Wisdom

We must educate our learning community to understand the impact of our actions on the climate and on our future.
Humans have done the damage and have the capacity to address the problem.

Integrity

We should instil a sense of purpose and a desire to do the right thing, creating a culture of action.
Doing nothing is not an option.

Kindness

Compassion for our living world and the people in it should drive our sustainability mission.
Our living world is wonderful and to be cherished.



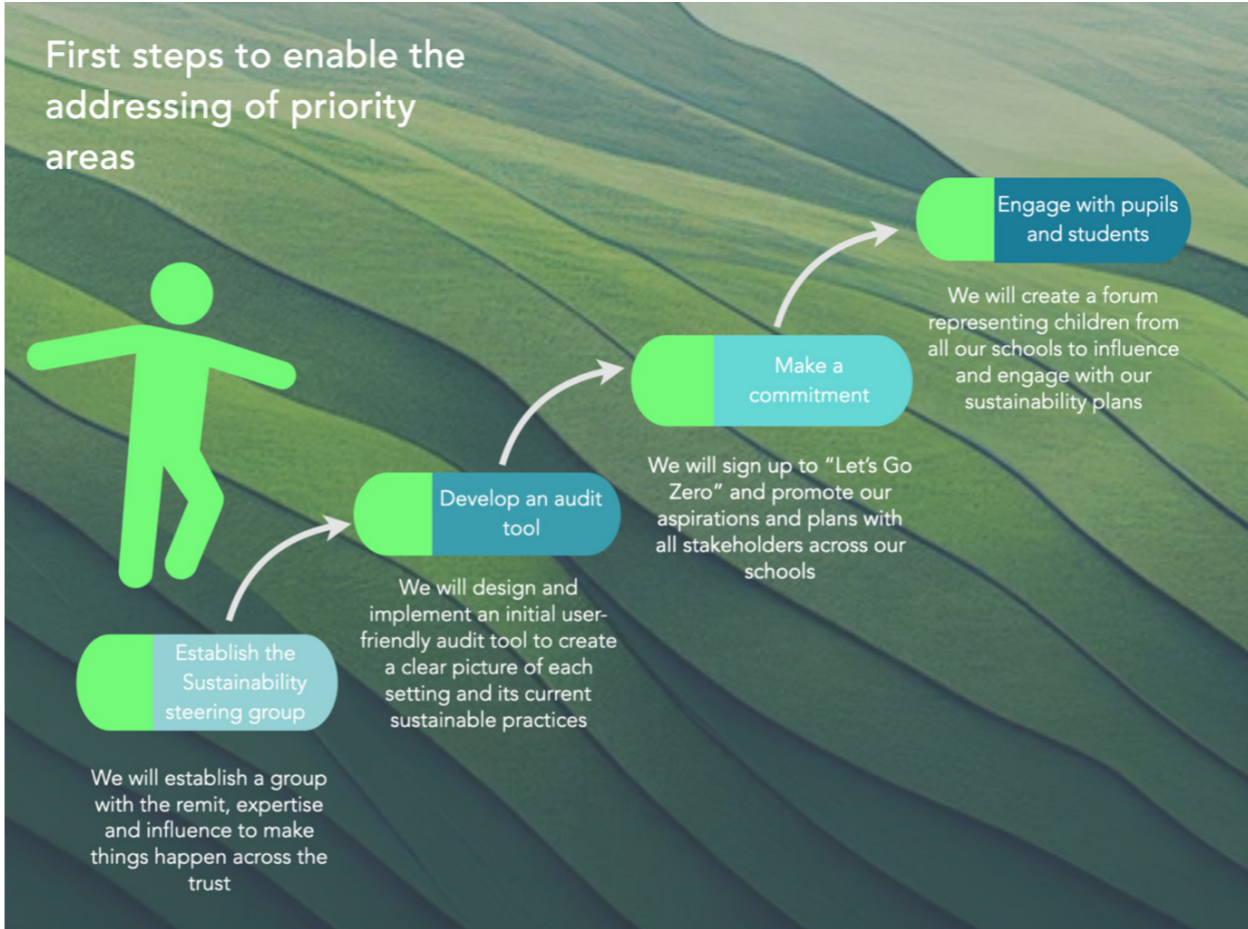
Service

Our efforts are for all and students and pupils must know and embrace the difference they can make.
Each of us can have impact..

Collaboration

We know we can achieve our mission best by working beyond our own organisation to use the expertise of others.
Experts can help us achieve our goals.

We have made good progress in the early stages of our plans. Later this term a group of pupils and students representing all schools in the trust will be spending half a day to develop a commitment pledge for all members of the MITRE family. They will be sharing this at the beginning of the next academic year and we look forward to helping them achieve their sustainability goals into the future.



MITRE ALL STAFF SHAREPOINT

<https://minstertrustforeducation.sharepoint.com/sites/MITRE-AllStaff/>



03

CELEBRATING

OUR

SCHOOLS

In each edition of MITRE News we will include some spotlight articles about schools. There is far too much to celebrate in one edition so if your school doesn't feature this time there will undoubtedly be an article coming soon!

MITRE Art Project for Pupils and Students

Earlier this term we were pleased to launch a trust-wide art project. This follows the hugely successful collaborative music project and concert last academic year. Our aim is, once again, to offer all pupils and students the opportunity to create together and for us to be able to celebrate the many gifts and talents of the young people attending our schools.

The project is based on the theme of flourishing. All submissions from pupils and students will be collected close to the end of the academic year and an online gallery of commended entries will go live early next term. Pupils and students will have the opportunity to win awards and "real life" exhibitions will be taking place in individual schools. There is still time to get creating and more information is already in schools to encourage and promote participation. You can find out more on the all-staff portal which is linked on page 11 of this newsletter.

A red poster with a scalloped blue border. In the top right corner is the Minster Trust logo and the text "Minster Trust for education". The central text reads "Flourish" in a gold cursive font, "ART" in large white block letters, and "PROJECT" in smaller white block letters to the right. The background features colorful marbled paper flowers.

Schools in Minster Trust for Education have a mission that "together we help every child to flourish". We would like to invite pupils and students from our schools to produce a piece of art that represents this idea, focusing on togetherness and flourishing.

Getting into the Community Spirit at Kingsway

Kingsway Primary School has worked with a wide range of community groups this year to offer a range of family learning opportunities.

At the start of the year, the new Family Support Worker and the Assistant Head spoke with parents to gather their views on the types of learning opportunities they would like. They then made contact with local colleges and community groups who were able to offer these learning opportunities.

Popular sessions this year have included parental workshops in English and maths, with lots of ideas for developing new skills through play. Move Together, with lots of ideas for getting active and improving health and a very popular workshop run by Men in Sheds, where families worked together to build bug hotels and planters.

The Family Support Worker has also started a weekly drop in session for parents called 'Linger for Longer'. Parents and carers are welcome to pop in for a coffee and a biscuit after morning drop off. Sometimes they want a chat with a friendly face, ask for parenting advice or sign posting to extra support services. There is also a new 'Virtual Hub' on the school website so parents and carers can access online advice and support. Feedback about our 'Linger for Longer' sessions has been overwhelmingly positive.

Kingsway is already busy planning new opportunities for next year.



Developing inspiring spaces at Farnsfield

Over the last 18 months, leaders at Farnsfield St Michael's CofE Primary have been developing their outside spaces to provide as many rich experiences as they can for pupils. They have taken a diverse approach with the aim to offer something for all children and the results are inspirational.

The project has focused on a number of areas of provision:

- A creative area has been designed for art, reading and creative writing.
- The natural world has been brought to life through the gardening and planting area and the resident school pets (including goats, chickens and a rabbit). The separate nature area has bug hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog houses and a fox den to encourage wildlife visitors to the school site.
- A new trim trail and multi-use games area are used well and augmented by sporting equipment, supported by sports leaders.
- The performance stage encourages self-confidence and artistic expression
- Wigwams create dens for quieter play and engagement with smaller toys and games.
- A large scale construction kit offers the opportunity to build and create.

The impact on pupils' exploration, enquiry, excitement, physical activity and in terms of the best pupil behaviour are all demonstrable. Leaders at Farnsfield would be happy to share what they have done with others across MITRE.



...and Coddington have also created their friendship garden and outdoor classroom

The school has invested significantly in the creation of an outdoor eco-classroom and sensory garden. There is a strong focus on the sustainability impact – the new classroom has a wind turbine, solar panel and bike on which children can cycle to generate electricity. Children measure the electricity generated and its usage.

The school was supported by a generous donation from the Friends of Coddington school, which has been fundraising for the project for a number of years.

Rebecca Major, Head at Coddington is appreciative both of the Friends' efforts and also for the work undertaken by Matt Taylor, the school's site manager, in constructing the friendship garden. There are many opportunities to integrate the new spaces into the curriculum and all the pupils at the school will benefit, including in science, PSHE, reading and art. The new friendship garden is also designed to support well-being for pupils. An exciting and high quality development – well done to all involved.



TRUST OPPORTUNITIES

04

Professional Learning Programmes for 2025/26

As part of our professional learning offered through the Minster Learning Alliance next year, we will be running three programmes designed to support you in developing knowledge and skills in different aspects of our work in schools. Details of these programmes are below. If you are interested in taking part in any of the programmes please discuss this with your line manager or Head Teacher in the first instance. Further details (including dates, times and locations of programme sessions) will be published at the start of September.

Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact Programme

The 'Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact Programme' develops your knowledge, understanding and application of key leadership behaviours and approaches.

Over the course of two terms, you will work in mixed cross-phase groups, in face-to-face sessions, through personal reflection and individual learning in your school, and put your learning into practice by leading a project linked to your school's improvement priorities. You will consider and put into practice evidence-based approaches to leadership and develop an understanding of what makes great leaders. You will also have access to a coach, based in your school, who will support your learning throughout the programme.

Who is the 'Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact Programme' for?

The programme is suitable for anyone who is looking to take on leadership responsibility in schools and wants to develop their understanding of what makes leaders effective.

Elevate: The MITRE Teacher Programme

'Elevate: The MITRE Teacher Programme' runs over a period of 6 months and consists of 6 face-to-face sessions. Each session takes a particular teaching and learning theme and will include elements of facilitated discussion, the modelling of teaching and learning activities, peer collaboration, expert input, learning visits to lessons and 'gap tasks' to undertake and reflect on. The programme aims to develop reflective practitioners who better understand the craft of teaching, leading to better outcomes for children. You will engage with some key educational research in what makes great teaching, and understand how to apply those principles in your own practice, supported by a coach in your own school.

Who is the 'Elevate: The MITRE Teacher Programme' for?

This programme is for any teacher who wants to develop their practice further, understanding and applying the knowledge of what makes great teaching.

If you have any suggestions or questions about the professional learning we offer as a trust, please contact Stacey Sills, our Professional Learning Co-ordinator: s.sills@mitretrust.org.uk

Stop Press - Ofsted Success at Holy Trinity

In late April, Holy Trinity Church of England Infant School underwent a 2-day Ofsted inspection and the report has recently been published. The report warmly recognises the excellent work done by the school for its pupils and concluded that the majority of the areas of provision are outstanding, including for behaviour and attitudes, personal development and early years.

To quote the report, "Holy Trinity is a joyful, nurturing school... The school is ambitious and has high expectations of all pupils...Children get off to an exceptional start in early years.... Pupils' behaviour is exemplary." There is much more to celebrate in the report which can be read in full on the [Ofsted website](#).

Very many congratulations and thanks to Marie Thompson (Head) and to all the staff at Holy Trinity.





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