

MITRE NEWS

Edition #004

June 2026

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“

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

”



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01

WELCOME



Matthew Parris
CEO, MITRE

Welcome to our fourth edition of MITRE News. As we move through another busy and at times challenging year, there is much to celebrate across our schools and as a trust — and this edition aims to share some of those successes with you.

The quality of education in our schools continues to be a source of real strength, as evidenced by the wonderful Ofsted outcome at Lowe’s Wong Infant School and the many examples of excellent work featured in this newsletter. As a trust we are investing in the future — through new provision for pupils with SEND, our ongoing professional learning programme including a focus on AI, and the active engagement of our pupils and students in shaping a more sustainable world.

There is much change in education, with the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act now law and wide-ranging reforms on the horizon. I have included an accessible overview of what is coming and what it means for MITRE. As always, our focus remains firmly where it belongs — on the pupils and students in our schools, and on the staff who work so hard every day on their behalf.

Matthew Parris
CEO, Minster Trust for Education

“The quality of education in our schools continues to be a source of real strength”



02

FLOURISH EPU

New Provision at Lowe’s Wong Junior School

We are delighted to share news of an exciting new development at Lowe’s Wong Junior School with the opening of Flourish, an Enhanced Provision Unit supporting primary-aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Flourish is funded by Nottinghamshire Local Authority and operates in partnership with MITRE, serving pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 across Newark, Southwell and the surrounding areas. It is not a replacement for a child’s home school — it works alongside it, offering specialist support that helps pupils to access and thrive in their mainstream setting.

The provision is housed in a newly refurbished building at Lowe’s Wong

Junior, where considerable thought has gone into the environment itself — designed to be calm, welcoming and well-suited to the needs of the children it serves. It supports pupils who find busy classroom environments particularly challenging, whether due to anxiety, sensory sensitivities or difficulties with emotional regulation. Each child receives a bespoke timetable, supported by a specialist teacher and two teaching assistants, with places kept small to ensure every pupil gets the attention they need.

Flourish works in close partnership with Nottinghamshire Local Authority, Family SENCOs across the Newark and Southwell areas, and the School Behaviour and Attendance Partnership — ensuring placements are carefully

considered and well supported. Trialling begins in June 2026, with the provision fully open from September. This is a significant development for the trust and, more importantly, for children and families across the Newark and Southwell area who will benefit from having this specialist support closer to home.

For more information, visit: www.mitretrust.org.uk/flourish



AI for Flourishing Futures — MITRE Professional Learning Day 2026



TRUST-WIDE

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY 2026

In February, staff from across MITRE came together at The Minster School for our annual Professional Learning Day, this year focused entirely on Artificial Intelligence in education. It was a genuinely exciting and thought-provoking day, and the feedback from staff reflected that — with many finding it valuable to explore AI tools in a hands-on way, often for the first time.

The day was structured to meet staff wherever they were in their own journey with AI. A keynote session set the tone, exploring how AI can empower learning across the trust — considering both the opportunities it presents and the responsibilities that come with it. Morning seminars then explored the bigger picture in greater depth, covering topics such as



MITRE's AI Champions continue to develop and share best practice across the trust, and their findings are available on the MITRE staff SharePoint.

getting started with AI for those new to it, how pupils are already using AI inside and outside the classroom, AI to support SEND pupils, and what the future of AI might mean for MITRE as a trust. Afternoon workshops were deliberately practical, with staff able to choose from twenty sessions covering an impressive range of tools and contexts — from using AI to support lesson planning, create differentiated resources and streamline administration, to preparing acts of worship, supporting curriculum planning and making better use of school data through Arbor AI.

The potential ahead is genuinely exciting. Used well, AI offers real possibilities for reducing workload, personalising learning, improving outcomes for pupils with SEND, and freeing up time for teachers and support staff to focus on what matters most — the children and young people in our schools. MITRE's AI Champions continue to develop and share best practice across the trust, and their findings are available on the MITRE staff SharePoint. The next step is to provide a suite of trust-wide AI tools to support workload — and we look forward to sharing more on this soon.

Alongside the enthusiasm for what AI can do, the day also gave space to consider its challenges and limitations — including questions of academic integrity, pupil safeguarding, ethical use and the importance of professional judgement remaining central to everything we do.

“Alongside the enthusiasm for what AI can do, the day also gave space to consider its challenges and limitations”

Pupils and Students Leading the Way on Sustainability

One of the most inspiring aspects of MITRE's work is seeing pupils and students take genuine ownership of issues that matter to them — and nowhere is this more evident than in our trust-wide sustainability group.

This term, pupils and students from across all MITRE schools gathered at the trust's Eakring base for their second meeting, picking up where they left off last academic year. That first gathering produced the MITRE Sustainability Charter — developed entirely by the young people themselves — which sets out a simple but powerful call to action for everyone across the trust: Reduce. Reuse. Rewild. Every Choice Shapes Our Future. The group have recently recorded a video to bring the charter to life and share it with the wider MITRE community. This video can be viewed [here](#).



Eakring that MITRE has the opportunity to develop. The group explored it, discussed its potential and set the trust a challenge — to turn their ideas into reality and create a space that encourages rich wildlife and biodiversity. We look forward to accepting that challenge.



This time the focus turned to rewilding and biodiversity — how every MITRE school site can play a role in encouraging wildlife and supporting a healthier natural environment. The group shared the fantastic work already underway in their own schools and together considered what the next steps might look like, with the trust committed to supporting these projects as they develop. A highlight of the day was a visit to an area of land at



Sustainability Charter

Developed by pupils and students from across Minster Trust for Education

Reduce. Reuse. Rewild.

Every Choice Shapes Our Future

We can all rise to the challenge together, in every MITRE school. We ask you to support us, the pupils and students, to help us enjoy a sustainable future, knowing every small contribution counts.



Switch Off Lights

Save power



Turn Off Taps

Every drop makes a difference



Refill, Reuse, Recycle

Repeat!



Grow Green Corners

Give nature a home



Looking Ahead: The Schools White Paper and What It Means for MITRE

The government's new education law — the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act — came into force in April 2026, and is accompanied by a wide-ranging Schools White Paper setting out its vision for education over the coming years. Changes to SEND are closely connected but will come through separate legislation still to be passed — though significant new funding is already on its way. Most of the changes will be phased in gradually, so nothing changes overnight.

The key themes are:

SEND reform

The most significant area for schools, and one we know will be of particular interest to many of you. The proposals introduce a layered model of support, new Individual Support Plans (ISPs) as a legal requirement for every child with identified SEND, and inclusion bases in mainstream schools. New funding — including a £1.6bn Inclusive Mainstream Fund from 2026/27 — will go directly to schools, and a national SEND training programme will be open to all staff from next year. For MATs specifically, the proposals make trusts directly accountable for delivering educational provision through the new digital ISPs, and support bases within schools will be commissioned and funded by trusts themselves.

All schools joining trusts

The White Paper makes clear the government's expectation that all schools will eventually be part of a trust, with an emphasis on geographical coherence and quality of collaboration. New trust standards will be published to reflect this. MITRE is well placed in this regard.

Curriculum

A refreshed National Curriculum is planned for first teaching from September 2028, with a strong emphasis on literacy, numeracy, oracy and digital literacy.

Enrichment

A new Enrichment Framework will be published this academic year, with Ofsted beginning to take enrichment benchmarks into account from September 2026.

Attendance and behaviour

Schools will receive individual attendance baseline improvement expectations, with a national target of over 94% attendance by 2028/29.

Disadvantage funding

A new model using household income data rather than free school meals eligibility is under development, with consultation planned for summer 2026.

Implementation is phased — aligning to best practice now, preparing for SEND and curriculum reforms from 2026/27, and full implementation from 2028/29. There is time to prepare, and much of what is proposed builds on work MITRE schools are already doing well.

Trust and school leaders are actively engaged with these developments, working to understand what is coming and planning carefully. It is worth noting that the above is only a snapshot — both the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act and the White Paper cover considerably more ground than can be summarised here. For those who would like to read further, the White Paper itself and all supporting documents are available at www.gov.uk. We will keep you informed as things develop — and will make sure that change is managed in a way that keeps the focus firmly on the pupils and students in our schools.

“The government's new education law — the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act — came into force in April 2026”



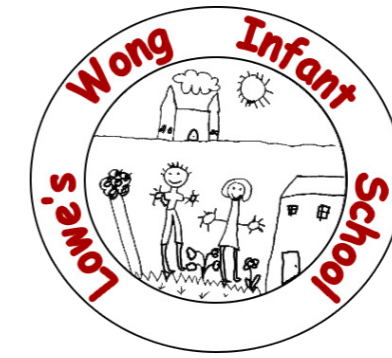
03

CELEBRATING

OUR

SCHOOLS

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LOWE'S WONG INFANT SCHOOL

OFSTED SUCCESS

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Lowe's Wong Infant School received a successful Ofsted inspection in March, with all areas judged at expected standard and safeguarding confirmed as met.

This is a richly deserved outcome. Led by headteacher Aly Speed, the school has worked with real determination since its previous inspection — and the results speak for themselves. Inspectors found the school to be a warm, welcoming community where pupils arrive each morning with smiles on their faces, attend regularly, and achieve well. Ofsted noted that pupils are well prepared for junior school and speak with genuine enthusiasm about their learning.

Particular strengths highlighted by inspectors included the quality of leadership, the improved curriculum, strong behaviour and attitudes, and the exceptional care shown for every pupil's personal development and wellbeing. Inspectors were also clear that the trust's partnership with the school has been a meaningful part of its journey — something we are proud to hear.

Most importantly, inspectors found that Lowe's Wong Infant School truly lives up to its vision: everyone learning happily together.

Many congratulations to Aly and to every member of the team who has contributed to this achievement.

"Inspectors found the school to be a warm, welcoming community where pupils arrive each morning with smiles on their faces, attend regularly, and achieve well."

Sport at Lowe's Wong Junior School

Sport at Lowe's Wong Junior School is something genuinely worth celebrating. Every child from Year 3 to Year 6 receives two hours of high-quality PE each week, covering a carefully sequenced curriculum that builds skills and confidence year on year — from invasion games and athletics to swimming, gymnastics, orienteering and even parkour.

What stands out is the school's commitment to offering something for every child, not just those who are already sporty. Alongside more traditional clubs and competitive teams, pupils can try their hand at

taekwondo, padel, golf, boccia and tennis — a breadth of opportunity that reflects a real belief that movement and physical activity should be for everyone. There is also a dedicated multi-sports club specifically for children who don't play sport outside of school, ensuring no one is left on the sidelines.

Competitive results have followed naturally from this culture. The school has enjoyed considerable success in swimming, boccia, dodgeball and football this year — with both boys' and girls' teams performing strongly

across the district. But the wins feel like a by-product of something more important: children who enjoy sport and keep coming back to it.

A particular highlight is the Year 6 Sports Leaders programme, where pupils apply formally for the role and take genuine responsibility for supporting PE across the school — managing equipment, leading events and acting as role models for younger children.

Many congratulations to everyone at Lowe's Wong Junior who makes all of this possible.



Learning Beyond the Classroom — Year 4 Residential at The Deep

Earlier this term, Year 4 pupils from Coddington Church of England Primary School embarked on a wonderful two-day residential that brought their science curriculum to life in the most memorable of ways.

The trip took in three very different but equally brilliant destinations — Yorkshire Wildlife Park, The Deep aquarium in Hull, and Rand Farm Park in Lincolnshire. At Yorkshire Wildlife Park, pupils took part in workshops exploring teeth, eating habits and animal groups, putting into practice their learning about living things, habitats and food chains. The highlight for many was sleeping overnight at The Deep itself — surrounded by fish — before an early start, breakfast, and a morning at Rand Farm Park that included bottle feeding lambs, visiting the hatchery, a tractor tour and even butter making. Learning doesn't get much more hands-on than that!

What made this trip particularly special, however, was the team that made it happen. Alongside class teachers Mr Lewis and Miss Bean, the residential was staffed by colleagues from right across the MITRE community — including a TA apprentice, the school office manager, a midday supervisor and breakfast club lead, the trust's Professional Learning Co-ordinator, and MITRE's Chief Operating Officer. Seven members of staff, seven different roles, one shared purpose.

It is a wonderful example of what our vision looks like in practice — together, we help every child to flourish. Many thanks to Rebecca and the whole Coddington team for making it such a special experience for their pupils.





TRUST OPPORTUNITIES

04

Your MITRE Staff SharePoint - Making the Most of What's Available to You

The MITRE all-staff SharePoint is your go-to resource for information, support and guidance across every aspect of your work — and your employment. If you haven't explored it recently, it is well worth a look. There is a great deal available to support you, both in your professional role and in your wider life.

The site brings together a wide range of resources in one place, all designed with you in mind. Key areas include:

AI in Education Hub

Guidance on which AI tools are approved for use across MITRE, best practice resources developed by our AI Champions, materials from the Professional Learning Day, and guidance. This is a growing area of the SharePoint, and will continue to develop as staff share their experiences and findings.

Supporting Pupils

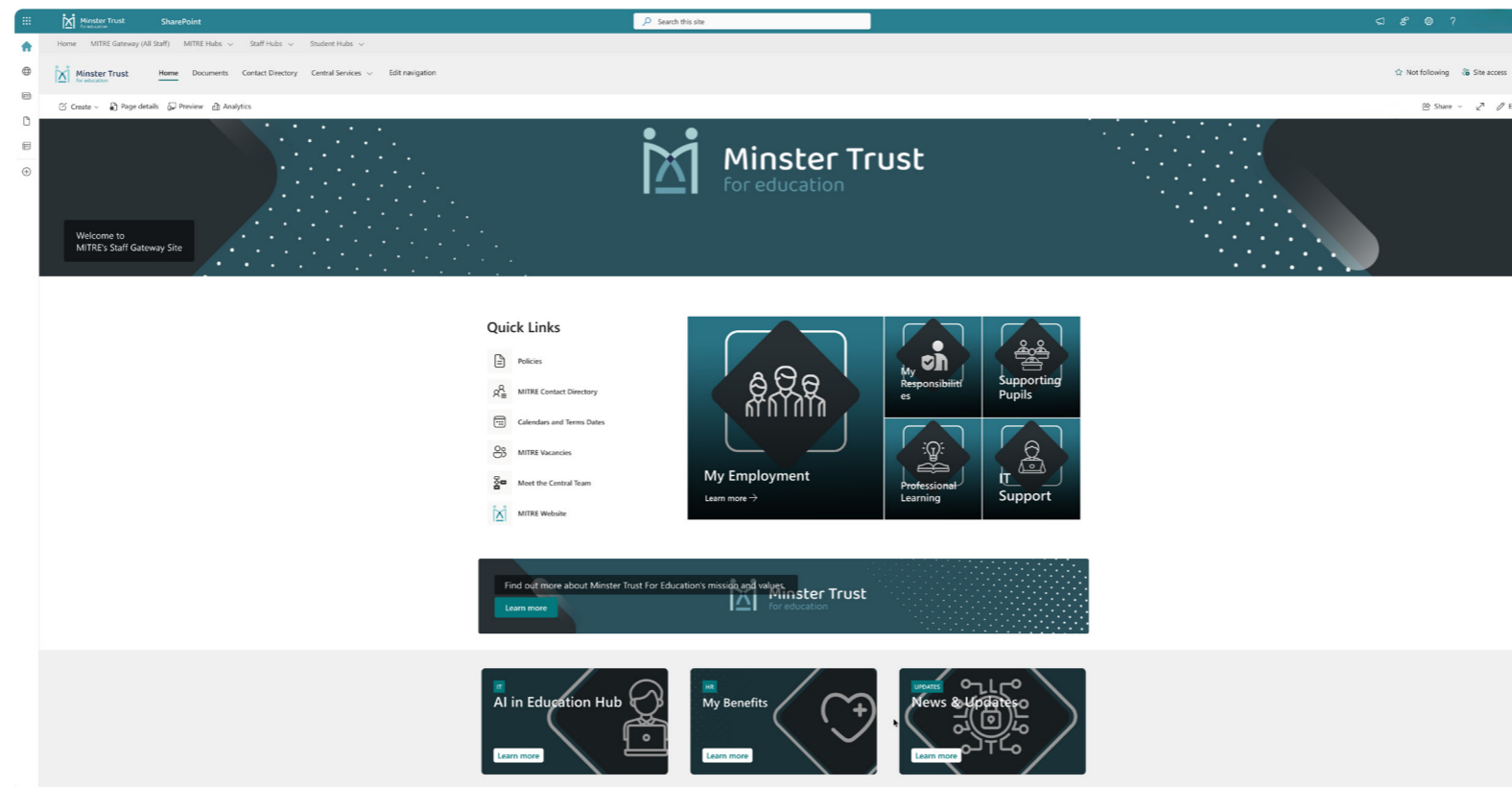
A valuable bank of resources to support the needs of learners, with particular depth around SEND and meeting a range of additional needs in the classroom.

Professional Learning

Information about the training opportunities available to you and how to sign up, including MITRE's own programmes.

My Employment

Information about your employment with MITRE and the Access HR system, clearly laid out and easy to navigate.



Your Benefits

Did you know that as a MITRE employee you have access to some genuinely useful local discounts?

These include:

Discounted gym membership at Active 4 Today (Blidworth, Dukeries and Newark), Everyone Active (Hucknall, Jamie Brough and Kirkby Leisure Centres) and Parkwood Leisure (including Southwell Leisure Centre, Bingham Arena and Rufford Abbey Country Park). Discounts include concession membership, access to gym, swimming and fitness classes — a fantastic benefit for those looking to stay active and healthy.

For those with young children, The Lime Trees nursery group (with settings in Burton Joyce, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Cropwell Bishop, Keyworth and Southwell) offers up to 75% discount on childcare, including nurseries and holiday, breakfast and after school clubs.

These are just a couple of highlights from what is a genuinely valuable benefits offer — there is more to explore. Log in to the SharePoint and take a look at everything that is available to you.

MITRE ALL STAFF SHAREPOINT
(Click the link or scan the QR code below)

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





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This edition of MITRE News has been a collaborative effort, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed articles, photographs and information from across our schools and the central team.

In line with MITRE's Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy, we acknowledge that AI tools were used to support the drafting and editing of content in this edition. All content has been reviewed, edited and approved by trust leaders prior to publication.

MITRE News is produced by the Minster Trust for Education central team. For queries or contributions, please contact marketing@mitretrust.org.uk