



# ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS TOGETHER

## Reflecting on the Autumn Term

*Dear Colleagues,*

As we reach the end of the Autumn term, I find myself wondering where the time has gone. One thing I am absolutely certain of, however, is how proud I am of the progress being made across our trust.

Every academy continues on its own improvement journey, united by our shared ambition to provide the very best provision for our children. What has struck me most this term is the increased effort and commitment I have seen from staff across all roles to ensure children receive the individualised support they need. Children are not robots; they arrive with us in their own unique forms, experiences and strengths. Our continued emphasis on doing the basics brilliantly is fundamental to this success.

### Building Strong Foundations for Learning

Building secure foundations is crucial. By strengthening core knowledge and skills, particularly in the early years, we are giving children the very best start and ensuring they are well prepared for Year 1 and beyond.

Our work this term with Ruth Miskin on talk partner strategies is already beginning to bear fruit. It has been wonderful to see schools using partner talk intentionally to maximise participation, promote purposeful talk, enrich vocabulary and ensure that every child is actively engaged in learning. I look forward to seeing this continue to develop as the year progresses.





## The Magic of Christmas Across AMAT

Christmas across AMAT schools has been truly special. The wide array of community events, nativity plays, carols around the tree, family activities and carols in the community have reminded us all of the magic of childhood. These moments highlight the strength of our partnerships and our commitment to placing children firmly, loudly and proudly at the heart of our communities.





## Gratitude to Our Incredible Teams

My sincere thanks go to our wonderful kitchen teams who prepared delicious Christmas lunches. I was fortunate to spend time in one of our academies this week, sharing lunch with staff and children and celebrating this special time together. The care represented in these moments is abundant.

Our lunchtime supervisors go above and beyond to make this part of the day magical for children, and their efforts truly are second to none. I would also like to thank our estates teams, who have worked relentlessly this term to support ongoing improvements to our buildings, as well as our fantastic cleaners who have very patiently tolerated an impressive amount of glitter!

Our admin teams continue to work seamlessly behind the scenes, ensuring schools run smoothly and that every visitor is welcomed with warmth and care. Finally, I am incredibly proud of our central team, who work tirelessly to support our academies and provide that vital wraparound support to help schools be the very best they can be.

## Looking Ahead to the Spring Term

As we look ahead to next term, our focus will sharpen further on doing the basics brilliantly. Our aim remains clear: to keep the main thing, the main thing. We will continue to ensure our children have the strongest foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, all wrapped in the magic of a high-quality primary education.

We will also launch our underlying principles for effective attendance management, reinforcing our drive to ensure children attend school as regularly as possible.

## With Thanks and Best Wishes

I would like to wish you and your families a restful and joyful Christmas break. Please take time to rest, enjoy yourselves and spend precious moments with those you love.

Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to caring for, empowering and genuinely celebrating the uniqueness of our children and our communities.

With my warmest wishes,

**Tracy Swinburne OBE**  
Chief Executive Officer