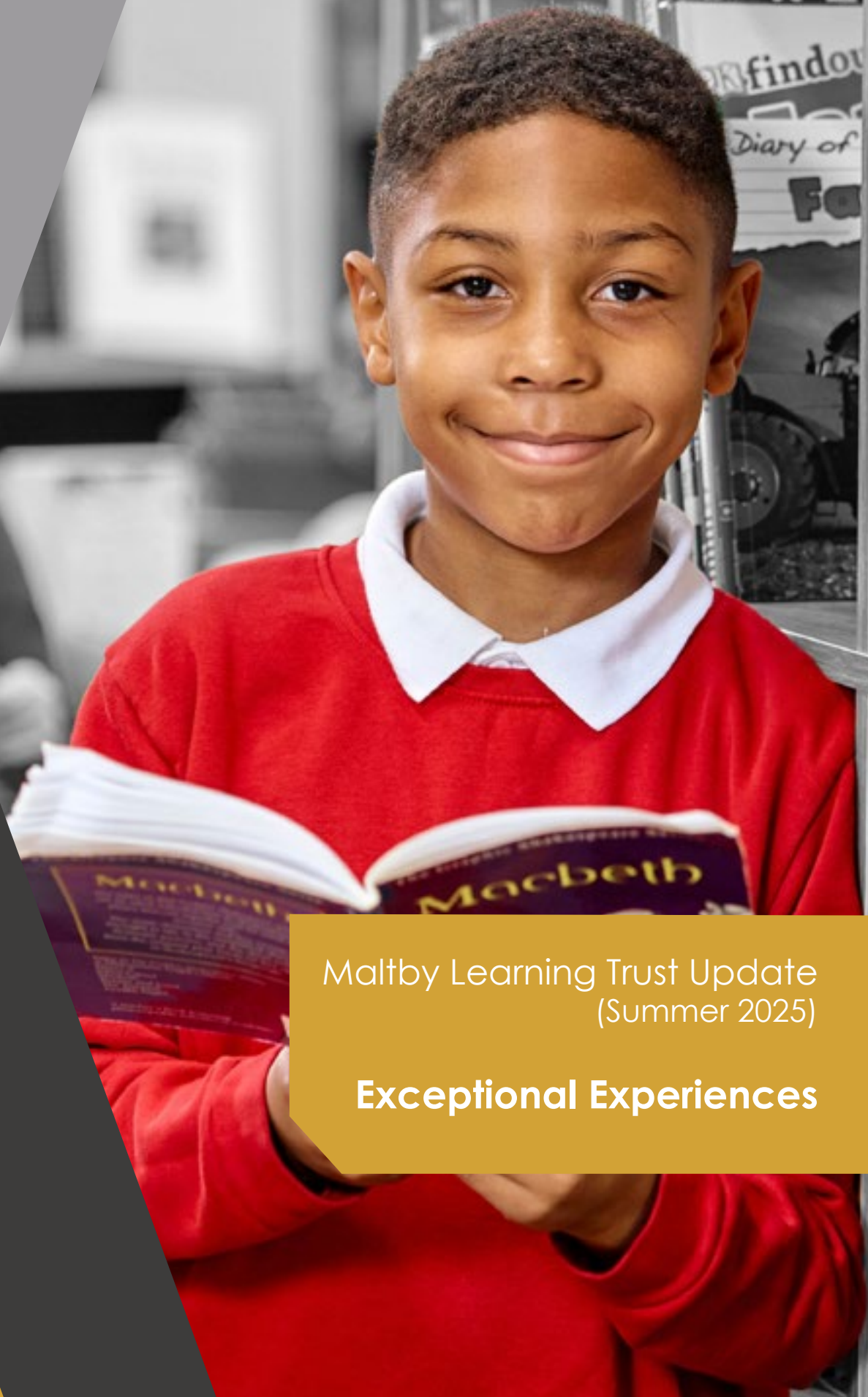




**MALBY LEARNING TRUST**  
Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Maltby Learning Trust Update  
(Summer 2025)

**Exceptional Experiences**

# Celebrating Success, Embracing Change:

## A Message from the CEO

As another school year draws to a close, I would like to highlight the exceptional experiences we have continued to provide for all children and young people across the Trust over the last twelve months and acknowledge the significant level of help and support we have offered to all children and their families but particularly for the most vulnerable groups across our learning communities.

Our exceptional experiences certainly set us apart from other schools in the region and are becoming one of the unique selling points of the Trust with our children and their parents. There is no doubt that the enrichment (electives) opportunities on offer across our schools go far beyond the standard curriculum, designed to broaden students' horizons, develop new skills, and foster a love of learning. They encompass a wide range of activities, including extra-curricular clubs, sports, arts, and special programmes, allowing students to explore subjects in greater depth or discover related interests. We recognise that enrichment provides opportunities for students to try new things, discover hidden talents, and explore different cultures and perspectives. By fostering a love of learning and providing a range of experiences, enrichment can lay the foundation for lifelong learning and personal development.

Over recent months each primary school in the Trust has accessed LA funding to develop sensory spaces that allow them to better meet the needs of children experiencing trauma or crisis. In addition, Maltby Redwood Academy have accessed LA sufficiency funding to develop and trial a Specialist Enhanced Provision (SEP) in school to meet the needs of children with the most complex needs who are waiting for a place in one of the boroughs Special Schools. Also, Maltby Manor Academy have developed a SEMH space on the school site to complement the LA specialist provision and meet the needs of children with EHCPs within and beyond the school.

In addition, the MAST provision at MLT offers therapeutic interventions and support for children and young people's mental health and well-being in the Trust, working with specialist staff in the schools and other agencies. This investment and approach are making a significant difference for children in each of our schools and will prepare the Trust well for any potential changes to the SEND landscape in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Governors and Trustees who are generous with their time, their insights and their expertise. School governance is the single biggest act of volunteering in this country and without it our schools and their communities would be much the poorer. I know that many governors find the experience rewarding and engaging, and certainly my own experience as a school governor early in my career was something I remember with great fondness and positivity. Our Trust thrives in no small part due to the work of our governors, including employees in both the staff and additional Governor roles.

We recognise the level of commitment required in this role, whether this is via pre-reading and digesting important strategic information, actively engaging in meetings, supporting facets of school life and specific colleagues as link governors, constituting panels for disciplinary or complaint hearings or merely being visible advocates for the school at summer concerts and shows, open evenings and in the wider community. Our governors put their own needs and wishes on hold for a greater good and, again, I thank them here for all they do and all they give.

I highlight governance today in the context of us losing one of our greatest advocates earlier this year, our Chair of Members and former Chair of Trustees Dame Julie Kenny DBE DL. For over fifteen years, Julie had been actively involved in Maltby governance – from Chair of Maltby Academy, through to Chair of Board and then Chair of Members.

She provided professional support and challenge for leaders and governors alike, ensuring that the Trust and every local governance committee maintained a good balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience, and remained focused on supporting the strategic direction of the respective schools within a Trust context. Julie was instrumental in shaping the future growth plans for the Trust and was clear that we needed to be larger to realise greater efficiencies and secure longer-term sustainability. However, Julie was clear that whatever size we become we should not lose sight of the Trust vision, values and moral framework that continues to guide us.

We look forward to welcoming students back in September for another memorable year.

**David Sutton**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Opening Our Doors To The Community

We were thrilled to welcome a record number of families to our Academies during our open evenings.

It was truly heartening to see so many members of the local community coming through our doors, eager to discover what our schools have to offer.

These events were more than just an opportunity to showcase our facilities and curriculum, they were a celebration of the partnerships we build with families, and the shared role we play in shaping the future of every child.



The energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity shown by visiting families reminded us just how important these connections are. We are proud to be schools that our communities can trust, and we look forward to building on this positive relationship in the year ahead.





# Creating Positive School Memories Through Exceptional Experiences

This year, we continued to do what we are most proud of, creating exceptional experiences for our young people. Across all our schools, we have worked hard to make every moment count, helping students not only succeed in the classroom but also make positive school memories that will last a lifetime.

We have loved seeing our students getting involved in a wide range of opportunities, school trips, exciting visits, special events, and enrichment activities that have brought learning to life and built confidence along the way.

These moments matter, and we are proud to have played a part in creating so many unforgettable experiences.

We were especially proud to celebrate the incredible talents of our students, whether they were shining on the school stage or performing under the bright lights of Sheffield City Hall. These performances give our young people a platform to express themselves, build confidence, and experience the thrill of sharing their passion with a live audience, something they will never forget.



The festive season was, as always, a joyful and heart-warming time. We came together as a Trust to celebrate the Christmas period with performances, parties, and community events that captured the true spirit of the season. At Maltby Learning Trust, we believe that coming together as a community is a vital part of Christmas, and we were so proud to see our schools filled with laughter, kindness, and celebration.



# Building Partnerships That Make a Difference

We are proud to build meaningful connections and partnerships that had a real impact, not just for our students, but for the wider communities we serve. These collaborations have opened doors, broadened horizons, and helped us deliver even more opportunities to help our young people thrive.

One partnership we were especially excited about was with Better Learners Better Workers (BLBW). This brilliant programme puts our students at the heart of real-world learning by giving them a chance to become Ambassadors in Year 5, Year 6, Year 9 and across SEND settings. Through the programme, students take part in high-quality employer encounters, workplace experiences, and exciting challenges, both in school and out in the world of work.



A proud moment came at the Better Learners Better Workers Graduation Ceremony at Cutler's Hall in Sheffield, where students from across our Trust represented their schools with confidence, professionalism, and enthusiasm. Each student was recognised for their outstanding commitment to the programme, an inspiring reflection of their dedication and personal growth over the year.

Their poised presentations and thoughtful contributions were a true testament to the hard work and development they have achieved through the initiative.

We were especially proud to see two of our students deliver the closing addresses at the ceremony, a moment that truly captured the spirit of the event. Speaking with clarity, confidence, and authenticity, they reflected not only on their own journeys but also on the shared experiences of their peers. It was a fitting and powerful end to an inspiring celebration of achievement.



We have also been proud to work with local organisations to expand after-school provision across our primary schools. One of our key partners, Pop's Outdoor Adventures, has provided engaging, outdoor-themed after-school clubs for three of our four primary schools. These sessions not only offer accessible and affordable childcare but also give our children opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with nature in fun and meaningful ways.

At Ravenfield Primary Academy, our families continue to benefit from the fantastic after-school care provided by The Fun Hub, which offers a welcoming, supportive environment where children can relax, play, and continue learning beyond the school day.

These partnerships are a vital part of our commitment to supporting families, enriching student experiences, and strengthening the communities we are proud to be part of.



# Providing a High-Quality Enrichment Programme

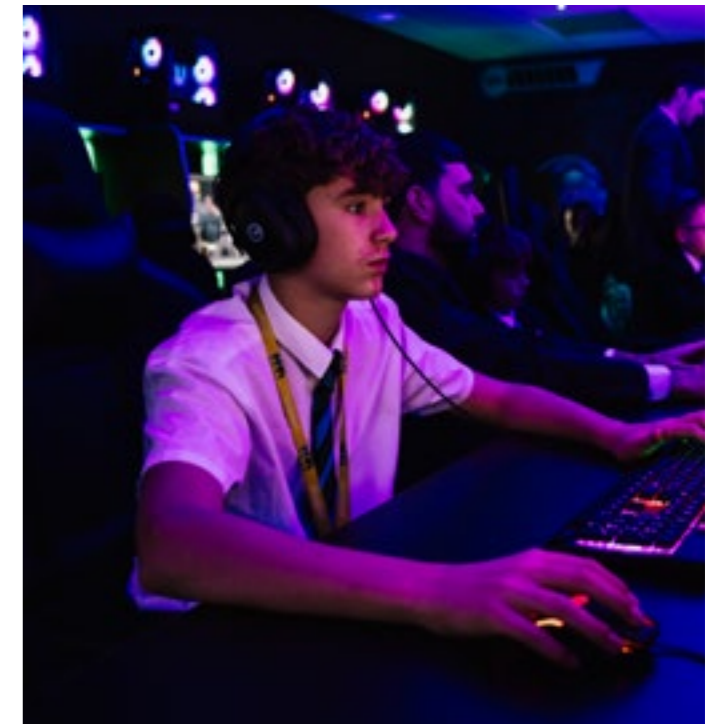
**This initiative is a clear reflection of our belief that education should be rich, varied, and accessible to all and we are excited to keep building on this success in the years ahead.**

During this academic year we made a bold and exciting change across our secondary schools by timetabling weekly enrichment activities into every student's schedule, every Wednesday afternoon. Traditionally an opportunity more commonly seen in private education, we were determined to remove barriers and creating space for every young person to explore, grow, and thrive.

The aim was simple but powerful: to ensure every student, regardless of background, could access high-quality enrichment opportunities that help develop confidence, spark new interests, and build essential life skills.

From sports, canoeing and cooking, to photography and visiting a local podcast studio, students have taken part in an incredible range of hands-on, meaningful activities. These sessions have brought joy, curiosity, and creativity into the school week, giving our students something to look forward to and a chance to shine outside of the classroom.

The new timetable has been a huge success. We are especially proud that, by embedding enrichment into the school day, we have removed the common barriers that previously made participation difficult for many. Now, 100% of our secondary students are engaging in enrichment sessions developing new passions, building friendships, and discovering talents they never knew they had.



# Celebrating a Year of Achievement Across Our Trust

As we draw the academic year to a close, we are reflecting on a remarkable 12 months filled with success, progress, and proud moments across our schools. From awards and national recognition to sports, science, and the arts, our students and staff continue to demonstrate excellence in everything they do.

At the recent #LeadingtheWay2025 conference, Maltby Academy was proudly recognised for its outstanding Careers Leadership and remarkable progress towards achieving the Gatsby Benchmarks, demonstrating a strong commitment to preparing students for their future pathways.

In addition, we are delighted to celebrate that both Sir Thomas Wharton Academy and Wath Academy have successfully retained their National Quality in Careers Standard accreditation, a prestigious recognition of excellence in careers education, information, advice and guidance.

Together, these achievements highlight the exceptional work across our academies in ensuring that every student is equipped with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to thrive beyond the classroom.



In a fantastic milestone Maltby Academy has also proudly achieved its first ever School Games Gold Award a prestigious national recognition that celebrates excellence in school sport and physical education. This award reflects the Academy's deep commitment to delivering inclusive, high-quality PE, alongside an enrichment programme that offers something for every student, from BMX biking and boxing to team sports and wellness activities.

We are also thrilled to announce that all our Primary schools have also been awarded the School Games Gold Award, marking a shared culture across the Trust of prioritising student health, wellbeing, and physical development through vibrant and diverse sporting opportunities.



Sir Thomas Wharton Academy has had a standout year. Year 10 student Lucia was named one of just 13 top entrants in the Young Science Writer Award 2025 a phenomenal achievement celebrated at the Science Museum in London.

Meanwhile, we are incredibly proud of our Year 13 students Rorie, Grace, and Ben, who have all received conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge. Their success is a testament to their hard work and the high standards of teaching and support they have received.





Wath Academy is also celebrating academic and sporting success. Alumni Eva Butler has officially signed a professional contract with Sheffield United Women, serving as an inspiring role model for our current sports scholars. In addition, Year 13 student Mya was named a finalist for her HE+ project on antibiotic resistance, scoring an outstanding 23 out of 24 marks and earning an invitation to the University of Cambridge.

In an exciting highlight, former Maltby Manor Academy pupil Archie Thornton made headlines after being selected to represent England U16s in an international football tournament in Spain playing a year up, scoring a last-minute winner, and captaining the team to tournament victory. An incredible achievement!



Ravenfield Primary Academy has been recognised for its exceptional approach to wellbeing with the 'With Me in Mind' Mental Health and Wellbeing Award. This award celebrates the Academy's strong culture of care, support, and pupil voice.

We also celebrate the fantastic achievements of over 200 students from Sir Thomas Wharton Academy, who have taken part in a revitalised work experience programme this year.

Year 10 and Year 12 students embraced placements across a diverse range of industries, including engineering, education, law, hospitality, and more gaining invaluable insights and skills that will support their future career journeys. Every student took part, demonstrating outstanding commitment and initiative throughout the process.

This marks the first time since the pandemic that Sir Thomas Wharton Academy has delivered a full-scale, Academy-supported programme joining Wath Academy where work experience is already well embedded into the student offer. Maltby Academy will follow in the upcoming academic year.



# Children's Capital of Culture – Baton Relay Celebration

This year, as Rotherham proudly hosted the Children's Capital of Culture 2025, our Academies were thrilled to take part in a range of exciting events and initiatives celebrating the borough's rich culture, creativity, and community spirit.

One of the stand-out moments was the Rotherham Schools Baton Relay, where students and staff from Maltby Academy, Maltby Redwood Academy, Maltby Manor Academy, Ravenfield Primary Academy and Wath Academy came together to represent the Trust.

The event formed part of a wider, year-long programme of over 365 days of activities, showcasing Rotherham's vibrant arts, music, heritage, and sports.

Our students demonstrated incredible enthusiasm, teamwork, and pride as they carried the baton through their leg of the relay, highlighting how young people across the borough are getting active, engaged, and inspired in their communities.



# Proposed Trust Merger

## Stakeholder Engagement Report

The Trustees and Members of Accord Multi Academy Trust and Maltby Learning Trust (MLT) have been considering for some time how we might further grow our family of schools to extend the impact of our work. The reasons behind our ambition to grow are twofold: firstly, we recognise that a larger organisation will have greater capacity to deliver the very best learning experiences and continue to improve our schools; and, secondly, we want to be able to contribute further to the education system and support more children, families, and communities to achieve success in our locality.

We are pleased that we have been able to engage in discussions about the possibility of the two successful and well-established Trusts joining together to create a brand-new organisation, built on the strengths of the two Trusts and resulting in an organisation that will be greater than the sum of their parts. This proposed arrangement will be a voluntary merger of equals, rather than any form of takeover / acquisition of one Trust by the other. The two Trusts have much in common, starting with a similar vision and values shaped around putting children and young people first, setting high standards, delivering exceptional learning experiences, and committing to and connecting with the local communities that we serve.



The decision to pursue the proposed merger, with a formal application to the Department for Education (DfE) Advisory Board, was reached unanimously by each Trust Board in May 2025 with a planned period of wider stakeholder engagement. Whilst the original submission of the application to the DfE Advisory Board was scheduled to be considered on 15 July 2025, due to unforeseen circumstances within the DfE this will now not be the case, and we are awaiting confirmation of a revised date in the autumn term of 2025-26.

The period of stakeholder engagement for both Trusts commenced on Thursday 5 June 2025 and concluded on Friday 4 July 2025. It should also be noted that further engagement and communications will continue beyond this point to ensure that stakeholders remain fully informed regarding progress made towards the proposals.

You can find more information about our proposed Trust merger, including FAQs and the results of our stakeholder engagement, on our website.

[MORE  
INFORMATION](#)



## Farewell and Good Luck to Our Leavers

As the academic year comes to a close, we say a fond farewell to all our Year 6, Year 11, and Year 13 students who are leaving us this summer. Whether you're heading off to secondary school, college, university, an apprenticeship, or starting your career journey, we want you to know how incredibly proud we are of everything you have achieved during your time with us.

Watching you grow into confident, capable young people has been a privilege, and while it's always hard to say goodbye, we are excited to see what the future holds for each and every one of you. You have worked hard, overcome challenges, and created memories that will stay with you for life.

Wherever your next chapter takes you, believe in yourself, stay curious, and never stop learning.

From all of us at Maltby Learning Trust good luck, and don't forget, you will always be part of our family. We can't wait to hear about everything you go on to achieve!

**“Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey.”**



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