



Welcome to our Spring newsletter. Despite a very challenging first half term with Covid-19 and the pressure this created for schools and staff, we have been able to push forward with a number of exciting developments.

We are increasing resources to support pupils with SEND and taking action – through our capital works, the curriculum and via our catering contract – to meet our sustainability goals.

The Trust Board has also been looking at our strategy for the next three years while headteachers and strategic groups have been focussing on the type of curriculum we want to see in our schools, alongside our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.

However, Easter will soon be here and I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable break.

**Jonathan Culpin**  
Chief Executive Officer

[anglianlearning.org](https://anglianlearning.org)

## Pupils engaging with the natural environment



Across Anglian Learning schools, various initiatives are engaging pupils with the natural environment, whether that is looking at climate change through the curriculum in Science and Geography, or through forest schools in some of our primary schools, or through eco-clubs, recycling schemes and garden projects.

Sitting alongside this are ambitious plans to maximise energy efficiencies and minimise the environmental impact of our sites and operational activities.

For example, the new Waterbeach Primary School will be a carbon neutral

school. The Climate Change Improvement Network, made up of Trust leaders and in-school colleagues, is beginning its work to increase collaboration in these areas, to co-develop strategic plans, share best practice, engage pupils in decision-making and support in-school projects.





**“ You can't teach children to behave better by making them feel worse. When children feel better, they behave better**

Pam Leo

## Covid Recovery Fund put to good use

As part of Anglian Learning's commitment to supporting pupils who are vulnerable due to circumstances or SEND, a proportion of the Covid Recovery Fund is being invested into developing our SENDV offer.

One initial element of this development is the embedding of a therapeutic thinking and trauma informed approach (STEPS) to behaviour management across all Anglian Learning academies.

STEPS was founded on the understanding that "You can't teach children to behave better by making them feel worse. When children feel better, they behave better." (Pam Leo). This approach has been shown to be successful in reducing exclusions and enabling pupils to better understand how to regulate their own behaviour.

We have been successful in securing two Cambridgeshire 'Step On' tutor training places for senior leaders in each of our academies. This will enable the further development of a whole Trust ethos and approach, providing practical strategies to support prosocial behaviour, respond to difficult or dangerous behaviours and to repair and restore relationships after an event.

An Anglian Learning STEPS strategy group will meet half termly to continue developing policy and practice, and to share successful strategies and support for improving pupils' engagement and behaviour. The aim of this collective approach is to support building positive experiences and ensuring the inclusion of all pupils.

### Our values



We are ambitious for ourselves and all those in our community to be the best we can be



We underpin our relationships with a culture of support, respect and trust, recognising we are stronger together



We enable our academies, staff and learners to embrace new ideas and think creatively



We believe in equality of opportunity, celebrating everyone's differences and supporting learners of all abilities from all backgrounds



# Catering Procurement for Anglian Learning

Anglian Learning surveyed staff, primary parents and secondary pupils across the Trust before Christmas to understand what they wanted most from catering in our academies, what we are doing well and what could be improved.

The results are being used to inform a tender to find a single contractor for the whole Trust to start in Autumn 2022. In selecting our new partner, we are focusing on value for money and range and availability of food – which were strong themes from the survey – as well as looking at recycling and sustainability.

*Right: Director of Operations Claudine Bateman and Financial Controller Stacie Cox at Linton Village College*



## Creative thinking in the collaborative spotlight

Anglian Learning will lead a collaborative action research project, funded by the Arts Council England – based around the topic of Creative Thinking.

**We were delighted to welcome Professor Bill Lucas, an international expert on creativity in the curriculum**

Having collected baseline data from pupils and staff participating in the project, the research and evaluation team started delivering it on 1 March. Across the Trust, projects are focussing on all phases of education, from early years to post-16 – this makes the project unique and distinct.

As part of this process, we were delighted to welcome Professor Bill Lucas, an international expert on creativity in the curriculum to a virtual e-meet to discuss the next stages of our work and how we can get meaningful outcomes that will shape the educational

landscape for years to come.

The project has gained interest from outside parties, and we have been approached by several groups – including the Arts Council England Creativity Mapping Team and Cambridge University – to work alongside us.

The findings from this work will be published by the Durham Commission and hopefully leave a lasting legacy in all our schools. We will be inviting all headteachers to a celebration event on the 28 June to share the findings from Year 1 of the project.



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



# Focusing on our curriculum – post Covid-19

Curriculum design and intent has been in sharp focus for us all over the last three or four years.

This process has led to clear aims, progression maps and a better understanding of what makes a great curriculum. Headteachers, senior leaders and subject leaders from across the Trust meet every half term to share the best and developing practice through over 40 strategic groups and improvement networks.

School visits are becoming more frequent again, allowing leaders to share their curriculum expertise and experiences with each other.

The last two years has brought about a renewed energy to further develop our curriculum provision to best support our pupils in developing healthy relationships, understanding how to keep themselves safe and develop their ability to sustain a sense of wellbeing. Our schools are also prioritising the importance of clubs, trips and visits as an integral part of any school's curriculum.

It is tremendous to see the richness and enjoyment of learning beginning to bloom once again following a difficult and restrictive two years.

*The Meadow Primary School (right)  
and Sawston Village College (below)*



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## Two new schools mark continued growth of Anglian Learning

Over the past term, planning and preparation for the opening of Marleigh Primary Academy has accelerated.

Led by the school's newly appointed headteacher Mike Fish, who officially joins Anglian Learning after Easter, we are now focussing on the development of the curriculum, recruitment of staff and purchase of all the new equipment and resources needed for the school when it opens in September 2022.

Of particular excitement is the development of Marleigh's partnership with Fen Ditton Primary School, which promises to be enriching for pupils and staff on both sites.

Alongside this we are also working closely with Cambridgeshire County Council, the developers Urban & Civic, architects and builders on our new school which is planned to open in 2024 on the Waterbeach barracks site. As highlighted elsewhere, the goal is to create Cambridgeshire's greenest school and like Marleigh, a pathfinder in new school design.



### Safeguarding and Health & Safety uppermost in ongoing improvement works

Our School Condition Allocation (capital funding from the Department of Education) projects have continued since the summer, with many projects focussing on safeguarding and health and safety.

Recent Trust-led projects have successfully addressed management of traffic and pedestrian control together with securing safeguarding lines. Major projects have now been completed, including two science classroom refurbishments at Bottisham Village College.



*Refurbished science classroom at Bottisham Village College and new fencing and gates at The Meadow Primary School*





# Rebranded sports and leisure centres launched



We are pleased to announce the renaming of our sport, fitness and leisure centres under a new brand – Anglian Leisure.

Aimed at uniting facilities across our Trust, this new overarching brand will help bring the six individual centres together. This will allow for greater accessibility, a better online presence and improved facilities for staff, pupils and the wider community.

The first centres to be renamed will become Anglian Leisure Bottisham, Anglian Leisure Linton, Anglian Leisure Netherhall and Anglian Leisure Sawston. Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and Bassingbourn are expected to follow soon.

This branding will help provide a clear link to the Trust and show how the leisure centres play an important role at the heart of their communities to ensure all the centres are inclusive, affordable and varied.

Anglian Learning Chief Executive Jonathan Culpin said: “With the difficulties Covid-19 has presented over the last two years, we wanted to ensure that the health and wellbeing of our local communities remained a priority.

“It has always been our vision to make recreation and leisure opportunities accessible not just for pupils, but to a wide range of different people who might not always be able to take advantage of these facilities in city centres or through private, commercial operators.

“With the rebranding to Anglian Leisure, we have taken the time to invest in the development of our leisure centres so that they can continue to deliver a high-quality service.

“The centres will have a better online presence, more flexible class times and an online booking system to help improve user experience, with every membership fee being invested back into the schools, providing better opportunities for pupils and the community in the future.”

The rebranding comes after a recent survey of parents, staff, pupils, sports centre members and the community found that 70 per cent of respondents felt that creating a single brand for booking all school facilities would help improve Anglian Learning's offer.

Community use of school facilities is an important and vital source of additional funding for schools and this income can be reinvested to create further opportunities and learning experiences for pupils and the communities the schools serve, making this a mutually beneficial partnership for all.

Michelle Wilson, Anglian Learning's Sports Centre Development Manager, added: “We hope our new facilities will become a dedicated place for young people and the wider community to enjoy the wellbeing and mental health benefits physical activity has to offer. We look forward to seeing the community become fitter, healthier and happier as a result.”

Bookings can be made [here](#).

Details on purchasing a membership can be found [here](#).



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**Michelle Wilson**