

CEO UPDATE

Friday 23rd October 2026



Dear parents/carers

As we come to the end of the first term of the academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy but hugely positive start to the year across South Lincolnshire Academies Trust.

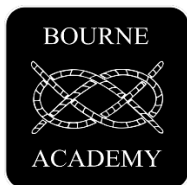
It seems remarkable how much has happened since we welcomed our students back in September 2026.

Across all our schools there have been so many moments to celebrate, both inside and outside the classroom, and I continue to be incredibly proud of our students and staff.

We started the year on the back of another very positive summer of results. Across Bourne Academy, Spalding Academy, Giles Academy and Cowley Academy, **all four schools recorded positive internal Progress 8 figures**, which was a fantastic achievement for our students, families and staff. At the SLAT Sixth Form, students achieved a 99% overall pass rate across A-level and BTEC qualifications, with 49% of grades at A* to A equivalent and 99% securing their chosen university or apprenticeship destination.

But, as I often say, our schools are about far more than examination results.

Celebrating our schools



At **Bourne Academy**, there has been a huge amount happening beyond the classroom. Open Evening was a particular highlight, with our students acting as superb ambassadors and helping prospective families discover the school. The term has also included a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning and European Day of Languages, with students celebrating languages, culture and communication.

We held our annual Careers Fair where more than 50 employers, businesses and education providers came into school, representing everything from construction, engineering and healthcare to the uniformed services and further and higher education. It is exactly the sort of opportunity we want for our young people, helping them see just how many different futures are available to them.

Students have also had an enormous range of enrichment opportunities, from debating, creative writing and sign language through to science, sport, drama, art and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award activities.

And, of course, we welcomed Ofsted this term. What I loved was having the opportunity to showcase our school. I was incredibly proud of our students and staff and the way the whole school community came together. It was a very busy couple of days, but also a wonderful opportunity to share what we see every day at Bourne Academy.



At **Spalding Academy**, it has been lovely to see enrichment continuing to play such an important part in school life, with lunchtime and after-school clubs very well attended and giving students the chance to develop new interests, skills and friendships.

This term also saw the introduction of the Headteacher Award, recognising students who have done something genuinely exceptional, from acts of kindness and overcoming challenges to volunteering and representing their school. Sporting fixtures have got underway too, while rehearsals have started for the school's Christmas production.

Year 8 students have also taken part in a Human Utopia workshop focused on confidence, resilience, leadership and positive relationships.

It has been a great start to the year and I am looking forward to seeing that energy continue into next term, particularly as the building of a new Performing Arts Centre progresses.



At **Giles Academy**, one of the nicest things to see has been how quickly our new Year 7 students have settled. Students approached their first weeks with enthusiasm, making new friends and embracing school life, supported brilliantly by older students who helped them find their feet.

There have been some wonderful wider-school moments too. Students have celebrated European Day of Languages, while staff supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning. The broad programme of lunchtime and after-school enrichment has also continued to be well attended, giving students opportunities to discover new interests and build positive relationships.

This term also saw the introduction of many new awards, including the Headteacher Award, recognising students who have done something genuinely exceptional, from acts of kindness and overcoming challenges to volunteering and representing their school.

Year 8 students have also taken part in a Human Utopia workshop focused on confidence, resilience, leadership and positive relationships.

Sport has been another real highlight at Giles Academy this term, and it has been fantastic to see our students representing the school with such enthusiasm and pride. Alongside the sporting successes we have celebrated, students continue to make the most of the wider opportunities available to them, with lunchtime and after-school enrichment particularly well attended. Seeing students getting involved beyond their lessons, developing their interests and enjoying being part of school life is exactly what we want across all our schools.



There has been an equally busy start at **Cowley Academy**.

More than 200 students volunteered to support the school's Open Evening, which I think says a great deal about the pride young people have in their school. Year 7 students Ethan Cairns and Violet Threadgill spoke in the main hall, while the Year 11 Band performed for visitors.

I was also really pleased to see Year 10 students heading out to Mastenbroek in Boston for National Manufacturing Day, gaining first-hand experience of engineering, design and modern manufacturing.

Cowley students have been enjoying a newly launched extra-curricular programme, and Year 8 have taken part in their own Human Utopia "Who Am I?" programme, encouraging students to reflect on their choices and how they can make a positive contribution to their school community.

I am also delighted that Cowley Academy has been selected to take part in the No Excuses School Parking Campaign, working alongside Cowley Endowed Primary School and Lincolnshire County Council to help make the area around the schools safer for children and families. Watch out for this campaign on our local news channels!

A more inclusive approach

One of the developments I have been particularly pleased with this term has been the introduction and development of our new **Inclusion Rooms**.

It is lovely to walk into these spaces and see students using them positively to re-engage with their learning. For some young people, having the right support, at the right time, in the right environment can make an enormous difference.

Our aim has always been to ensure students remain connected to their education and are supported back into lessons successfully. Seeing this beginning to happen in practice has been incredibly rewarding.

Mobile phones

I also have to mention our new approach to mobile phones because, quite honestly, the response from our students has exceeded my expectations.

Introducing the **phone lockers** represented a significant change for students and we knew that it would take their cooperation to make it work.

They have been amazing.

Already, we are seeing the positive impact on interactions between students during the school day. It is wonderful to see students talking, socialising and engaging with each other without phones dominating those moments.

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with this change. Most importantly, thank you to our students for embracing it so positively.

Making communication easier for parents

We have also made some important changes this term to the way we communicate with families.

Our new **School Apps** is an important part of this. This will continue to develop over the coming months as we look at how we can make communication between home and school simpler and easier to navigate.

We know that parents receive a lot of information from school and we want to make it as straightforward as possible to find what you need.

Alongside this, we have been working on information for each year group, providing parents with an overview of the year ahead, including key events and important dates, together with details of staff to contact through the school app if you need support.

Our aim is simple. We want parents to know what is happening, when it is happening and who to contact when they need us.



Looking ahead

If this term has been busy, the next one certainly will not be any quieter!

We have lots to look forward to, including our Christmas celebrations, PPE examinations for students at an important stage of their courses, the SLAT Sixth Form Open Evening at Bourne Academy, and even a Year 7 trip to the pantomime.

There will undoubtedly be plenty more in between.

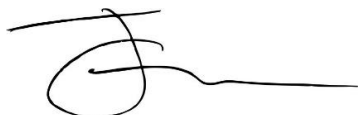
As we finish this term, however, I simply want to say **“thank you”**.

Thank you to our parents and carers for the support you give our schools. Thank you to our staff for the enormous amount they do for our young people. And, most importantly, thank you to our students, who continue to give us so many reasons to be proud.

We will never stop looking at what we can do better, but it is equally important that we occasionally stop and recognise just how much is being achieved across our Trust.

I hope all our students, families and staff enjoy a well-deserved half term break, and I look forward to another exciting and very busy term ahead.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

Mrs Jemma Curson

Chief Executive Officer

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust