



15th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term, I thought I would wish you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026. As I reflect on the previous year, I feel very proud to be leading MNSP Trust. There have been countless positive achievements this year, including excellent examination results, as well as some significant improvements in other aspects across our schools.

One very pleasing piece of news, is that Somervale School in Midsomer Norton, has been asked to be an Attendance and Behaviour Lead School for the Department of Education. These Lead Schools are identified nationally as ones where there is excellence in certain areas of their provision. Somervale has always had a strong track record in terms of attendance and behaviour, regularly having the highest attendance of any secondary school in the Trust. Going forward, Somervale will be expected to share its expertise across the South West and help other schools in and outside of MNSP to improve pupil behaviour and attendance.

In other news, three of our secondary schools were named in the Times newspaper Parent Power Survey. Norton Hill, Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff were in the top 10 best schools in the South West according to a number of criteria used by the Times Newspaper to select the top performing schools. I know that the Headteachers of these schools will be very proud of this achievement.

If you live in Frome or the surrounding villages, you will now have received a letter from me regarding a consultation looking at the possible reorganisation of the Frome education system. Currently, Frome has a three-tier system with first, middle and upper schools. The Local Authority and all of the Trusts in Frome have agreed that it is time to have another look at this system and determine if it is the best possible arrangement for children. It has long been discussed that moving to a two-tier system might serve children better and we now have sufficient agreement amongst schools to go to parents and other stakeholders to capture their views. Formal public consultation will begin in the New Year.

Two of our special schools – Knowle DGE and Soundwell – have been visited by the Director of Education for Bristol. Hannah Woodhouse toured the schools with the Headteachers and saw first-hand the excellent work being undertaken to help pupils achieve well. I am delighted to report that she was very impressed by the schools and in particular, how welcoming and articulate the pupils were. Both Knowle and Soundwell Schools are exceptional in terms of the opportunities they offer pupils and the outcomes pupils achieve.

Somerset Studio School has been enjoying success with their new T Level courses. T levels are two year technical qualifications, equivalent to three A Levels, that combine classroom learning with industry placement. The Health and Engineering routes have been particularly successful, with good outcomes being seen in these qualifications.

Our BANES AP school has a new home! Those of you that live in Bath may be aware that the old Culverhay School site is due to be demolished to make way for two new schools – an additional Special School and a new Alternative Provision School. Whilst the demolition takes place, the St Matthias Bath site has moved to a brand-new building at Abbots Alphedge in Lansdown. The move has been very smooth and it is good to see pupils who struggle in mainstream school learning in new facilities. This

gives these pupils a great chance of a proper fresh start and reset, before returning to mainstream provision.

Across our primary schools, I have now received the first set of progress data for year groups and it looks as though we will be having another bumper crop of results from all ages. Reception children appear to be making very good progress, as do pupils in Year 1 who are learning to master the phonographic alphabet. Pupils in Reception are also making exceptionally positive progress. Thank you to parents and carers for all their support to help children have a positive start to schooling.

The Primary school performance tables are now out and I was delighted to see that 5 of the schools in the top 10 in BANES were within MNSP Trust. It was particularly pleasing too, that we dominated the top 10 as a group of schools for the higher standard of performance in Year 6. Well done to schools and pupils on what we already knew, was a fabulous set of outcomes across the board in 2025.

At secondary level, Hayesfield topped the performance tables with Beechen Cliff second and Norton Hill and St Mark's not far behind. In Somerset, I was delighted to see St Dunstan's ranked 7th out of 80 schools, for the percentage of children achieving a grade 5 in both English and Maths.

In February we will formally welcome Selwood Academy in Frome and Pyrland Academy in Taunton to the Trust. We look forward to working with both schools over the months and years to come. We are also supporting a group of schools in West Somerset and they too may wish to join MNSP sometime in the future. As such, it is very busy as always, but we remain committed to ensuring all pupils can attend the best schools possible, regardless of where they might live, or the challenges they might face.

Finally, I would like to publicly congratulate the under 18 Rugby Team at Beechen Cliff, who recently lifted the ACE League trophy. This is a prestigious award in school rugby, as the league includes the best 22 rugby academies and schools in the country. Beechen Under 18s dominated the final and secured a comfortable win over a team from Loughborough. Thank you to Bath Rugby for their coaching and support over many years at Beechen Cliff and well done again to all the players involved.

As always, thank you to those parents and carers who continue to support our schools. Merry Christmas and I hope you have a lovely festive break.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alun Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alun Williams - CEO