



October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope the first term of the year has been successful for your children. It has certainly been busy across the Trust. I have visited over 25 of our schools so far and seen first hand pupils and staff working hard to ensure strong outcomes across all areas of the curriculum. I have also spent quite a bit of time in West Somerset supporting the latest schools that have become a part of MNSP – a warm welcome to King Edward Road Nursery, Minehead Middle, Danesfield Middle, Minehead First, St Michael's First, St Peter's First and Old Cleeve First. We are delighted you are now part of the MNSP Trust and have enjoyed working with you over the last 12 months. We are also very pleased to announce that the DFE has agreed to fund much-needed improvements to school buildings in West Somerset. I look forward to seeing these developments roll out over the next 18 months.

Outcomes 2025-26

I am delighted to report that we have had outstanding results again across all schools. Our 2026 outcomes are better than those achieved in 2025 (already a high point) and are a sure sign that collaborative working across schools is having a very positive impact on children of all ages.

Our A levels results were again well above national rates and GCSEs exceeded the national standard, with 51% of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in both Maths and English; we also had over 70% of pupils achieving at least a grade 4 in these two subjects. Beechen Cliff topped the Trust league table, but there were some other significant improvements too – Preston, St Dunstan's and Pyrland schools all exceeded previous results seen. Our other secondaries also remained strong across all measures and every secondary saw results for pupils with special educational needs above the national average, with some scores double the rate seen in schools across the country.

In our primary and middle schools, 75% of Year 6 children achieved Age-Related Expectation in Reading, Writing and Maths combined – some 12% above national rates. Over 60% of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals achieved Age related Expectation in Reading, Writing and Maths combined – 11% above national measures. In our first and primary schools, 92% of pupils passed the phonics screening test – a really important assessment to test how well pupils can read. In addition, over 80% of Reception aged children achieved a 'Good Level of Development' at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework – 11% above national rates. The Trust has already received recognition for these fabulous outcomes from Local Authorities and the Department for Education.

In our Special and Alternative Provision schools, we saw almost all children achieve 'Progress 5' – a measure that ensures pupils leave school with at least 5 good qualifications. Many pupils also achieved grades 5 or above across a range of subjects. This is fabulous news, given that many of these pupils face significant barriers and is a testament to the hard work of staff and support of parents.

Ofsted inspections

We have now had 5 schools inspected by Ofsted under the new framework. I am pleased to confirm that we continue to see very strong outcomes from inspection. All schools where reports are now public have been impressive, with lots of 'Strong Standard' judgments awarded. The 'Strong Standard' is a new measure that is seen to be more demanding than the previous Ofsted 'Good' judgment.

Somervale and Selwood schools have been visited this term by Ofsted and both did extremely well. Reports will be out in the public domain shortly for parents and others to view.

Attendance

As we move deeper into the new academic year, we are focused on ensuring attendance can be as good as possible. In a recent analysis of our results as a group of schools, it was absolutely clear that pupils with an attendance at 95% or higher, fared significantly better than those with lower rates of attendance. If children attend MNSP schools regularly, they do well – much better than similar children in similar schools nationally. The evidence is absolutely clear. As such, a plea once again to all parents and carers to please do all you can to ensure your children attend their school every day. I know it can be difficult to motivate some teenagers in particular and as they become older they become bigger and more argumentative, but gentle reminders and positive prodding often works! Do reach out to your school if you would like further support or ideas to help ensure your child attends as frequently as possible.

New schools

Going forward, we do have some new schools who are likely to join MNSP this academic year. Paulton Juniors has voted to join the Trust and we hope they will be able to be part of MNSP by July 2027. Knight's Templar First School in Watchet is also due to join in February 2027. Meare Primary (outside Glastonbury) is due to join in July as well and finally, Berkley First, just outside Frome, is also beginning to consult on moving to MNSP. We are also continuing to work with West Somerset College in Minehead and hope they too will be able to join the West Somerset Hub in due course.

Policy Change

We have had plenty of changes this year in Government Policy which relate to schools. The most obvious one has been around the management of mobile phones and other electronic devices. Apart from the initial first day busyness at some schools, the phone pouch initiative appears to have rolled out relatively smoothly. No mean feat given that we were expecting 14,000 children to suddenly change the way they keep their phones in school. The pupils have been brilliant and there have been hardly any moans from them – well not publicly anyway!

We have also installed anaphylaxis kits in all schools, following the roll out of Benedict's Law and have updated safeguarding policies and practices to meet the requirements of new duties on us in schools. The Government also has some curriculum changes it is rolling out and other new initiatives in the pipeline. For us though at MNSP, we will keep our focus squarely on supporting pupils, parents and staff, to ensure pupils can attend great schools, where they can be happy and do well.

Building works

Over the Summer break there were a lot of improvements made to buildings and facilities. We committed last year to ensuring air-conditioning and other cooling measures were installed across schools. We do not plan to air- condition all rooms, but to provide spaces where children and staff can be brought together to remain comfortable in school. No surprises, but the lead in time for air conditioning units has grown by 6 months following the heat waves. Some schools also have a limited electricity feed into their buildings, which makes adding additional demands on electrical supply tricky.

We opened a number of new nursery buildings and I recently visited the £150K new nursery provision at Trinity Frome. The building has been transformed with a new roof and completely remodelled and refurbished inside.

In total, over £3 million was spent on improving toilets, roofs, boilers, outside areas and adding new classrooms across the Trust, and I would like to publicly thank our site teams for all their hard work.

Staffing updates

Finally, we have some new Headteachers joining us. Mr D Wiltshire will be taking over at Frome College in January, working with Mr Jeffries to secure further improvement. Mr J Thomson will become the substantive Headteacher at St Mary's Primary in Timsbury and Ms E Murch will become the substantive and permanent Executive Headteacher at St Michael's and Old Cleeve First Schools in the West Somerset area. Congratulations to all of these colleagues.

Best wishes

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

Alun Williams - CEO