



Term highlights

Welcome from the CEO

As we move through another vibrant and productive term across Catalyst Academies Trust, we are delighted to share the fantastic achievements, updates, and opportunities taking place within our family of schools. Every week brings new examples of creativity, resilience, ambition, and kindness from our pupils, staff, and wider community—and this newsletter celebrates exactly that.

At Catalyst, we believe in the power of collaboration and in creating learning environments where every child can thrive. This edition highlights some of the innovative learning experiences, community events, and enrichment activities that continue to shape our shared journey. Whether it's individual achievement, classroom successes, whole-school projects, or moments that simply make us proud, we hope these stories offer a window into the exceptional work happening across our Trust.

Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership, and belief in what we can achieve together. We are excited to share these updates with you—and even more excited for what's still to come.

Mr T Parfett



Trust performance



This term, all schools across the Trust were formally recognised for the outstanding outcomes achieved by disadvantaged pupils at the end of the **2024/25 academic year**. Each school received an official letter from the Department for Education commending these exceptional results.

The Trust's collective performance positions it among the **highest performing trusts nationally**, representing a significant and noteworthy accomplishment. This success reflects the professionalism and sustained commitment of staff, as well as the diligence and determination demonstrated by pupils. It is a clear illustration of what can be accomplished when ambition, rigor, and shared purpose are firmly embedded across a community.

This recognition builds upon a consistent history of strong outcomes for disadvantaged pupils across Catalyst Academies Trust, further reinforcing the Trust's reputation for excellence.



Trust performance



The Trust performance measures for the **2024/25 academic year** have now been released, and Catalyst Academies Trust has achieved an exceptionally strong position. **Out of 1,152 multi academy trusts nationally, Catalyst Academies Trust is ranked 14th.** This outstanding placement firmly positions the Trust within the **top 1%** of all trusts across the country.

Such a ranking represents a significant and commendable accomplishment. It reflects the consistently high standards maintained across all schools within the Trust and highlights the effectiveness of the strategies implemented to improve outcomes—particularly for disadvantaged pupils. This level of performance demonstrates not only academic excellence but also the strength of leadership, the quality of teaching, and the collective commitment of staff and pupils to achieving the very best educational outcomes.

Being placed among the leading trusts nationally underscores the Trust's growing reputation for excellence and its ability to deliver sustained, high quality education across diverse school contexts. It further validates the ongoing work across Catalyst Academies Trust to ensure that every pupil, regardless of background, has access to the highest standard of provision.



14th/1152
of multi academy trust nationally

TOP 1%
of all trusts across the country

Our commitment to pupils, families and the community

This term has been filled with exciting opportunities, rich learning experiences and strengthened community connections across our Trust. We continue to pride ourselves on delivering an inclusive and inspiring education, bringing learning to life through a wide range of enrichment activities that support pupils' academic, social and emotional development.

Below are some of the activities and workshops that pupils across the Trust's schools have had the opportunity to take part in this term. Highlights include:

Highlights this term include:

- A visit from the Fire Brigade with important messages about internet safety
- A Superheroes workshop for Reception pupils
- A Year 1 toymaking workshop that linked practical skills with curriculum learning
- Visits to Grays Fire Museum to explore local history
- Assemblies from the Mental Health Support Team focusing on resilience
- Sporting competitions, including football tournaments and gymnastics events
- Attendance at the unforgettable Young Voices concert at the O₂

These activities not only enrich classroom learning but help pupils build confidence, teamwork and curiosity.



We remain committed to supporting families in practical and meaningful ways. Parents and carers have taken part in workshops such as Maths and Early Years sessions, helping them feel better equipped to support children's learning at home. A major milestone this term has been the opening of our new two year old nursery provision at Benyon Primary, offering families much needed childcare support and giving our youngest learners the best possible start on their education journey.

Building strong relationships within our community is at the heart of what we do. Pupils have engaged with local charities, businesses and organisations, taking part in Trust wide, regional and national events across sports, music and the wider curriculum.

Visitors from community groups, places of worship and charitable organisations have helped broaden pupils' understanding of the world, inspiring them through real life experiences and insights into different cultures, careers and values.

Our dedicated family support workers continue to work closely with families, offering emotional, practical and parenting support. Through partnerships with external agencies, families can access support for mental health, speech and language, NHS care, nutrition guidance and parenting programmes. This holistic approach ensures families receive the help they need, when they need it.



Catalyst Academies Trust Cup



Catalyst Academies Trust Cup Highlights & Medal Table Update 2025/26

Three events have been completed so far in 2025/2026. Already our schools have demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination, with a bit of healthy competition. Here is everything that has happened so far:

Girls' Football results



- 1 Benyon Primary
- 2 Aveley Primary
- 3 Quarry Hill Academy
- 4 Somers Heath Primary
- 5 Dlikes Academy



Catalyst Academies Trust Cup



Boys' Football results

- 1 Aveley Primary 
- 2 Quarry Hill Academy 
- 3 Benyon Primary 
- 4 Somers Heath Primary 
- 5 Dlikes Academy 



Catalyst Academies Trust Cup



KS1 Football

Our youngest athletes stepped into the spotlight at Quarry Hill Academy, and they certainly delivered! With incredible enthusiasm and brilliant energy, the event ended in a well-deserved home win. Full results:

KS1 Football results

- 1 Benyon Primary School 
- 2 Aveley Primary School 
- 3 Quarry Hill Academy 
- 4 Somers Heath Primary School 
- 5 Dlikes Academy 






Catalyst Academies Trust Cup



Catalyst Academies Trust Cup Medal Table 2025/26 (so far!)

Here is the updated medal count based on the three completed events:

School	Gold	Silver	Bronze	4 th Place	Participation	Total points
Aveley Primary 	1	1	1	0	3	205
Benyon Primary 	1	1	1	0	3	205
Quarry Hill Academy 	1	1	1	0	3	190
Somers Heath Primary 	0	0	1	1	3	55
Dilkes Academy 	0	0	0	1	3	40

As it stands, Aveley and Benyon are tied at the top of the leaderboard, but with so many events still ahead, the competition is wide open and everything could change.



Catalyst Cup Event For Children with SEN

A fully inclusive and supportive event where the focus is on enjoyment, participation, and confidence-building.



Poetry Competition

Pupils will perform their poems - individually or as a group - to a packed audience. Creativity, expression and confidence will all be on display.



Cricket

With warmer weather on the way, we're excited for the cricket season to begin. All schools will take part in the Catalyst Cup, and we look forward to great teamwork, big hits, and a sunny afternoon on the field.



Spelling Competition

Key stage two pupils will compete to demonstrate their spelling expertise under pressure.



Mathletics

Teams of talented mathematicians will come together to tackle challenging questions using logic, collaboration and quick thinking.



Catalyst Olympics

The biggest Catalyst Cup event of the year. Over two hundred children will proudly represent their schools in a full programme of track and field events.

Well done to **every single child** for representing their school and the trust with such enthusiasm and pride. Thank you to **our dedicated staff**, whose commitment makes every event possible, and to our parents for supporting our children to shine in every area of school life!



Catalyst Community Awards



The Catalyst Community Award fosters personal achievement, resilience, and social responsibility, with experiences that facilitate the development of new skills and self-confidence amongst our pupils and our families.

Our Trust ethos is to ensure that all of our pupils are confident, resilient and independent individuals. Our aim through our Catalyst Community Awards is to provide a range of exciting opportunities to bring families together by getting involved with completing a variety of challenges, encouraging them to continue to practise these new found skills, showing parents how wonderful and capable their children are!

By having space to grow and make mistakes, children will be inspired to work through their setbacks to achieve success.



Catalyst Community Awards



Each year group is offered a range of challenges, developed and collated by our pupils, creatively providing them with events to complete and evidence in order to achieve our CCA. When all challenges have been completed and evidenced, badges can be earned and awarded in a celebration assembly.

Our focus is to provide excitement to go out and do something different, developing independence, contributing to their community, being out in the open and experiencing new challenges which gently push them out of their comfort zone. Giving children the space to learn new skills and do things on their own gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment in a non-academic setting. As children achieve their set number of challenges and receive their award, they will be celebrated and feel a sense of being 'in it together' creating bonds that otherwise might not happen.



Celebrating Our Pupils



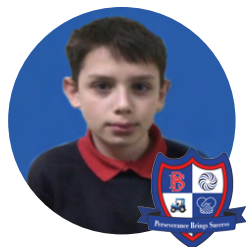
Each term we recognise pupils across our schools who demonstrate exceptional effort, achievement, and commitment to the values of Catalyst Academies Trust.



Ali

Ali had a superb first term in Year 6. He has an excellent attitude to his learning. In every single lesson, Ali puts his hand up and contributes to our class discussion. Ali's handwriting is improving every day. He wants to do well and the presentation in his books is a testament to this. We have been truly blown away by the amount of progress that he's made already! He has been trying his very hardest to achieve the best that he can.

Additionally, he is a fantastic role model. He always follows the school rules and works collaboratively, showing support and compassion. His smile and cheeky persona is a beacon of sunshine in our school. He is a credit to us.



Luca

Luca is an exemplary student who serves with distinction as Head Boy. He consistently upholds and models our school values, demonstrating maturity, responsibility, and a strong commitment to excellence. Dedicated to achieving high academic standards, he approaches all aspects of school life with focus and determination. A confident public speaker, he represents the school with clarity and poise. He aspires to become an architect, showing creativity, ambition, and a thoughtful approach to his future goals. In addition to his leadership and academic achievements, he is a supportive and trustworthy friend, contributing positively to Benyon's community.

Celebrating Our Pupils



Harvey

Harvey consistently embodies the very best of our school values. Hardworking in everything he undertakes, he approaches challenges with determination, focus, and a positive attitude. He is someone staff and pupils alike can rely on, trustworthy, responsible, and always willing to lend a hand when others need support. Through his excellent behaviour, strong work ethic, and respectful manner, he sets a shining example for his peers and represents the school with pride.



Alexander

A committed member of Quarry Hill, Alexander embodies our core values and always shows respect, kindness and determination in all that he does. As a member of several school sport teams, he shows aptitude and resilience, always giving his best. On the playground, Alexander acts as a role model, showing compassion to others, especially those younger than himself. The definition of an always child, Alexander always aims to give his very best.



Isabella

Isabella is an exceptional role model—hard working, determined, and endlessly kind. She never gives up, approaching every challenge with compassion and a friendly spirit. Her steady responsibility and unwavering trustworthiness make her someone others naturally look up to. Isabella leads by example, inspiring those around her simply by being her best self every day.

Staff Spotlight

Isabella's Apprenticeship Journey

At Catalyst, we know the value of training and supporting staff to grow in their careers. **Isabella is a Learning Support Assistant at Somers Heath Primary School** who told us about her journey into education and her aspirations for the future.

As a child, Isabella was a pupil at Dilkes Academy and a number of the people who taught her still work within Catalyst Academies Trust. When she was looking for an apprenticeship, she immediately thought of Catalyst because of her experiences at Dilkes. Having started A-levels at college, Isabella decided that this was not the right route for her, she wanted to learn in a practical way, whilst earning a wage and an apprenticeship was the obvious choice.

While completing her Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship at Somers Heath she gained experience across key stages 1 & 2, working with teachers, taking intervention groups, delivering phonics sessions and supporting in the after school club. She attended college one day per week, had a mentor in school and was supported by the college and the school to complete her assignments.



Staff Spotlight



However, she does not want her career in education to stop there. Isabella has aspirations to become a Primary School Teacher and Catalyst Academies Trust are supporting her in that. She has been put forward by Somers Heath to join the Primary School Teaching Apprenticeship program in September 2026. After 4 years on the course, she will earn Qualified Teacher Status and a degree in Primary Education.

"My TA Apprenticeship helped me make up my mind to become a teacher. Spending four days a week in school during the course showed me that my career was in education and I am looking forward to the Teaching Apprenticeship."

Isabella is an example of how Catalyst support staff to further their career and develop skills that help the children to develop.



