

# Newsletter for Parents and Carers

## Dear Parent, Carer

Welcome to our first newsletter for Parents and Carers of students who attend one of the schools within The Two Counties Trust.

Formed in 2016, our vision is to raise the educational standards and better the life chances of our students. At our Trust, we work as a team to support and challenge all our schools to continually improve for the benefit of our students.



Dick Vasey, CEO.

### To do this we:

- ✓ Foster a culture of high expectations and raise aspirations of all students.
- ✓ Inspire, challenge, engage and support all our students to reach their potential and achieve excellent outcomes.
- ✓ Strive for excellence in all aspects of teaching and learning.
- ✓ Provide every student with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to enable them to access the next stage of their education and career.
- ✓ Develop, in our students, the resilience and flexibility to be able to adapt to the changing world they will meet.
- ✓ Promote learning in its widest sense, across and beyond the taught curriculum.
- ✓ Develop a curriculum that meets the individual needs and aspirations of all learners through a collaborative approach to curriculum planning and shared resources, especially vocational provision.
- ✓ Share our local knowledge and expertise within the Trust in order to improve attendance for vulnerable groups, reduce exclusions and ensure all students have access to high quality education at all times.



Our vision could not be achieved without our dedicated staff both within our schools and at the Trust who work tirelessly to create the best possible environment for your children.

We understand that each child is individual and different which is why our schools provide a flexible and inclusive education that suits every student on one way or another.

Our students are at the centre of any strategic decision that we make and we are continually improving the infrastructure and teaching within our schools to maximise life chances for all young people who attend one of our schools.

We believe that every child deserves to be provided with a high quality educational experience and at The Two Counties Trust we do our utmost to ensure that every young person in our care is equipped with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Trust works in partnership with our schools, whilst allowing each school to retain their distinct ethos and character and hold the autonomy to make decisions that are in the best interests of their students.

Our Trust is made up of mixed schools across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, all of whom offer 11-16 education, many also offer Post 16 facilities which provide high quality education that continues to prepare our students for their future careers and ambitions.

Ashfield School



Frederick Gent School



Friesland School



Heritage High School



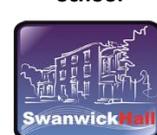
Manor Academy



Selston High School



Swanwick Hall School



Wilthorpe School



## What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

The Two Counties Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). MATs are single entities which have responsibility for a group of schools who are in turn members of the Trust.

The Trust is accountable for every school in the group and is the employer of all staff.

The Two Counties Trust also provides a range of services to all our schools from the central team including School Improvement, Governance, HR, Payroll, Finance, Health and Safety, ICT and Premises

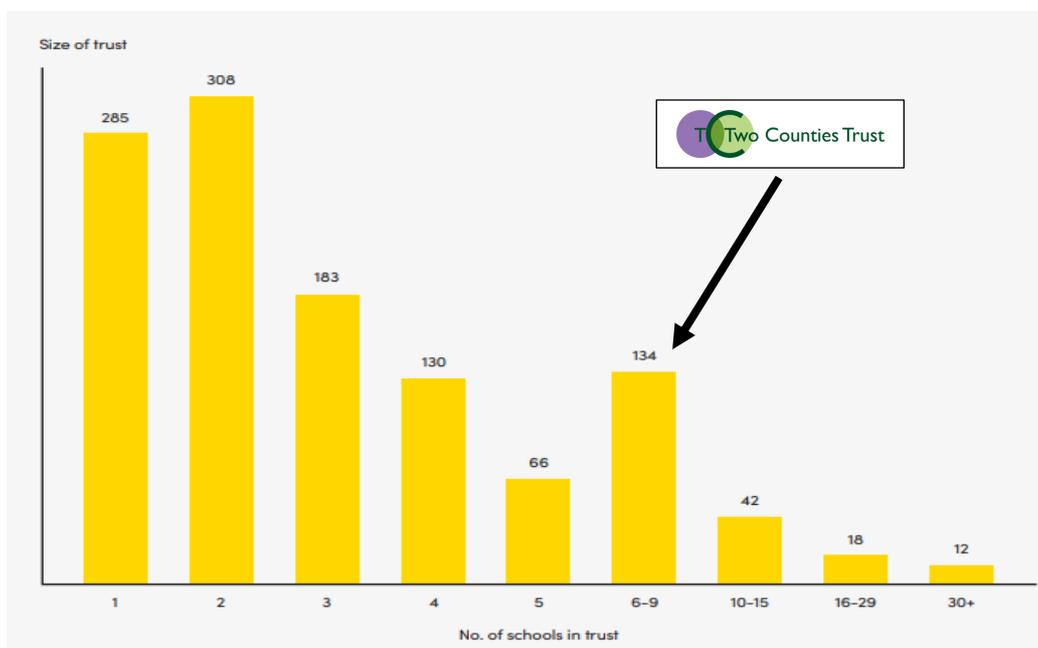


The Trust currently consists of 8 secondary schools which are all located along the M1 corridor between Junction 25 and Junction 30 of the M1. As a Trust we educate over 9,000 students, employ over 1,200 staff and have an annual turnover in excess of £50m.

We have 3 Strategic Goals:

- To support excellent standards of teaching and learning which maximises student progress and outcomes.
- To maintain a clear vision and develop a strong and efficient central services infrastructure to secure the on-going improvement and development of the Trust.
- To ensure high quality leadership and governance at Trust, Local Governing Body and individual school level.

The Two Counties Trust is one of the larger Multi-Academy Trust's in the country and is certainly a significant Trust within the Midlands region. The graph below shows the number of schools in every Multi-Academy Trust in the country in 2018.



## The Board of Trustees



Our Board of Trustees are accountable for educational standards and financial conduct across the Trust. They are accountable to the Department for Education and have overall responsibility and ultimate decision making authority for the work of the Trust, including the establishment and running of the academies operated by the Trust.

Left to right: Karen Potts, Andy Hahn, Chris Hallam, Alison Chmiel, Gill Haslam, Ray Ruszczyński, Ian Greenaway and Ruth Wheelhouse



Our Chair of Trustees is Karen Potts. Karen has been the Chair of the Trust Board since 2017. She is a Director of a small business providing procurement and project management services and has 25 years' procurement experience in the public and private sectors. Karen also worked for 6 years at the National College for Teaching and Leadership and the Department for Education. In addition to her role as Chair of Trustees she is the Chair of Governors at Pilsley Primary School and a Non-Executive Director of a Housing Association.

Trustees have established a Local Governing Body at each of the academies who support the work of the Trust Board by taking local decisions about the school or by making recommendations to the Trust. The Local Governing Body for your school is comprised of governors and other representatives drawn from the local community and elected parent governors.

To find out more about our Board of Trustees or the Local Governing Body for your school please go to our website. [www.twocountiestrust.co.uk](http://www.twocountiestrust.co.uk)

## Our values



As a Trust, we work together so everyone can succeed. Our Core Values are:

**Respect for Individuals:**

*We work together to create a culture based on trust, respect and dignity.*

**Integrity:**

*We are open, honest and direct in our dealings*

**Collaboration:**

*We know that there is strength in working together, communicating, sharing ideas and best practice and finding more efficient and effective ways to deliver our objectives*

**Continual Improvement:**

*We are a learning organisation that strives always to 'make our best better'*

**Accountability:**

*We hold ourselves accountable and take ownership*

## Ofsted inspections



The majority of our schools have been graded Good by Ofsted. Ofsted found that the quality of education had been transformed at the Manor Academy when they inspected in May 2018 and that the school receives excellent support from The Two Counties Trust.

Selston High School was inspected in April 2019 who found that the quality of teaching is good, pastoral leadership is strong and that the Trust supports and challenges school leaders effectively.

Although Swanwick Hall School is not yet consistently good, in March 2019, Ofsted found that school and Trust leaders have taken effective action to improve teaching and subject leadership, despite recent challenging circumstances. These changes have resulted in improvements in pupil's outcomes over time. We feel confident that Swanwick Hall will be judged to be a good school overall at its next inspection

## 2019 results

### A Level

The headline statistics for 2019 A level results show a very pleasing set of results across our schools which have Post 16 provision. Overall the average points per student increased in 2019 compared to 2018 and the proportion of our students who achieved A8-B grades increased markedly. There were some outstanding individual student successes and also subject outcomes in our schools. Nearly 90% of students aiming to get into Higher Education got their 1<sup>st</sup> choice place and everyone was successful in gaining a place at university who sought one.

### Key Stage 4 / GCSE

The situation at Key Stage 4 is very fluid so early in the term as schools ask for re-marks of examinations and the national picture for progress is unknown. However early indications are that our 2019 Key Stage 4 outcomes represent an improved picture compared to 2018. The percentage of students who achieved a Level 4 in English and Maths increased strongly and there was an improvement in the percentage achieving a Level 5 or above in English and Maths. Overall attainment and progress indicators for the 8 strongest subjects taken by our students across the Trust have both increased this year.

## Future Growth

Springwell Community College is due to join The Two Counties Trust later this year. Springwell is an 11-16 secondary school in Staveley North Derbyshire.

The Two Counties Trust, Sutton Road, Sutton Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham, NG17 8HP

[www.twocountiestrust.co.uk](http://www.twocountiestrust.co.uk)

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/two-counties-trust>

[www.twitter.com/TwoCountiesT](https://www.twitter.com/TwoCountiesT)