





Who are we?



OFFERING UNIQUE AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

- A ASPIRATION** **ACES Academies Trust** has a shared local vision to raise aspiration and achievement for the communities we serve. We focus on the raising of standards, by sharing staff expertise and utilising additional resource gained through the sponsor’s connections with a range of businesses across Europe and the US. Aspiration is raised through a rich and varied curriculum offer, supported by a range of diverse extra-curricular opportunities.
- C CREATIVITY** **ACES Academies Trust** has creativity at its core. We wish for our students to develop the ability to apply themselves with resilience, to think creatively, to question and reason, and to argue rationally, so they are equipped to take their places in the world as global citizens who show tolerance, compassion and respect.
- E EXCELLENCE** **ACES Academies Trust** focuses on improving progress and achievement for all; on pursuing excellence in pedagogical practice; and ensuring that every child is actively engaged in learning, has a sense of purpose and develops self-motivation, self-respect, self-regulation and self-worth. We promote excellence in all areas of student endeavour, including the academic.
- S SUCCESS** **ACES Academies Trust** seeks to provide each child with the life skills to maximise their chance of success. Success in their examinations of course, but also in becoming the person they want to be and building the skills which will lead them to achieving the life goals they have. We use business men and women to help our students develop the knowledge and understanding of the requirements of employers across many sectors, including in the creative careers.

OUR SPONSOR INTRODUCES THE TRUST

We are lucky in ACES to have the support of our sponsor Brian Message.

As Brian explains:

“The ACES Trust uses the mantra **Aspiration, Creativity and Excellence** to create **Success**. This seeks to ignite the imaginations of young people, kindle ambition and fuel the creative energy of communities, so that our students achieve excellence and grow into responsible global citizens. I am very keen that pupils of all ages are encouraged to develop abilities and skills that will ultimately make them highly employable. Qualifications alone are not enough. We want to ensure our pupils develop the ability to apply themselves with resilience, to think creatively, to be a team player, to question and reason and to argue rationally. Respect, tolerance and compassion should be central in all our schools.”



Our values

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR A PARTNERSHIP OF ACADEMIES TO BE BUILT ON TRUST, OPENNESS AND CHALLENGE.

We are a mutually supportive organisation which values freedom of expression, tolerance and an appreciation of diversity. We are ambitious for our pupils, staff, academies and communities and we value professionalism and partnership working within a framework of appropriate accountabilities, so that our communities can have confidence in the Trust.

WE HAVE THE HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS OF OURSELVES, THE TEAMS WORKING ACROSS OUR ACADEMIES AND OUR STUDENTS.

The ACES Academies Trust has a shared local vision to raise aspiration and achievement for the communities we serve. We focus on the raising of standards, by sharing staff expertise and utilising additional resource gained through the sponsor's connections with a range of businesses across Europe and the US. New staff are employed by the Trust to work where most needed and we aspire to enhance recruitment and retention, through our curriculum innovation and approach to staff development.

The schools in the Multi-Academy Trust develop a common set of values and expectations and work closely together using rigorous QA systems, monitoring and evaluation processes, followed by timely and decisive action, in order to secure improvement.

ACES Academies Trust is seeking other schools and communities who share these values and who wish to benefit from, and add to, our existing expertise.

Schools joining the Trust can expect to be supported in their areas of greatest need and have access to an enriched educational experience, with opportunities for staff to develop professionally and share their strengths across the Trust. All schools should be both givers and receivers of support.

“There is a real sense of being stronger together. As a teacher, being part of the Trust has helped to support me in securing the best possible progress by working collaboratively and drawing on the specialisms and strengths within the team.”

Class Teacher

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACES ACADEMIES TRUST ARE TO:

- promote **aspiration** for all;
- use **creativity** as a vehicle for enrichment and improvement;
- achieve **excellence** in all areas, leading to better outcomes and **success** for students;
- develop skills for life and employment in our students;
- be flexible, visionary and responsive to emerging needs;
- be outward facing, actively engaging with and accessing external expertise;
- provide more efficient and effective services at a reduced collective cost.

ACADEMIES WITHIN OUR TRUST ARE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF ACES BY:

- encouraging creative and curious minds;
- facilitating independent learning;
- providing opportunities for personal expression and creativity;
- providing each child with the life skills to maximise their chance of success;
- enforcing high standards of behaviour and promoting mutual respect;
- focusing on improving progress and achievement for all;
- pursuing excellence in pedagogical practice;
- ensuring that every child is actively engaged in learning, has a sense of purpose and develops self-motivation, self-respect, self-regulation and self-worth.

“As a new Head, I have found the support I received from the Trust invaluable; from the outset, there have been knowledgeable and approachable colleagues I can turn to, so you never feel like you are on your own.”

Headteacher

Our Learning

THE THINKING/LEARNING CLASSROOM

Schools in ACES Academies Trust develop a 'Thinking/Learning Classroom' by developing the growth mindset characteristics of perseverance and tenacity.

If you join us, you will be supported in revisiting the WHAT? WHY? And HOW? of Learning, and challenged with some WHAT IFs:

WHAT IF.....

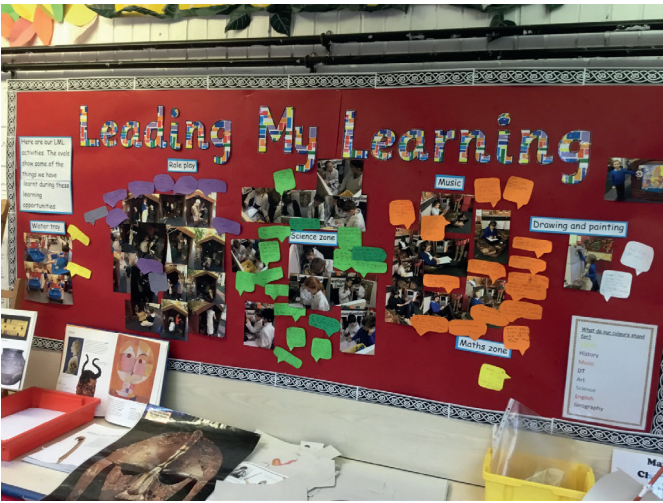
- all learners were deeply engaged, excited and interested in their learning for 100% of their time in school?
- the school evolved to match different lifestyles and different learning needs?
- teachers had time to enjoy their profession and real opportunities to thrive?
- schools focused on developing the 'Seven Selves' – self-confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, self-discipline, self-regulation, self-reliance and self-belief?
- there was only one initiative and it was called **learning**?



“I think it’s brilliant that we get to work with teachers from the secondary school; I have really enjoyed working with Hinchingsbrooke on maths and think it has helped me to be even better than I thought!”

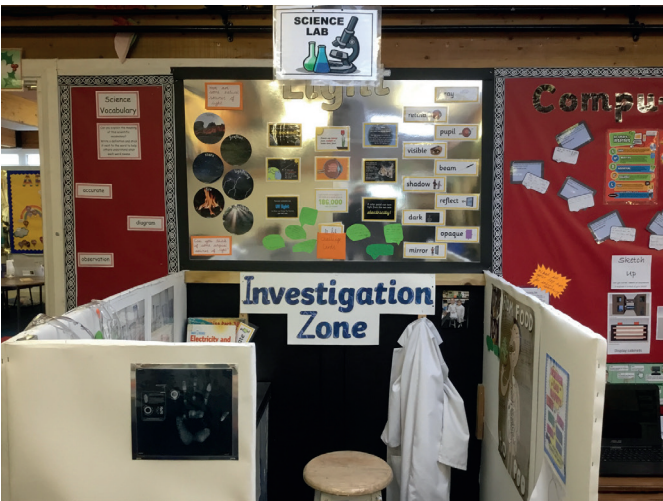
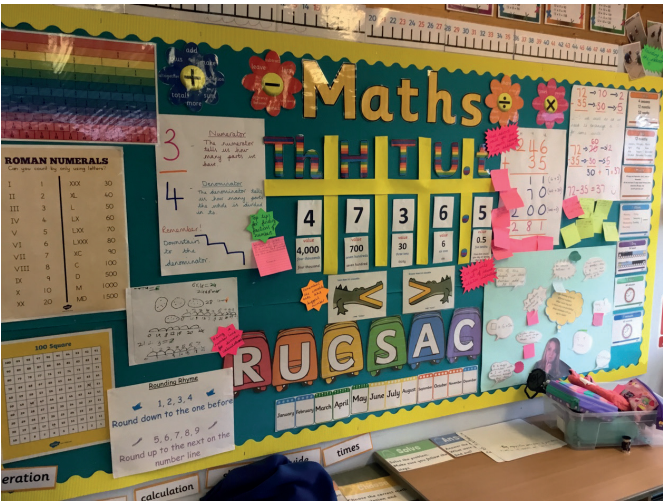
(Year 6 pupil)

Can all children distinguish between what they are doing and what they are learning?



ACES is developing the essentials for Deep Learning for all children. Creativity lies at the heart of this. We believe that children are naturally adept in this area and they can be creative in so many ways, not just in art, drama and music, but in all areas of the curriculum including maths and science.

We want our children to believe they can help themselves when they are stuck, but also to know when and who to ask for help. They need to be encouraged to discuss their own learning and be supported in developing a language to talk about this.



“What is amazing about working within this Trust is that our pupils are able to access high quality teaching and broader experiences that extend beyond the usual remit of a primary school.”

Class Teacher

TEACHERS AS LEARNERS

ACES believes in developing teachers as learners, which goes beyond the mere sharing of good practice. CPD focuses on updating teachers with the latest research, for example in executive functioning skills and the brain function and learning. Teachers are encouraged and supported in modelling self-regulation and work together to develop a 'Trust-wide approach' to learning.

Did you know that there is good evidence to show that challenging pupils to identify why an activity is taking place in the classroom, improves attainment?

Did you know that there is little evidence to show that attainment is improved by using praise lavishly or grouping students by ability, even though these are still common practices in some schools?



“Being a part of this unique Trust ensures excellent and seamless transition between the primary and secondary phase, maximising progress and potential.”
(Year 6 teacher)



“The Trust vision for 21st century learning and creativity brings a breath of fresh air into our relentless drive for school improvement.”

Our people

“I am able to lead with autonomy and creativity, with the added reassurance of a wide support network.”
(Headteacher)

“The support network provided by the Trust extends from school leaders through to teachers and school administrators.”
(Support Staff)

As well as the talented staff working in the schools of ACES Academies Trust, the trust has a very broad level of expertise on the Board of Directors and an increasing number of partnerships, which bring a depth of skills, knowledge and talent on which schools can draw. For more information, see www.acesacademies.co.uk

Schools within the trust are supported centrally by HR & Finance so that Headteachers are free to concentrate on the core business of their schools – the children, staff and communities. All the statutory compliance for schools in terms of Health and Safety, the requirements for GDPR or FOI and the policies associated with the Teacher's Pay and Conditions, is dealt with centrally. Administrative support for the placing of job adverts, help with the tracking of income and expenditure and a range of other advice and guidance is on-hand for members of the trust. The **ACES Estates Management Team** have all the trades covered - qualified plumbers, electricians, plasterers and skilled decorators – and provide a quick and efficient service for all our schools.

The trust fully supports the training of teachers and support staff and has partnerships with a range of providers, which include apprenticeships.



Join us



“It’s so reassuring to know that such good support and expertise is always available and accessible.”

Support Staff

WORKING FOR ACES ACADEMIES TRUST

“Whether you are a teacher or support staff you will notice the difference in the ACES Trust. We are aspirational in every respect, for children, staff and the communities we serve. We are developing a range of partnerships with universities and businesses which will enhance educational and professional opportunities for students and staff. We believe in a technologically empowered education which prepares young people for their futures. We seek to use creativity in its broadest sense to provide curriculum enrichment and innovation.”

If you are a school or business within reasonable travelling distance of Huntingdon and are interested in learning more about the work of ACES Academies Trust, with a view to working in partnership alongside us, or in joining the Trust, we would love to discuss this further with you.

Please contact Debbie Warner (PA to the CEO) at dw@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk or by telephone 01480 375675



ACADEMIES TRUST



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