

CEO UPDATE

Friday 4th September 2026



Dear parents/carers

I hope you have had a lovely summer. On behalf of everyone across South Lincolnshire Academies Trust, I am delighted to welcome you and your family to the 2026/27 academic year. All students across the Trust have started the year looking really smart, refreshed and ready to learn!

This year, our focus remains firmly on excellent teaching, strong pastoral care, inclusion and wellbeing, all underpinned by our Trust values: **Aspire, Challenge, Achieve**.

Strengthening SEND support

We are continuing to invest in support for students with special educational needs and disabilities, so that more students receive the right help at the right time. We have invested in more support staff in this area to support our students.

- **SEN Pastoral Support** will provide regular check-ins, transition support and closer communication with families.
- **Specialist Teachers** will provide targeted teaching for students with Education, Health and Care Plans, including pre learning, overlearning and personalised interventions.
- **Inclusion Room Support** will deliver focused interventions and help students successfully return to lessons.

Our new **Inclusion Rooms** will provide personalised support for students who may temporarily find the classroom environment difficult. These rooms are designed to build confidence, independence and access to an ambitious curriculum. They are not an alternative to learning, but a supportive route back into successful classroom routines. We worked with several SEN external experts to help design the rooms, so they are sensory friendly including colours used and even a soundproof egg chair to help students regulate.

Clearer reporting for Years 7 to 9

We are introducing a new grading system for reports in **Years 7 to 9**. This will make it easier for parents and carers to understand how their child is progressing in each subject and where they may need further support or challenge. We will write to you in the future to show you an example and explain the terminology used.

For our new **Year 7 students**, Cognitive Abilities Tests, known as CATs, will take place over the next week. This will help us place students into appropriate teaching classes more quickly, reduce unnecessary changes and support a confident start to secondary school life. Students do not need to worry about this, and they certainly do not need to prepare for this test.

More opportunities beyond the classroom

We want every student to have opportunities to try something new, develop their talents and build confidence beyond lessons. Enrichment and wider personal development will continue to be a key priority across the Trust this year.

Please keep an eye on our **new parent app**, where we will share opportunities for students to take part in activities, events and experiences throughout the year.

Improving our school facilities

We are also continuing to invest in our school buildings and learning environments, with a number of important projects taking place across the Trust.

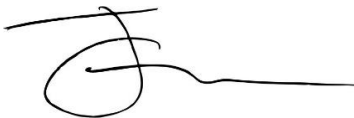
- The new drama studios at **Spalding Academy** are well underway.
- Work on a new classroom at **Cowley Academy** will begin.
- A new four classroom block at **Bourne Academy** is expected to begin in late September.
- At **Giles Academy** work will begin on a new business room plus there will be a new sound system in the school hall for future performances.

These developments build on the extensive work completed over the summer to create new rooms, refurbish spaces and improve systems. We remain committed to providing environments where students can learn, develop and thrive.

As always, we greatly value the partnership between school and home.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to working with you to make 2026/27 a happy, successful and rewarding year for every student across our Trust.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Jemma Curson

Chief Executive Officer

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust