

ANNUAL REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS: 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



Our Settings:
ALSAGERS BANK PRIMARY

ASH GREEN PRIMARY

BALLGREEN PRIMARY *

BURNWOOD PRIMARY

CARMOUNTSIDE PRIMARY

ELLISON PRIMARY

GLADSTONE PRIMARY

GOLDENHILL PRIMARY

OAKLANDS NURSERY*

SUMMERBANK PRIMARY

(* Associate Member)

With approx. 3,347 children and 510 staff.

The Societas Trust values all our children, staff, governors and the wider communities we serve across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.

We are still a relatively young organisation, formed in 2015 and incorporated in February 2016, as the result of the voluntary collaboration between the headteachers and governing boards of a group of local primary schools

Since then, we have grown steadily in size and reputation; all sharing a belief that the needs of children are best met when schools collaborate and cooperate, sharing expertise, knowledge and resources whilst maintaining close links with the communities they serve.



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Our Priorities

- Our understanding of great teaching and learning (Pedagogy) underpins and supports the curriculum; and, each setting provides a rich, inspiring, and highly stimulating curriculum that fully meets the needs of all pupils and leaves them with highly memorable and influential experiences.
- Teaching and learning practices across the Trust promote resilience, support social and emotional learning, cultivate a love of learning among the whole school community, and contribute to overcoming some of the barriers cemented into the broader community.
- Business systems continue to mature, support and sustain the ambition and drive of the Trust and its settings to secure our wider aims over time.



Collaborative Events



Shakespeare Festival:

Once again, The Societas Shakespeare Festival has been an amazing success.

Pupils Shone in Magical Performances of The Tempest at the New Vic Theatre During the Spring Term. Pupils from across The Societas Trust came together for a truly unforgettable celebration of creativity, collaboration, and Shakespearean storytelling. The Circle Theatre at the New Vic provided a stunning backdrop as children took to the stage to perform their own interpretation of The Tempest—and they absolutely shone





RUGS

The RUGS is the name for our MAT Student Council. It stands for 'Really Useful Generation Students' Group and they are also ambassadors for our Trust.

Its membership consists of four children from each setting.

What opportunities have our RUGS had?

Engagement in a Teambuilding exercise at Standon Bowers



To help plan and be 'roving reporters' for all Trust collaborative activities for pupils

Goldenhill Gazette

Societas Trust Schools Enjoy Action-Packed Day at Trentham Gardens

On a sunny Wednesday 24th April 2024, pupils from Trust Schools embarked on an exciting day out at the renowned Trentham Gardens in North Staffordshire. The day was packed with various activities, and students were divided into groups, each tackling a different adventure.

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One of the highlights of the day was meeting Dorcas Edwards, a true inspiration. Dorcas, who survived a fall while climbing Mount Everest, shared her incredible story. Year 6 and 7 students circled her in admiration, and Dorcas shared her experiences of climbing the world's highest mountain. She encouraged the pupils to keep pushing themselves, not to give up, and to be brave in the face of challenges. Her story was a true inspiration to all who heard it.

Organised by Misses, Mrs. Amogh and Miss Y. S. Goldenhill Primary School.

RUGS

On Monday 23rd October 2024, the RUGS (and Mrs Coll) went to Standon Bowers and had the chance to meet with other RUGS from other schools in our Trust. We met in the 'game room' and we played ping pong. Then we were asked to meet outside for the grouping.

Our first activity was teamwork games. We played Gutterball and had to work together to not let the ball fall from the gutter. We played the Floor is Lava using crates where we passed along the crates and tried to get to the end before the other team. Next, we went caving where we had to crawl into a cave and get out the other side. This was a test of bravery. After caving, we went back in the game room for lunch. After this we put our harnesses on to do the air like ropes. This was really fun. We got to hang in the air like birds. Finally, our courage was really tested by the chance to leap off the tallest platform. We had a really good day. We made some new friends and liked meeting the other RUGS.

Written by Aisling Bank Primary Academy RUGS, Holly and Piper

ASH GREEN DAILY NEWS

YEAR 4 ATTEND EXCLUSIVE EVENT!

All Year 4 were invited to Trentham Gardens for the Societas Trust to engage in a range of activities and build new friendships. In this report, you will find out what made Wednesday the 16th of April an amazing day for the year 4 children.

After our lunch, we headed back to play golf and learned how to swing a club. We had a great time and learned a lot from our coaches. We also had a chance to try archery and target shooting. We were all very proud of our efforts and enjoyed every minute of the day.

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Written by Charlotte Clark and Tom Davies Year 4 Ash Green Primary School

Burnwood Bulletin

SUCCESSFUL DAY AT TRENTHAM GARDENS!

Last week there was lots of children from eight different schools who visited Trentham Gardens for a day trip.

There were lots of different activities to do. The first activity was the team building. The children had to follow a map to find a treasure chest, each chest had a riddle and the first to solve it would win a prize. The children were all very happy and enjoyed every minute of the day.

Next the children had a chance to meet Dorcas Edwards, a true inspiration. Dorcas, who survived a fall while climbing Mount Everest, shared her incredible story. Year 6 and 7 students circled her in admiration, and Dorcas shared her experiences of climbing the world's highest mountain. She encouraged the pupils to keep pushing themselves, not to give up, and to be brave in the face of challenges. Her story was a true inspiration to all who heard it.

Organised by Misses, Mrs. Amogh and Miss Y. S. Goldenhill Primary School.

THE SOCIETAS NEWS

BAREFOOT LIKE A BEAVER

We had such fun in the this and Spirit Week! Being barefoot was a really fun activity. We had to walk on the grass and see how long we could last. It was a challenge, but we all did it. We were all very proud of our efforts and enjoyed every minute of the day.

Organised by Misses, Mrs. Amogh and Miss Y. S. Goldenhill Primary School.

ELLISON POST

TERRIFIC TRENTHAM TRIP!

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Written by Aisling Bank Primary Academy RUGS, Holly and Piper

The Gladstone Times

RUGS Outdoor Education Day: Empowering Students Through Nature and Adventure

On Monday 23rd October 2024, RUGS from Goldenhill Primary Academy and other Trust Schools went to Standon Bowers and had the chance to meet with other RUGS from other schools in our Trust. We met in the 'game room' and we played ping pong. Then we were asked to meet outside for the grouping.

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Written by Aisling Bank Primary Academy RUGS, Holly and Piper

The Daily News

SOCIETAS TRUST HAVE A SUPER DAY OUT!

It is possible to have this much fun in a school trip! The Societas Trust did on the 24th April, the children who were part of the Trust visited Trentham Gardens for a day full of activities, and enjoyed every minute of the day.

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Collaborative Events



'The Societas Social' 2025

This year, The Societas Trust hosted its annual Sporting Collaborative Event under a new name: The Societas Social 2025.

Inspired by the Trust's commitment to community wellbeing, PE leaders across the nine schools envisioned a day focused on the social and emotional benefits of Physical Education, Physical Activity, and School Sport.

Children—including the RUGs—from all nine schools came together at Stoke City Academy's Dome for a vibrant carousel of sports activities. Each game, from relay races and orienteering to hula hoop houses and the ever-popular parachute, was led by staff from various schools and designed to highlight values such as teamwork, fairness, and collaboration.

Over 120 pupils participated, forming mixed-school groups to encourage new friendships, resilience, and cooperative play. It was heartening to witness their joy and mutual support throughout the day.



Two Trust Conference

Building a culture of excellence where everyone can thrive was the ethos behind a joint professional development conference led by The Societas Trust and The New Guild Trust.

Both organisations joined forces to launch the Two Trust Conference 2025 which was attended by 500 staff and governors from 15 schools.

Colleagues from across both Trusts took part in the professional development day, which focussed on the theme of inclusion.

Organised by Inspiring Leaders, the event at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Stoke-on-Trent involved colleagues in a wide range of roles including school governors, headteachers, teachers, teaching assistants and office staff.

Jon Lovatt, Chief Executive Officer, The Societas Trust, said: "This event is all about the partnership between the two Trusts. It's a chance to reflect on what we do well and the strength of working together.

"We serve such varied communities with diverse and complex needs. The conference is an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our staff and celebrate the great job that they do in supporting those communities."

Karen Peters, Chief Executive Officer, The New Guild Trust, added: "This event is a celebration of bringing two Trusts together for an extra special day listening to inspirational speakers as well as having the time to stop, think and reflect at the end of a very busy term.

"I hope staff take away a real sense of pride. We're all in this together and it's great to be able to connect with another like-minded Trust that has its community at its heart."



Philosophy for Children



All of our settings deliver Philosophy for Children (P4C). This is where a group of people (or Community of Enquiry) are wondering and thinking together about questions and ideas that seem important to them. This ensures that pupils develop their understanding of the world, of each other and of themselves; encourages them to be critical thinkers; and, caring, collaborative, compassionate individuals.

Recognising our Achievements



Silver P4C Awards:

Ash Green Primary Academy
Ellison Primary Academy
Goldenhill Primary Academy
Oaklands Nursery
Summerbank Primary Academy



Bronze P4C Awards:

Gladstone Primary Academy
Alsagers Bank Primary Academy



Congratulations

Congratulations to Alsagers Bank Primary Academy who were inspected by OFSTED in January 2024.

The Ofsted Inspectors' report highlight the growing strength and success of the setting.

Youth Sports Trust



We are very proud that all settings gained the Youth Sports Trust Bronze Quality Mark for the academic year 2024/2025, with the exception of one of settings, who achieved Silver.

The quality mark was awarded as our settings demonstrated the value they place on its provision and reflects the whole school approach and commitment to providing a high-quality physical education, school sport and physical activity offer for all pupils.

This is only the start of our Youth Sports Trust journey, we are very excited to continue to develop this aspect of our Personal and Physical Development offer.



Collaborative Events



Trust Activity Days

On the 24th April & 13th June 2025 children from Year 4 and Year 2 across the Trust went to Trentham Gardens.

As part of the Trust's collaborative initiatives, pupils from across The Societas Trust enjoyed a day of enrichment activities at Trentham Gardens. They engaged in Disc Golf, explored the Barefoot Walk, and made use of the Play Area. An inspirational speaker also motivated the pupils, while the Beaver Trail added a sense of adventure. Each activity contributed to an exciting and memorable experience, fostering both enjoyment and collaboration among pupils.



A Year In The life Of A Societas Child!



We have created a film that offers a heartfelt glimpse into the journey of a Societas child over the course of twelve vibrant months. From seasonal celebrations to everyday learning adventures, it captures the spirit, joy, and growth that define life within our schools.

Through a rich tapestry of events and activities, you'll see how our children explore, discover, and thrive—supported every step of the way by dedicated staff and a nurturing community. The film also features candid interviews with both children and team members, offering personal insights into what makes Societas such a special place to learn and grow.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who took part—especially the children and staff who shared their stories, and the brilliant team behind the production. We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Please click on the image below the watch:



Welcome To The Societas Trust Family



The Trust has been experiencing an exciting period of growth.

On April 1st 2025, we proudly welcomed Burnwood Community School—now Burnwood Primary Academy in Chell Heath—into our Trust. Since becoming an associate member in January 2024, Burnwood has actively participated in Trust events and meetings and we're delighted to officially have them on board

Carol Dutton, Chair of the Directors' Board emailed the Trust "It is a pleasure to welcome a likeminded school community which clearly shares the Societas vision and values. I am sure Burnwood Primary Academy will be a great contributor to the continuing success of the Trust.

My sincere congratulations to the children, staff, governors and whole community there as we all embark on this new and exciting phase in our journey together, and my best wishes also for all their future prosperity as part of the Trust."



Exciting News from Ball Green Primary School

Ball Green Primary School has recently taken a significant step toward joining The Societas Trust. From January 2025, the school became an associate member, strengthening its ties with the Trust and engaging in collaborative opportunities.

Looking ahead, Ball Green Primary plans to convert to academy status and officially join the Trust by April 2026. This exciting development marks a new chapter for the school, bringing additional support, shared expertise and enhanced opportunities for staff and children alike.

We look forward to welcoming Ball Green Primary School into our growing community and supporting them throughout this journey.



'Thank You' to our dedicated staff and governors



APPRECIATE
you

We award those who have achieved 25 years' continuous public service each year.

This year we have four staff who have achieved this amazing milestone. Each will receive a voucher for £150 and a day off work

As a valued member of staff or governor at The Societas Trust, not only will you be part of an organisation that is dedicated to ensuring 'Great Learning Opportunities for All', which is embedded in our core values of Moral Leadership, Collaboration, Uniqueness and Innovation, you will also have access to a wide range of employee and governor benefits enabling you to thrive. These include::

- Physiotherapy
- Counselling
- Mindfulness Support and 'Mastering Mindfulness' courses
- Weight Management
- Nurse Support
- Integrated GP Services
- Cancer and Chronic Illness Support
- Menopause Support
- Private Medical Operations
- Financial Wellbeing Support
- SAS 'virtual' Gym
- Food Sensitivity Testing
- Salary Sacrifice Schemes - Childcare Vouchers and Cycle to Work
- Discounted Gym Memberships
- Staff Workshops, including Health Screening and Stress/Mindfulness Workshops
- A Wide Range of Continuing Professional Development and Career Progression Opportunities



Please note that terms and conditions apply to some Employee benefits

A Fond Farewell and Heartfelt Thanks



We take a moment to honour a remarkable group of individuals who stepped into a well-earned new chapter: retirement.

To all those retiring from The Societas Trust this year, we extend our deepest gratitude for your years of dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

Your impact has been felt in classrooms, corridors, and communities alike—and your legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in your footsteps. Whether you're planning adventures, quiet moments, or new pursuits, we wish you joy, fulfilment, and plenty of time to do what makes your heart sing. Here's to you—thank you for everything.

Burnwood Primary Academy

Christine Cope
Ann Clarke
Glenise Booth

Ash Green Primary Academy

Dian Nixon
Sue Card

Gladstone Primary Academy

Ann Atwell
Dave Brian

Oaklands Nursery

Debbie Davies

This year, we have also:



Provided all our settings with staff training, enrichment opportunities for children and other collaborative projects;

Secured additional funds (circa £2.5 million) since 2019, from the Government, to support significant improvements to school buildings and perimeter security at most of our settings;

Benefited from further significant savings through joint procurement projects;

Provided a wide range of training and coaching to our leaders and governors, including access to the National College Training Hub and School Bus;

Completed Safeguarding and financial audits with flying colours - well done to our Central Team, Headteachers, Business Managers and staff!

Provided a Wellbeing Day and other employee benefits for all staff across the Trust;

Provided network and mentor support for Early Career Teachers, Subject Leaders, Academy Business Managers, Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers new to the Trust;

Engaged with other Multi-Academy Trust networks locally and nationally to support our self-review and evaluation processes, and staff professional development.

We hope this report is useful in helping you to get to know more about the exciting things we are doing for our children, staff, governors and wider communities.

If you would like to find out more please visit <https://www.societastrust.org.uk/>

Mr. Jon Lovatt (CEO, The Societas Trust)



Follows us on Social Media, through Facebook and Instagram. Search **@societastrust**