

TEAM TALK

JULY 2025 | 09



TEAM Education Trust
Together Everyone Achieves More

I have been asked to contact all staff members enrolled in the Derbyshire Local Government Pension Scheme to address recent queries surrounding the payment of pension contributions.

Please be assured that pension contributions are paid monthly via direct debit by our payroll provider, Edupay, directly to the pension scheme. Although some recent concerns have been raised which suggest that contributions may not have been made, this is not the case. Payments continue to be made regularly and are supported by monthly reports submitted by Edupay to ensure accurate allocation.

I have been made aware that a couple of staff contacted the Pension provider at the start of the year, to discuss their pension but contributions had not been fully allocated. This delay was not due to non-payment, but rather the time required for the pension provider to allocate contributions while resolving queries.

At the end of last year, support staff received pay awards which were backdated to April. These awards resulted in a significant increase in pension contributions. Any increase exceeding a 5% tolerance compared to the previous month automatically triggers a reconciliation process between the payroll and pension providers. During this period, confirmation was required that the increased payments were a result of backdated pay awards.

As contributions must be allocated in chronological order, subsequent monthly payments could not be processed until earlier queries were resolved—for example, January's allocation could not proceed until December's was completed. This caused a delay in allocation but not in payment.

To reiterate there have been no delays in pension contributions being paid and there has been no impact on your individual pension schemes.

Please see across for a copy of an email from Derbyshire LGPS also confirming payments are up to date.

Dear Nicola

Further to the recent queries that have been sent from your employees to Derbyshire Pension Fund, I can confirm that the contributions up to June 2025 have been posted to employees pension records. This is as up to date as possible as monthly submissions are due to the Fund by the 19th of the following month. E.g. June 2025 is due on the 19th July 2025.

Members can be assured that whilst there can be contribution and payment reconciliation issues from to time to time, these are usually resolved swiftly and any delays will not result in financial loss to the members themselves. The Fund ensures that the correct level of pension is paid to members based on their pensionable pay and service dates.

Kind regards

Vinny Kinder | Senior Pensions Officer (Employer Relations) |

Visit us at derbyshirepensionfund.org.uk |

We hope this explanation provides clarity and reassurance. If you have any further questions or concerns about your pension contributions, please feel free to reach out to myself or Caroline Lea and we will be happy to support you.



CELEBRATING OUR TRUST CHAMPIONS: DRIVING CHANGE TOGETHER

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I shine a spotlight on our amazing Trust Champions. Their energy, dedication, and vision have set the tone for another year of collaborative success across our Trust.

This year, the feedback from colleagues speaks volumes. Staff have told us within Networks, how the collaborative spirit fostered by our Trust Champions has strengthened subject knowledge and opened doors for the sharing of best practice between schools. These partnerships have not just built bridges—they have built expertise.

Through opportunities for moderation and standardisation, they have helped secure greater consistency in assessment, ensuring every child's progress is recognised and celebrated. In addition, the sharing of resources has not only saved precious time but has also sparked creativity in lesson delivery, inspiring new ideas and innovative approaches in classrooms across our Trust.

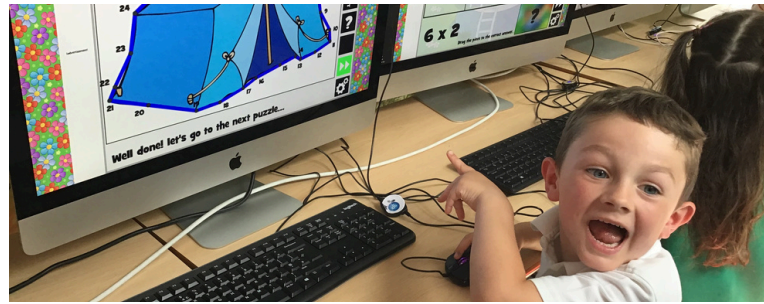
Their unwavering drive to support every school, every teacher, and every pupil is the heart of what we stand for, and I am truly grateful for their passion and commitment, it is a pleasure to work with each and every one of them.

None of these achievements, however, would be possible without the engagement and openness of all staff. So, my thanks and praise also go to each and every one of you, for your willingness to share, learn, and grow together. Thank you all for contributing to the successes this year.

As we head into the break, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer. Take care, and best wishes.

Rachel

AWE & WONDER



On the 4th of July, we were delighted to welcome Model Village's Reception Class to take part in the final Awe & Wonder session of the academic year—our Summer Spectacular.

This technology-enhanced, immersive learning experience invited pupils to explore summer in exciting digital ways, with a creative twist to incorporate the jungle theme the students had been studying in class. From programming animal robots, to diving into vibrant coral reefs using VR, and exploring digital tools on the iMacs, pupils were fully immersed in hands-on discovery.

This session marked the final instalment of this year's themed Awe & Wonder programme, which has inspired creativity, curiosity, and collaboration through its Winter, Spring, and Summer experiences. We're already looking ahead to next year, with a brand-new set of themes launching in November 2025. These will include Winter Wonderland: The Magic of Discovery, Spring into Nature: Explore, Create & Grow, and a return of the Summer Spectacular: Play, Glow & Celebrate - each packed with engaging activities from coding and green screen storytelling to nature-inspired digital design.

We can't wait to welcome more schools back for another year of inclusive, hands-on, and truly awe-inspiring learning.



COLOUR RUN FUN AT STUBBIN WOOD

At TEAM Education Trust, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do — and Stubbin Wood School’s recent Colour Run is a perfect example of that commitment in action.



Thanks to their brilliant Sports Partnership with Bolsover Active Network, the school delivered a vibrant and inspiring event that brought students and staff together in a truly meaningful way. From Nursery to Key Stage 4, every single pupil had the opportunity to take part — and they all did!

It was more than just a fun run — it was a celebration of unity, participation, and joy. We’re incredibly proud of the Stubbin Wood team for creating such an inclusive and memorable experience for their whole school community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who organised, supported, and joined in on the day. This is what happens when partnerships, passion, and purpose come together.



TEAM COUNCIL

Earlier this month, we had a fantastic Student Council meeting, generously hosted by Blue Box, and we’re excited to share some of the key moments.

During the meeting, students explored:

- The vital role Blue Box plays in supporting TEAM
- The different roles and career paths within Blue Box
- Online safety and responsible tech use
- Careers in IT – job and apprenticeship opportunities
- How technology is currently used in our schools – and what students would love to see in the future

A huge thank you to Blue Box IT not only for sharing their time and insights. It was truly inspiring to see our students so engaged and passionate about the future of technology in education.



SCORECARD WINNER



Congratulations to Kay Langrick at Whaley Thorns, who was the winner of the Scorecard competition, please email Carolyn Peach to claim.

TERM 5 & 6

As part of the People Strategy we have launched several incentives to support you and your wellbeing. If you complete all these tasks, write the date you completed it below each one and you could get a day off!

Winners are selected at random during the CEO Chats.

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

CEO CHAT
 ATTEND A BLUE WEEK
 WELLBEING CPD OR SHARE SOMETHING YOU HAVE DONE TO SUPPORT YOUR WELLBEING
 ENGAGE IN THE EDURIO SURVEY

A WILD DAY OF LEARNING



Pupils from Model Village had an unforgettable experience on their recent trip to the zoo! They were thrilled to see incredible animals including giraffes, polar bears, and lions up close.

As part of the visit, the children took part in an engaging workshop where they explored different animal groups—and even had the chance to hold a large cockroach, African land snails, and a lizard!

The trip not only provided an exciting day out but also enriched the pupils' understanding of wildlife and conservation. The zoo staff commended the students for their insightful questions and eagerness to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species.

We're so proud of how wonderfully the children represented TEAM Education Trust throughout the day. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour made it a day to remember.



CAUNTON SPORTS DAY FUN



This year's Sports Day at Caunton got off to a fantastic start, thanks to Alan Brown, who set the tone with an unforgettable performance in the ever-popular 'Turtle on a Racket' race—demonstrating just how it's done! Emma-Jo Kelly wasn't far behind, giving him a real run for his money, while Neil Stokes delivered a masterclass in multitasking—taking on the roles of race starter, point scorer, participant, and horn blower all in one afternoon!

Pupils had an incredible time throughout the event, which featured a lively sports session followed by a series of traditional races—with a creative Caunton twist. The entire day was lovingly planned and seamlessly run by Lisa Leach, Bow Mawson, and the fantastic team who brought it all to life.

The spirit of the day was perfectly captured by a parent from Caunton Dean Hole School, who said: "Yesterday was amazing and the best sports day we have been to. Wish we had the enthusiasm of Caunton's amazing team. This playfulness and acceptance of diversity is Caunton! Thank you again and very well done."

On behalf of all the children, heartfelt thanks go to the dedicated staff and the PTA for creating such a joyful and inclusive experience. A special shoutout goes to the brilliant Alan Brown, who still found time to join in a race—even with the school's SIAMS inspection happening on the same day. Thank you all for making Sports Day 2025 such a memorable and meaningful celebration. You truly are amazing!

AWARD SUCCESS

We are delighted to share that Joe Cain, a committed teacher and Careers Lead at Newman School, has received an award. He has been honored with the South Yorkshire Careers Hub - Building Future Skills Award. Congratulations, Joe!

In addition to Joe's achievement, Newman School has also been recognised for successfully meeting all eight Gatsby Benchmarks!



STUBBIN STRIKES GOLD



We're proud to celebrate a fantastic achievement at Stubbin Wood — they've been awarded the Gold School Games Mark! This recognition is a testament to a year of dedication, teamwork, and a whole-school commitment to inclusive and high-quality physical education.

Over the past year, Stubbin Wood has:

- Developed a wide range of lunchtime clubs
- Nurtured a growing team of confident and enthusiastic Sports Leaders
- Created inclusive opportunities for all students to participate and shine

A huge well done to everyone at Stubbin Wood for an outstanding year of sport.

AWARD WINNING WHALEY

Whaley Thorns has recently been recognised with two national awards:

- The Computing Quality Mark, which affirms the commitment to delivering a high-quality, future-focused computing curriculum that equips all pupils with essential digital skills.
- The Green Flag ECO Award with Distinction, which recognises dedication to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and empowering students to be proactive, eco-conscious citizens.

IQM FLAGSHIP SUCCESS



Whaley Thorns Primary School is celebrating following its successful IQM assessment in July. The school achieved the amazing accolade of FLAGSHIP status, recognising its inclusive commitment to all children, its staff and the wider community.

Whaley Thorns, the second school in the Trust to achieve IQM flagship, was praised by the assessor for its progress towards all targets, as well as for its wider commitment to community inclusion. The school has worked closely with other colleagues in TEAM Education Trust to raise aspirations and put pupils first, and to recognise their individuality in line with the school's motto "Everyone's Different, Everyone's Special".

Of the school, the IQM report says:

"Whaley Thorns Primary School is an exceptional school, led by an inspirational Executive Principal, ably supported by a remarkable Leadership team and a determined and dedicated staff team. Whaley Thorns is part of TEAM Education Trust. The vision for all pupils fortunate to attend a TEAM school is explicit. "Anything is possible"."

CEO Sarah Baker said: "We recognise and celebrate everyone's uniqueness, we value everyone's contributions, and we will demonstrate that 'together we can achieve more' for our children, young people and the wider community.' The significant and all-embracing mission of the Trust is highly valued."

Whaley Thorns would like to thank pupils, governors and parents for their ongoing support.

CAUNTON DEAN HOLE CELEBRATES GLOWING OFSTED REPORT

Caunton Dean Hole Church of England Primary School is proud to announce the outcome of its most recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on the 4th and 5th of June 2025. Under the current Ofsted framework and through a graded inspection, the school was judged 'Good' in all areas, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing journey of improvement and growth.

The inspection, carried out by Christine Watkins, His Majesty's Inspector (HMI) and Ofsted Inspector Kirk Hopkins, praised the school for its nurturing environment, inclusive ethos, aspirational curriculum and strong leadership. The report also commended the school's values and highlighted its commitment to ensuring the well-being and success of every pupil.

"Pupils are happy at this small, caring and nurturing school. They show respect and kindness, reflecting the school's values. Pupils enjoy their learning. They fulfil the school's high expectations for them to achieve well in all aspects of school life."

"Pupils behave well. They are polite to each other and to adults. Positive relationships enable pupils to flourish and feel safe. The school's distinctive close-knit family ethos is evident. The attractive, spacious outdoor areas promote pupils' wider development, and their physical and mental well-being, very well."

"The school has high expectations for pupils' behaviour and attendance. There are strong systems for checking and analysing patterns and incidents. As a result, appropriate support is quickly arranged so that pupils behave well and maintain good rates of attendance."

"Leadership and governance are strong".

Caunton Dean Hole is a mainstream primary school. Its recent success is a testament to the unwavering commitment of its staff, governors, families, and wider community.



In a pivotal step for the school's future, Caunton will formally join TEAM Education Trust in September 2025. The Trust has played a critical role in supporting the school since September 2023, preventing it from facing potential closure. This journey has also been made possible through the collective support of Nottinghamshire County Council and the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham whose collaboration has been described as a "real strength" in both the school's recovery and its current success.

Executive Principal Charlotte Butcher said: "We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the progress, dedication, and love that goes into making Caunton such a special place to learn. This outcome reflects the unity and commitment of our entire community, and we look forward to an exciting future as part of TEAM Education Trust."

Sarah Baker, CEO of TEAM Education Trust, added: "We are incredibly proud of Caunton Dean Hole and everything it has achieved. The school's journey is a shining example of what can be accomplished through collaboration, determination, and shared values. Caunton is a very special place – rich in its Church of England heritage and deeply rooted in its community. Upon joining our Trust, it will bring those unique qualities to strengthen and enrich our wider family of schools. We are also hugely grateful for the close working relationship with Nottinghamshire County Council and the Diocese, who have been vital partners in securing Caunton's future."

SIAMS SUCCESS AT CAUNTON DEAN HOLE

Just weeks after completing a two-day graded Ofsted inspection, Caunton Dean Hole was visited for its Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) — and received positive praise for its strong Christian vision and inclusive approach.

The SIAMS inspection, which assesses how well Church schools express and live out their Christian values, came at a particularly busy time. On the same day that the Ofsted report was shared with staff and parents, the call came confirming the upcoming SIAMS visit. The inspection itself on 3rd July lasted a full day and was led by an experienced inspector.

The SIAMS process and subsequent report highlighted the school's vision, which is firmly rooted in the Christian belief that every individual is precious and unique. This ethos shapes the school's culture and daily life of the school. Following a period of change, since September 2023, the impactful, holistic and supportive relationship with TEAM Education Trust was recognised as an incredibly positive step and a lifeline of love for the school.

The inspector noted that the school community "experiences hope for the future," drawing on a passage from Colossians that speaks of being rooted in God as a foundation for growth. "Leaders and staff encourage aspiration, resilience, and faith in what each child can achieve. Support from the Trust includes 'champion' teachers who mentor colleagues and help strengthen teaching and learning."

The school was also commended for its contribution to the TEAM Spirituality Pledge, which defines spirituality clearly. A next step will be to embed this across intentional spirituality across all subject areas so that that pupils continue to be given regular opportunities to explore and reflect on spiritual ideas and experiences.



Overall, the report reflects a school where Christian values inform both vision and practice. A place where staff are committed to helping every pupil reach their full potential and a place where everyone flourishes.

The school staff would like to thank all of those who supported them throughout the process, in particular TEAM Early Help staff, Sarah Baker CEO, Rachel Watson, CEOO, Nicola Cook, DCEO, Neil Stokes, Champion Teacher and Emma Jo Kelly, Specialist Computing Teacher.





TEAM Education Trust
Together Everyone Achieves More

TEAM AWARDS

The TEAM Education Trust Awards for staff are back for another year.

At the TEAM Annual Conference on the 3rd November we will be announcing the winners of the TEAM Education Trust Awards, celebrating the work of the dedicated staff across our schools and Trust.

The TEAM Awards are incredibly special, as they are open to all; everyone in TEAM is eligible for nomination, and everyone can nominate.

There are five awards to be won:

- TEAM Innovation in Education Award 2025
- TEAM Impact Award 2025
- TEAM Rising Star Award 2025
- TEAM Wellbeing Award 2025
- TEAM Player Award 2025

Staff from across the Trust can nominate their colleagues. Those nominations will be collated and put before a special panel of experts who will make the final decision. Based upon the nomination(s) received, a shortlist of finalists will be put forward and a winner chosen for each category.

You can nominate any of your colleagues, in any of the categories (and even in multiple categories), and you can make as many nominations as you wish – just remember that the awards will be judged on the strength of your nomination. You'll need to detail exactly why your nominee deserves the award above all others.

Thinking of nominating a colleague? Make sure to check out the criteria for each award on the next page.

Nominations open on Friday, 18th July at 12:00pm and close on Friday 19th September at midnight.

[You can nominate using the online form by clicking on the 'Vote' picture.](#)

NOMINATIONS
CLOSE:
FRIDAY 19TH
SEPTEMBER 2025



THE WINNERS
WILL BE
ANNOUNCED AT
THE TEAM
CONFERENCE ON
3RD NOVEMBER





TEAM Education Trust
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TEAM AWARDS

AWARDS CRITERIA

TEAM Innovation in Education Award 2025

This award intends to celebrate the broader work of educators in TEAM. For this category we expect nominations to be wide-ranging. The nature of innovation is not prescribed and the award will be judged on the strength of the nomination. Essentially, you need to tell us why your nomination deserves to be recognised as innovative. Whilst there is no specific criteria for innovation, by way of example, nominations could be made from the following:

- Unique and inventive classroom practice
- Specific application of technology to enhance learning
- Creativity in the curriculum

Owing to the broad nature of innovation, the nomination will have to explicitly define the innovation and how it had a positive impact on the lives of young people.

TEAM Impact Award 2025

Any member of staff who has had a profound impact of the lives of young people in the past academic year. You'll need to define exactly what that impact was and how they did it. For this award, the nomination is not limited to academic impact, however, the impact should be tangible and measurable.

TEAM Rising Star Award 2025

Any member of staff who is new to role or new to teaching and has demonstrated excellence in their first year. The nomination should make it clear how the nominee has excelled in the role and in doing so, how they have made a positive impact on the lives of young people.

TEAM Wellbeing Award 2025

Any member of staff who has either consistently supported the wellbeing of young people, or who through a single act has immediately had a profound impact on the wellbeing of one or more young people. The nomination should make it clear exactly what that intervention has been and how it had a positive impact on the lives of young people.

TEAM Player Award 2025

The member of staff who has consistently gone above and beyond for the team. For the purpose of this award, the team can be any defined team within any part of the trust, for example, a subject team/department, a leadership team, a safeguarding team, the central team. The nomination must be clear as to the nature of the team, and how the nominee has been integral to the success of the team.

[You can nominate using the online form by clicking on the 'Vote' picture.](#)

NOMINATIONS
CLOSE:
FRIDAY 19TH
SEPTEMBER 2025



THE WINNERS
WILL BE
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