



July 2025



The Cornovii Trust

BETTER TOGETHER

Dear Parents / Carers, Colleagues and Students

You may well have noticed the deliberate change in name for our termly newsletter to '**Better Together**'. This is because over the last few months we have been reflecting on our first 3 years as a group of schools and have been designing our Strategic Plan for the next 3 years. Trustees, local governing bodies, school leaders and other key staff have worked together on evaluating what we have achieved since we merged as a group of schools in September 2022 and designing our vision for the next 3 years (2025-2028). You can find our Strategic Plan on our website, following this link:

www.thecornovii.org.uk/strategic-plan

- Better Together
- Trust developments
- Provisional Key Stage 2 SATs results
- In memory of Dave Cole

We have achieved an awful lot over these last 3 years as a group of schools, the collaboration, support each school provides for one another, the sharing of expertise, knowledge, resources and staff has been quite brilliant. That is down to the amazing school leaders, staff and local governors we have working across our schools. We believe that we are 'better together' and 'stronger together' as a group of schools, rather than operating as separate institutions – hence the name of the newsletter. Our core purpose and strategic priorities going forward are based around the idea of what we can do for our young people and staff as a group working together, which schools could not do in isolation. We want **all** schools, **all** pupils, **all** leaders and **all** staff to feel the benefits of being together in our group of schools. So everyone can feel that we are '**better together**'.

In other trust developments, I am very excited to announce that Malbank High School and 6th Form College in Nantwich recently applied to join our trust of schools and at the end of June, their application was approved by the Department for Education. So, we shall soon be a trust of 8 schools, including both secondary schools in Nantwich. The exact date of when Malbank will join depends on the legal processes involved, we envisage that it will be in the winter.



Our values Our principles Our moral purpose

This is great news and we are really looking forward to welcoming Malbank into our group. They bring a wide range of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources into our trust. What is most exciting about this development, is the potential opportunities it creates for developing an improved educational provision in Nantwich. With both schools collaborating and working together for the benefit of all young people in the town.

Our 5 primary schools are also celebrating a fantastic set of Key Stage 2 SATs results. Outcomes in year 1 phonics, Key Stage 1 tests and the externally examined year 6 SATs, are much improved on last year and well above both national and regional figures in all our schools. Congratulations to all the children and all the staff across our primaries and many thanks to the support from parents.



Provisional Key Stage 2 results 2025	% of pupils achieving expected standard in reading	% of pupils achieving expected standard in writing	% of pupils achieving expected standard in maths	% of pupils achieving expected standard in all 3 subjects (RWM)
National Average	75%	72%	74%	62%
Cornovii Trust Average	87%	77%	81%	67%

The important point to remember is that everyone in each school contributes to these results, they are not just down to the hard work of the current class teacher. A child's primary school journey is a 7 year long chain of events, classes, interactions with staff, high quality teaching and support, kindness shown by all staff and care a child receives from all staff over many years. Each year in a child's education is interlinked and the current class experience contributes to the following year and so on. The same applies to parental support, reading with your child as early as possible, supporting them in their schoolwork and especially their reading from Reception right through to Year 6, will pay dividends in Key Stage 2 SATs and beyond. So, everyone has played a pivotal role in securing these fantastic results and this same principle applies to their secondary education as well.





As we all know, outcomes and data are not the best way to judge a school or what a child remembers about school. A school should be judged on how it makes you feel and the experiences it offers. Over the course of this year, our young people from year 2 up to 6th form have benefitted from countless experiences, trips, visits, events and residentials. They have also experienced huge success in the fields of music, drama, sport and many other forms of competition. This is down to the expertise, hard work and willingness of our fantastic staff to provide these opportunities for our young people.

The Cornovii Cup, in which pupils from Alsager and Brine Leas have been competing against each other all year and in a wide variety of sports, is reaching it's finale with the annual staff and pupil golf competition taking place on 16th July. So at the time of writing, the final points are not known. Please keep an eye on social media at the end of this week, to see who will be crowned winners of The Cornovii Cup for 2024/25.

Mrs Woollam, our Headteacher at Alsager Highfields Primary School was recently a national winner of 'Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School' in the annual Teaching Awards. This is a fantastic achievement for her, to be nominated out of 21,000 primary schools in the country. It is also richly deserved, while leading a school is always a team effort, Mrs Woollam has certainly led from the front. She really is an inspirational school leader, has been pivotal to the many successes at Alsager Highfields and we are very lucky to have her working in our group of local schools.



Competition	Alsager	Brine Leas
Netball	44	28
6th form Netball	10	2
Football	37	21
6th form football	10	2
Handball	4	20
Dodgeball	27	19
Badminton and Table Tennis	22	22
Swimming	24	24
Rounders	5	5
Cricket	10	2
Total	193	145

June 2025

I must also congratulate and thank another of our headteachers, Mr Perry, for all his support, hard work and leadership over the last 12 months. Mr Perry, Head at Audlem St James Church of England Primary, has split his time over 2 schools for the last year. He willingly agreed to be Executive Headteacher at Audlem and Pear Tree Primary right at the start of the year. At the time we didn't know how long that would be for, it ended up being for the whole year! Mr Perry has been brilliant over this last year. He has led both schools, worked incredibly hard and raised standards at both schools in the process. He has certainly demonstrated that we are 'better together' and deserves a huge amount of credit for this and I am very grateful for his leadership and



professionalism. I must also thank the governing body and staff at Audlem St James for being so supportive and willing to support this collaborative leadership approach.

On the 2nd July, we held a dedication event at Brine Leas School in memory of Mr Cole, Headteacher at the school who died so unexpectedly in April last year. The event involved dedicating the 6th form building (BL6) to Dave, as he was instrumental in establishing post 16 provision at Brine Leas. A plaque in the entrance to the building was unveiled by his wife Nicola and sons James and Edward. Current and previous members of staff and governors, who worked with Dave, were in attendance, along with Mr Whitehead, Headteacher at Brine Leas and me. It was a fitting tribute to a great school leader but more importantly to a lovely man, who is missed by us all.

You can always find more details about our activities and work as a trust on our website www.thecornoviitrust.org and you can follow us on social media, which will also keep you updated on job vacancies across all our schools.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to all our young people collecting their GCSE, BTEC and A level results in August. I am experiencing this again myself as a parent, as our youngest will be collecting her A level results. I know what a pressurised time it can be for all involved.

Many thanks for your continued support. I wish you and your families a relaxing summer break, a chance to recharge the batteries ready to embrace 2025/26.



Richard Middlebrook
CEO The Cornovii Trust



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