

# NEWSLETTER

SPENCER ACADEMIES TRUST NEWSLETTER  
FOR PARENTS - JULY 2026



## A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM CEO, KATE GREEN

As another academic year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to thank all our families for the vital role you play in supporting our children and young people to learn, grow and succeed.

Across Spencer Academies Trust, this year has been filled with memorable achievements, exciting opportunities and moments of pride. From academic successes and sporting accomplishments to creative performances, community projects and personal milestones, our pupils have continued to demonstrate the talent, determination and character that make our schools such special places.

None of this would be possible without the strong partnerships between our schools, families and communities. The encouragement and support you provide at home helps our children develop the

confidence, resilience and ambition they need to flourish both in and beyond the classroom.

Guided by our values of Aspiration, Partnership and Responsibility, we remain committed to ensuring every child receives the very best opportunities to achieve their potential. Throughout this newsletter, you will see examples of these values in action and discover some of the many ways our pupils and staff have made a positive impact over the past year.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Spencer Family. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and successes celebrated in these pages, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe and restful summer.

*Kate*



## LOOKING BACK, BUILDING FORWARD

Looking back on a year of inspiring achievements, shared successes and unforgettable moments from across our Spencer family.

## ARRIVING IN STYLE!

Photos from the proms...



See page 4

# Our Primary Stories

## Chetwynd Spencer Academy Takes Centre Stage (January 2026)

Fifty pupils from Chetwynd Spencer Academy took to the stage at the Young Voices concert, joining thousands of children from across the UK for an unforgettable celebration of music and singing. The occasion was made even more special during the event's 30th anniversary year, with the academy proudly selected as the featured school for the BBC's national coverage. Performing in front of a packed arena alongside professional musicians, pupils embraced the opportunity to grow in confidence, develop their love of music and be part of an inspiring celebration of young voices. It was a truly memorable experience that created lasting memories for everyone involved.



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders (December 2025)



As part of UK Parliament Week, pupils at Bispham Spencer Academy were delighted to welcome Juliet Campbell, MP for Broxtowe. School Council members proudly explained how they represent their classmates and contribute to school life before taking part in discussions about democracy, leadership and public service. Pupils asked lots of thoughtful questions and enjoyed learning more about how Parliament works. The visit helped children recognise the value of their own voices and inspired them to become confident, active members of their communities.



## Ashwood Spencer Recognised for Outstanding Inclusion (December 2025)

Ashwood Spencer Academy was proudly awarded the prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Flagship School Status, recognising its commitment to ensuring every child feels welcomed, supported and able to flourish. The national award celebrates schools where inclusion is at the heart of everything they do, with inspectors praising Ashwood's nurturing environment, ambitious curriculum and strong pastoral care. By celebrating every child's individuality, working closely with families and providing enriching opportunities for all, the academy continues to create a community where children feel they belong, grow in confidence and are encouraged to achieve their very best.



## Leading the Way in Digital Learning (September 2025)

Sunnyside Spencer Academy has been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for 2025–2028, celebrating its innovative approach to teaching and learning through technology. This prestigious international recognition highlights how Apple technology is used to inspire creativity, personalise learning and help every child develop the confidence and digital skills they need for the future. By creating engaging, inclusive learning experiences that spark curiosity and bring learning to life, Sunnyside continues to provide exciting opportunities that prepare pupils to thrive in an ever-changing world.



## Our Secondary Stories



### A Show to Remember (February 2026)



More than 120 students took to the stage and worked behind the scenes as Heanor Gate Spencer Academy presented its biggest and most ambitious production to date – Disney's Beauty and the Beast. From starring roles and ensemble performances to make-up artistry, lighting, sound and stage management, students played an integral part in bringing the production to life. Performing to local primary pupils, families and the wider community, the show celebrated not only the incredible talent of our young people but also the confidence, creativity and teamwork they develop through the rich performing arts opportunities on offer at Spencer.



## National Success for Future Changemakers (June 2026)



John Port Spencer Academy students were flying the flag for sustainability after winning the prestigious Barker Award at the Save the Planet National Final in London. Competing against schools from across the country, they impressed judges with their creativity, teamwork and innovative ideas for protecting the environment. Their fantastic achievement showcases not only their passion for making a difference but also the exciting opportunities available for pupils to develop the confidence, skills and ambition to help shape a brighter, more sustainable future.



# Our Secondary Stories



## Year 11 Proms: Celebrating Success and Creating Memories (June 2026)

Year 11 students across our eight secondary academies marked the end of their school journeys with memorable prom celebrations. Dressed for the occasion and surrounded by friends, staff and families, students came together to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the many experiences and memories they have shared over the years. Each event was filled with laughter, dancing and special moments, providing a fitting send-off as students look ahead to their exciting next steps. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and wish them every success and happiness in the future.



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

### Inspiring Experiences Across Spencer

Throughout the year, students across our secondary academies have enjoyed a wide range of trips, visits and experiences that bring learning to life beyond the classroom. From exploring space at the National Space Centre and discovering London's history and culture, to developing teamwork skills through outdoor activities, residentials and enrichment days, these opportunities help students grow in confidence, independence and resilience. Whether exploring new places or celebrating achievements, our students are encouraged to challenge themselves, make memories and develop skills that will support them for the future.



## OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

At Spencer Academies Trust, we are committed to helping every student explore their ambitions, broaden their horizons and make informed choices about their future. Through a wide range of enrichment opportunities, expert guidance and personalised support, we ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge, confidence and experiences they need to pursue their goals and thrive beyond school.

## Raising Aspirations Through Oxford and Cambridge (March 2026)

More than 160 students experienced life at two of the world's most prestigious universities during Spencer Academies Trust's annual Oxford and Cambridge visit. Through lectures, workshops and college tours, students gained a valuable insight into university life and the opportunities available to them. The experience is helping to raise aspirations across the Trust, with 13 students receiving offers from Oxford or Cambridge this year, more than double the number achieved the previous year.



## Supporting Every Student's Next Step (June 2026)

Spencer Academies Trust's annual Higher Education and UCAS Conference brought together university admissions experts, UCAS specialists and leading universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham and Derby to share the latest guidance on higher education. Careers leaders and post-16 staff from schools across the East Midlands explored everything from UCAS applications and personal statements to medicine, apprenticeships and student life, helping ensure Spencer students continue to benefit from informed, up-to-date support as they take their next steps with confidence.

## Preparing Future Medics (December 2025)

Our annual Medicine Mock Interview Days give aspiring doctors the opportunity to practise realistic interviews with NHS professionals, receive expert feedback and build the confidence needed for one of the UK's most competitive university application processes. It's just one of the many ways we help students turn ambitious aspirations into reality.



## Celebrating Student Success (September 2025)

This year, students across Spencer Academies Trust secured places at some of the UK's leading universities and on highly competitive courses including Medicine, Politics, Zoology and Primary Education. Among the many success stories were former Farnborough Spencer Academy students who progressed through Rushcliffe Spencer Academy Sixth Form before achieving outstanding results and moving on to exciting destinations. Their achievements highlight the power of our One Spencer approach, with schools working together to provide exceptional teaching, personalised guidance and enriching opportunities that help every student take confident steps towards a bright future.



**SPENCER**  
ESTATES & FACILITIES

## Investing in Inspiring Learning Environments

This year, three major building projects have created even better learning environments for students across Spencer Academies Trust. Heanor Gate Spencer Academy opened its brand-new, state-of-the-art school building, Rushcliffe Spencer Academy unveiled its landmark new C Block as part of a £32 million expansion, and John Port Spencer Academy welcomed students into a modern new science block with specialist laboratories and upgraded teaching facilities. These exciting developments provide students with inspiring spaces to learn, collaborate and thrive, reflecting our ongoing commitment to investing in facilities that support the very best educational experiences for current and future generations.



## OFSTED SUCCESSES

### Celebrating Excellence Across Spencer (July 2026)

This year, Inkersall Spencer Academy and Fairfield Spencer Academy celebrated successful Ofsted inspections, with inspectors recognising the exceptional education, care and opportunities provided for pupils across both schools.

At Inkersall Spencer Academy, Ofsted praised the academy's nurturing environment, ambitious curriculum and strong leadership, describing it as "a happy and very nurturing school" where pupils feel safe, valued and inspired to succeed. Inspectors also recognised the academy's inclusive approach, effective pastoral support and the wide range of opportunities that help children flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

Meanwhile, Fairfield Spencer Academy was celebrated for its warm, inclusive culture and clear vision for improvement. Inspectors highlighted the academy's strong relationships, high expectations and ambitious personal development programme, recognising the positive impact of its SPARK values in helping pupils develop confidence, kindness and aspiration. The report also praised the academy's strong leadership, supportive learning environment and commitment to ensuring every child belongs and achieves.

Together, these inspections reflect Spencer Academies Trust's commitment to delivering high-quality education, fostering inclusive school communities and creating environments where every child is known, supported and empowered to thrive.



## INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

# Building the Future, Together

Strong leadership is at the heart of our academies, which is why investing in the development of our leaders remains a key priority across Spencer Academies Trust. This year, more than 70 academy and Trust leaders came together for our annual Leadership Day, centred around the theme 'Building Together'. The day provided an opportunity to reflect on our shared vision, collaborate on strategic priorities and hear from leading experts in talent development and artificial intelligence. By sharing ideas, learning from one another and strengthening leadership at every level, we continue to build schools where children, staff and communities can thrive.



## Building Together Through Professional Learning

More than 600 colleagues from across our primary academies came together for our annual Primary INSET events, centred on the theme 'BUILD: Our Journey, Our Collective Future'. Through inspiring keynote speakers, including Interim CEO, Kate Green, and children's author, Helen Rutter, alongside expert-led workshops covering leadership, curriculum, reading, inclusion and wellbeing, staff shared best practice and strengthened their professional knowledge. By continually investing in our people, we ensure every child benefits from high-quality teaching, collaboration and the very latest evidence-informed practice.



## Stay Connected with Spencer

This is just a snapshot of another fantastic year across our Spencer family. To read more about these stories, celebrate our schools' successes and keep up to date with the latest news, visit [spencertrust.org.uk](https://spencertrust.org.uk) and follow Spencer Academies Trust on our social media channels.

