

Spring One 2026

Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring One Term Newsletter!

A message from our CEO...

2026 has started with a flourish, as our schools embrace our mission – or, in the words of Pam Carter one of our Trustees, demonstrating **'Christianity with its sleeves rolled up'**.

St James CE in Ashton, and St George's CE in Mossley, Tameside in partnership with Lauren Gardner, our Trust inclusion lead have both opened thriving SEND units, ensuring that children with additional needs can attend a local school.

St Paul's, Astley Bridge in Bolton were recently praised in their SIAMs feedback for the very special link between the church and the school, for supporting staff, children and parents to feel hope, to believe in themselves and in what they can achieve. Well done to all involved.

A particular well done to Lucy Jackson who has been using her expertise in marketing to support recruitment to our Initial Teacher Training programme. Our application numbers have risen steeply thanks to her excellent work.

I am proud of all that we do for our people here at Forward As One, proud that as a trust we have been recognised nationally for consistently having the highest staff engagement scores in the country, that our schools are great places to work. If you have friends or relatives who are looking for a new role, or would like to train as a teacher with us, check out [our vacancies here](#).

We are constantly looking for ways in which we can support our staff to flourish, and we are hearing great feedback about our staff wellbeing package from staff who have commented on how quickly they have been able to access physiotherapy due to an injury, counselling – or a same day GP appointment and prescription.

Remember to download the APP through the [SAS website](#).

I have also been contacted by staff who have been delighted to take delivery of a Salary Sacrifice Electric Car. If you are interested in this, the details are [here](#).

We will continue to look for new ways in which we can reward you all for the fabulous work that you do to ensure that our One Mission is realised.

Thank you, and for those of you who will now have a week off, have a wonderful half term.



Karen

Karen Bramwell- OBE (CEO)

Schools Advisory Service- How SAS Can Help You

Schools Advisory Service (SAS) is a specialist service for schools across the UK that supports both staff wellbeing.

Every SAS policy includes access to wellbeing services at no extra cost, and is available to every member of staff. These are designed to support your physical, mental and emotional health through services such as counselling, physiotherapy, mindfulness resources, and more.

Counselling & mental health support: Confidential sessions to help with stress, anxiety or personal challenges.

Physiotherapy and physical health support: Clinical-led help for physical wellbeing.

GP access & health line: Direct connection to qualified nurses and GPs for advice or consultations.

All services are **confidential** and designed to be easy to access, often through the SAS Wellbeing mobile app.

You can access a wide range of support tools, health resources and services through the **free SAS Wellbeing app**, which keeps everything in one place and helps you stay informed about what's available.



Octopus Energy- Salary Sacrifice EV Scheme

The **Octopus Energy Salary Sacrifice EV Scheme** is a UK employee benefit that lets you lease a brand new electric vehicle (EV) through your employer using salary sacrifice. This is a tax-efficient way to afford an EV. It's similar to "cycle to work," but for cars.

Instead of paying for a car from your take-home pay, **you agree to give up part of your pre-tax salary in exchange for the EV lease**. This lowers your taxable income and reduces how much income tax and national insurance you pay, helping you **save up to around 40% overall** on a new electric car compared with a personal lease or buying privately.

The scheme typically includes:

- A brand-new electric car of your choice
- A home EV charger with installation (or charging credits)
- Servicing, maintenance, repairs, tyres and breakdown cover
- Insurance (subject to eligibility per your employer's setup)

All wrapped up in one monthly amount from your salary!

The scheme is available to eligible employees. Please check with HR@fa1.uk to confirm whether you qualify before applying.



octopus
electric vehicles

Updates from across our One Family...



Canon Johnson Church of England Primary School

This week at Canon Johnson, Year 3 and 5 became mini-medics. Mini-Medics provided engaging first aid and mental health training for all of the children!

The children explored important topics and scenarios that included CPR, choking and emotional wellbeing.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed the training and were excited to share all they had learnt!



St John with St Michael Church of England Primary School

SJSM were very proud to welcome another fantastic turnout of parents and carers to our termly Learn Alongside events.

These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for families to experience the high-quality teaching and learning at our school from the front row.

It is always a pleasure to open our classroom doors and celebrate learning together.

Updates from across our One Family...



St John's Church of England Primary School

This term, some of our Year 6 children had a fantastic time taking part in the Physics Olympics with other local schools in Forward As One Academy Trust.

It was a fun, practical afternoon of scientific working, communication and teamwork.

They represented St John's CE Primary School brilliantly - we are so proud of you!



St James' Church of England Primary School

St James' has highlighted how Thameside Council is showcasing its SEND provision and the positive impact this work is having on pupils and families.

The school has expanded its resource base and SEND support offerings over the past year, focusing on personalised learning, tailored interventions, and creating a welcoming environment where all pupils can thrive.

This work aligns with Thameside Council's broader priorities to strengthen SEND practice across local schools and ensure every child has access to the support they need to reach their potential.

Join our ECT Talent Pool and take your first step towards exceptional teaching!

FA1 Teacher Pool:

The purpose of our Teacher Pool is to **train and retain talent within our Trust**. By applying for one of the posts available, you are applying to join the FA1 ECT Teacher Talent Pool. You will submit a formal application and letter of application, which will be reviewed by our Trust Senior Leaders.

If you are successful in being shortlisted – you will be invited to interview where you will be required to teach a short lesson. If you are successful, you will be entered within our FA1 ECT Teacher Talent Pool.

This is the first point of call for all teaching vacancies across the trust. If a teaching vacancy becomes available a Headteacher will use your pen-portrait, application and notes of interview to invite you to their school for a further discussion. **Applying to the pool does not guarantee a teaching position**, but it does prioritise you for teaching vacancies which may become available across our trust for September 2026.



Salary



£32,916 per annum

Job type



Full Time

Contract type



Fixed Term

Job title: ECT Teacher Talent Pool – Key Stage 1 or 2

Contract: Fixed Term – 31.08.27

Hubs: Lancashire/Rochdale, Bolton, Bury, Tameside or Oldham (Please indicate which Hub(s) you would like to apply for)

Directorate: Forward as One CE Multi Academy Trust

Reporting to: Headteacher

Salary: Main Scale M1 £32,916 per annum

Hours: 32.5 hours/week, Full-Time (1.0)

Start Date: 1st September 2026

Closing Date: 13th April 2026 @ 9am

[Click here to apply!](#)

LEARN with FA1 NEWS



Welcome to our Spring One Newsletter

Spring often brings a renewed sense of focus and possibility, and this term has certainly reflected that across our Learn community. Through all our programmes, we continue to see inspiring dedication from trainee teachers, Early Career Teachers, mentors, and leaders. This commitment to professional learning remains a real strength, and it's been wonderful to see this reflected in the energy participants have brought to our spring events.

I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself, having recently stepped into the role with the Learn team at Forward As One, following the wonderful Elliot, our former Director of Learning and Partnerships. I am privileged to be working with our ITT, ECF, NPQ and marketing leads within my role as Director of Operations, to get to know our participants, partners, and internal teams and the outstanding work they do ensuring high-quality, evidence-informed professional development, which truly serves our schools and communities.

This term, Learn With FA1 has moved from strength to strength. We were delighted to complete highly successful first reviews of the year with Ambition Institute, a fantastic achievement and testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. Feedback from the spring term's conferences have been hugely positive, highlighting the value of these opportunities for professional learning and collaboration. Our partnerships remain strong, with ECT associations across more than 70 schools and a combined total of 450 active participants across the 2024–25 cohorts. Our NPQ participants also continued to learn, develop and achieve together - congratulations to all those who passed their Specialist NPQ from the October 2024 cohort. We were very impressed to see a fantastic 94.5% pass rate with 67 teachers and leaders gaining an NPQ qualification!

As we move into the heart of the academic year, we have an important opportunity to reflect on progress so far and look ahead with clarity and ambition. Thank you for your continued partnership and the trust you place in Learn with FA1. We look forward to the new term and to working closely with our outstanding partners over the months ahead.

Wishing you a wonderful half term,

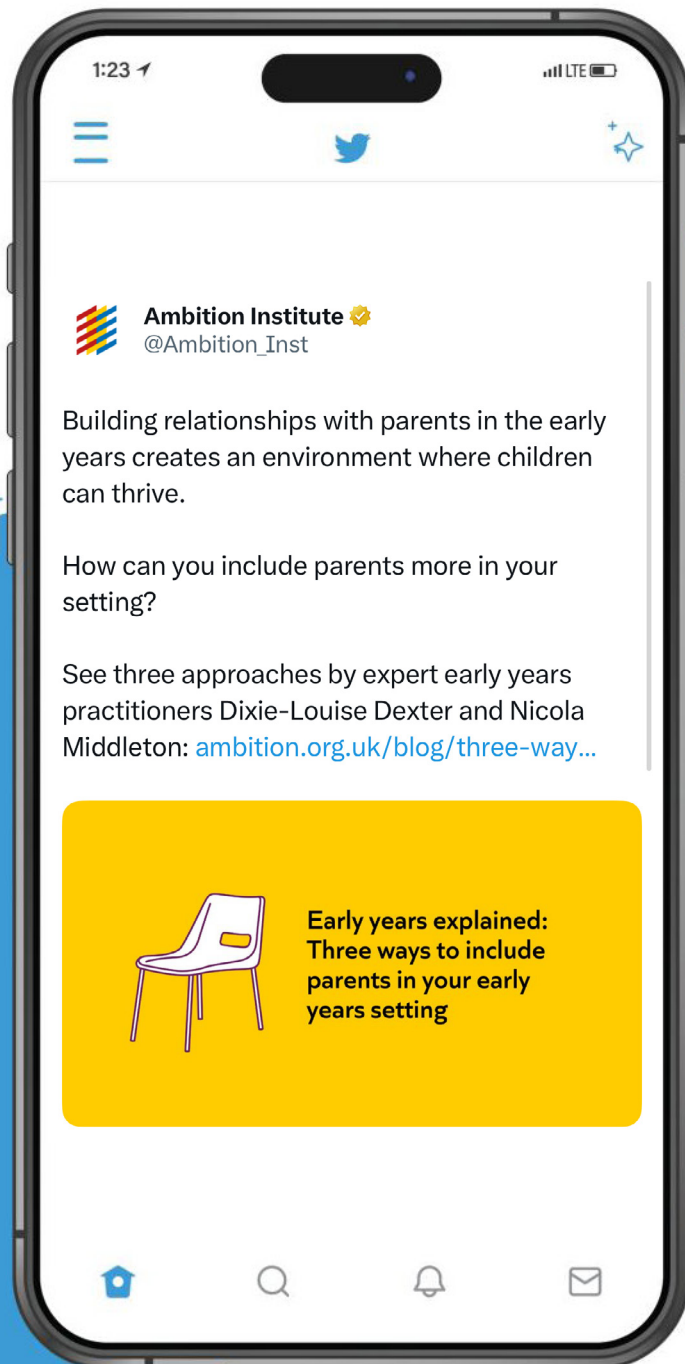
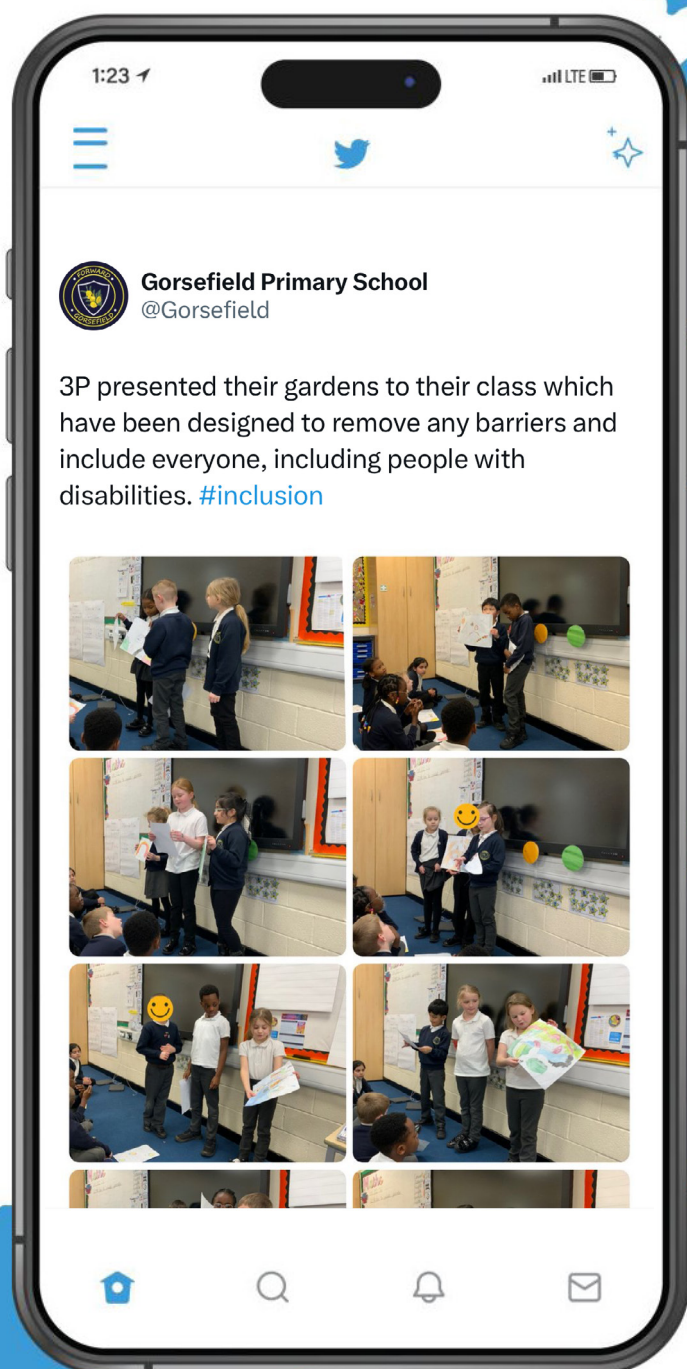


Christina

Christina Derbyshire- Director of Operations



Twitter/X





Twitter/X

