



# 2024 - 2026 Community Plan

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Marches Academy Trust



PRIMARK  
SAVE THE POUND

# Community within the Trust

The Marches Academy Trust's vision is 'Achievement Through Caring'. We believe that our children are part of our community of learners and as such we work hard to create a sense of belonging and connection in our family of schools. Our staff across the Trust work hard to form effective partnerships within each of our communities; it is this work that makes each school unique as each community has its own character.

I have put together examples of how each of our schools are building strong foundations in their communities that will help the school community to evolve and best serve the children. We also do all that we can to support all our children and young people to contribute and strengthen their own communities.

- The Trust has strengthened Local Governing Bodies (LGB) and built upon the lines of communication so that our Governors from all schools in the Trust feel connected and more importantly an integral part of the journey of the Trust.
- Our Trust has connected with Health, Police and Social Services in Shropshire to ensure that our children and communities are getting the support they need to thrive.
- The Trust has a successful partnership with Shrewsbury school. We are sharing good practice in maths, careers, Sixth Form, ExpertEd and the development of talented sports people.
- All schools are looking at ways to connect with their communities from open days at Longlands Primary School where the community were invited in to spend time in the social farm to the Marches School holding a kindness week, where they took cards with messages of gratitude to members of the Oswestry community.
- We are fortunate that the Rotarians based in each of the areas that our schools are located in are proactively involved in supporting our schools through mock interviews, mentoring and fundraising to support special projects.
- Our schools continue to play a vital role in collecting and distributing food parcels to their communities.
- The Trust has setup a connected charity, the 4 All Foundation to support our communities.

*Sarah*

**Sarah Finch**  
CEO, The Marches Academy Trust





Woodlands school is a vibrant community underpinned by diversity, unity and mutual respect. We especially strive for a neighbourhood where every voice is heard, every dream is nurtured and every individual is valued. We create a sustainable environment that fosters growth, encourages innovation and encourages a sense of belonging for all. We have high expectations for everyone but make sure that we offer high levels of support to help reach their goals.

Our curriculum links to real-world experiences to build relevant skills and supports engaging learning. Woodlands seeks and provides a wide range of enrichment activities, which takes the students out into the community and equally brings the community into Woodlands. These opportunities are not just an activity, but integral to nurturing every student's potential. All students can find their true potential through promoting student's voices in decision-making processes to give them a sense of ownership and responsibility in their community.

Woodlands school reaches out to the wider community through newsletters, social media and dedicated community leads. Ensuring our community is kept well informed about school initiatives and able to provide feedback and become involved.

Through these continued efforts, Woodlands is more than a place to come and learn. Woodlands is a place where education and the community spirit flourish and can be side by side. As we continue on our path to reach out and connect to those around us, we build a stronger and even more vibrant community for all.

We invite every member of our community to join hands in this journey. Their ideas, energy and passion are the fuel that drives us forward. Together we build a community that stands as a beacon of hope, harmony and prosperity.

*Julia*

**Julia Taylor**  
**Headteacher, Woodlands School**



# Working today to protect tomorrow

Marches Academy Trust is committed to creating schools of the future that promotes learning for life by ensuring we deliver our Trust core values of excellence, equality, integrity, empathy and creativity in everything that we do. An important part of this pivotal role includes the way we engage with our communities to ensure a sustainable, ethical and inclusive future.

Our Trust recognise it is critical to deliver inclusive education, sustainable environments and healthy spaces for all of our children and young people, staff and communities whilst minimising our impact on the environment and protecting the future of our planet.



We embrace our social obligation and recognise that as global citizens, we have a moral responsibility to contribute to the wellbeing of our environment and wider society. As such our Trust seeks to actively make socially responsible decisions in all it does so that together we can grow.



Marches Academy Trust

# Our Community Plan



Action / Aim	Time Frame
Engaging with Parents/Caregivers through Friends of Woodlands	
<p>Friends of Woodlands is a link between parents/carers and the school. Our friends are imperative to the way we do things at Woodlands. We would like to grow our members continuing our coffee mornings, selecting different locations and offering different events. We believe our friends have a real part in supporting driving improvements and creating an environment where every student has an opportunity to succeed.</p>	Ongoing
<p>The collaboration of the Friends of Woodlands and the school community to bring the collective meeting of school members, families of students and their siblings. All coming together in the local community through the arrangement of days in the school holidays. A collaboration where staff arrange and provide the activity e.g. football and picnics in the park. Families can come together in the community with the support of school. Students are more likely to develop this community mindset and the importance of cooperation and mutual support, which is a valuable life skill they can carry with them.</p>	Summer 2024 & Ongoing
Woodlands Summer Fayre	
<p>Each event where we open our arms and welcome the wider community is more than an invitation to the school it is an invitation to something much more - to be part of our family. The tradition of the Summer Fayre brings our family closer we open arms wide and welcome all.</p> <p>True aim year on year is to strengthen the bond within the Woodlands community as a whole family. Create and share memories and to celebrate another year of hard work through having fun and laughter with our Woodlands family and wider community.</p>	23/07/2024 & Ongoing

## Continuing presentation of window display in Wem Town Centre

As our local community passes by the window their gaze is often drawn to the glass encased canvas that seeks to capture the essence of school life. Through securing an extra two windows, three can be used to capture the collective spirit of our school. They will be designed to be more than visual treats but a literal window into our values and ethos.

Completion and in place by  
17th-24th June 2024 &  
Ongoing

## Woodlands Football Team

Our football team has instilled valuable life skills through teamwork, developing a positive culture through unity and achieving success. This is taken out into the community where the bonds are strengthened. Combined teamwork within the community creates a robust and resilient team capable of facing daily challenges. Aim is to continue to gain new students to join and extend the success of positive relations.

June/July 2024  
Reached the Final

Ongoing

## Christmas Bazaar

A joyful impact and a win – win for the students and the community. The Christmas bazaar gave students a social classroom where they are able to develop interpersonal skills. Learning the importance of teamwork, communication and leadership which are invaluable throughout life.

Extending this event further the Christmas bazaar offers students a unique experience of practical lessons in economics and entrepreneurships. Gaining the opportunity to set up stalls, manage budgets, learn the art of selling. Through hands-on experience and the creativity of crafting their own products, students can design marketing strategies to attract their customers.

December &  
Ongoing

## Celebration Days

Selected days are covered in school where students can paint their passions, concerns and hopes for the future. These days can cover many themes from Mental Health Day and Earth Day to International Women's Day and Anti-Bullying Day and let's not forget Sports Day.

Ongoing

## Results Day

Students returned to celebrate their success on results day for their GCSE's. Families, the unsung heroes of this journey joined with pride for a Woodlands breakfast as we shared the news locally and heard the success of our students. Their presence turned this personal milestone into a collective celebration and there was a palpable sense of unity.

As we continue to welcome our students back and celebrate their successes and achievements, we share their experiences with our local community and form enduring bonds.

Ongoing



# Case study



**The aim of this event was to create a festive and engaging celebration, through hands on entertainment and fun. Inviting our community into the Woodlands family to join us in a celebration of the festive season.**

On an afternoon in late December families and the local community were invited to Woodlands School to be a part of our Christmas Bazaar. Students and Staff put their creative expertise to work and made some beautiful crafts, food, games and much more to sell at the Bazaar, with local members of the community joining us to sell their own crafts.

The dining hall and gym transformed into a magical festive shopping, feast and activity experience. Stalls were visually appealing and child friendly offering a delight of entertainment, gifts, creativity and eats.


The joy and excitement on the student's faces as they proudly participated around the bazaar was priceless. The event became a display of community spirit, cultural richness and seasonal joy where families, friends and neighbours shared laughter, built friendships and gained stronger ties with the community all in the spirit of giving during the festive season.


The Christmas bazaar exemplifies how a school event can bring together students, parents, carers, staff and the local community for something beyond education. Highlighting the importance of community engagement and the positive outcomes such an event can bring. The occasion was a wonderful success bridging the gap between the Woodlands school and the community of friends, families and neighbours.



# CONTACT US

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