

Summer Term Newsletter 2026



As the Summer term comes to an end, we would like to recognise some of the many key events and milestones achieved across our family of academies.

Dr James Capper Reflects on the Summer Term



As we reach the close of another academic year, I have been reflecting on the difference that can be achieved when people share a common purpose. Across our Trust, that purpose remains clear: to provide every child with the opportunity to learn, thrive and fulfil their potential.

This edition of the newsletter celebrates the many ways in which our academies have brought that purpose to life over the past year. Whether through academic achievement, creative opportunities, sporting success or support for pupils' wellbeing, there is a common thread running throughout these stories—a commitment to ensuring that every child is given every chance to succeed.

What continues to impress me most is not simply the outcomes we achieve, but the dedication, care and professionalism shown by colleagues every day. Our teachers, support staff, leaders, governors and trustees work together with passion and determination, creating environments where children feel valued, challenged and inspired to achieve their best. I would like to thank every one of them for the contribution they make to our Trust.

This year has also seen us strengthen our collaboration across SUAT. By sharing expertise, learning from one another and continually reviewing how we work, we have continued to develop as a family of schools that is committed to improvement and excellence. These foundations will serve us well as we prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you enjoy celebrating the achievements of our pupils, staff and communities. Their stories are a reminder of what can be accomplished when talented people work together with ambition, kindness and a shared belief in the potential of every child.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you an enjoyable summer break.

Driving Improvement Through Collaboration and Shared Practice



Every academy within the Trust continues to benefit from a comprehensive and evolving school improvement offer, designed to provide both support and challenge to secure the best possible outcomes for pupils.

This year has seen continued development of a coherent, evidence-informed approach to school improvement, building on the established cycle of Teaching and Learning Reviews, Impact Reviews and bespoke school support. Professional development opportunities and leadership networks have expanded further, ensuring that all schools are supported to improve outcomes for children and young people.

A key priority has been the implementation of the Trust's Quality First Teaching programme, developed in response to internal reviews and external inspection findings. The programme has focused on improving the consistency and effectiveness of classroom practice, with leaders reporting positive impact on teaching, curriculum delivery and support for early career teachers.

Building leadership capacity across the Trust has remained a central focus. Subject leadership development has continued to strengthen curriculum leadership and monitoring, while wider leadership programmes and networks, including the Deputy Headteacher group, have supported leaders to develop confidence in strategic planning, staff development and school improvement.

The Trust's commitment to Early Years provision has also continued to grow through a strategic programme of support, including the EYFS conference, hub model and targeted monitoring visits. This approach has strengthened collaboration, improved consistency and supported leaders to evaluate and develop provision effectively across all settings.

A key strength of the Trust remains its ability to provide bespoke support tailored to the needs of individual schools. This has included leadership coaching, curriculum development, review work and targeted intervention planning, ensuring that support is timely, responsive and aligned to each school's priorities.

During 2025–26, the Trust has also strengthened its use of data through the development of a consistent, trust-wide approach to assessment and analysis. This has enhanced leaders' ability to identify priorities, monitor progress and ensure that improvement activity is informed by robust evidence, supporting greater accountability at all levels.

Safeguarding remains the Trust's highest priority, with continued focus on strengthening systems, improving consistency of practice and supporting designated leaders through training and professional networks.

As we look ahead, the Trust will continue to drive improvement through a clear and structured approach of: Assess → Identify → Act → Review → Adapt, ensuring that all activity is evidence-informed, carefully targeted and evaluated for impact.

SUAT Conference

'Every Child, Every Chance'

Built on a theme of "Every Child, Every Chance", the Trust's 2026 leadership conference took place on the University campus on Thursday 12th February, bringing our young people, colleagues and governance professionals together again for a day of effective networking, key collaboration and celebration. Thank you to members of Academy LACs who were able to join us on the day.

At our Annual Conference, Every Child, Every Chance, colleagues from across the Trust came together to reflect on our shared commitment to ensuring that every child is seen, heard, valued and supported to achieve their full potential. The conference celebrated the strength of our collaborative approach, recognising that by working together across our Trust and with our partners, we can create the best possible opportunities for all young people.

- Exploring how effective communication can help every child feel heard, understood and included in their learning journey
- Reflecting on inclusion and advocacy, ensuring that the needs, voices and experiences of all children remain at the heart of our work
- Developing a greater understanding of adverse childhood experiences and the positive impact education can have on improving outcomes for your people
- Strengthening partnerships with our University sponsor and wider stakeholders to support aspiration, opportunity and achievement.
- Sharing effective practice through workshops, networking, collaboration across our schools and professional communities
- Celebrating our collective commitment to creating environments where every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed

We welcome LAC members to provide feedback following the conference by completing the survey which can be found here: [Conference Feedback Survey](#). We use the feedback to shape and develop the next conference which is 11th February 2027.



John Wheeldon Primary Academy



In late June, EYFS children from John Wheeldon enjoyed an exciting visit to the Staffordshire History Centre. As the photos show, they especially loved dressing up, getting creative with crafts, and discovering traditional school games from the past.



John Wheeldon celebrated all of their staff as part of National Thank A Teacher Day on 17th June.

Each member of staff received a special thank you cupcake and some of the Year 6 Leadership Team hand-delivered the thank you cards that children, parents, and staff had completed.

The school really appreciate all of the special thank you messages they received!



All Saints CE Primary School



The Eco Committee at All Saints Bednall Primary School had the great idea of writing letters to local garden centres. On 24th March the school's Maths/Science Lead, Mrs Howarth, was invited to Hollybush Garden Centre to collect a donation of £150 worth of plants for the school!

The plan is for the school's children to plant them during their Wildlife Wednesday sessions.



Tynsel Parkes CE Primary Academy



Mrs Carter and the children in Tynsel Parkes' Nursery designed their very own nursery rhyme themed character. 'Tynsey Wincy Spider' was created for the St. Mary's Church Scarecrow Festival held between 22nd and 25th May.



Tynsel Parkes would like to thank everyone that sponsored the children for their PTFA Dance-a-Thon. The school was proud to announce that the event was a huge success with every child taking part and dancing non-stop.

The £2,802.04 raised will go towards school provisions and their iPad replacement project.



Church Eaton Primary School



On 25th June, Church Eaton Primary Academy had the privilege of welcoming their local MP, Leigh Ingram, to the school. Being located in such a rural community, it was great for the school to feel heard and supported.

Leigh met with the Church Eaton Champions who asked her lots of great questions, including finding out what her favourite sausage is!



The school thanked Leigh and her team for taking the time to visit and listen to all they had to say.

Church Eaton may be a small school but they have a big voice and loved the opportunity to share it.

In February, Church Eaton Primary Academy was delighted to receive 12 brand-new benches for their outdoor area. These were generously supplied by Mick Leonard of Best Benches, Wheaton Aston, funded through the incredible efforts of FranFest and the Church Eaton Big Camp Out.

FranFest began as an idea from Fran, the much-loved mother of one of the school's pupils, who sadly passed away. Her vision was to create a fun outdoor, festival-style camping event for the school community. Following her passing, a group of dedicated parents brought this idea to life in her memory, raising funds for both charity and the school.

The school is incredibly grateful for the generosity and community spirit behind this special event, which continues to make a lasting difference for pupils. They look forward to attending the next Big Camp Out and celebrating all that it represents.



St Leonard's CE First School and Nursery



St Leonard's CE First School and Nursery held their annual Sports Day on 18th June, with pupils taking part in a range of traditional track and field events, including running races and throwing competitions.

The day was filled with enthusiasm, determination, and excellent sportsmanship from all participants. After a closely contested competition, Team Holly emerged victorious, earning the coveted title of Sports Day champions. Congratulations to all pupils for their outstanding efforts and positive participation throughout the day.



To mark the end of the May half-term, St Leonard's School Council hosted a successful cake sale, raising an impressive £75.75.

The school would like to thank everyone who supported the event. The money raised will be used to purchase new Forest School equipment, helping to enhance outdoor learning opportunities and providing resources that all children will be able to enjoy.





St Edward's CE Academy

With spring in full swing, St Edward's welcomed some special new arrivals. Over a number of weeks, pupils and staff observed chicks hatching from eggs in an incubator, providing a fascinating opportunity to witness the early stages of life.

Pupils were captivated by the process, watching the transformation from egg to chick and learning about how living things grow and develop. Some pupils also had the opportunity to gently hold the chicks, helping to build confidence while fostering a sense of care and respect for animals.



In total, the school has welcomed five chicks, which will now become part of its growing cohort of animals. As part of the learning experience, pupils take on the role of animal ambassadors, helping to care for the animals through feeding and maintaining their environment. This hands-on responsibility supports the development of empathy, teamwork and a strong sense of responsibility.



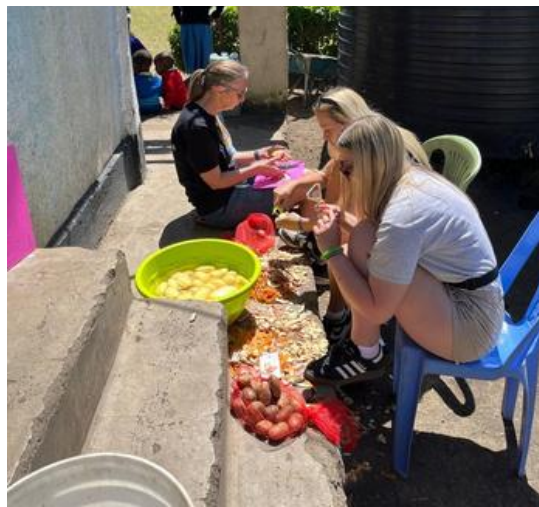
All Saints CE Academy, Denstone



During the May half-term break, several staff members at All Saints CE Academy travelled to Kenya to deliver donations. These were all very much appreciated by the children as the staff members received a warm welcome.

Class resources were used by local teachers as the children decorated masks, learned some phonics sounds, had a lesson about hygiene and played bingo. Further activities include planting trees as well as handing out books and setting up classroom bookcases.

During a Donations Day, children received new clothes, shoes, toys, and toiletries. On the final day, staff members provided a full lunch of chicken, vegetables, and fruits. The real highlight was saved to last, several delicious cakes which was a first for many children.





St Peter's CE Academy



St Peter's Primary Academy recently welcomed author Tim Jorden, for an engaging and inspiring visit. Pupils enjoyed learning about The Adventures of Poppy and Lord Ted and took part in a range of interactive workshops within their classes.

To conclude the day, pupils were given the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of one of Tim's books, providing a memorable end to a highly enjoyable experience.

Despite the wind and rain, pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at Peak Wildlife Park. They encountered a variety of animals and took part in engaging workshops, making the most of the experience.

The weather did little to dampen spirits, with pupils showing enthusiasm and resilience throughout, ensuring it was a memorable and enjoyable visit for all.



The school was also lucky to welcome Hoglets Wildlife Education. Each class had a turn taking part in fun activities and getting to see some real-life owls up close!

Class 1 listened to the story, Owl Babies, acted it out beautifully, and created their own Owl Baby pictures. Classes 2 and 3 created food chains for different animals.

All classes took part in hunting for mice and played a game where they had to creep quietly to steal a mouse without being heard. The children absolutely loved meeting the owls and learning more about them.



Severn Trent visited the school to introduce pupils to the wonderful world of water.

During the session, pupils learned about the water cycle and the incredible journey water takes before it reaches our taps. They also explored what happens to wastewater, gaining insight into the important processes involved in keeping water clean and safe.



Perton Primary Academy



On 11th June, Key Stage 1 pupils from Perton Primary Academy attended a special children's author event at Perton Middle School.

The interactive session welcomed 350 pupils from eight local schools and featured author and illustrator Steve Antony, who introduced his new book, Super Mr Panda. Children enjoyed listening to the story, learning how to draw a panda, and taking part in the engaging activities throughout the event.

Many pupils also had the opportunity to have their books personally signed by Steve Antony, making it a memorable experience. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided a wonderful opportunity to inspire a love of reading and creativity.



Perton Primary Academy's annual May Fayre, held on 21st May, was a tremendous success, raising an impressive £2,459.45 to support future school trips and projects that help pupils learn, grow, and thrive.

The event was packed with fun for all ages, featuring games, face painting, tombolas, a barbecue, and even a bouncy castle. Visitors were also able to purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win Brownie the rocking horse, adding to the excitement of the day.



A huge thank you goes to everyone who attended, volunteered, and supported the fayre, helping to make it such a successful and enjoyable community event.

Horton St Michael's CE First School and Nursery



Horton St Michael's CE First School and Nursery hosted a wonderful community afternoon tea on 15 April, welcoming members of the local over-60s community. Guests were warmly served by Key Stage 2 pupils, who impressed throughout with their kindness, politeness and enthusiasm.

Over tea and homemade treats, the pupils truly shone — engaging in conversation, offering attentive service and creating a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere for all who attended.



The school was especially proud of how confidently pupils engaged with their visitors, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

It was a wonderful opportunity to bring different generations together, and the school is extremely grateful to all those who attended and contributed to such a memorable event.

On 6th May, the school hosted a Multi-Faith Day, bringing together pupils from Years 3 and 4 alongside their peers from other Saints Federation schools. The children enjoyed a range of interactive and engaging activities, exploring different beliefs, cultures and traditions in a fun and meaningful way.

The day provided a valuable opportunity to learn from one another, celebrate diversity and strengthen friendships across the Federation.



One of the sessions explored the relationship between faith and science, where pupils had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities using a range of scientific equipment. It was wonderful to see them working collaboratively, sharing ideas and demonstrating curiosity and respect throughout.

The school was incredibly proud of how pupils represented their community — embracing diversity, building connections and reflecting the shared values at the heart of the Federation.



St Augustine's CE Academy

St Augustine's CE Academy continued its long-standing partnership with Burton Albion Community Trust by hosting a community walk on 5th June.

Class 3 welcomed visitors to the school before enjoying a sunny walk around Draycott in the Clay. Following the walk, the children served cakes and refreshments to their guests and spent time chatting together. They also treated visitors to a special preview of their upcoming school show by performing a selection of songs.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together and was enjoyed by everyone involved. St Augustine's always looks forward to these community walks, which have become a much-loved summer term tradition.



The Friends of St Augustine's Academy (FOSAA) hosted their first-ever Community Summer Fair on 28th June, bringing together families, friends, and members of the local community for a fantastic afternoon of fun.

Bathed in glorious sunshine, the event featured a variety of stalls, delicious food, raffles, and plenty of entertainment. A particular highlight was the visit from Hall Flatts Farm, who kindly loaned the school a tractor and brought along some friendly lambs for visitors to meet.

The fair was a wonderful success and a great opportunity for the school community to come together and celebrate the end of another busy and successful school year.

Boney Hay Primary Academy



During the middle of May, the Year 6 pupils at Boney Hay completed their SATs. Throughout the week, the pupils truly embodied the school's values of Resilience by persevering through challenges, Teamwork by supporting and encouraging one another, and Honesty in giving their very best effort every single day. They also demonstrated great Adventure in embracing this milestone with such positive attitudes.

The week can be demanding, but the pupils rose to the occasion brilliantly and the school is incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



Boney Hay also had a visit from Burntwood Rotary Club in early June to help create some beautiful new flower beds in their sensory garden.

Their hard work and generosity has transformed the space into a welcoming environment full of colour, texture, and fragrance for all of their children to enjoy.



Westlands Primary School



Before Easter, Westlands Primary School opened its new library, imaginatively named the 'Reading Realm'. The space has already proved a great success, capturing pupils' enthusiasm and fostering a love of reading.

Pupils have enjoyed discovering new stories and engaging with visiting authors, who have brought their books to life and inspired a shared excitement around reading.



The first pupil to step inside the new library was talented Year 4 student, Izzy, who also unveiled her beautifully designed sign for the Reading Realm, now proudly displayed on the door.



Local author Melanie Seiver was invited as guest of honour to formally open the library, sharing her book *Polly Pin* with pupils. The school also received messages of support from fellow children's authors, including Alex Foulkes, author of the *Rules for Vampires* series, and author and illustrator Nick Sharratt.

The Reading Realm will now be cared for by the school's dedicated reading ambassadors, who will play an important role in supporting and promoting a love of reading across the school.



Littleton Green Community School



Year 4 pupils at Littleton Green Community School have been busy exploring art in the style of sculptor El Anatsui, using recycled materials to create their own stunning pieces.

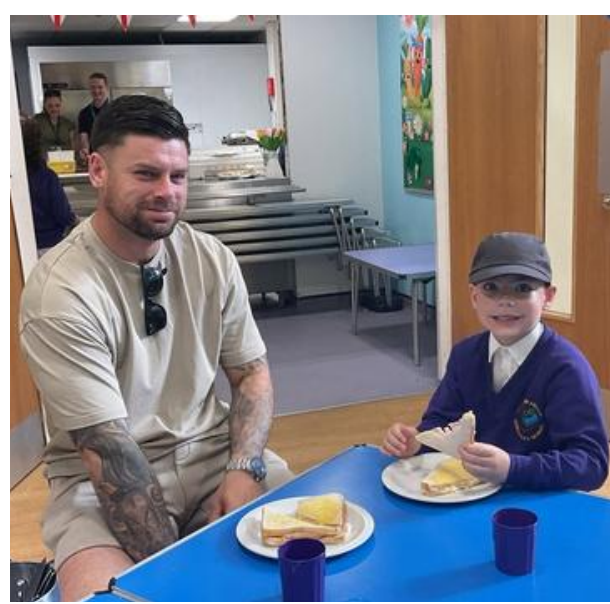
As part of their 'Recycle and Recreate' project, the children experimented with a wide range of materials, transforming everyday items into imaginative and expressive artwork. They explored how texture, pattern and arrangement can turn simple recycled objects into something truly special.

It was wonderful to see their creativity shine, while also developing an understanding of the importance of recycling and sustainability.



Littleton Green marked Father's Day with a special community breakfast on 19th June, celebrating the wonderful gentlemen, dads, grandads, carers and role models in their community.

It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come together, enjoy quality time and create lasting memories with the important men in their lives.



Little Aston Primary Academy



On 15th May, the outdoor areas at Little Aston Primary Academy were transformed thanks to a fantastic team of volunteers. Throughout the day, they got stuck into jet washing, painting and gardening, and even created a brand-new stage for singing and dancing – a wonderful addition for the children to enjoy.

A generous donation also supported the project, providing gravel, paint and membrane materials. Outdoor learning plays a vital role in promoting creativity, collaboration, wellbeing and active, hands-on experiences, and the school is excited to begin using these fantastic new spaces.



Reception pupils at Little Aston have been working hard to create their very own Dinosaur Museum. Following extensive research over the half term, they have created, written and presented their findings using a range of media, developing fantastic knowledge and growing in confidence along the way.

Their classroom has become a true celebration of their learning and creativity, and the school is incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



Charnwood Primary Academy



Charnwood Primary Academy recently welcomed Reception and Nursery pupils who will be joining the school in September for a special open evening.

Around 90% of new pupils attended with their families, demonstrating the strong engagement and support within the school community. The event was coordinated by EYFS Lead Nicola Turner, who invited a range of key partners and stakeholders to help families feel informed and prepared for the transition to school.

Parents and carers had the opportunity to meet members of the Local Academy Council, sample food from the school's catering team, connect with the Parents and Friends Association (PFA), and speak with the school's uniform supplier. Families were also able to meet representatives from JC Academy, the school's wraparound care provider, helping to build early relationships and gain a clear understanding of the support available.

The evening provided a warm and welcoming introduction to life at Charnwood, and the school looks forward to welcoming its new pupils in September.



Parents were also given the opportunity to speak directly with school staff, visit classrooms and take part in a refresher presentation, helping to reinforce key information and build confidence ahead of September. Families left with thoughtfully prepared goodie bags, created by our Nursery Lead, Natalie Todd.

Each child received a mascot — a Highland Cow, kindly funded by the PFA — alongside a handmade ladybird, crafted by Nursery Practitioner Amanda Valauga. The mascots were accompanied by a booklet, carefully developed by Natalie, to support families in preparing their child for school and ease the transition into their new class in September.

This well-planned and welcoming experience truly reflected the school's motto: 'Inspire, Nurture, Achieve'.

Moorgate Primary Academy



Year 3 and 4 pupils at Moorgate Primary Academy recently enjoyed an enriching visit to the University of Birmingham, where they took on the role of young scientists for the day. During the visit, pupils explored DNA, investigated how batteries work and even created their own slime.

One of the highlights was constructing DNA strands using sweets, an activity that captured pupils' enthusiasm and brought learning to life in a fun and memorable way.



Over the past three years, Moorgate has developed a strong partnership with the University of Birmingham and the Royal Society of Chemistry, with pupils regularly visiting university science laboratories.

This work has been made possible thanks to the commitment of parent and Local Academy Council member, Dr Zoe Schnepf, who regularly supports the school with teaching and curriculum development, bringing both expertise and enthusiasm.

The impact of this partnership was further recognised during a visit from the local MP, Sarah Edwards. Organised by Dr Schnepf, the visit provided an opportunity to showcase the school's collaboration with the University of Birmingham and the Royal Society of Chemistry, celebrating the rich scientific opportunities available to pupils.

During the visit, Sarah Edwards also met with female members of the School Council to discuss women's rights and how opportunities for women, including the right to vote, have evolved over the past century.

The school is incredibly proud of its pupils. Whether representing the school beyond the classroom or welcoming visitors into their learning environment, pupils have consistently demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity and exemplary behaviour. The university team and visitors alike were highly impressed by the children and the experience they provided.



St Paul's CE First School



This summer term, St Paul's CE First School launched its new Forest School provision, giving pupils the opportunity to take part in enriching, hands-on learning experiences in a natural outdoor environment.

The programme is designed to develop confidence, resilience, and independence, while encouraging a lifelong appreciation of the natural world. Through a range of carefully planned activities, including den building, tool use, fire lighting, environmental exploration, and team challenges, pupils are supported to take managed risks, think creatively, solve problems, and work collaboratively with their peers.

The introduction of Forest School has been an exciting addition to school life, providing valuable opportunities for pupils to learn, grow, and thrive beyond the classroom.



Forest School supports both personal and academic development, helping pupils to build confidence, communication skills, emotional wellbeing, and curiosity through meaningful outdoor experiences.

By learning outdoors throughout the seasons, pupils develop a deeper understanding of themselves, their environment, and the importance of caring for the natural world. Regular sessions provide opportunities to explore, discover, and reflect, nurturing a sense of responsibility while strengthening connections with nature.

The programme is already having a positive impact, encouraging pupils to become more resilient, independent, and engaged learners both in and beyond the classroom.

Staffordshire University Academy



The Student Council from Staffordshire University Academy visited the Houses of Parliament at the end of April to take part in a politics workshop. Students were given a guided tour of the historic building by the academy's own knowledgeable and engaging guide, Nathan.

Staffordshire University Academy would also like to congratulate its Year 11 students on completing their GCSE examinations. Throughout the examination period, students demonstrated maturity, determination and resilience, approaching this important stage of their education with focus and commitment.

The academy marked the end of their journey with a Leavers' Assembly, providing an opportunity to reflect on their time at the academy, celebrate shared memories and wish them every success for the future.



In February, Year 7 students at Staffordshire University Academy took part in a tree-planting environmental project at The Skelly in Hednesford, helping to enhance the local area. Their efforts were recognised in the Cannock Chronicle, highlighting the positive impact of the project.

It has been wonderful to see the trees beginning to flourish, serving as a lasting reminder of the students' contribution to the community. Their commitment and hard work will support the environment for years to come.

Thank you!



As we reach the end of another successful term, we would like to thank all colleagues across the Trust for their dedication, commitment, and hard work in supporting better outcomes for our pupils and students. Your efforts continue to make a lasting difference across our learning communities and the wider SUAT family of schools, helping young people to thrive throughout their educational journeys and beyond.

We are grateful to every member of staff for the contribution they make to our shared mission and values. Our thanks also extend to our governance professionals, sponsor, professional partners, volunteers, and wider school communities for their continued support of our academies and the Trust as a whole.

Together, your commitment, expertise, and encouragement help strengthen our schools and create opportunities for the children and young people we serve. We greatly value your contribution and look forward to continuing our work together in the new academic year

Email: office@suatrust.co.uk

Phone: 01782 987120

Website: suatrust.co.uk

Staffordshire University Academies Trust

Ashley 2 Building

Staffordshire University

Leek Road,

Stoke on Trent,

ST4 2DF