

GOVERNANCE

This term :

**Trustee and Member Updates
Celebrating Summer Results
Training and Compliance
Timi Champions
& Anthem Aspire**

Dear Trustees, ACC members and Governance Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Trustees, Members, ACC members, Resolution Team and governance volunteers for their time, expertise and commitment you continue to dedicate to our Trust, schools and communities. Your contribution plays a vital role in strengthening governance, supporting and celebrating our schools and communities, providing effective challenge and helping to ensure the very best experiences and outcomes for children and young people across Anthem.

In this edition of the Governance Newsletter, we share some exciting developments across governance, celebrate achievements from the summer term, and highlight opportunities to get involved during the year ahead.

Celebrating Anthem's Summer Results

Anthem's provisional 2026 Key Stage 2 SATs results reflect a strong year for our primary schools.

Across the Trust, 74% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined—an increase of 2 percentage points from 2025 and 11 percentage points above the provisional national average of 63%. The Trust-wide result may rise to 75% following the remarks process.

Key Stage 2 highlights

- At Abacus Belsize Primary School, 100% of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined, with 42% attaining the higher standard.
- All Saints Junior School achieved 92% at the expected standard, including one pupil who achieved the maximum scaled score of 120 in every assessment.
- Grampian Primary Academy and Benjamin Adlard Primary School each improved their combined expected-standard outcomes by 15 percentage points.
- Across Anthem, 61% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium achieved the expected standard, while outcomes for pupils receiving SEND Support and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan were also above the latest national comparisons for their respective groups.



These Key Stage 2 results build on strong primary outcomes across the Early Years Foundation Stage, Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.

Congratulations to all Year 6 pupils across Anthem who completed their Key Stage 2 SATs this summer. We recognise the effort, resilience and commitment they demonstrated throughout the year and are very proud of their achievements. We also thank teachers, support staff, school leaders and families for the encouragement, guidance and care they provided throughout pupils' primary education.



GCSE results

Our provisional GCSE results for 2026 are the strongest in the Trust's history, demonstrating continued improvement in attainment across our secondary schools.

Across our secondary schools:

- The proportion of students achieving Grade 4+ in both English and Mathematics increased by 3 percentage points to 66%, exceeding last year's national average of 64.8%.
- The proportion achieving Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics increased by 3 percentage points to 42%.
- The proportion achieving Grade 7+ in English and Mathematics increased by 2 percentage points to 10%.
- Our Attainment 8 score improved from 42.41 to 43.6.

School highlights:

- Queensbury Academy improved to 61% at Grade 4+ and 39% at Grade 5+.
- The Deepings School improved to 65% at Grade 4+ and 35% at Grade 5+.
- Oxford Spires Academy achieved 72% at Grade 4+ and 52% at Grade 5+.
- St Mark's Church of England Academy achieved 64% at Grade 4+ and 40% at Grade 5+.

Congratulations to all students across Anthem Schools Trust who received their GCSE results this summer. We recognise the hard work, determination and commitment shown throughout their studies and are incredibly proud of their achievements.

These results reflect the dedication of students, families, staff, leaders, volunteers and communities across Anthem, and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to supporting our children and young people and helping them to thrive and succeed.



We are looking forward to working with you throughout the year, sharing good news, celebrating successes, supporting our schools and communities, and continuing to strengthen governance across Anthem for the benefit of children and young people.



Governance Team Update

We wanted to share a brief update from the Governance Team.

From September, Alison White has taken up the role of Head of Governance and Community Engagement. Many of you will already know Alison through her work across Anthem over the past two years, supporting schools, building connections across our communities and working alongside many of you in your governance roles.

Alison will continue to work alongside Ajantha Antoinette, who remains in her role as Governance Professional. Together, they will support governance across the Trust, helping to ensure you have the information, guidance and support you need to make a positive impact within your school and community.

We are looking forward to working with you throughout the year, sharing good news, celebrating successes, supporting our schools and communities, and continuing to strengthen governance across Anthem for the benefit of children and young people.

Resolution Team Update

Following Board approval earlier this year, Anthem has established a Resolution Team, creating a dedicated pool of trained volunteers to support schools with Governors Disciplinary Committees (GDCs), HR hearings and Complaints Panels across the Trust.

The Resolution Team has been established to strengthen panel capacity across the Trust, giving schools access to a wider pool of trained volunteers when hearings are required. As well as improving availability and resilience, the initiative provides opportunities for volunteers to develop their experience and expertise while helping to support the wellbeing of those undertaking panel work. If you wish to join our Resolution Team to help with panels and hearings please let us know, full training and support provided.



Governance Resolution Team Terms of Reference

[Please click here to read our Terms of Reference](#)



Governance Resolution Team Application Form

[Please click here to apply.](#)

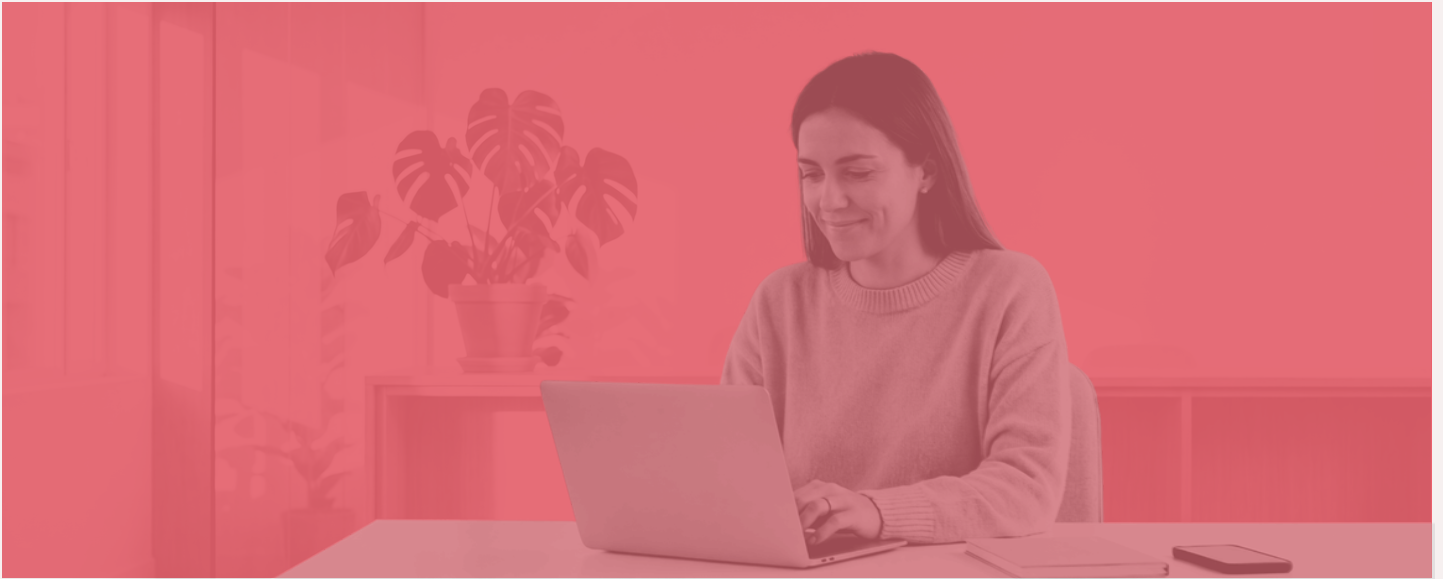
Governance Training and Compliance

A gentle reminder that mandatory training and compliance requirements should be completed within the required timescales to help ensure we remain compliant across the Trust.

We are pleased to confirm that governance training has now fully transitioned to Flick Learning, providing one central place to access your training and development resources. Alongside the annual governance training that moved to Flick last year, both Safeguarding and GDC training will now also be available through the platform, creating a more accessible learning experience. If you do not have access to Flick Learning yet, please get in touch.

As in previous years, compliance completion rates will be monitored and reported through governance channels. We are also planning to discuss compliance completion rates and training progress as part of upcoming ACC meetings to help ensure all volunteers remain up to date with their mandatory requirements.





ACC Updates and New Appointments

A huge thank you to all of our ACC Chairs and ACC members for your commitment, support and contribution throughout the last academic year. The time, experience and enthusiasm you bring to your role makes a real difference to our schools and communities, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to those who joined an ACC during the summer term. We are delighted to have you as part of our governance community and look forward to working with you.

A special welcome goes to Andrew Imms, who joined Mount Street Academy as ACC Chair during the summer term. We are delighted to have Andrew on board and wish him every success in his new role.

We would also like to congratulate Liz Miller on her appointment as ACC Chair at Oxford Spires Academy. We are delighted to welcome Liz to the role and look forward to working with her.

Governance Vacancies

We currently have a number of governance vacancies across Anthem Schools Trust and would welcome your support in helping us identify potential volunteers.

If you know individuals within your professional networks, local communities, workplaces or organisations who may be interested in making a difference to the lives of children and young people, we would be grateful if you could share these opportunities with them.

Recommendations, referrals and introductions are always appreciated and play an important role in helping us attract talented and committed volunteers.

School	Community ACC Member, Parent/Carer ACC Member, with various Champion roles available
Abbey Woods Academy	5
All Saints Junior School	6
The Deepings	5
Grampian Primary Academy	5
Meadow Park Academy	4

Apply to become a Governance Volunteer

[Please click here to apply.](#)

Please feel free to share these opportunities across your networks. Word-of-mouth recommendations continue to be one of the most effective ways of identifying individuals who can bring valuable skills, experience and perspectives to governance across Anthem.

Anthem Aspire

Anthem Aspire reflects Anthem's commitment to every student, every lesson, all the time, helping to ensure that all students, whatever their background or circumstances, can access enriching opportunities that build confidence, courage and aspiration. Through music, creative writing, sport, outdoor learning and public speaking, the programme opens doors for young people who might otherwise miss out. Highlights include outdoor residential experiences for 151 students from nine Anthem schools, music opportunities with leading organisations and public-speaking programmes delivered with the English-Speaking Union.

Anthem Aspire is funded through voluntary contributions, enabling the programme to provide these opportunities without placing additional pressure on school budgets or families. Continued support is vital to help more students benefit. You can contribute by donating through the [Anthem Aspire JustGiving campaign](#), sharing it with your networks or encouraging local businesses and community partners to get involved. Every donation, large or small, helps broaden students' experiences and raise their aspirations.

Confidence Changes Everything





Have you explored the Anthem Aspire Annual Review 2025–26?

Discover how the programme's first year has helped children across Anthem schools build confidence, resilience and self-belief through life-changing experiences.

The review celebrates young people trying new things, broadening their horizons and developing skills and aspirations for the future.

anthem

Anthem Aspire: Annual Review 2025-26

Confidence changes everything



Timi Champions

Timi Champions play an important role in ensuring that student voice is represented within governance across Anthem. By gathering the views of students in their schools and sharing them at Anthem Community Council meetings and Timi Champion forums, they help ACC members, Trustees and school leaders understand students' experiences and the changes they would like to see.

The last topic explored by Timi Champions was reading for pleasure. Students shared the types of books they enjoy, where they like to read and what helps make reading an enjoyable experience. Their feedback highlighted the importance of having a wide choice of books, time to read, supportive teachers and librarians, and calm, welcoming reading spaces. They also suggested practical ideas such as book swaps, recommendations from other students, protected reading time and reading competitions. One proposal was an Anthem-wide reading competition, which is now being explored with a small group of Timi Champions helping to develop the idea.

The annual London Timi Champion forum was a great success. In July, 24 Timi Champions from Anthem primary and secondary schools came together at the Westminster Archives Centre. The day included a public-speaking workshop delivered by Speakers Trust, where students developed their confidence, communication and leadership skills. They also reflected on their work as student representatives and explored how they can continue to champion positive change within their school communities. The day concluded with a walking tour of London landmarks, including Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, St James's Park and Buckingham Palace. The forum was a positive way to celebrate the Champions' contributions, strengthen connections across Anthem and prepare them to continue representing student voice in the year ahead.

Have a read of the latest Timi Champion Newsletter to learn more about the activities, feedback and opportunities available to our Timi Champions.

[Click here to read our Timi Champions Newsletter Sept 2026.](#)



Champion Forums

As we begin the new academic year, we are pleased to offer a varied programme of Champion Forums across Anthem. In response to feedback received last year, this year the forums will be spread throughout the year, giving ACC Chairs and ACC Champions time to plan ahead and attend the sessions linked to their roles. Those who wish to broaden their knowledge and learn more about other ACC Champion roles will also be welcome to attend more than one forum.

Each session will provide an opportunity to share effective practice, exchange ideas and strengthen connections across our governance community. If you would like to attend more than one Champion Forum, please email me and I will be happy to send you the relevant calendar invitations. A member of the Executive Team and the Trustee linked to the relevant Champion area are also expected to attend each forum.

The proposed programme for 2026–27 includes:

Champion Forum	Date	Time
Chairs Forum	Wednesday 4 November 2026	4.00–5.00 pm
Safeguarding Champion Forum	Wednesday 9 December 2026	4.00–5.00 pm
Timi Champion Forum	Thursday 10 December 2026	3.00–4.00 pm
SEND Champion Forum	Thursday 14 January 2027	4.00–5.00 pm
Timi Champion Forum	Wednesday 10 March 2027	3.00–4.00 pm
Community Champion Forum	Thursday 11 March 2027	4.00–5.00 pm
Staff Champion Forum	Wednesday 21 April 2027	4.00–5.00 pm
Parent/Carer Champion Forum	Thursday 20 May 2027	4.00–5.00 pm
Climate Change & Sustainability Champion Forum	Wednesday 30 June 2027	4.00–5.00 pm
Timi Champion Forum	Thursday 1 July 2027	3.00–4.00 pm
Timi Champion Forum – London Day	Thursday 8 July 2027	Full day
Chairs Forum	Thursday 15 July 2027	4.00–5.00 pm

ACC Chair and Champion Forums will usually take place **from 4.00 to 5.00 pm**, while Timi Champion Forums will be held **from 3.00 to 4.00 pm**. Calendar invitations will be sent shortly.

We request you to confirm your attendance by accepting or declining the relevant calendar invitation. This will help us plan each forum effectively and shape the sessions around those attending.

This year, the forums will place greater emphasis on practical discussions, sharing effective practice across schools and creating more opportunities for Champions to share their experiences and ideas. We look forward to your participation and valuable contributions.



Trustee and Member Updates

We are delighted to welcome Professor Deborah Eyre, who joined Anthem as a Trustee during the summer term. Deborah is an internationally recognised educational leader, researcher and author. She is currently Founder and Chief Executive of High Performance Learning, a social enterprise that works with schools to develop high-performing students and achieve world-class outcomes. Her previous roles include Global Education Director at Nord Anglia Education and Director of the UK National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth. She has also held a range of non-executive and advisory positions, including Vice Chair of Trustees and Chair of the Impact Committee at River Learning Trust. Her extensive expertise in educational strategy, school improvement, research-informed practice and governance will make a valuable contribution to the Board and wider Trust.

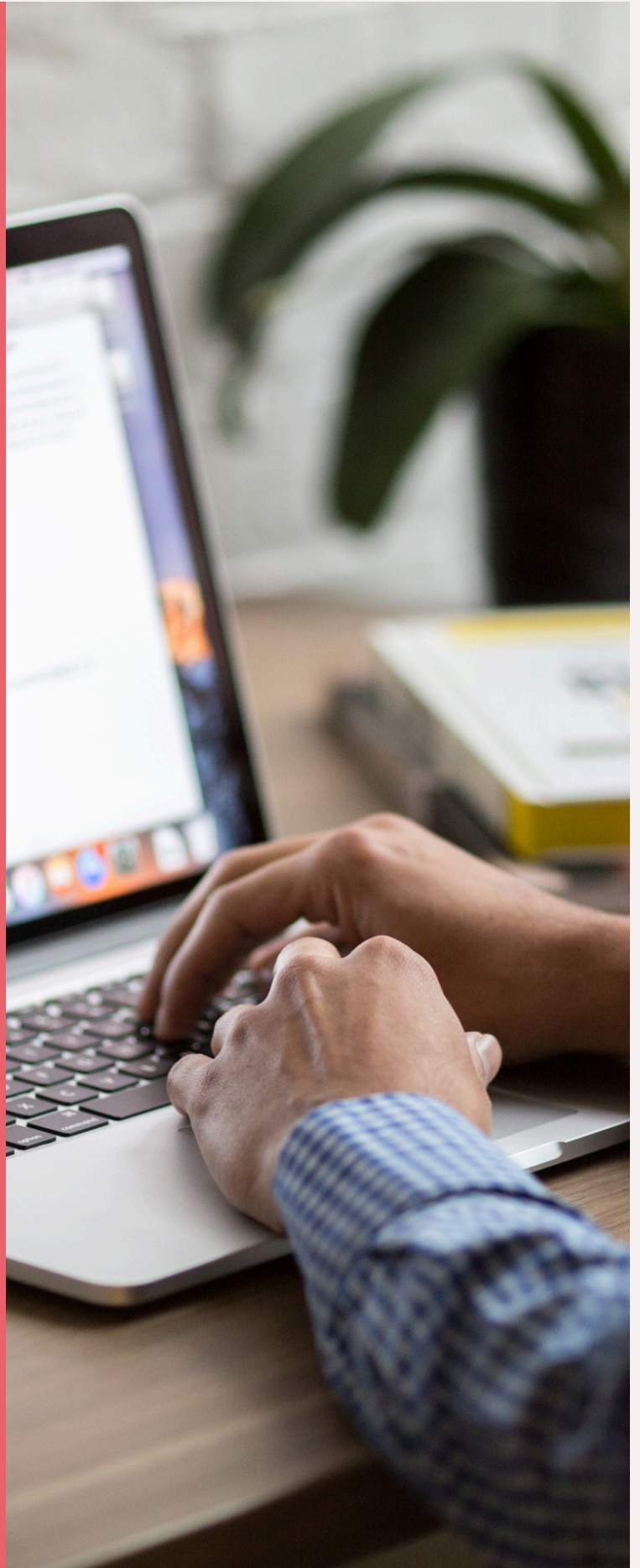
We are also pleased to welcome Rebecca Leek and Martha Burnige, who were appointed as Trust Members. Rebecca is an experienced education leader whose career spans headship, trust leadership, school improvement and SEND. She is currently Executive Director of the Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association. Her previous roles include Chief Executive of a primary multi-academy trust, Director of Strategy and Executive Headteacher. Martha is a qualified solicitor with extensive experience in education and charity law. She currently serves as Executive Vice President at Pansophic Learning UK, where she oversees schools internationally and chairs a UK multi-academy trust. Their combined expertise in educational leadership, governance, law and trust oversight will support Anthem's governance and long-term strategic direction.

Stay Connected

If you would like further information on any of the topics covered in this update, or if there are governance matters that you would like to learn more about, please do not hesitate to contact the Governance Team:

✉ governance@anthemtrust.uk

Thank you for your continued commitment to Anthem Schools Trust and for the valuable contribution you make to our children, young people, schools and communities.





anthem