

Parent and Carer Newsletter

May 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first two months as Amplify, it feels important to pause and reflect—both on what we've already begun to achieve together, and on where we know we can continue to grow.

Bringing our schools together to form Amplify has been an ambitious step, and already we are seeing the power of that decision in action. Across the Trust, staff and pupils have embraced new opportunities to collaborate, share expertise and create richer experiences for our young people. Events such as our recent Trust-wide concert, alongside growing partnerships across the city and beyond, are early examples of what becomes possible when we work together at scale.

Today, Amplify serves around 20% of Bristol's young people. With that comes both an opportunity and a responsibility—to be ambitious for every child, in every classroom, in every community we serve. Our aim is not simply to maintain what we had before, but to build something stronger, more connected and more impactful for the future.

At the same time, we know that building a new organisation takes time. As we continue to align our systems, processes and ways of working, we recognise that there is more to do. Listening carefully to feedback from our schools, families and communities will remain a vital part of how we move forward. Being reflective—and open to doing things better—is as important to us as being ambitious.

We are proud of the strong start we have made, and even more excited about what lies ahead. Thank you for your continued support as we build Amplify together.

Neil Blundell
CEO



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Ambitious



All Together Now! was always meant to be more than just a gala concert. Indeed it was a spectacular event featuring over 400 young people from Amplify, over 30 colleagues from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire all in the world-class venue of Bristol Beacon. There was a palpable sense of excitement in the air as the opening fanfare started the show. The next 45 minutes included hits such as "Don't You Worry 'Bout A Thing" for Big Band and a sublime choral performance of "Wayfaring Stranger". The first half finished with everyone - audience included - performing "Everyday" led by RSVP Bhangra. The second half focused on orchestral music with 70 Primary School Pupils performing the BBC Ten Pieces arrangement of "Dr Who", supported expertly by members of RBC's LEAP Ensemble. The finale, "Connect", was breathtaking. This was a world premiere of a 5-movement piece written by Amplify Music students in collaboration with RBC composers. The piece completed the concert with positivity and togetherness.

Seeing so many communities come together was testament to the power of music. The auditorium was filled with people of all ages, multiple backgrounds and varying levels of musical experience. The process over the last few months taught students that practice and self-discipline are important. The whole endeavour reminds us all how to work in a team and reinforces that we can all be successful when we 'Connect.' - Andi Nicholls, Director of Music Specialism, Amplify

Reflective



As a newly merged Trust, we are committed to being reflective in everything we do – taking time to listen, learn and improve.

It has now been just over three months since the formation of Amplify, and we are already beginning to align our central services to better support our schools. Throughout this process, we are making sure that staff feedback is heard and that decisions are carefully considered, with the wider organisation in mind. At every stage, we reflect on the impact of these decisions, always keeping our young people at the heart of what we do.

We are also reflecting on how we continue to strengthen relationships with our families and communities. We know that many parents may not yet feel familiar with Amplify as a Trust, and we want to do more to share who we are, why we came together, and what this means for your child.

Communication is an important part of this. We regularly reflect on how we engage with you, recognising that what matters most is your child's experience at their school. Our aim is to ensure that Trust-wide communication adds value, while always respecting the importance of strong, local school relationships.

We are always listening and want to hear what matters most to you. You can share your feedback with us at any time by scanning the QR code below – your views help shape how we continue to improve.

As we move forward, we will continue to listen, reflect and build on what is working well, so that we can provide the best possible opportunities for every child across Amplify.

[Click here for feedback survey.](#)



Partnership with Bristol Beacon

We're delighted to be named the lead Trust partner working with the Bristol Beacon.

This partnership builds on a shared belief in the power of music, creativity and high-quality performance to inspire young people, raise aspirations and create memorable learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Following Wednesday's incredible Trust concert, this feels like the perfect moment to look ahead to what we can achieve together – creating opportunities for pupils and staff, strengthening cultural connections across the city, and amplifying young voices on some truly special stages.

We can't wait to share more as this partnership develops.



Staff spotlight



Becky Stewart and Jo Davis Henbury Court Primary Academy

Jo and Becky play a significant part in our attendance and wellbeing team. They are responsible for refining and implementing a bespoke approach to school attendance which last term saw the school above national average for England despite being in an area of high social deprivation. They have overseen a 1.5% increase in attendance over 1 academic year with one week last term at 98%.

They have built individual relationships with families with complexities that range from safeguarding concerns, parental mental health, anxiety and EBSNA. They visit homes daily to support regular, predictable school routines and have built meaningful relationships with the children and families in our community.

Their work could go unnoticed so we would like to spotlight them both to say well done and thank you!



Staff spotlight



Sallie Wood

Our Reception Team at Henleaze Infant School has been using Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI), a government backed early language intervention, since the return to school after Covid. Our amazing team have had some fantastic successes in supporting pupils with language difficulties - often getting greater gains than the original studies did! Sallie Wood our Early Years Reception Teaching Assistant featured on the DfE website earlier this month. You can read the article [here](#). Congratulations Sallie and the rest of the team.



Sustainability at Amplify



Schools have been busy celebrating international Earth Day and winning various accolades, awards and prizes to further support sustainability projects. Here are some highlights from across our schools:

Victoria Park Primary School

Celebrated the planet across the school, dressed in blue and green. We celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday by announcing the winners of our Earth Day photo competition. We had nearly 100 amazing entries from our children! Our special guest judges were so impressed with how much children had noticed nature and the thought they had put into their photos. Our Green team also went on a litter pick.



Bristol Cathedral Choir School



We were on the ITV regional news talking about transport to school after first data was released from 'Keep Britain Tidy's School's Count.' Carbon emissions surveys showed 21% of a school's emissions are from pupils transport to school.

Alongside Cathedral Primary School we received over £5K from BCC to update and improve our bike storage to help us increase capacity for staff and pupils to cycle to school.

Y7 were all off timetable for an afternoon to complete a climate FRESK run by UoB masters students studying scientific communication. A fantastic few hours to discover more about climate change, the interlinking nature of our consumer choices and climate impacts and the weird and wonderful solutions scientists are coming up with.

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Sustainability at Amplify

Trinity Academy

The Headteacher has agreed to allow a pond to be created on school grounds. Guidance and assistance offered by Really Wild Lockleaze. The project will start in September. Twinkl awarded £150 plus some gardening gloves to support the project.

BCC Active Travel BMX prize



Many of our schools are part of the Modeshift Star active travel scheme. As a reward for promoting walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting to and from school and achieving their Modeshift STARS last year, the School's Active Travel Team at Bristol City Council paid for an inspiring BMX stunt show and workshops. Children got to see Matti Hemmings, a professional BMX Flatland rider from Wales. He gave a stunt show and led workshops with pupils. It definitely inspired them to think about cycling more and the benefits of active travel.

Quotes from the Active Travel newsletter:

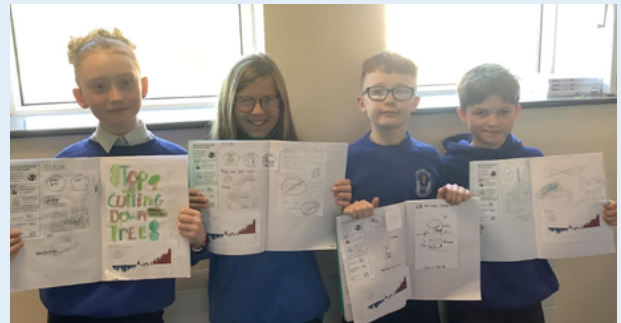
"Matti gave us such a memorable day at Little Mead. The whole school demonstration was fantastic and provided so many children with the inspiration to get out on their bikes. Not only this, but it also demonstrated the resilience and determination required to reach the top of any sport or pursuit; this is something which we were able to link directly to our school values of 'aspiration' and 'courage.' The workshops were an amazing opportunity for our children to try something new, work together, spend time with Matti and be active." - Little Mead Primary

Sustainability at Amplify

Ashton Gate Primary School

Celebrated at school through a 'Storytelling in Nature' theme where all classes read outside. Students were invited to take part in a photo competition of them reading in nature. We had books donated from Storysmith for our winners. Andy Day visited reception and KS1 to read stories to celebrate. Year 5 students made environmental posters as well!

Ashton Gate have started a walking to school campaign every last Tuesday of term. 'Shoesday Tuesday' is where children can come to school with a choice of their shoes as long as they walk.



Headley Park Primary School

HPPS Eco-Team spent their break time trialling the collection of soft plastics as part of an initiative to secure a permanent soft plastics recycling bin for the playground.



Sustainability at Amplify



'Lets Go Zero Ovo Nature Prize'

Stoke Park Primary School and Victoria Park Primary School both won £500 from 'Let's Go Zero Ovo Nature Prize'

With their prize money, Stoke Park Primary School is going to launch a weekly gardening club and turn an existing memorial garden into a thriving growing space. Students will learn a range of skills including plant care, crop rotation, habitat management, and how sustainable land management contributes to tackling climate change. The garden will also benefit the school's SEND students by offering calming regulation space for one-to-one support.



Victoria Park also won £500, they will use their prize money to add greenery and create shaded areas. The money will go towards SuDs planters with drought resistant trees, and plants that can thrive in rising temperatures. The planters will also help reduce puddle accumulation by slowing rainwater flow and show students how small, practical actions can build climate resilience.

Henleaze Infant School

Successfully applied for 75 free saplings to plant with the Eco committee around the school grounds.



St Katherine's School

Fitted smart thermostatic radiator valves in a pilot project with SSE. They are already seeing great results - Alex, the site manager has worked so hard on this project and been amazing.

If you want to get in touch about Sustainability at Amplify or have any contacts or expertise that might support us, please email El Walker, Sustainability Lead: ewalker@ampedu.co.uk

Safeguarding Spotlight

Supporting Families Together: Bristol Family Hubs

As schools, we know that children thrive best when families feel supported, connected and able to access help early. That is why we wanted to highlight the growing work of the new Bristol Family Hubs and the support available to families across our city.

The Family Hubs are designed to make it easier for parents and carers to find advice, support and activities in one welcoming place. They bring together services that many families may need at different points in their child's life — from pregnancy and the early years through to adolescence and young adulthood.

Importantly, this links closely to Bristol's wider safeguarding and early help priorities. Local agencies are increasingly focused on helping families access support before worries become crises, recognising that strong relationships, connected communities and early support all play an important role in keeping children safe and well.



Safeguarding Spotlight continued...



Family Hubs can support with:

- parenting advice and courses,
- emotional wellbeing and mental health support,
- infant feeding and early years support,
- SEND advice,
- youth activities,
- online parenting courses,
- and practical support such as housing or debt advice.

One of the most positive aspects of the hubs is that families do not need to be “in crisis” to use them. They are open to all families in Bristol and are intended to provide welcoming, community-based support for everyday family life as well as more targeted help when needed.

Many parents tell us that raising children can sometimes feel overwhelming — particularly when balancing work, school pressures, social media, emotional wellbeing and family life. Reaching out for advice or attending a parenting group is never a sign of failure; it is a sign of strength and care for your child.

There are Family Hub services across North, South, East and Central Bristol, alongside a wide range of online support and parenting programmes available free of charge.

You can find out more here:

- [Bristol Family Hubs](#)
- [Parenting Courses and Support](#)