Classrooms with Clouds

Wayne Norrie, CEO, Greenwood Academies Trust.

We Are GAT

We believe in providing the very best for Every Child, in Every Academy, Every Day.

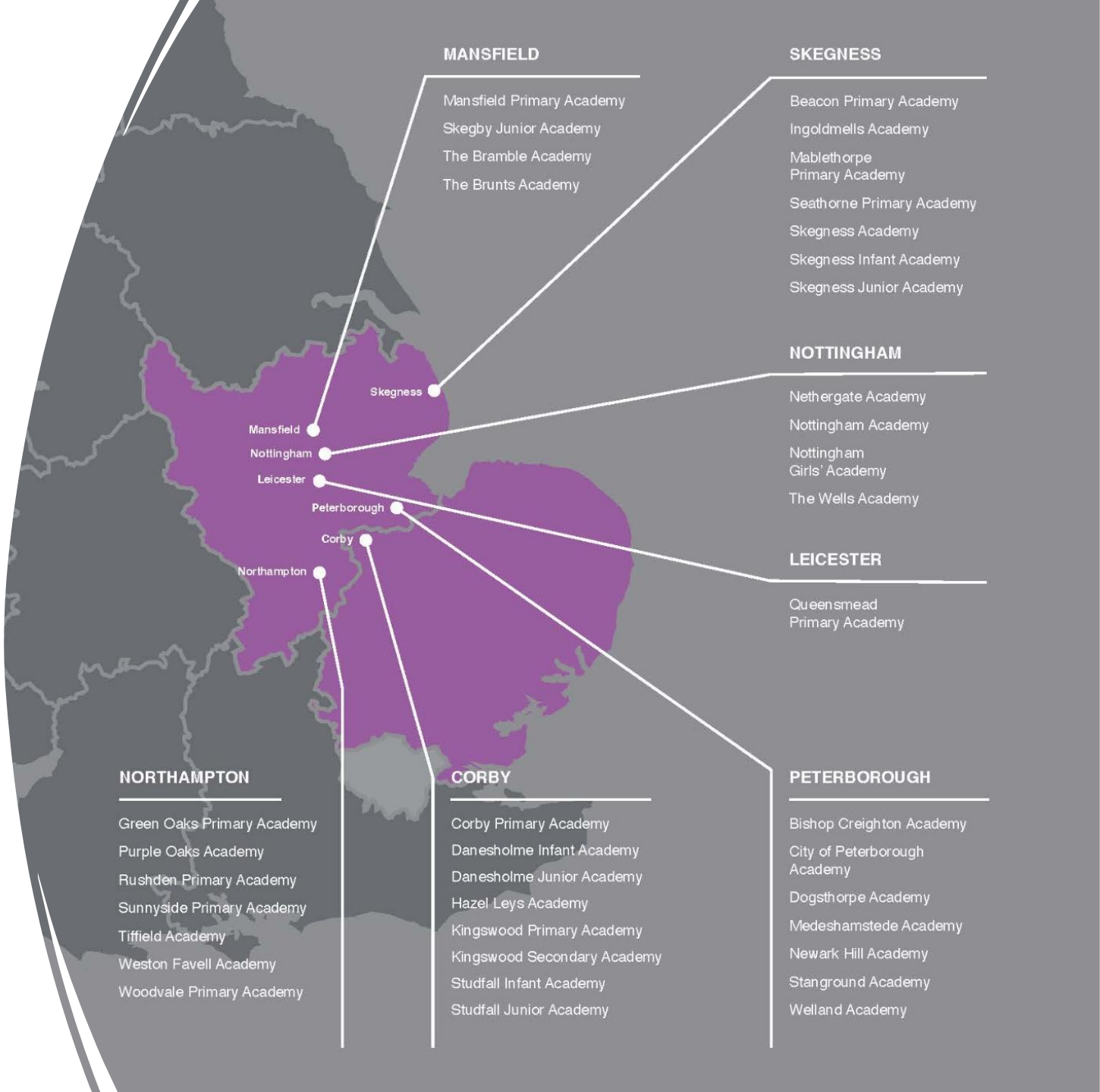
38 Schools:

4 Special

25 Primary

8 Secondary

1 All Through 3-19



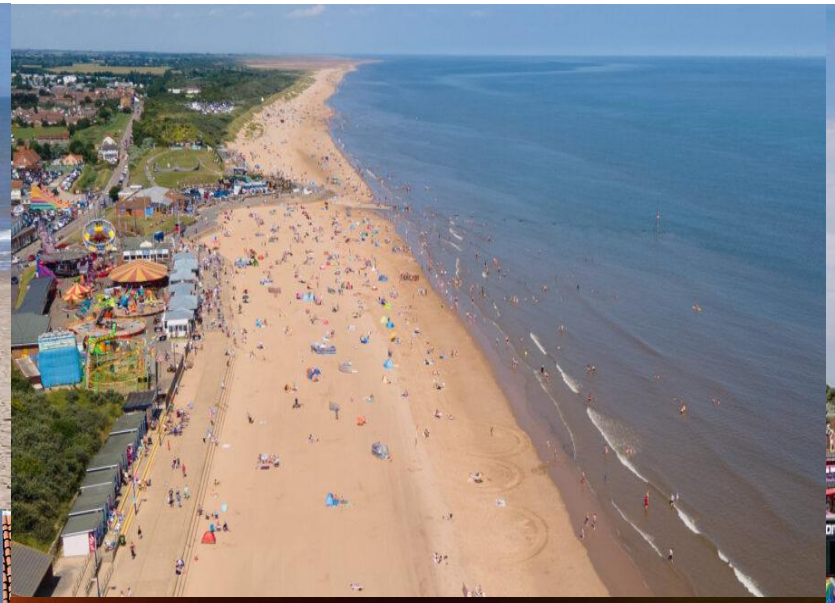
We Were Faced With a Problem…

In the face of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, many families find themselves tightening their belts. One of the first things to get sacrificed is often family holidays.

Likewise, many schools are cutting back on trips and residentials. We embarked on a mission to provide these transformative experiences ourselves.

After careful consideration, we decided to host camps on two of our school grounds, with our main site conveniently located near the sea.

Mablethorpe –Lincolnshire Coast



Why We Did It…

For many children, school-led residentials are their only chance to access such enriching experiences. Their impact on pupils' learning outcomes and socio-emotional development cannot be overstated.

According to a survey by Learning Away, 82% of key stage 2 children reported that residentials enhanced their learning.

Furthermore, 78% expressed increased confidence in trying new things and 71% said they could connect better with their classmates

How We Did It…

Each group of pupils spend at least one night under the stars, camping in tents, exploring the local area, and, of course, singing around the campfire.

For those pupils visiting our main campsite, there was also the opportunity to visit the beach.

Many were seeing the sea for the first time, an experience they will never forget.

How We Did it…

A comprehensive logistics plan: One of our biggest challenges was procuring and organising camping equipment promptly.

We opted for ‘blackout’ tents, for example, which helped ensure pupils and staff received a good night’s sleep.

Prioritise safeguarding: Safety was a key concern. Thorough planning and risk management ensured we could deal with a range of issues, should they arise.

In turn, this work informed a comprehensive camping handbook for staff, laying down clear procedures for the camps.

How We Did it…

Keeping our children engaged and well-fed!

We designed a range of engaging activities:

making campfires;

exploring the beach;

a sandcastle competition;

completing a ‘Treasure Hunt’ on local town features;

learning about the moon and tides;

enjoying beach and field games.

For dinner, we partnered with a nearby chip shop which delighted our children (and the owner of the chip ship!) making mealtime hassle-free for my colleagues.

Let’s Hear From Our Wonderful Children

393 children attend Queensmead Primary Academy in Leicester City.

43% of our children at Queensmead have English as an additional language **(20.5%** of primary school children nationally)

48% of our children at Queensmead are eligible for a free school meal (**26%** of primary school children nationally)

This means that nearly half of our children live in a household where the family’s total net earnings are **below £7,400**

Queensmead embrace ‘Classrooms with Clouds’ – Our children consistently achieve above the National Average for England by the time they leave us in Year 6.

Queensmead are in top 3 of the highest achieving Primary Schools in Leicester City.

ACKSONS AMUSEMENTS
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Traditional
FISH & CHIPS
ICE CREAMS
MERMAID
FISH & CHIPS
Whippy
Traditional