**PRESS RELEASE**

21st October 2019

**Better Teaching, Better Outcomes**

It’s all steam ahead for an exciting new initiative in Cheshire East schools aimed at improving the ongoing development of teachers across 14 schools in the area. Described by the Director of Teaching School, Phil Redford as “bold and exciting,” the new initiative builds on previous successes of the Chimney House Teaching School Alliance potentially impacting in excess of 12,000 students.

On Monday 4th November 2019, teachers from across the alliance will come together, led by key staff from participating schools, for a day of intensive training. In addition to updated information about different parts of the curriculum, staff also having access to training in mental health, personal resilience, and helping students deal with exam stress.

Better Teaching, Better Outcomes, supports the theme that all teachers should be able to access high quality continuing professional development in order to bring the best and most up to date teaching methods and information to their classrooms. Working across the large geography and sharing learning across such a wide range of secondary schools will ensure that nobody gets left behind. Improving and developing the school workforce has a direct impact on the learning outcomes of students.

Phil Redford, went on to say:

*“Although our schools are experienced in organising shared staff development, this is the first time an event on such a scale has taken place. The logistics around making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time and that the sessions are delivered by outstanding practitioners will be challenging, but we believe this is the way forward.”*

Richard Middlebrook, Executive Headteacher at Alsager School went further saying:

*“Focusing on sharing of good practice to ensure the young people of Cheshire East achieve their full potential, not only in terms of exam results, but also in becoming confident adults, fully developed in all areas, has to be the main aim of all teachers in the region. We are very fortunate in this area to have a great reputation for training and retaining some of the very best teaching and support staff.”*

**Notes for the editor**

1. The following Alliance schools, all based in Cheshire East, will be involved in delivery and participation: Alsager School,Brine Leas School,Congleton High School,Eaton Bank Academy,Holmes Chapel Comprehensive and Sixth Form College, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College, Sandbach School, Shavington Academy, Middlewich High School, Ruskin Community High School, St Thomas More Catholic High School, Sir William Stanier School, The Oaks Academy
2. The combined staff of the schools in the alliance total circa 1,500 with the student numbers who will potentially benefit from the initiative is in excess of 12,000
3. The Chimney House Teaching Schools Foundation are accredited providers of Initial Teacher Training and are currently recruiting for training places starting in September 2020. Teaching bursaries may be available
4. For further information or comment please contact **phil.redford@hccs.info**in the first instance