SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

CELEBRATING: DIGITAL SUCCESS

Welcome back to our fifth edition of Spotlight.

This edition shines a light on Digital Success, celebrating the creativity, confidence and commitment shown by colleagues across our Trust as they embrace digital approaches to enrich teaching, learning and everyday practice.

Across our Trust, digital practice is increasingly becoming a powerful driver of high-quality teaching, learning and professional collaboration. As technology continues to evolve, including the growing influence of AI, colleagues across our schools and central team are embracing new approaches that enhance learning, improve efficiency and support more inclusive classrooms.

Much of this progress has been driven by the vision, enthusiasm and commitment of **Lisa Thompson**, Head of Digital, Data and Technology. Through her leadership of digital apprenticeships, the Digital Champion Programme and the Trust's wider digital strategy, Lisa has helped create a culture where colleagues feel confident to embrace technology, develop new skills and explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

At the heart of this work is a shared understanding:
Digital is not an add-on - it is a tool to unlock opportunity for us all.

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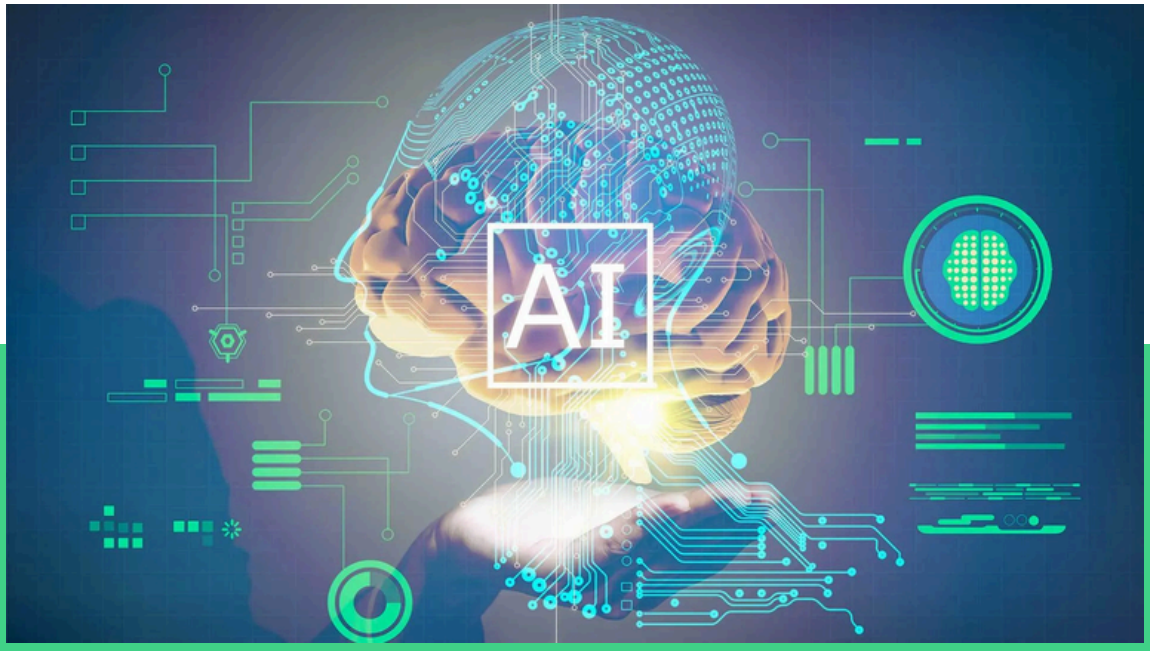
Focus on Digital Leadership

Through the leadership of Lisa, our Trust has developed a clear and inclusive approach to digital, one that places people, practice and possibility at its centre.
Through initiatives such as the Digital Champion programme, colleagues across our Trust are supported to develop confidence, explore new ideas and apply digital approaches meaningfully within their roles.
As Lisa explains:
“Technology needs people who think differently, who ask new questions, who spot gaps others might not see.”
This vision has helped to shape a culture where colleagues feel encouraged to be curious, take risks and learn together.
“It’s about curiosity, trying things out, solving problems and learning as you go.”

Developing People: Digital Apprenticeships

The rollout of the digital apprenticeship programme has been a key success, offering colleagues across our Trust the opportunity to develop practical, future-focused skills that have an immediate impact on their work.
Colleagues have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm and commitment, demonstrating how digital development is strengthening teaching, learning and professional practice across all settings.
Kayleigh Webb from Church Lawton School, reflects on the impact:
“Becoming more digital has had a really positive impact on my day-to-day practice. It has helped me work more efficiently, improved communication, and made it easier to organise and access information…”
Kayleigh also shares:
“Having an idea, bringing it to life and seeing it in action gives a great sense of achievement. I’m constantly thinking of what I can do next!”

Similarly, **Liz Wood** from Church Lawton School highlights the classroom impact:
“The digital apprenticeship has had a huge impact on my teaching and on the attainment of the students in my class… Students are keen to embrace new learning and take ownership of their learning in new and exciting ways.”
From Thames Valley School, **Tamina Kulsoom** shares:
“Becoming more digital has had a real impact on my teaching, helping me use tools that make lessons more engaging and efficient across subjects. The Digital Apprenticeship has been a great journey of exploration and growth.”
Tamina also reflects on the value of collaboration:
“My advice is not to worry about the project at the start, take time to experiment and learn what works. Connecting with others on the course has been invaluable, offering support, inspiration, and practical ideas for integrating technology confidently into the classroom.”
These experiences reflect the wider impact of the programme, not only developing skills, but building confidence, professional networks, and a shared approach across our Trust.
As part of our central team, Lisa reinforces this message:
“The most impactful aspect… was the confidence it helped build… you don’t need to know everything — you just need to start.”
Together, these examples show how digital is enabling us to deliver teaching that is more responsive, inclusive and engaging, while keeping the expertise of our staff firmly at the centre.



Impact on Teaching and Learning

Across our Trust, the impact of digital can be seen most clearly in the way it is being brought to life in classrooms, supporting colleagues to adapt their teaching, engage learners and create more inclusive experiences.

At Thames Valley School, **Sharon Eden** provides a powerful example of how digital is being embedded in a meaningful and purposeful way:

“Throughout my journey as a teacher, I have been committed to embedding digital technology into my practice and supporting colleagues to grow in confidence using it. I have helped staff explore tools that enhance engagement, including Microsoft Forms quizzes to track pupil learning and inform timely intervention.”

Sharon's work reflects how digital is strengthening both classroom practice and wider school development. By supporting colleagues to explore tools and approaches, she is helping to build confidence and consistency across her team.

Her work also demonstrates how digital can support progression across phases and subjects:

“I have introduced primary pupils to using devices, developing their touch-typing skills and creativity through 3D modelling, and led the development of a Year 9 digital skills curriculum focused on safe and effective device use.”

A key feature of this work is its focus on inclusion:

“I also use AI to create adapted and scaffolded resources, ensuring all pupils can access learning.”

The impact of this is clear:

“This work has led to more confident, independent pupils with improved digital literacy, and colleagues who are more willing to experiment with technology in their teaching.”

At Vanguard School, **Davide Ponzo** has seen a similarly powerful impact through the use of digital art and creative technologies.

Reflecting on his work with students, Davide explains:

“Integrating digital painting enrichment at Vanguard School has clearly strengthened pupils’ engagement with art. The tablet’s undo function reduces the anxiety of making mistakes, enabling students to work with greater confidence and creative freedom.”

Importantly, the benefits extend far beyond the artwork itself:

“Early exposure to digital tools also builds valuable digital literacy and creative-industry skills, widening future opportunities.”

Davide has seen first-hand how the right technology can unlock potential in learners who may otherwise lack confidence:

“Since joining the school, I have seen previously shy artists grow through digital media, with several progressing into art and technology courses. When students are given the right medium, they not only create art – they uncover confidence, capability, and pathways that once felt beyond reach.”

These examples demonstrate that digital success is not simply about learning new technologies. It is about creating opportunities, removing barriers, nurturing creativity and ensuring every learner has the tools and confidence to flourish.

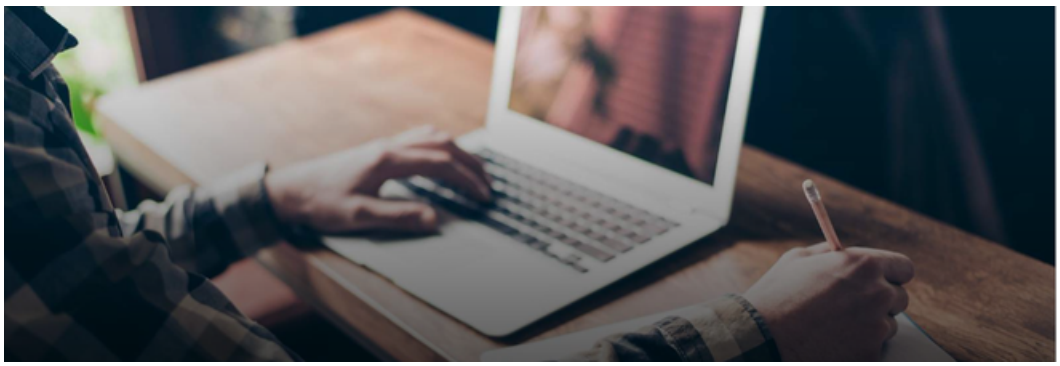
Colleagues across our Trust are also beginning to explore how emerging technologies, including AI, can support assessment, planning and feedback. These developments are opening up new possibilities, allowing staff to focus more of their time on high-quality teaching and meaningful interactions with students.

What stands out most is that digital is not changing the core of teaching — it is strengthening it. It is helping us create more responsive, inclusive and engaging learning experiences, while keeping relationships, creativity and professional expertise at the centre.

Professional Development That Works

A key strength of this success has been our Trust-wide digital CPD offer, led by **Lisa Thompson** and available to all colleagues across our schools and central team. Through the Digital Champion programme and a structured programme of Digital Literacy training, staff are supported to develop confidence and practical skills that directly enhance both teaching and professional practice.
Digital Literacy sessions include:
·SharePoint & Teams
·Microsoft Class Teams
·Deep Dive into Class Notebook
·Deep Dive into Assignments
·Artificial Intelligence
·Lyfta
·Classroom Cloud
·Automation Tools
·Accessibility Tools
·Canva
·Microsoft Excel (Basic and Advanced)

These sessions are all practical and focus on real application. They are accessible to all staff, regardless of starting points, recorded and available to revisit at any time. This flexible approach allows us all to engage at our own pace, revisit learning when needed, and continue building confidence over time.
The real success of this CPD lies in what follows, with colleagues embedding ideas into their own practice, supporting one another and continuing to develop how digital is used across our Trust.



A Culture of Growth and Innovation

Across our Trust, a strong culture is continuing to develop, one where colleagues feel empowered to explore new ideas, take risks and learn together.
Lisa captures this shared mindset:
“If you’re passionate, if you’re willing to learn, if you want to make an impact, then tech is absolutely a place for you.”
This is reflected in the approach of colleagues such as Kayleigh:
“Take it step by step and not be afraid to try new things. Even small changes can make a big difference over time.”

This shared sense of curiosity, support and collaboration is what enables digital practice to continue growing across our Trust.

Coming Soon

Stay tuned for the next edition of Spotlight on Excellence, where we continue to celebrate the incredible work happening across our Trust. If you have something you wish to feature in a Spotlight, please get in touch.