

ACHIEVE

The magazine of Pontefract Academies Trust

Issue 02 • Winter 2020

What is in this issue?



About Us



Spotlight



News



Community



People



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

STENZON CONTENT

03 Welcome from the CEO

04 About us

05 Our schools

06 Spotlight

08 News

11 Community

14 People



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST



WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of Achieve. Recent months have been unlike any others I have experienced at Pontefract Academies Trust, or indeed in my career. I am sure that goes for all of us. The pandemic has created universal upheaval while changing the smallest details of our everyday lives. I know the impact of the pandemic has been tragic and I extend my deepest sympathies to anyone reading who has been adversely affected by the virus.

There is no doubt that the last three months have been challenging. I am delighted that the energy, passion and commitment of our teams remain undimmed. We have united to provide each other with support across all eight of our schools.

The continuity of our children's education has remained at the forefront of our work since September, with some new vocabulary to go with it: remote learning, a new normal, bubbles, you are on mute, face masks, to name just a few, are all well-worn phrases that would not have been in the top 10 most used phrases this time last year! We have all had to adjust, but the way staff and pupils have so quickly adapted to new routines and protocols has been outstanding. Attendance across the schools in the Trust has been well above the national average and a great reflection of how the schools and families have worked together. I have to say that I have never been prouder of our team. In times of adversity our collaborative endeavours have ensured that teachers can teach and pupils can learn.

Despite the many obstacles that 2020 has thrown at us, our Trust continues to go from strength to strength. I wish to thank all of our teachers, pupils and also parents who have supported learning to enable a better future for our young people.

There has been a huge amount of fantastic work being carried out this year both inside and outside of the classroom. I am delighted to be able to share with you some of the Trust wide initiatives and achievements on the pages that follow. It is heart-warming to see that despite the difficulties faced since March our children and young people continue to impress us with outstanding outcomes and enthusiasm that is second to none.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and let us all look forward to the new year with hope and optimism.



Julian Appleyard OBE
Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT US

Mission

Running top-quality, high-achieving schools that give our children and young people the chance in life they deserve.

Vision

Where every child and young person makes outstanding progress.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

Achievement without excuses

We have an unwavering focus on achievement. This is paramount so that all of our children and young people enjoy greater life chances. We take responsibility for ensuring that they succeed. We own our own performance and do not rest on our laurels or seek to blame others.

Our people matter

We know that our people make a difference to the lives of our 3-16 year olds. We want to make our schools places where great teachers want to teach, lead and build a career. Investment in the recruitment, development and retention of the best people is a top priority. We aim to provide professional working environments, where our people have the support and the tools to do a great job, and push our children and young people to scale new heights in a safe and secure environment.

Excellence as standard

We set high standards. "Good enough" is simply not. We do not accept second best from our pupils or ourselves. The Trust aims to be a highly reliable school improvement organisation that is disciplined in its approach to improving performance. A Trust with clear plans and, simple and precisely executed systems that not only develops and sustains excellent performance but never stifles individual flair.

Pupils come first

Our schools are run for the benefit of children and young people, not the ease of adults. Their achievement comes first and staff in schools and the central trust office work to this end. The Trust aims to keep low priority tasks away from front line teachers and leaders so that they can focus explicitly on our core business of teaching and learning.

Stronger as one

We take collective responsibility for each other and the results of all of our children and young people. We enjoy sharing our success as a Trust, while recognising the strengths of individuals and each school. To this end, collective accountability is rooted in a "if one fails we all fail" mentality. As a family of schools, we collaborate with each other, challenge each other and share best practice. We do not let competition get in the way of our desire to get the best outcomes for all.

OUR SCHOOLS



CARLETON PARK

JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL



**DE LACY
PONTEFRACT**

PRIMARY SCHOOL



HALFPENNY LANE

JUNIOR, INFANT &
NURSERY SCHOOL



LARKS HILL

JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL



ORCHARD HEAD

JUNIOR, INFANT &
NURSERY SCHOOL



**THE ROOKERIES
CARLETON**

JUNIOR, INFANT &
NURSERY SCHOOL



**THE KING'S
SCHOOL**



**CARLETON
HIGH SCHOOL**

SPOTLIGHT

Carleton High School Awarded Most Improved School in North of England



Photo Credit: The Yorkshire Post

Carleton High School, a secondary school within our Trust, has been hailed as the most improved school in the North of England, according to the Fairer Secondary Schools Index league tables, published by the Northern Powerhouse Partnership

The index ranks schools on a contextual progress score that takes pupils' backgrounds into account. Even prior to this award, Carleton High School has been making history with their phenomenal progress having moved from special measures to Ofsted good in just twelve months, which in the education sector is very rare.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said: "This is incredibly pleasing and is exactly what we set out to achieve. Carleton High School is going from strength to strength and is one of the most improved schools in the country for progress 8. To achieve most improved school in the North of England is just the icing on the cake and is testament to the hard work, dedication and persistence of our students, parents and staff."

"We're all so proud to hear this news. We've all worked very hard and our can do attitude and achievement focused culture is what's brought us to where we are today. Our students believe in themselves and we believe in them which is so important. There isn't a ceiling as to what our young people can achieve and we'll continue with our unwavering focus to bring all our students the first class education that they deserve."

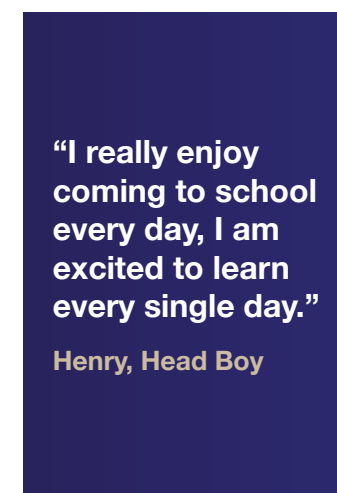
Jo Cross, Headteacher

The Northern Powerhouse Partnership is chaired by George Osborne and has a business-led Board which features influential business figures from across the North of England. Prominent city leaders across the region are also represented on the Board, in addition to Jim O'Neill, former Commercial Secretary to the Treasury, and John Cridland, Chair of Transport for the North (TfN). NPP is non-political and will maintain an all-party approach.



"Everything about Carleton High School is amazing. The staff are really friendly and always support me."

Amelia, Head Girl



"I really enjoy coming to school every day, I am excited to learn every single day."

Henry, Head Boy



NEWS

Governor Recruitment

Pontefract Academies Trust is looking to recruit individuals who are passionate about education and community champions who want to give back to their local area and help to shape education in Pontefract.

The key requirements of the role will be to provide independent challenge to the school leadership primarily in respect of pupil performance, the quality of the school experience and execution of the School Improvement Plan. In addition to this the individuals will work in partnership with the Trust and school leadership to ensure an active, high quality and effective programme of stakeholder and community engagement is delivered.

This is a fantastic opportunity for individuals to not only support their local community but also to develop their skills in a professional board environment. Training will be offered to our appointed governors which will be of benefit in their current profession. We're already fortunate to have the support of many community leaders and it will be great to appoint and welcome some more into our team.

We are looking to include and involve people from a variety of backgrounds and different ages and cultures. They aim to attract individuals from various job roles and levels with experience and expertise in financial or legal practice, business management, marketing, social work and charity work. This list of course is not exhaustive.

To register your interest in being a voluntary governor for one of Pontefract Academies Trust eight schools or for more information, please email clerk@patrust.org.uk.



We have launched a Pontefract Academies Trust Twitter and LinkedIn. We would love your support in growing our networks on both of these platforms. To keep up to date with all news, events and information regarding our eight schools and the Trust follow @PontefractAT on Twitter and search Pontefract Academies Trust on LinkedIn.



£5,664.85 raised for Children in Need in 2020

Every year, all of our eight schools find fun ways of raising money for Children in Need. Whether it's baking, running races, raffles and much more. This year fundraising had to be that little bit more creative due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.

Overall our schools raised a staggering £5,664.85. Amongst the fundraising methods, Children walked 10k up and down stairs, made crafts and sold them to friends and families and counted to 100 in 3 different languages.

Anti bullying week – wear odd socks

Jazzy Socks Gave a Poignant Message

Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive costumes. All the children had to do to take part is wear odd socks to their school or workplace, it couldn't be simpler!

Odd Socks day took place on the first day of Anti Bullying Week to help raise awareness of bullying. Even our teachers joined in!

Primary School Kids Took Part in the Cross Country Challenge

Over 1,000 primary school children across the Trust put their best feet forward to take part in the Trust's first Cross Country Challenge competition. Each child raced against their individual class mates along a designated track to adhere to social distancing rules. Key Stage 1 children ran 800 metres and Key Stage 2 children ran 1200 metres.

At the end of the race the children were given an individual time to share with their parents. Awards and certificates will be issued to the six children with the fastest time in each of the competing schools. There will also be "spirit of the games awards" where each of the six schools taking part can nominate a child that has worked really hard to achieve their best in the cross country challenge.



NEWS

Pontefract Academies Trust Invests £90,000 into Outdoor Learning and Play



Pontefract Academies Trust is delighted to announce that they have invested around £90,000 into outdoor learning facilities for Halfpenny Lane and The Rookeries Carleton Junior, Infant & Nursery School.

Children and staff are now able to take advantage of state of the art playground equipment which includes planting areas, den making apparatus and textured multi coloured flooring to help heighten the senses and encourage creative play. The brand new areas also have an outdoor stage for performances, waterplay equipment designed to help strengthen problem solving skills as well as bird and ladybird boxes to study their local natural surroundings and wildlife. The areas at both schools have been created to help the children explore and discover as well as ignite their imagination and creativity.

The project has been designed primarily for early years ages 3,4 and 5 by award winning educational playground specialist ESP Play but will be of benefit to the entire school community for years to come.

Andrew Wood, Managing Director of ESP Play said: "We're incredibly proud to work with Pontefract Academies Trust and delighted with the end result. As a business we've worked with schools across the UK and are firm believers that our equipment helps to make young people more physically active, confident, healthy and determined to achieve."

COMMUNITY

Our Creative Children produced 200 Poppies for Remembrance Day

All 6 of our primary schools made around 200 poppies to be displayed opposite Valley Gardens in Pontefract Town Centre for all to come and see and mark Remembrance Day on the 11th November.

The idea behind this was to help all the children to learn the meaning behind Remembrance Sunday, Armistice Day, and the significance of the ceremonies and the poppy symbol in a creative and thought provoking way. Pontefract Academies Trust are working in partnership with Pontefract Civic Society who have created the display which was available for all to see from the 5th until 18th November.

The schools that took part are Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School; Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School; De Lacy Primary School; Carleton Park Junior and Infant School; Larks Hill Junior and Infant School; The Rookeries Junior, Infant and Nursery School, who are all part of Pontefract Academies Trust.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said, "We're incredibly proud to be involved in this tribute to all the fallen soldiers since World War 1 which was 102 years ago. It really has and continues to be a memorable project for all the children, staff, parents and even grandparents to be involved in and has certainly sparked great discussions in all our classrooms and at home too which is so pleasing to hear."

Phil Cook, Vice Chair at Pontefract Civic Society said, "Collaborating with young children is a great way to demonstrate the importance of this day. We're very grateful to the children and staff at Pontefract Academies Trust for their contribution to our poppy display."



COMMUNITY

Pontefract Academies Trust Pledge Support for Motor Neurone Disease Association and The Prince of Wales Hospice



Pontefract Academies Trust has announced that for this academic year all of our eight schools as well as the central office, will be fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND) as our national charity and The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract as our local charity.

Throughout the coming year, the Trust hope to help children and staff gain an understanding as to what the two charities stand for, the impact of fundraising and general awareness around the issues the charities combat as well as raising as much money as they can. Fundraising ideas have already been flooding in from teachers, parents and students such as taking part in sponsored silences, rambling walks in the country side, wearing blue to school days and taking part in the Hospice's light up a life campaign by sending in videos of students singing Christmas carols.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said: "Pontefract Academies Trust provide education for around 3,700 students so together we can really make a difference to these two fantastic charities. Rugby league legend Rob Burrow has raised an

incredible amount of awareness and funds for MND and we want to show our support to him and his family. The Prince of Wales Hospice has had an impact on many of our friends and families in Pontefract and will really benefit from our support."

MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. It attacks the nerves that control movement so muscles no longer work. The MND Association focuses on improving access to care, research and campaigning for those people living with or affected by MND in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. For more information please visit: <https://www.mndassociation.org/>

The Prince of Wales Hospice provides palliative care and support for patients with life limiting illnesses and their families. Each year they must raise £3million to keep their doors open. For more information please visit: <https://www.pwh.org.uk/>

"It really is so wonderful to have the support of Pontefract Academies Trust."

Rebecca Taylor, Community and Partnerships Fundraiser

Halfpenny Lane Raise £400 for The Prince of Wales Hospice

More than 400 children at Halfpenny Lane Primary school bounced into school this term with big smiles on their faces as they celebrated their non uniform day. The special day took place to raise money for Pontefract Academies Trust's chosen local charity for the year: "The Prince of Wales Hospice."

Each child was encouraged to come to school and wear their own clothes and if possible something blue, which is the The Prince of Wales Hospice colours, and donate what they can to this worthwhile cause. In total they raised a staggering £400 which will help The Prince of Wales Hospice continue their work to care for patients with any life-limiting illness, including cancer, motor neurone disease and chronic heart and lung disease in the Pontefract area.

"Local charities have really been hit hard during this pandemic so we're delighted to be in a position to support them. It was fantastic to see all the children's faces light up with pride when we told them just how much they'd all raised by coming into school wearing their own clothes. We're already planning what we can do next time to continue our support for The Prince of Wales Hospice."

James Parkinson, Headteacher

Larks Hill Junior & Infant School Brighten up Pinderfields Hospital



Year 6 children at Larks Hill Junior & Infant School have been hard at work to create bright and uplifting paintings to be displayed in Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield with the aim of bringing a smile to patients during the festive season. The project is in partnership with the Pontefract Civic Society and the children's drawings will also be used on Christmas banners in Pontefract town centre and be on display in Pontefract Bus Station.

PEOPLE

Meet Our Primary Headteachers

Tom Fay
Executive Director of Primary Education

How do you develop a world-class primary curriculum?

A curriculum should reflect local and national characteristics, evolve with our understanding about the world around us and be designed to equip our children for a workplace that may not exist yet! Our curriculum development work involves looking at the fundamental facts, skills and understanding that children have to learn and then taking a holistic look at how we are going to deliver that learning in the most engaging manner possible. The curriculum does not just involve classroom-based activities. We have also developed 'the 50 things you will do before you leave school' initiative which supplements and supports the core learning children need each year. These 'things' also develop cultural capital and curriculum enjoyment. After all, who would not want to learn how to make chocolate, visit a beach, stay overnight in the West end of London or meet some famous authors, poets, musicians and actors!

We asked all of our Headteachers what inspires them in their job role?



James Parkinson
Headteacher, Halfpenny Lane J, I & N School

I am constantly driven to see the individual success of every pupil. When we have been able to remove a barrier so that a pupil can succeed, it fills me with excitement and fulfilment. Making the school the best possible place it can be so that pupils can thrive and progress with higher aspirations and an understanding of the world wider than their local context.



Joe Ayre
Headteacher, Carleton Park J & I School

I have a unique bond with Carleton Park as I attended the school myself. I get huge satisfaction from making a difference to each child that enters the school and the local community. I love to see children learn and being directly involved in building a strong foundation in the first part of a child's academic journey. My team also inspire me on a daily basis and it gives me great pride to be able to enhance their professional development.



Joe Mitchell
Headteacher, Orchard Head J, I & N School

Children who are happy to be in school and learning, reaching their full potential and helping them get there, is what inspires me. We pride ourselves on our supportive relationship with parents which helps us play such a big part in the development of children right from Nursery to Year 6. It's a great feeling to see our children making such personal and academic growth whilst they're with us.



Ian Shuttleworth
Headteacher, Larks Hill J & I School

As a Headteacher I have a relentless focus on instilling the highest possible values, standards and expectations both academically and pastorally. I have the opportunity to make a positive difference to children's lives on a daily basis, which results in them being happy and enthusiastic which is great to see. It also inspires me to build strong and collaborative teams of staff who all share a common purpose – to thrive and to succeed.



Richard Grogan
Headteacher, The Rookeries J, I & N School

I am incredibly driven and determined to serve the community of Carleton. As a school, it is important I ensure we support each other and challenge one another to provide the highest quality of teaching and learning for the children. I am lucky to be able to make a difference and positively impact the life chances of all the children at my school.



8 schools

ONE TRUST

pontefractacademiestrust.org.uk

Telephone: 01977 232146 • Email: adminsupport@patrust.org.uk
Twitter: @PontefractAT • LinkedIn: Pontefract Academies Trust