

ACHIEVE

The magazine of Pontefract Academies Trust

Issue 05 • Winter 2021

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PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

WELCOME FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the winter edition of our Trust magazine.

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 during the pandemic, our children and young people continue to impress us with outstanding outcomes and enthusiasm that is second to none.

I have to say that I have never been prouder of the team across the Trust. In times of adversity our collaborative endeavours have ensured that teachers can teach and pupils can learn. Despite the many obstacles that 2021 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. It is a great privilege for us to hold such responsibility for the community of Pontefract.

The new variant brings uncertainty; however, we will deal with what comes our way just as we have done for nearly two years now. The New Year will see us continue to drive forward our strategic priorities, and I feel sure it will be a year of continued success, opportunities, and a display of the same positive spirit from our staff, parents and community across our family of schools. I am looking forward to seeing what the New Year holds for us as a Trust and may I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy 2022.



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**

ABOUT US

A Few Facts About Multi-Academy Trusts

Our family of 8 schools are all part of Pontefract Academies Trust. But what does this mean? We thought we would explain in a little more detail about multi-academy trusts and the benefits of them.

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

Multi Academy trusts are charities that have responsibility for running a number of academies. They cannot, as charities, be run for financial profit and any surplus must be reinvested in the trust.

By working in partnership with each other, the schools within a trust can share staff, curriculum expertise and effective teaching practices, and work together to deliver the best outcomes for pupils.

While other types of school partnerships can be effective, the key difference with academy trusts is that there is shared accountability for standards across the trust; all schools within the trust support each other and the trust is accountable for them all.

Why is being part of a trust such a good thing?

Trusts are specialist organisations set up to run and improve schools – this is why it is clearer to talk about school trusts, rather than academy trusts. There are very clear lines of accountability in the school trust model. Many academies now work together in a group of schools as one entity, to improve and maintain high educational standards across the group. Where a trust runs a group of schools, it has the power to create a collaborative framework.

A group of schools working together in a single entity can do lots of things that are harder for stand-alone schools to do:

- Teachers work and learn together to improve the way they teach.
- Schools share practices that make a difference to the quality of teaching.
- Teachers and leaders can work together on the things that matter, like curriculum and assessment,
- Failing schools can improve – only one in 10 schools that were required to join a trust were judged good or outstanding before they

- converted, compared with almost seven in 10 after they joined a trust (of those that had been inspected),
- It is more possible for teachers and leaders to move to another school to help improve the quality of education where that school is struggling and these moves are more likely to be to schools with more disadvantaged pupils, and
- It is more possible to be efficient and thereby to invest money in supporting pupils to have wider opportunities.

How accountable are academy trusts?

Academy trusts are held to account to a higher standard than maintained schools. The obligation of transparency and accountability is much greater than maintained schools. They are held to account by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Ofsted and Regional Schools Commissioners.

They are required to have an independent audit annually and to publish their accounts. They are also required to disclose executive pay in thresholds. If the ESFA investigates a trust, the investigation report is published on the government's website. There is no similar requirement on local authorities to publish investigation reports or disclose headteacher pay.

Academy trusts are part of state-funded education. Like any other state school, academies are free to attend, inspected in the same way and children take the same tests and exams. Academy trusts are state funded – parents do not pay fees. They operate in accordance with their funding agreement with the Secretary of State.

More than half of pupils in England – 3.8 million pupils – are educated in academy schools. This is seven in 10 secondary pupils and three in 10 primary pupils.



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SPOTLIGHT



Huge Success for Pontefract Students In GCSE Results

Summer may seem like a distant memory, but The King's School and Carleton High School are still celebrating the success of all of their students on GCSE results day.

Two students from The King's School achieved an incredible set of results comprising off all 9s. 9% of students across both schools achieved all 7-9 grades in all subjects (A-A*). 52% of students at Carleton High School and 59% of students at The King's School achieved a grade 7-9 (A-A*) in at least one subject.

Dominic Pinto, Headteacher at The King's School said:

We are extremely proud of all our students and the resilience they have shown, and we wish them all the very best in the future. On behalf of our students, I would like to thank all my colleagues who have worked hard to ensure that our students have been able to tackle the last 18 months with confidence and parents/carers who have supported them."

Jo Cross, Headteacher at Carleton High School said:

"We're incredibly proud of all our students and delighted that they have reaped the rewards of consistent hard work. These students have been through a turbulent time and faced the challenge of remote learning yet have still come out with fantastic results. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours."

Julian Appleyard, CEO at Pontefract Academies Trust said:

"I am absolutely delighted with the student's results and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our students and staff. It's very pleasing to see that both schools have built on their strengths. As a Trust we are on a journey of improvement and I'm confident that we will be able to continue to build and improve on the positives."

Tilly Wood

8s and 9s in all subjects.

Tilly made excellent progress in all areas of school life balancing the academic side with her love of performing. Tilly starred in many school productions and showed that it is important to balance hard work alongside a hobby. This is testament to the maturity and commitment that she demonstrated throughout her 5 years at The King's School.

Tilly grew in confidence and her outstanding achievements reflect the resilience and drive of her character.

Tilly is now studying A Levels in Spanish, Psychology and Drama at New College, Pontefract.



Alex Fletcher

Highest P8. 9s in all 3 core subjects.

Alex joined The King's School as a keen 11-year-old, with an obvious determination to do his best during his time at school. This determination, coupled with a mature attitude to all aspects of school life, saw him excel and he leaves with an impressive set of results. Alex was elected by his peers and staff to be part of the Student Leadership Group, demonstrating good leadership skills and also an ability to work well in a team.

His academic success has been matched with many sporting accolades. He is a talented footballer and will pursue his passion for football at Doncaster Rovers academy alongside a BTEC Level 3 in sport. Alex must be congratulated on managing to maintain excellent grades alongside a demanding weekly training programme.



Florence Edwards

Four grade 9s, four grade 8's and 1 distinction*

Florence exemplifies one of our school values; Determination. Florence has always demonstrated a fantastic attitude towards her studies and recognises that with hard work comes success.

Her advice to our young students is, "don't put too much pressure on yourself, but make sure you are always doing your best". While reflecting on her time at Carleton High School, Florence acknowledged the skills of her teachers and enjoyed the fact she got on really well with all the staff at. We wish Florence the best of luck with her future as she goes onto New College to study Geography, Sociology and Medical Science.



Henry Groves

Five Grade 9s, three Grade 8s, 1 Distinction* and 1 Distinction.

At Carleton High School we encourage all our students to act as role models and develop one of our student values such as Responsibility. As our Head Boy, Henry has certainly epitomised this and has achieved an excellent set of GCSE results. He thrived in the role of Head Boy and holds it as one of the things he feels most proud of as he reflects on his time at Carleton High School, enjoying all the responsibilities which come with that role.

Henry is going onto New College to study, Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science. And with his exceptional mathematical and computing talents he aspires to be a data scientist or a machine learning engineer in the future. His proud parents joined us on results day to celebrate his achievements and said, "We are super proud of him; his attitude was exceptional and it certainly paid off!" We couldn't agree more! Henry's advice to our future students is listen and revise.

FUNDRAISING

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said: "It is incredible that all eight of our schools have been able to come together to raise money for 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."



Pontefract Academies Trust Raise Almost £20,000 In Their Phenomenal Fundraising Efforts

All eight schools who are part of Pontefract Academies Trust have received the totals that they have collectively raised for The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract and Motor Neurone Disease Association during the 2020-2021 academic year. £10,252.10 had been raised for The Prince of Wales Hospice and £9,160.65 for Motor Neurone Disease. Both are incredible amounts that will make a positive difference to both charities.

The schools include the six primary schools Carleton Park Junior and Infant School, De Lacy Pontefract Primary School, Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Larks Hill Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Orchard Head Junior, Infant and Nursery School, The Rookeries Carleton Junior, Infant and Nursery School and two secondary schools, Carleton High School and The King's School.

Rebecca Taylor, Community and Partnerships Fundraiser, said: "Pontefract Academies Trust has gone above and beyond to support the Hospice since our partnership began last September. We have seen the children and young people complete Reindeer Runs, non-uniform days, bake sales, Superhero sprints as well as volunteering, all in an effort to raise vital funds for our Hospice. They are all an absolute credit to both your Trust and to their families".

Jenn Dodd, Regional Fundraiser at MND said: "A huge thank you to the students at Pontefract Academies Trust who have raised an incredible amount for the MND Association over the last year inspired by Rob Burrow. It has been fantastic to see their colour runs, obstacle courses, non-uniform days, and other creative fundraising ideas during this time. I am sure that the students enjoyed the final fundraiser watching their teachers put their feet in a bucket of ice for 92 seconds as the staff took part in Len Johnrose's #IceFoot92 Challenge! The money raised will make a huge difference to people with MND, their families and carers. Everyone who took part should feel very proud of themselves for their outstanding efforts."



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/>

FUNDRAISING

Pontefract Academies Trust Pledge Support For The Prince Of Wales Hospice In Pontefract

Pontefract Academies Trust has announced that for this academic year their eight schools as well as the central office, will be fundraising for The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract.

Throughout the coming year, the Trust hope to help children and staff gain an understanding as to what the charity stands for, the impact of fundraising and general awareness around the issues the charity combats as well as raising as much money as they can.

The decision to support the charity for the second year in a row comes after an extremely successful academic year of fundraising last year, which saw the Trust raise over £10,000 for this worthy cause.

Fundraising ideas have already been flooding in from teachers, parents, and students such as taking part in sponsored silences, rambling walks in the countryside, wearing blue to school days, and taking part in the light up a life campaign which is a big event in the calendar at the hospice.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said: "I am delighted to make this announcement. Pontefract Academies Trust provide education for around 3,900 students so together we can really make a difference to this fantastic charity. Last year the fundraising efforts from our family of schools was incredible and we are aiming to raise even more this academic year. 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."

Rebecca Taylor, Community and Partnerships Fundraiser at The Prince of Wales Hospice said: "We couldn't be happier that Pontefract Academies Trust have chosen to support the Hospice for a second year. We are so grateful for their support, and we have so much admiration for every single child, young person and member of staff that we know will put in a sterling effort to raise vital funds for our Hospice."



Age UK Bun Sale

The Student Leadership Group at Larks Hill Junior & Infant School took inspiration from the Great British Bake Off, and planned, organised and delivered a fantastic bun sale, to fundraise for Age UK (Wakefield District).

This was one of the first events they had organised together and it went down a treat with all of the pupils and staff in school.



Wear Yellow Or Blue For Hospice Care Week

Hospice Care Week is an annual event that recognises and celebrates Hospice UK and hospice care nationwide. It's an opportunity to show the world the value of support, of care and of what matters to us as individuals at the end of life when we need it most.

Due to the Trust supporting The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract this year as our charity of the year, we used this as an opportunity to kick off our fundraising! Orchard Head and De Lacy Junior, Infant & Nursery School got involved in fun activities and wore either blue (The Prince of Wales Hospice brand colour) or yellow (Hospice Care Week colour) to celebrate and fundraise.

Well done to everyone involved!



NEWS

Pontefract Academies Trust Invests £850K To Improve Local Educational Facilities

Pontefract Academies Trust is delighted to announce that we have invested around £850K into learning facilities across our family of schools. This comes at the same time as the announcement from the Department of Education that Carleton High School has been chosen as one of the 50 schools that will either be rebuilt or refurbished in the second phase of the government's 10-year school rebuilding programme.

The Trust investment includes the outdoor areas at Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant & Nursery School, The Rookeries Junior, Infant & Nursery School, Orchard Head Junior, Infant & Nursery School and upcoming at Larks Hill Junior & Infant 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 all 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.

This summer also saw investment in several classrooms across the Trust primary schools, creating learning spaces for the children to thrive. The SIN design approach that has been used at both Carleton Park Junior & Infant School and The Rookeries Junior, Infant & Nursery School is a concept developed because of the 'Clever Classrooms' Report published by Salford University and funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The report has revealed that a well-designed learning environment can boost learning progress in reading, writing and mathematics by up to 16%.

Chief Executive Officer of Pontefract Academies Trust, Julian Appleyard OBE said: "As a Trust we understand the importance of creating the best possible learning environments for our children. It's a great privilege and responsibility to be able to invest in our local schools to give our local children the educational facilities, for their future learning endeavours, that they deserve.

The feedback from the children, parents and staff to their new facilities has been phenomenal. We now await more information about the scope of the work due to take place at Carleton High School."

Why are EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Areas So Important?



The investment in our EYFS areas across the Trust, gave us the opportunity to gain an insight into why EYFS areas are so important.

Louise Garland-Jones, our EYFS lead at The Rookeries Junior, Infant & Nursery School, has shared her experiences and knowledge in the following article.

What age are EYFS children?

Nursery 3-4 year olds and Reception 4-5 year olds.

Can you explain more about the EYFS curriculum?

The EYFS curriculum is based on first-hand experiences and encourages the children's natural curiosity and spontaneity. At The Rookeries, we place great emphasis on the value of structured play and talk as the means by which children learn, through observing, listening, exploring and interacting.

Our primary aims are to achieve a high level of well-being in order for children to be able to access their learning independently. We nurture children's positive dispositions and attitudes and we are invested in creating an environment which fosters independence, where children are encouraged to explore and express their ideas, knowing that they are valued.

Our provision is valuable, purposeful and, above all, gives enjoyable learning experiences appropriate to the child's stage of development. We provide quality and consistency so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind and remember that every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships and they learn and develop well in enabling environments which are rich and purposeful. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, therefore the framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs.

NEWS



Why are EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Areas So Important?

Continued

What is the current framework for Early Years?

The reformed EYFS, effective from September 2012, takes forward the Government's changes to the 2008 framework as recommended by the 2011 Tickell Review. Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five can have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high-quality early learning, together, provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards that all early year's providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

Why do you think it's so important to set these foundations from such an early age?

EYFS provides children with the basic but most important skills to take them through school life and into the wider community. By focusing on the prime areas of learning, communication and language, physical development and PSED, we are able to provide the children with the foundations of reading, writing and number. Without these foundations, children would not be able to access school life but also social aspects of life.

What is your favourite part about being an EYFS leader?

At The Rookeries, my favourite part is watching the team grow as professionals and see the incredible work they do to ensure all children are making significant progress and most importantly enjoying school life. We have an amazing team and we have amazing pupils. They make my role so fulfilling and it really is the best job I could ask for.

Harvest Festival Celebrations

Many schools held events and activities for the Harvest Festival as it connects children to our rural past, celebrates farming and teaches them about agriculture with an Autumnal theme.

To give back to the community, all 8 schools within the Trust collected tins of food and urgent items to donate to the Pontefract food bank as part of their Harvest Festival celebrations. The Trust are pleased to be able to help the food bank continue their phenomenal work of helping those needing support especially the increased numbers during the pandemic.

Pontefract Food Bank which is based at Central Methodist Church, Newgate, Pontefract are delighted to have the support of Pontefract Academies Trust as they're urgently needing items such as tinned tuna, tinned meats, tinned potatoes, carrots and large size nappies to name just some of the products on their list. It's great to have such a strong local partnership that helps so many.

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Wakefield Council invited children and their families to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the much-loved children's book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by visiting a fun and interactive exhibition at Pontefract Library. The exhibition was developed by Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books, and features high quality copies of Judith Kerr's original illustrations from the Seven Stories collection.

With a giant tiger, interactive kitchen area for children to play with, a space for reading in the Tiger's special den, and a scavenger hunt to find elements of the story hidden around the exhibition, there was plenty for the children to enjoy!

Our primary school pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the exhibition as part of their 50 Things initiative within school. For many it was the first trip they had taken part in since being at school. Thank you to Pontefract Library for making this exhibition so accessible for us.



Spooky Celebrations Across The Trust

Having not been able to celebrate Halloween to its fullest last year, our schools gave the students and pupils the opportunity to embrace the 31st October this year. There were Halloween parties, games, puzzle making, food eating competitions and more!

Some students put a lot of time and effort into making their costumes. Wearing them to school gave them the chance to express themselves and show off their creativity. It was great for everyone to have fun together.



Cross Country is Back

After a full year of only being able to compete in cross country at their own schools, this term saw the return of the PAT games. Each primary school took 48 pupils to The Kings School to compete in the first Inter School Cross Country. This 1km course had never been ran by any of the competitors before, so there were a lot of nervous pupils out on the course.

The young leaders from The Kings School were on hand to help out both on the start line and around the course.

This was a team event with the top 4 runners of each race counting towards a final tally. Top 3 schools were:

- 1) Larks Hill - 282 points.
- 2) Halfpenny Lane - 365 points.
- 3) Carleton Park - 405 points.

Well done to all competitors and in particular to Larks Hill Junior & Infant School. Miss Howard's Friday lunchtime Cross Country club clearly paid off!

Football

With many of the boys having returned to playing football outside of school, this was the first time they had come up against their Trust rivals since Year 3/4. As always, the staff were feeling the pressure as much as the players, wanting to make sure their school gave it their all on the pitch. Results were as follows:

- 1) Carleton Park - 25 points.
- 2) Larks Hill - 21 points.
- 3) Halfpenny Lane - 17 points.

Huge congratulations to Carleton Park who were unbeaten throughout the tournament, only conceding 1 goal. What a performance!

After working hard on their football during PE lessons in Autumn 1, it was time for the girls to put their skills into

practice at the PAT Games. Each game was extremely close and there were some incredible saves by some of the goal keepers, particularly from The Rookeries. The young leaders from Carleton High School did fantastically well to help support and referee the games, whilst also being fantastic role models for girls in football. The results were as follows:

- 1) Halfpenny Lane - 21 points.
- 2) Carleton Park - 19 points.
- 3) The Rookeries - 15 points.

Well done to the girls from Halfpenny Lane and Carleton Park who will go on to represent the Trust at the School Games event.

Over £4,000 Raised For Children In Need In 2021

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. The Rookeries Junior, Infant & Nursery School featured on Look North and the Children In Need programme as they attempted to break the world record of how many wet sponges can you throw at someone in 30 seconds! A big thank you to Headteacher at The Rookeries, Mr Grogan for nominating himself to have the sponges thrown at! The pupils loved it.

Overall our schools raised a staggering £4,000. 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!



Inspirational Student Is Recognised By Princess Anne

Ryan Myhill, an 11 year old at Carleton High School was chosen to meet Princess Anne in London due to being recognised as a young carer. Ryan has been a carer for around 4 years now for his younger sister who has ADHD and learning difficulties. Ryan enjoys helping his sister with her homework, especially maths as that's one of his favourite subjects in school. He also has a keen interest to learn about places in the world and British history.

This wasn't the first time Ryan has been recognised by Princess Anne, infact he has met her 3 times now! The second time he met Princess Anne was for when he helped give emergency first aid to a gentleman at Doncaster train station who had stopped breathing, an amazingly brave act by such a young man. Ryan is a force to be reckoned with and we are all so proud of his achievement.



NEWS

Remembrance Day In Pontefract



The King's School And Carleton High School Assemblies

Both of our secondary schools were delighted to welcome Mr Brian Berry MA from the Ackworth and Pontefract Branch of The Royal British Legion along with other ex-veterans. They gave an inspirational presentation about their stories of serving in the war. They also spoke about the significance of the poppy.

Both schools were also very fortunate to hear the bugle played live, which marked a very significant point in their assembly.

Wreath Laying

Students from Carleton High School and The King's School were invited to be part of the Pontefract Remembrance Parade to remember those men and women who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts. The service honoured those who have served their country from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day.

Students represented each school and were given the honour of laying a wreath at the Cenotaph in Pontefract Town on behalf of their school and the Trust.

Poppies

The primary children within our Trust 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. This project was in conjunction with Pontefract Civic Society.

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. 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."



PEOPLE



Meet Our Director Of Operations

In this edition, we are speaking to Diane Jones, our Director of Operations who started in post with us in August. Diane brings with her a wealth of knowledge and is already an integral part of the team. We are really excited to see the changes Diane will make, in an already, ever changing landscape.

Where did you work previously?

Previously at J Tomlinson Ltd Construction delivering their people strategy.

What attracted you to Pontefract Academies Trust?

An opportunity to work in the Education Sector for a Trust who had been on a tough journey for a couple of years but had delivered amazing results as part of the transition which I saw as somewhere where I thought I could add value through my experiences in other sectors.

What key changes are you planning on implementing in the short term at Pontefract Academies Trust?

The estates plan is now firmly in place and ready to be implemented across the schools and will be at the forefront of my key deliverables in the first few months as will building on the excellent work delivered prior to my appointment. I'm looking to build cohesion within the support functions facilitated by the central resource team, addressing operational pinch points by streamlining processes and introducing technology where it can add value to administrative activities.

How many years have you worked in the operations sector?

Now that would be telling! I have been in operational roles since 1999 following completion of 16 years in the NHS.

What did you like most about school?

Friendships – the support and encouragement they give you, many of which I still have in place with the same people today.

What was your favourite subject?

Maths was my favourite subject.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Holidays and lots of them. I also have a bucket list of 101 things to do which I'm working my way through which, you've guessed it, includes lots of travel!



8 schools

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