



November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Communication from the CEO:

As we move further in the school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening across the Trust and also to remind parents/carers of the importance of good attendance in school, every day that a student/child is absent from school is a lost opportunity for learning.

The Importance of Good Attendance

As a parent or carer, we always want the absolute best for our children growing up. Having a good education is a great head start in life and crucial in creating more opportunities in adult life.

Did you know that:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all!
- poor examination results limit young people's options.
- poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable.
- poor school attendance can lead to potential involvement in crime - a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly.
- In the UK 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence

I appreciate that GCSEs may seem a long way off for some of our pupils, but all absences at any stage of your child's education leads to gaps in their learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- they lose motivation
- impact on their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.



Supporting your child's school attendance

Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for them. Showing your child/ren the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment.

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child.

You should:

- create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and they are properly equipped
- talk to them about the things they have been learning. A short chat may produce a better result than a long list of questions.
- read all school communications.
- attend school parents' evenings and functions.
- check your child understands the homework and that it has been completed. Support them in completing homework by creating a calm space for them to work in.
- avoid absence from school wherever possible. Avoid GP and dental appointments during school hours. Absence means your child will miss out on academic studies and begin to feel that education is not a priority. This can have a negative lifelong effect.

There tends to be good reasons why children become reluctant to attend school. Take the time to listen to your child, share any concerns you or your child may have with the appropriate member of school staff and seek support at the very earliest opportunity.

For additional guidance on supporting your child attendance:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/attendance-and-pupil-welfare-service>





Headline Data – 2022-2023

We are delighted with all the results across the Trust. Hall Cross Academy achieved the best A Level results for Doncaster for the second year and GCSE progress results demonstrate that Hall Cross are in the top 15% of schools nationally.

Early Years

% ACHIEVING GLD			
	2019 Attainment (4 academies)	2022 Attainment (8 academies)	2023 Attainment (8 Academies)
Exceed	74%	70%	74%
National Average	72%	65%	67%
Gap from National Average	+ 2%	+ 5%	+7%

Key Stage 1

% ACHIEVING ARE in Reading, Writing and Maths KS1			
	2019 Attainment (4 academies)	2022 Attainment (8 academies)	2023 Attainment (8 academies)
Exceed	71%	59%	68%
National Average	65%	54%	56%
Gap from National Average	+6%	+5%	+12%

*In 2019 pupils were 203. In 2023 numbers were 351.

Key Stage 2

% ACHIEVING ARE in Reading, Writing and Maths KS2			
	2019 Attainment (4 academies)	2022 Attainment (8 academies)	2023 Attainment (8 academies)
Exceed	68%	61%	69%
National Average	65%	59%	59%
Gap from National Average	+3%	+2%	+10%

Progress Data	2018 (2 academies)	2019 (4 academies)	2022 (8 academies)	2023 (8 academies)
Reading	0.20	-0.20	1.60	0.5
Writing	1.00	1.50	0.7	0.7
Maths	1.38	1.10	0.5	0.3



Progress and attainment at key stage 4

- ↑ School difference from national has improved from comparator year
- ↑ School difference from national has improved slightly from comparator year
- Similar to comparator year or fewer than 11 pupils
- ↓ School difference from national has weakened slightly from comparator year
- ↓ School difference from national has weakened from comparator year

	2023 cohort/entries	Performance in 2023	2023 value	2023 nat value	1 year	4 year
Overall P8	254	Sig above national and 84th percentile	0.5	0.0	—	—
English P8	254	Sig above national and 82nd percentile	0.4	0.0	—	—
Mathematics P8	254	Sig above national and 93rd percentile	0.7	0.0	—	—
EBacc P8	254	Sig above national and 66th percentile	0.2	0.0	—	—
Open P8	254	Sig above national and 88th percentile	0.6	0.0	—	—
Science VA	251	Sig above national and 67th percentile	0.2	0.0	—	—
Languages VA	36	Sig above national and 92nd percentile	1.3	0.0	—	—
Humanities VA	99	Sig above national and 76th percentile	0.4	0.0	—	—
Overall A8	267	Sig above national and 69th percentile	50	46	—	—
English A8	267	Sig above national and 68th percentile	10.5	9.8	—	—
Mathematics A8	267	Sig above national and 76th percentile	10.1	9.1	—	—
Open A8	267	Sig above national and 76th percentile	15.4	13.9	—	—
Languages % 4+	37	Sig above national and 94th percentile	95	70	↑	—



Attainment at 16 to 18

- ↑ School difference from national has improved from comparator year
- ↑ School difference from national has improved slightly from comparator year
- Similar to comparator year or fewer than 11 pupils
- ↓ School difference from national has weakened slightly from comparator year
- ↓ School difference from national has weakened from comparator year

	2023 cohort/entries	Performance in 2023	2023 value	2023 nat value	1 year	4 year
A level APS	440.5	Sig above national and 88th percentile	38	34	—	—
Best 3 A levels APS	134	Sig above national and 82nd percentile	37	35	—	—
Applied general APS	69.0	Sig above national and 95th percentile	38	30	—	—

Postive Regard

Positive Regard will be providing specialist consultancy across the Trust to support and build a model of relational practice and positive behaviour in academies. The model aims to repair relationships, build trust and decrease the signs of stress in children and young people. This increases pupils'/students' focus and engagement in teaching and learning and their opportunities to achieve in all aspects of their lives

Social Justice Project



Last week we held our Annual Social Justice Project Event at Hall Cross Academy. This was a wonderful evening where year 6 pupils across the Trust had the opportunity to speak out about social justice issues that mattered to them. Each primary academy created a presentation on their chosen topic including racial equality, LGBTQ+ rights and climate change. It was a real privilege to witness these incredible performances with pupils demonstrating such confidence and talent.





Storytelling Project:

We are excited to be embarking upon a new and exciting storytelling project with Dr Lisa Stephenson from Leeds Beckett University, partially funded by the Laurel Trust Charity. We are delighted that Lisa and a team of creative artists will be visiting all year 4 classrooms to explore stories and drama within the year 4 history and geography curriculum. This project aims to use storytelling and drama world building to improve pupil's social and emotional well-being, as well as considering how drama activates learning.

Early Years Outdoor Learning Environment

Children are thriving in their new outdoor environment at Sandringham Primary School after extensive works took place over the summer. A beautiful outdoor space has been carefully designed and crafted by local company Precision Timber, who worked with teachers to match the plans to the school's curriculum.



The whole outdoor space is a vision of adventure and imagination linked together with sensory paths and beautifully crafted archways and bridges.

Early Years are already putting this amazing resource to good use, enjoying water play around their new dry river bed, and crafting and getting busy in the huge covered sandpit area. The new construction and stage areas are also proving great spaces for the children's creativity to run wild.



Buildings and Premises

Following a number of successful Capital Funding bids, the Trust has continued to invest in its estate and learning environment, with the following works close to completion:

- Asbestos Removal and Fire Compartmentalisation at Sheep Dip Lane Academy
- Asbestos Removal at Sandringham Primary School
- Fire Compartmentalisation at Willow Primary School
- New Heating and Boiler system at Edlington Victoria Academy

Alongside this, there has been additional investment to improve the learning environment at Hill Top Academy, install LED Lighting throughout Carr Lodge Academy, new carpets at Bentley High Street Primary and upgrade the Science Labs at Hall Cross Academy.

Works will continue into 2024, with a new Boiler and Heating System at Rosedale Primary School, Fire Compartmentalisation at Hall Cross Upper and we are currently in the planning stages for investment in toilets at both Bentley High Street and Edlington Victoria.

Thank you to all pupils, parents and colleagues for their ongoing support whilst these works have been undertaken.



Exceed Learning Partnership

• EVERY CHILD • EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY •

Edlington Lane
Doncaster
South Yorkshire DN12 1PL

T 01709 805175

F 01709 869936

E admin@exceedlearningpartnership.com

www.exceedlearningpartnership.co.uk

Developments in Information Technology

We have recently appointed Mr Kilner to the role as Director of ICT, he is an IT specialist with a strong background in the UK education sector, with expertise in primary, secondary and special needs phases. The Director of ICT is responsible for all IT and digital systems across the Trust and will be focusing on the delivery of safe, secure, effective and innovative technologies to enhance teaching and learning.

Governors

We are always looking for new governors who have a specific area of expertise (for example finance, HR, Business) to join our Local Governing Boards. If you would like further information or a discussion about the role of a Governor please contact the Trust Office on 01709 805175 or by emailing admin@exceedlp.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank colleagues, parents, carers and the wider community for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Beryce Nixon
CEO & National Leader of Education

John Blount
Chair of Director