

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. As we head into the summer break, we felt it important to share our pupils' recent successes and inform you of some Trust-wide developments.

Primary Schools' Performance in Year 6 SATs

Last week the National SATs outcomes for 2023 were announced. Across the country, the National average for pupils achieving the Key Stage 2 expected standard in reading, writing and maths was 59%. I am delighted to share that pupils in the Trust primary schools have achieved stunning outcomes. Across our six primary schools, 85% of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

We are all delighted for our pupils and their families. For pupils in our schools to achieve 26% above the National average is an incredibly positive story for our local community. It means our pupils can transition to secondary school with the confidence to thrive in the next phase of their education. Five years ago, the primary schools in the Trust achieved outcomes well below the National average.

Having five of our six primaries in the top twelve out of over 100 primary schools across the Wakefield district is a great community achievement. The 2023 outcomes build upon the success of 2022, which saw our primary schools in the top 5% nationally for progress, and our two secondary schools in the top 15%. We look forward to the GCSE outcomes in August and hope our pupils enjoy the same levels of success.

The leaders and staff in all our schools are incredibly determined to continue the excellent progress that has been made to date. We remain humble because we know that the improvement journey never ends. There are always things that we can do better and improve upon. There are things that we do not always get right. However, we will not apologise for having the highest expectations, both in and out of the classroom. We have seen how well our pupils and young people respond. I speak for all our staff across the schools in that improving the life chances of our young people is the core of our work.

Our aim is to continue to deliver this level of performance so that more of our children get off to a flying start at primary school, so that they have very strong foundations when they enter secondary school. Our approach to our teachers and leaders collaborating across our schools, sharing best practice and working together on all aspects of our provision is pivotal to how we operate. Through being a family of schools, we can offer more to both staff and young people than any single school could offer alone.

Northfield Primary School, South Kirkby

Before we start the summer break, I wanted to bring you up to date with a very recent development. Northfield Primary School in South Kirkby is a school that received its second judgement of requiring improvement from Ofsted. As a result, the Department for Education has advised the school it will be joining a multi-academy trust.

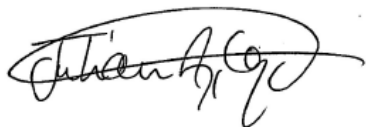
The Department for Education has confirmed that Pontefract Academies Trust will be the preferred home for Northfield Primary School. We are delighted that Northfield Primary School will be joining our family of schools, subject to the appropriate due diligence. The Trust will collaborate with representatives from the Department for Education, the Local Authority, and staff at the school over the next few months as Northfield becomes one of our primary partners.

The decision by the Department for Education to choose Pontefract Academies Trust as Northfield's new home is symbolic. Our approach to working across our schools with shared systems, knowledge, and resources has helped achieve significantly better outcomes for our children. Seeing that the Department for Education has recognised the above and regards us as a good fit for Northfield Primary School is gratifying.

As ever, on behalf of all staff across the Trust, I would like to thank you for your support. Over the last few weeks, it has been great to see the support from parents and carers at various school events; we do not take support for granted and recognise that success for our community comes from a long term three-way relationship between parents, pupils and the schools.

I hope you and your families enjoy a great summer with better weather than we have seen lately!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Appleyard', written in a cursive style.

Julian Appleyard OBE
CEO