Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

Pathfinder **News**

The latest updates from across the Trust **Easter 2023**

World Book Day celebrations at Archbishop Holgate's School.

It doesn't seem long ago I was wishing families a Happy Christmas and New Year and now the Easter holidays are here. I hope your child's spring term has been a happy and successful one.

As well as the teaching and learning which takes place in our schools each and every day, it has been great to see the wealth of trips and activities which have taken place this term. From the various residentials to visits to the Houses of Parliament, British Museum and Downing Street to name but a few, we are delighted that children in our schools are able to benefit from these inspiring and enriching experiences.

Towards the end of the term, Tang Hall Primary School had a visit from Ofsted. The two-day inspection was a positive experience for the school and we look forward to sharing the outcome when the final report is published.

The Pathfinder Teaching School Hub, which is based at Archbishop Holgate's School, is celebrating its two-year anniversary delivering teacher training and development opportunities across Ryedale, Scarborough and York. As part of the Hub's role to improve teacher recruitment and retention, more than 550 Early Career Teachers have been trained during the past two years.

We are looking forward to three new schools joining Pathfinder later this year which you can read about on page 8.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this term and the year so far. We wish all students and their families a safe and restful Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing what the summer term will bring.

Andrew Daly
Chief Executive Officer

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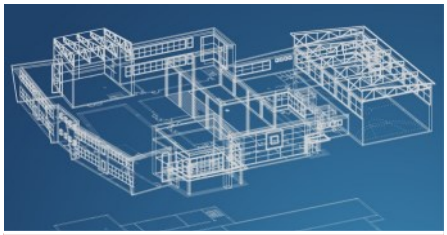

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Pathfinder schools

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust was formed in August 2016, initially between four schools. Today, we are ten schools strong, soon to be 13, serving more than 4,200 students and their families across York.

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

Archbishop Holgate's School
A Church of England Academy Founded 1546

Badger Hill Primary School

Clifton with Rawcliffe

Hempland Primary School

Heworth Church of England Primary School

New Earswick Primary School

Rufforth Primary School

St Lawrence's Church of England Primary School

Tang Hall Primary School

School Rebuilding Programme

Hempland Primary School and Tang Hall Primary School have both been named as two of 400 schools across the country to be prioritised as part of the government's £1bn flagship School Rebuilding Programme.

The programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at schools and sixth form colleges across England with buildings being prioritised according to their overall condition. All buildings in the School Rebuilding Programme are built to the latest construction standards and designed to be net-zero in operation.

New buildings will provide modern facilities to help support a world-class education ranging from classrooms and science labs to sports halls and dining facilities.

Following initial delays during the planning stage, we are pleased to share the news that the Department for Education is currently out to tender for a contractor to take on the projects. There is still a considerable amount of development and planning work to finalise before building work on the school sites can begin but we are currently anticipating completion dates for both schools during the 2025/26 academic year. We look forward to sharing more information with families as work on each of the projects develop over the months ahead.

As an academy trust, we also have access to School Condition Allocation funding from the government to invest in improving the condition of our school buildings and grounds. During the 2021-22 academic year, we invested almost £1.5 million into refurbishment and improvement projects across our schools.

News from our schools

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, KS2 have been learning more about the UK parliament and how it works. We had a visit from one of the education team who led a very interesting assembly about the day to day running of parliament and how laws are made. Later in the term, we took Year 5 on a day trip to London for a tour of the parliament buildings, a workshop in the education centre and a chance to meet our local MP, Rachael Maskell. The day started with an early meet at York Station to catch the 8am train to Kings Cross. There was a full day of sightseeing as well as the Parliament visit. We used the Tube to travel to Buckingham Palace, had lunch in St James's Park and then headed to Parliament for our tour. We got to walk through the House of Lords and sit in the public gallery in the House of Commons where we saw the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other politicians having a debate.

Later on we went to see Downing Street, Tower Bridge and the Monument to the Great Fire of London. We used the Thames Clipper boat to travel along the River Thames and saw many more sights on our way such as Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, City Hall and The Shard. We ended the day with a visit to Bank - the deepest underground station in London, with 128 steps to get to the platform. Our train got back to York at 8pm and we were all exhausted from a long day. It was an amazing experience and one that the children will never forget.

News from our schools

Archbishop Holgate's School

A Church of England Academy Founded 1546

Students and staff at Archbishop Holgate's have had a busy and eventful term which culminated in three standout performances of the school's production of Fame. All of the students involved, whether backstage, front of house or in the limelight, did a fantastic job and worked tirelessly to make all of the performances a huge success. The school celebrated World Book Day with over 50 members of staff dressing up in costumes ranging from Fantastic Mr Fox to Lady Macbeth. Students participated in a variety of competitions including designing new book covers and 'story in a jar'.

Earlier this term, A Level Politics and Applied Law students had a visit from Lord Best, a member of the House of Lords. Lord Best, a cross-party peer who previously led the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, spoke about his personal success in recommending legislation to the House of Commons and also in holding them to account on social housing. Students asked a variety of questions ranging from democracy to representation and were able to see another way of influencing policy without necessarily having to belong to a political party.

We were delighted to welcome the new Dean of York Minster, the Very Revd Dominic Barrington, into school in February. The Dean spoke about his recent visit to Israel and Palestine and his interactions with bereaved parents from both sides of the deep political and religious divide that exists there. During his visit, he heard about the school's Unity Fund which raises funds to support families who have been most impacted by the cost of living crisis. The Dean contacted the school after his visit to say: "It was such a joy to spend time at AHS on Friday morning. Everything about the school is profoundly inspiring."

Badger Hill

PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a very busy but successful term at Badger Hill. It has certainly flown by but it has been filled with lots of exciting activities and experiences for the children.

We have had a focus on Shakespeare this term and have been working alongside York Theatre Royal to showcase our love of drama! Each key stage focused on a different play (A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest and Macbeth) and after receiving a masterclass from the theatre, went on to perform an extract for our parents. We also celebrated Shakespeare through the wider curriculum and created fabulous writing and artwork.

Music has been on our mind this term as we welcomed our new music teacher Fliss. Each class has enjoyed getting to know her and we have especially loved our new choir club and singing assembly. Alongside our regular music lessons we have had visits from the Northern Ballet (dance and music), MEG drumming workshops and Years 1 and 2 had a workshop from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment focusing on The Magic Flute by Mozart. The children were also able to take part in an interactive concert.

We have also revisited our 'Good to be Green' positive behaviours across school. This involved everyone at school reminding themselves of the expectations we have in school! Our lunchtimes are also looking very exciting (hopefully ready for the summer weather!) We have separated our playground into different zones that include a quiet zone, free play area, games area (snakes and ladders, noughts and crosses and dominoes) and different activities to try out on the MUGA.

News from our schools

Clifton with Rawcliffe

The spring term at Clifton with Rawcliffe has been packed with experiences and opportunities to enhance the curriculum. We have welcomed many visitors into school and visited many places in and beyond the local community.

To celebrate World Book Day Year 1 and 2 welcomed Nicolette Hobson from Mud Pie Arts and honed their interactive storytelling skills. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a Roman Britain workshop and learnt about soldiers, family life and even what they liked to eat. Year 3 entertained us with their production of 'Hoodwinked' - a play about Robinhood. The children's singing, dancing and acting was outstanding!

Year 5 and 6 visited the LNER Community Stadium to take part in York City Foundation's exciting new project. They enjoyed working with YO1 Radio to create matchday reports. Additionally, they were visited by students from the University of York Biology Department and observed a heart dissection to support their writing about the circulatory system. Year 6 took part in several 'Formula 1' events at York STEM centre. They put their teamwork skills to the test, competing against other teams and saw their ideas and designs come to life.

136 children attended the Young Voices concert at the Sheffield Arena. They performed 10 different songs including 'Proud' which they sang with Heather Small. This was an incredible experience.

One of the biggest highlights this term has to be our 'Rock Star Day' where we celebrated maths and music. The children (and staff) looked incredible in their fabulous costumes. We had a visit from Al Morrison and Henry Bird from Rock God Academy who played electric guitar in assembly for us. We were in awe of their incredible skills. CWR Rocks!

Hempland Primary School

Spring term at Hempland is 'Residential' time with both our Year 5 and Year 6 children heading off on adventures outside of our school.

The Year 5 children visited Peat Rigg in February and threw themselves into every challenge they faced. Bushcraft, problem solving and even a spot of abseiling were part of three action packed days. The children made such special memories and were definitely in need of an early night on their return!

Next up was the turn of the Year 6 children who headed to Robinwood in March and amazed themselves (and the staff team!) with their determination, teamwork and ability to have a go and push themselves out of their comfort zones. The giant swing, zip wire, caving and mastering the skill of archery were some particular highlights.

We are very proud of all of the children and throughout these residentials, they were great ambassadors for Hempland through always demonstrating our four values of Respect, Opportunity, Ambition and Resilience and doing so with huge smiles on their faces! Well done everyone!

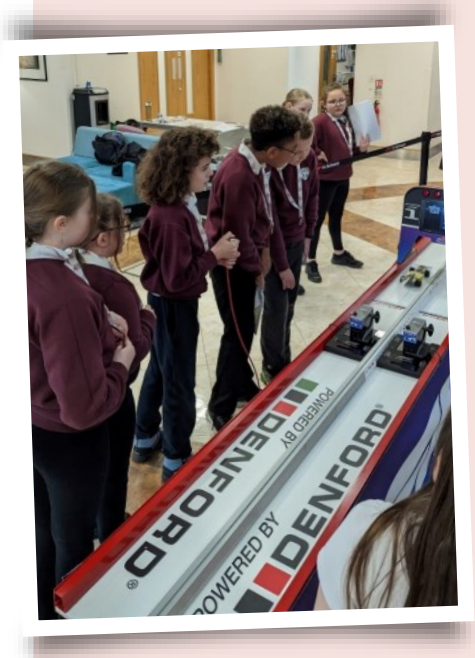
News from our schools

Heworth Church of England Primary School

At Heworth CE Primary, we love any opportunity to give children experiences that they wouldn't necessarily normally get. Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children were able to take up such an opportunity when they visited Grasslands Farm near Rufforth this March. For many children, this was their first experience of a working farm and, more importantly, the animals and machinery that can be found on it. For our Reception children, this was in fact their first school visit ever so there were a lot of excited faces as they embarked on the coach for their journey. During the day, the children experienced everything you could wish for on a morning on the farm. The day began with an exploration of different types of crops focusing on wheat, oats, barley and rapeseed before discovering what they might be turned into. They then met the Limousin cows and they're gorgeous calves, one of which was born the previous day. The children then spent time with other farmyard animals including hens which they got to stroke and name. Farming machinery was looked at, horsepower was explored and they finished the morning with excellent questions for Farmer David.

The experiences don't stop here though as our Year 6 children will be visiting the Houses of Parliament at the end of the month to learn all about laws and debating whilst also getting a tour of this amazing building and London itself.

New Earswick Primary School



The pupils of New Earswick Primary have enjoyed a fun-filled term. In March, each class celebrated World Book Day by dressing up in something related to the jungle. In school, we decorated each classroom doorway based on the class novel or favourite story. The children also enjoyed having their faces painted as tigers, monkeys, parrots and many other jungle creatures. In addition, the children in Year 6 enjoyed designing and testing their F1 cars in a MAT-wide competition in association with York St John's University. We took six teams to race against other schools. Each team tested the aerodynamics of their design or tested how good their 'slick' tires were at gripping the track. Every team member also got to test their reaction skills on the start line by pressing the trigger and launching the car. The teams are all looking forward to the regional finals later this month. Alongside the excitement, also comes moments of reflection. This term we appointed a new Headteacher for the school. Mrs Gibson, currently working at Knavesmire, will join the school in September and we are all looking forward to ensuring she settles in quickly and enjoys her new role.

News from our schools

Rufforth Primary School

Our School Council and Friendship Ambassadors have been very busy this term. The Friendship Ambassadors are very close to completing their Online Safety badge from The Diana Award. They have created an online safety pledge, delivered a whole school assembly, created a page on our school website, and are currently leading a fundraising campaign for The Retreat, challenging children and families to go 'screen-free' for a day in March.

The School Council has worked very closely with one of our parents who is also an artist and designer. They have contributed to the redesigning of our school logo, which will be rolled out in September 2023. The new design emphasises our core values of Inspire, Care, Grow and captures the identity of our school in 2023.

Rufforth Primary School · Inspire · Care · Grow ·

Earlier this month, we celebrated British Science Week. It was a fantastic week which focussed on the theme of 'Connections'. Children enjoyed learning from STEM visitors who talked about their work in 'the internet of things', how the internet connects us, connections in farming and a visit to outer space in a mobile planetarium! The week culminated in a family challenge to build the tallest tower out of paper that could hold a tin of beans for 1 minute – this was a fantastic opportunity to work with parents and to celebrate our learning from throughout the week.

Our Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a very cold residential visit to Kingswood at the beginning of March. The more it snowed, the higher they climbed. The children demonstrated great resilience and personal growth, along with the ability to zip wire in freezing conditions! What a fantastic experience.

St Barnabas CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a busy term at St Barnabas with so much exciting learning. We celebrated World Book Day with a 'bedtime story themed day. Everyone was very cosy, dressed in their pyjamas and we all shared our favourite bedtime stories through the day along with other brilliant book related activities. Parents and carers joined us too and enjoyed some quality time reading with their children in school.

Our super scientists explored the theme of 'Connections' during British Science Week. Key Stage 1 classes connected with the wonderful nature in our school grounds, using their observational skills to find minibeasts, fungi and beautiful spring flowers. Farah class explored whether fingerprints are really all different. They had great fun making and looking closely at each other's fingerprints, learning about the features - whorls, arches and loops. They were astonished to learn that everyone in the world, including identical twins have different fingerprints. Some of the children would make great forensic scientists!

Kahlo class investigated the role of bridges in connecting places - looking at different designs and trying out some for themselves. The strongest bridge that was built using everyday materials held 115 multi-link cubes!

News from our schools

St Lawrence's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The year continues at pace and the children of St Lawrence's continue to show how wonderful they are. The Year 6 children showed all our values of Caring, Considerate and especially Courage, during their visit to Kingswood. They had great fun but also learned to work as a team and to encourage each other during the week. They all managed to have a go on the zip wire - even the teachers - and they were all very proud of their achievements.

The children have also been taking part in a variety of workshops. MEG visited and showed the children in Key Stage 1 how to do body percussion, whilst we have also had YoYo in to work with the children in Year 5 and 6 on the Old and New Testament. This was done through songs and actions which the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in. Our Year 3s and 5s have also taken part in the King's Gospel Project which will be given to the King on his coronation.

Like many other schools, we took part in World Book Day. The children were invited to come in dressed as their favourite character or to bring a prop from their favourite book. During the day, they took part in a variety of events such as a Where's Wally hunt, and then everyone joined together to read with each other at the end of the day. It was lovely to see the Year 6s and Year 1s reading stories to each other in the hall.

We were also very impressed with one of our teachers, Mr French, who took part in 'Beat the Teacher'. He got through to the final where he was narrowly beaten and we are all very impressed with him.

We are constantly celebrating the diversity within our school. We now have children from over 20 different countries and these are all represented in our hall of flags. We have children from Korea to France and everything in between. All the children respect their differences as well as celebrating what they have in common and it is truly wonderful to see all the children playing and learning together.

Tang Hall Primary School

It has been a very busy spring term at Tang Hall Primary School for enriching children beyond the curriculum.

In February, the school choir travelled to Sheffield to take part in our first Young Voices experience since the pandemic. It was an inspiring experience for the pupils and one which I hope they will cherish. The highlight of the concert was singing alongside Heather Small from M People!

In March, we celebrated World Book Day with fancy dress, a decorated potato competition and, more recently, a book fair in school. World Book Day is a fantastic opportunity to hear from the pupils about the books they are reading at home and also what new reads they would like the school to purchase! Finally this term, we have also been lucky enough to be involved in the completion of a handwritten version of the four Gospels which is being produced as a gift which will be handed to King Charles to celebrate his coronation. Both pupils and staff have come together to handwrite and illustrate key sections of the Gospel which will be collated with organisations across the City to produce this very special keep safe for His Majesty.

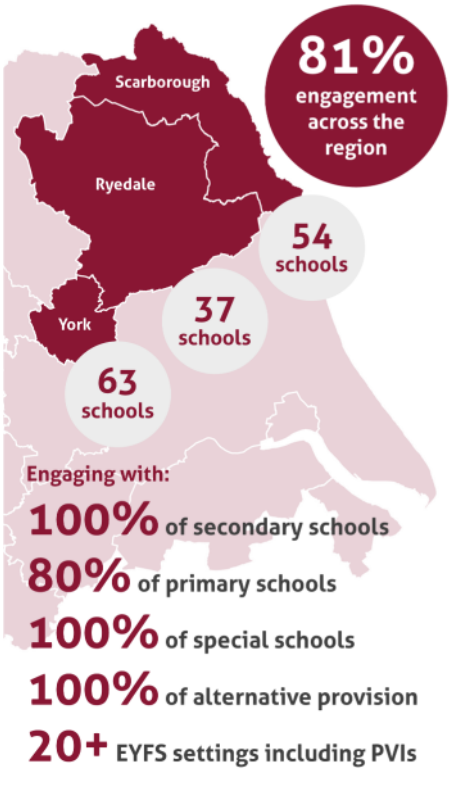
Pathfinder Teaching School Hub

Train to teach at Pathfinder

Are you interested in training to become a teacher? The Pathfinder Teaching School Hub provides Initial Teacher Training for both primary and secondary trainees through the Schools Direct programme. These courses combine in-school training with the latest research-led practice delivered by our partner universities.

We currently have vacancies on our teacher training courses starting in September 2023 and are looking for people who have a degree, a passion for teaching and who want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential. If this sounds like you, contact us to find out about the teacher training opportunities we have available. Call 01904 806900 or email info@tsh.pmat.academy. You can also find out more on our website pathfinder-tsh.co.uk.

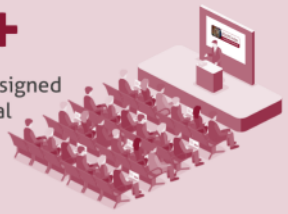
CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF PATHFINDER TEACHING SCHOOL HUB



400+ participants on the full range of National Professional Qualifications.

96% NPQ pass rate

100+ school leaders signed up to our annual Headteachers' Conference in March.



550+ Early Career Teachers and Mentors trained

New schools set to join Pathfinder

Over the past seven years, Pathfinder has grown from just four schools when it formed in August 2016 to the 10 schools which make up the Trust today.

We are now looking forward to three further schools who will be officially joining Pathfinder later this year. Families may be aware that St Barnabas CE Primary School is due to join the Trust and, following some unexpected delays in the academisation process, the school now has a provisional conversion date of 1 June. In addition, Poppleton Road Primary School and Huntington Primary Academy are also in the process of joining Pathfinder having conducted successful consultations with their staff, parents and wider school communities.

As part of Pathfinder, schools benefit from a range of opportunities to share best teaching and learning practice; collaborate on curriculum development with other schools in the Trust; access to staff training and development through the Pathfinder Teaching School Hub and the support and resources provided by the central operations team.

We value the distinctiveness and diversity of each of our schools and the contributions they make to the Trust as a whole. As well as being a part of Pathfinder, we want schools to maintain and develop their individual identities and to celebrate what makes them unique. We are looking forward to benefiting from the knowledge and expertise colleagues in St Barnabas, Poppleton Road and Huntington will bring to Pathfinder and how we can continue to work together for the benefit of the children in all our schools.

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

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