Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

Pathfinder **News**

The latest updates from across the Trust **Easter 2024**

Students take to the stage in Archbishop Holgate's School production of Sister Act, more on page 4

Dear parents and carers, thank you for your support for our schools during what has been a short but very busy Spring term. Thank you also to the parents and carers who have attended our information sessions which are currently taking place at our schools. I have enjoyed meeting families and having the opportunity to share the collective achievements of each school and the Trust as a whole. I hope you found the session informative and were able to see the importance we place on our schools being unique and diverse places and our ongoing commitment to deliver the best education possible for all children. I am looking forward to visiting our other schools next term.

We are delighted that the Teaching School Hub has been re-designated for another four years following a national tendering process. The Hub, based at Archbishop Holgate's School, provides teacher training and development for teachers at every stage of their career across more than 150 schools in the Ryedale, Scarborough and York region.

We have been working with a number of schools who have been exploring the possibility of joining Pathfinder and are currently awaiting Malton School who are officially joining us next term. We have been working closely with the school for a number of months now to ensure a smooth transition into the Trust and are looking forward to the many opportunities having another secondary school on board will bring.

Finally, we are currently looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join the local governing boards at our schools. Please see page 2 for more information and don't hesitate to get in touch if this sounds like something you would be interested in.

I wish all families a safe and restful Easter break and I look forward to the exciting opportunities and experiences the summer term will bring for our children and young people.

Andrew Daly | Chief Executive Officer

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Our schools

Pathfinder was formed in August 2016, initially between just four schools. Today, we are 13 schools strong, serving more than 5,000 students and their families across York.

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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
Huntington PRIMARY ACADEMY
New Earswick Primary School
Poppleton Road Primary School
Rufforth Primary School · Inspire · Care · Grow ·
St Barnabas CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
St Lawrence's CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Tang Hall Primary School

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals who are interested in becoming governors at our schools. Are you someone who would like to:

make a difference to the lives and experiences of children and young people?

have a positive impact in your local community, both now and for future generations?

share and develop your skills and experience in leadership and management?

What do governors do?
Governors are volunteers who work together as part of a school's governing board and are responsible for the strategic leadership and accountability of a school. The governing board's key role is to set the school's vision and values; monitor the progress the school is making; set targets for school improvement; monitor the school's budget and hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

Who can be a governor?
There are no requirements or qualifications needed to become a school governor. All governing boards need a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to work effectively for the benefit of their school.

Get in touch
If you would like to have a positive impact on the educational outcomes of our children and young people, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us info@pmat.academy or give us a call on 01904 806000.

St Lawrence's judged Good with Outstanding features

St Lawrence's CE Primary School's Headteacher, Helen Coles, with students

St Lawrence's CE Primary School, once put into special measures and judged as Requires Improvement in January 2020, has been celebrating being graded Good with Outstanding features following its latest inspection.

Out of the five key areas primary schools are assessed on, the early years provision, behaviour and attitudes of pupils and their personal development were all deemed to be Outstanding. Headteacher, Helen Coles, said: "We could not be prouder of our school and community. St Lawrence's has been a very special place for some time and to have the work and the commitment that everyone puts into the school recognised is wonderful."

The latest Ofsted report praised the inclusivity of the school and behaviour of pupils saying: "St Lawrence's Church of England Primary is an extremely welcoming and inclusive school. It is characterised by warm relationships between staff and pupils. This is evident in the excellent behaviour and conduct of the pupils."

Inspectors said that children in early years make an excellent start to their education and are exceptionally well-prepared for learning in Year 1. Children with SEND were also found to achieve particularly well. The strength of pupils' personal development was recognised with the report stating: "The school's curriculum for personal development is thoroughly planned to teach pupils how to engage with society and understand their place within it." Commenting on the role of the school's governors and multi academy trust, inspectors said that governors and trustees have an in-depth understanding of the school and work effectively with school leaders. The report also mentioned the significant impact of the trust in ensuring staff are supported to access high-quality training and further professional development. Chair of Governors, Ruth Greaney, said: "I am delighted with the report which reflects years of hard work and commitment by Mrs Coles and the whole school team."

Inspectors sought the views of staff and parents during their visit, noting: "Staff are highly complementary about how their workload is considered and the support for their well-being. Parents are extremely positive about all aspects of the school's work." Pathfinder's CEO, Andrew Daly, said: "This is a much deserved and long-awaited outcome for the school. Within the Trust, we have recognised the significant and ongoing improvements Mrs Coles and her team have made for some time and I am delighted this has now been highlighted by Ofsted."

Work begins on Hempland Primary School new build

3D render of Hempland Primary School's new building due to begin construction in April

We are delighted to announce that the Department for Education has signed off the paperwork for Hempland Primary School's new building. This is fantastic news for the school community and a huge milestone in the project so far.

Work to prepare the site is currently taking place ready for construction to begin in April. As reported in previous newsletters, Hempland successfully achieved a place on the government's School Rebuilding Programme which carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects in schools and colleges across England.

The new build is being constructed behind the current school, avoiding the need for any temporary accommodation while construction is underway. Once the new school is open, the old building will be completely demolished to make way for an Early Years play area and landscaping. Trust and school staff have been working closely with the DfE and contractor ISG Construction on the project which is due to be completed by autumn 2025. We are looking forward to sharing more updates throughout the next phase of the build.

News from our schools

ACOMB PRIMARY SCHOOL

One of the key things we do at Acomb for children's personal development is the Archbishop of York Young Leader's Award in Year 2 and Year 5. This term, the children in Year 5 have been working hard towards their award. Initially, the children learned about the skills needed by a good leader to work effectively. The children then researched inspirational leaders such as David Attenborough and Malala Yousafzai to see why these people followed the Young Leader values of 'be the change you want to see'.

They also discovered different ways that charities support people in need. The children used this knowledge in their final project at South Park Care Home. The children met the residents and completed collaborative art projects together, which are displayed in the care home. The children and residents also participated in a singing session - 'Yellow submarine' was a very popular choice!

Year 2 began by thinking about kindness and how a good leader is always kind. We looked at inspirational leaders and designed a poster about Florence Nightingale as we felt that she followed the values of a Young Leader. Over the last few weeks, both in school and at home, Year 2 carried out random acts of kindness. These involved acts such as holding a door open and giving compliments, to donating to a food bank and playing with younger siblings.

We are now thinking about perseverance and how we can encourage this attitude, not only in ourselves, but in the younger children in school.

News from our schools

Archbishop Holgate's School

A Church of England Academy Founded 1546

Archbishop Holgate's School has once again raised the roof with a sell out run of their annual production, which this year was the fabulous musical comedy Sister Act.

Based on the 1992 smash hit film starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith, Sister Act is the feel-good experience which has audiences jumping to their feet! Featuring original music by Tony and 8-time Oscar winner Alan Menken (Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Little Shop of Horrors and The Little Mermaid), this uplifting musical was nominated for five Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Children from Year 7 to 13 have been involved in the show and a former student even returned to the school to support in the band. The students were also lucky enough to have a workshop from West End actress Cleopatra Muchemwa in the weeks running up to the show to prepare the cast for their three performances.

The cast, crew and band put in well over 120 rehearsal hours over the three months prior to the sell out performances and were rightly proud of their hard work! The school's Arts and Culture Lead, Molly Newton, who directed and produced the show said she couldn't be more proud of the students and staff involved.

Rev Cllr Chris Cullwick attended the production on the opening night and had this to say: "Thank you so much for inviting us and arranging for us to be there. We are so pleased to have been able to witness such an incredible performance. Huge congratulations to everyone involved, every performer, musician and crew member, not to mention the army of costume makers, set builders and the amazing production team. Most especially congratulations to you and all the staff who are involved."

Badger Hill

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Spring term at Badger Hill has been super busy! This has involved lots of activities to enhance and deepen the learning taking place within the classrooms.

Our children have been out and about this half term. This has included visits to Murton Park to learn about life in the Stone Age, a trip back in time to the Victorian times and a fantastic immersive art experience at the Van Gogh exhibition for Year 4. These activities have helped to place learning in context. As always, our children represent Badger Hill amazingly while out and about in the community.

Our annual Young Voices event took place in February this year. We took children from across Key Stage 2 to take part in the choir at Sheffield arena. Everyone who attended had a blast (including the staff). What a fantastic evening of singing!

Within school we have been even busier as we have focused on British Values and what they mean to us in school! Each week we have unpicked one of the values and discussed them during our assemblies.

News from our schools

Clifton with Rawcliffe

The pupils of Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary have enjoyed a fun-filled term. We took part in the 'Big Schools' Birdwatch,' spotting woodpigeons, blackbirds, magpies and blue tits. Foundation Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 children made bird feeders to attract more birds to our area and Key Stage 2 used the RSPB website to research and make posters.

FS2 children walked to the local library and listened carefully to the librarian who read a traditional story. FS1 children baked buns and dressed up as bakers as they learnt the nursery rhyme 'Pat a Cake.' They have been singing five currant buns in a bakers shop and in maths explored repeating patterns.

Year 1 children have taken part in drama workshops exploring characters and acted out the story Gruffalo's Child. Jenna Drury from York Theatre Royal was amazing at inspiring the children and bringing the story to life. Year 1 then got to see the story performed at the Theatre which was a brilliant experience. The children also enjoyed spotting York landmarks on the journey.

Year 5 spent an amazing day at Grasslands Farm in Rufforth where they immersed themselves in farming for the day! They learnt about cereals and forage, how to rear beef cattle and be safe around them. They discussed the evolution of agriculture and looked closely at the different types of farming in the UK. After lunch, the children used their knowledge of six-figure grid referencing to explore Grasslands farm and had the opportunity to produce a selection of land art.

Year 6 created non-chronological reports about the human heart linked to their science topic and produced bar charts to represent previously collected heart-rate data. In geography, they studied climate change and global warming and investigated the details regarding Shackleton's Antarctic expedition.

Hempland Primary School

16 children from Year 6 took part in the F1 in Schools Regional Finals at the STEM Learning Centre at York University. The children raced their cars, performed a 5 minute verbal presentation and shared a Design and Engineering Portfolio - all in front of professional judges.

The event was a huge success for Hempland, with all four teams qualifying for the National Finals in March! Furthermore, we sealed First, Second and Third places, and won eight awards altogether! The children worked really hard to prepare for the day, often working at lunchtime and after school with the expert support of Mr Dyer.

They deserved all of the accolades that they received throughout the day both in terms of their STEM knowledge and skills but also in terms of their behaviour and attitude and all represented our school superbly.

Their success was even reported in the York Press! Next step... preparation for the Nationals!

News from our schools

Heworth
Church of England Primary School

This term, our Year 6 children have navigated their first residential trip with ease, embodying our school values throughout their stay at Bewerley Park.

The instructors were blown away by the levels of perseverance and respect displayed by our Year 6s during the various activities. The children enjoyed a packed schedule of activities during their residential which included river walking, high ropes and mining.

Courage was definitely shown by all the children when taking to the high ropes, particularly when they were pushed out of their comfort zone and into the stretch zone!

All activities required a team approach and our children were commended for the levels of support and compassion they demonstrated towards one another. During the bush craft activities, the children enjoyed toasting marshmallows, learnt to light fires and explored den building. A wonderful time was had by all!

Huntington
PRIMARY ACADEMY

A highlight of the last term for many schools was of course World Book Day. At Huntington we encouraged the children to dress as their favourite characters and bring their favourite book into school. Some children chose to dress in comfortable clothes that made reading at school very cosy! The children then partnered up children from different year groups to share their stories. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and really enjoying the reading and social activities.

We were delighted to welcome children back into school in the evening for a Pajama Rama! The children came dressed in their pajamas and enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits as they curled up with a book. They also played games, completed crafts and Key Stage 2 took part in a quiz! Our Early Years children have been encouraged to be curious exploring the topics of Robots and Space! They have been immersed in some wonderful role play sessions, including flying their own spaceship.

At Huntington we use an approach called 'Drawing Club', where the children are inspired to draw a story idea before using magical words to make exciting events happen. This term their story was also inspired by an 80's classic - Button Moon!

News from our schools

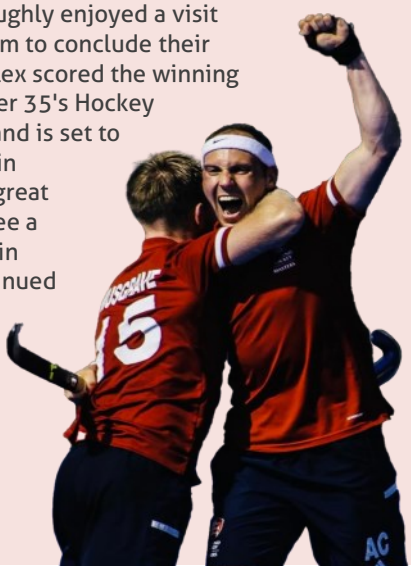
New Earswick Primary School

Well the Spring term has been a busy one despite being so short. We warmly welcomed our new SENCO, Mrs Aimee Cave, into the New Earswick team in January and she has thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the pupils and families over the past ten weeks. Her coffee afternoon was a great success and she has lots of super ideas for our children as we move forwards. Throughout school we have embraced several themed days this term: from National Storytelling Week, NSPCC Number Day, World Book Day to British Science Week. The children have really enjoyed learning about why such days and weeks are so special.

The reading related days have been particularly enjoyable and all the children now have 'Reading Buddies' in other year groups so we love getting together in the school library to share books together. Our Clubs Offer continues to grow steadily and one of the firm favourites is our British Sign Language Club, which Mrs Debbie Smallwood has kindly relaunched for Year 2 pupils. What a fantastic skill for our children to learn!

Our Key Stage Two pupils have enjoyed learning about different careers this term too. York Cares kindly organised for some employees from Nestle to come in to meet the children and teach them about their field of work, which included learning lots about sustainability.

Year 6 also thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Mr Alex Cockram to conclude their Hockey unit in PE. Alex scored the winning goal in the Men's over 35's Hockey World Cup in 2022 and is set to play again this year in South Africa. It was great for the children to see a sport that they play in primary school continued into adult life - such an inspiration. We are all looking forward to further adventures and opportunities next term!



Poppleton Road Primary School

The Spring term may have been short but we have certainly managed to pack in lots of exciting learning at Poppleton Road. We have been thinking about our school value of enjoyment and it has been wonderful to hear, every week, in our special assembly what people have been enjoying. This has ranged from Kaiden sharing his puppet shows which he makes at home to Atlas telling us about all of the different books he loves to read.

We have had lots of trips and visitors, the Year 6 children loved visiting the Mosque, Year 3 children had a wonderful time at the Wonderlab at the National Railway Museum and Year 2 children have carried out some excellent field work in the local area – to name but a few.

The Year 5 children had a visit from a number of people from different occupations including The NatWest Bank and a local chef to talk to them about different jobs and aspirations, whilst the Reverend Simon from Holy Redeemer Church visited Year 1 to share how a baptism worked. The Reception children were fascinated with the animals which visited including a snake and a spider.

In February we took 83 children to Young Voices and had an absolutely wonderful time. The children loved the experience and were an absolute credit to the school - I am sure we have some budding members of the dance group Urban Strides!

World Book Day was amazing and the whole school dressed up in their pyjamas for the big day. The children were treated to hot chocolate and had the opportunity to share books with children right across the school. The Spring term will end with our wonderful Friends of Poppleton Road organising a Magic Show and discos for our children as well as the whole school taking part in our Spring Celebration which will include a wonderful display of Spring hats. A very happy, exciting and fun Spring term.

News from our schools

Rufforth Primary School

· Inspire · Care · Grow ·

A highlight of the school year is our Class 4 residential trip and this term, children in Years 5 and 6 spent two nights at the Old School House in Robin Hood's Bay. The trip began with a visit to Whitby Abbey and the museum which brought to life the children's recent work on Dracula. This was followed by a night walk through Robin Hood's Bay where they enjoyed a light show across the coastline.

The following day, the children enjoyed further adventures on the beach: rock pooling all morning followed by a walk to Boggle Hole and beach art based on the legend of the boggles! The children ended the day with fish and chips, water colour art work and some downtime to relax.

Class 4 also enjoyed a village trail and, of course, a visit to a gift shop! The most important gift the children brought home was their memories of a wonderful few days.

Being away from home really enables the children to develop independence, resilience and team work. At Rufforth, we value opportunities where children can learn way beyond their usual curriculum.

Other highlights this term have included Science Week, where the children created a 'Rough Earth Time Line' of Rufforth going back 250 million years! We have celebrated World Book Day by dressing as our favourite book characters and were inspired by a visit from the author, Michael Mann.

Class 3 have enjoyed a mountain survival workshop as part of the 'River Deep, Mountain High' topic, again, extending and enriching learning opportunities for all.

St Barnabas

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

WORLD BOOK DAY

This term has really flown by and we have been very busy. We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day through dressing up as our favourite book characters. The younger and older children also shared reading activities and author workshops. Our classes have been out on a range of visits to enhance their learning this term.

Year 3/4 learned more about Romans when they visited the Yorkshire Museum. They saw the Roman treasures of the Ryedale hoard and wondered who had buried them all those years ago, and why. The Ivory Bangle lady was a particular highlight and the children were amazed to realise that her final burial place had been so close to our school.

Reception children visited the National Railway Museum and were fascinated by the huge trains. It was lovely to see how the children then incorporated trains as part of their play in the areas of learning back at school.

Visitors to school have also supported learning throughout this term. Younger children loved the visit from The Purple Pig company who brought a range of small animals including a rabbit, mouse and hedgehog. Not everyone was keen to stroke the cockroach though! The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust brought their Rivers2U van (mobile classroom) to school for a day to start off the Rivers topic in Year 3/4.

News from our schools

St Lawrence's CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Spring term has been a shorter term compared to others but here at St Lawrence's it has been filled with lots of wonderful experiences and opportunities. The term began with a visit from York University who delivered a VR Robotics session to our Year 5 and 6 children. They experienced the solar system as well as becoming engineers building robots.

The Year 6s then took part in our annual residential to Kingswood. The children had a great time and represented our school well showing how caring, considerate and courageous they are when they worked together.

Our worship theme for the first half of the term was Perseverance and our Year 6 children demonstrated this well as they tried new activities and developed new skills. They were really proud of all that they achieved. Years 1, 2 and 5 visited York Minster and took part in their Creative Creations activities. The children were in awe at how big York Minster is and enjoyed making their own stained glass windows.

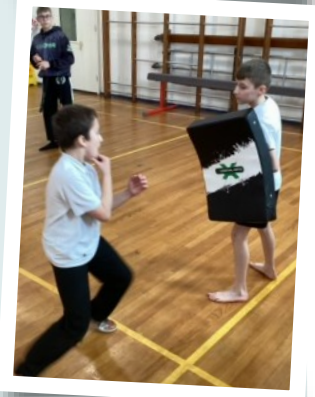
The children in Early Years prepared their classroom ready for the arrival of six chick eggs. They designed a safe area for them to be placed which included writing signs providing observers with instructions to follow when looking at the eggs. The eggs have now arrived and the children can't wait to see them hatch!

Our World Book activities this year included a visit to our new library where children explored the books available and learnt how a library is used. Children dressed in comfy clothes and shared books with each other in the afternoon. It was lovely to see our older pupils acting as wonderful role models for our younger children as they read to each other. The 'Read Your Way' day ended humorously with children sharing their favourite jokes as voted by each class.

Finally this term, we have enjoyed visits from the Musical Education Group who have delivered musical workshops to some year groups such as using your voice with Kazoos and Djembe Drumming. These workshops have been welcomed by the children who have valued being part of the musical experiences.

Tang Hall Primary School

Tang Hall Primary School has been selected by North Yorkshire Sport to be involved in the 'Opening Schools Facilities Fund' project. Active Partnerships in collaboration with national partners Street Games, UK Active and the Youth Sport Trust, have been awarded up to £57m of funding from the Department for Education to help schools open their sports facilities outside of the school day, to both school and community users to create sustainable change in increased physical activity levels in communities where they are needed most.



The project spans over three years and this year the school has chosen to focus on expanding the children's opportunities to clubs after school and trying to support local companies to establish a customer base in our locality. So far this year, we have offered boxing with Channel 4's TV star from 'Hunted' Paul Cashmore, Box and Skip2Bfit with the amazing Dave Gibson, Martial Arts sessions from X Martials Arts School based in Acomb, Circus Skills and dance with York Dance Space alongside our own staff offering many other well known favourites.

We are also opening the school over the holidays and have worked with both Dave from Skip2bFit and Sports Works to link with the governments holiday activities and food programme.

We would really like to build this offer and how far it reaches to all children in the community so please look out in your school newsletters for further information regarding our offer for the summer term 2024.

Train to teach at Pathfinder

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

We are open for applications for our teacher training courses starting in September 2024 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 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.

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust
Archbishop Holgate's School
Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA

01904 806000

info@pmat.academy

www.pathfindermat.co.uk

@PathfinderMAT

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Registered Office: Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA.

Pathfinder Teaching School Hub Co-Directors, Andrew Young and Fiona Hopkinson-Kearney

Pathfinder Teaching School Hub celebrates re-designation success

Archbishop Holgate's School has been successfully re-designated as the region's Teaching School Hub for the next four years.

Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust has long been recognised as a high-performing family of schools, dedicated to helping all young people to achieve excellent outcomes through high-quality teaching and learning. This vision helped to secure the initial designation as a Teaching School Hub in March 2021, focused on delivering evidence-informed training and development for teachers and leaders at every stage of their career. Over the last three years, the Hub has worked collaboratively to support teachers and leaders across the 153 settings in the Ryedale, Scarborough and York designation area.

In October 2023, the Department for Education reviewed the success of all Teaching School Hubs across the country and opened a tender process for schools to bid to become, or continue to operate as Teaching School Hubs across the 87 designated areas.

The national competitive application process was open to all schools and Archbishop Holgate's School was successful in its bid to continue being the Teaching School Hub for the Ryedale, Scarborough and York region for the next four years.

The Hub's mission continues to be the development of teachers and leaders at all levels, through high-quality evidence informed training which supports excellent teaching for every student across the region. Part of the bid's strength was the excellent foundations of a strong, purposeful and successful Multi Academy Trust.

Pathfinder Teaching School Hub Co-Directors, Andrew Young and Fiona Hopkinson-Kearney, said: "We are deeply proud of how well school staff, parents and carers work together to support all of our young people to achieve a world-class start to life, as evidenced in strong outcomes. We are delighted that we have the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively with our excellent partner organisations across our region, as a school-led centre of excellence, focused on supporting our young people to achieve their very best.