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LEEDS SCHOOLS SOAR TO SUCCESS WITHIN LOCAL MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Leeds City College-sponsored White Rose Academies Trust celebrates a transformative 2017

Leeds West Academy and **Leeds East Academy**, two prominently improved schools within **The White Rose Academies Trust**, have begun the second year of a three-year strategy for rapid school improvement.

The White Rose Academies Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College Group**, one of the largest educational institutions in the United Kingdom, with its roots firmly established in Leeds.

Improved **GCSE** results at both Academies follow the **first year of Trust leadership** for **Andrew Whitaker, the new Executive Principal**. Mr Whitaker was appointed in **September 2016**, pledging to students that he would: “Transform the schools and the lives of young people **within three years**, taking each Academy to an **Ofsted-rating of outstanding by 2020**.”

Leeds West Academy and **Leeds East Academy** were previously sponsored by national multi-academy trust, **E-ACT**. In **2014**, **The Department for Education** separated both schools from their sponsorship.

In **2014**, **The White Rose Academies Trust** was created with the **Leeds City College Group** as sponsor, allowing Leeds West Academy and Leeds East Academy to be locally directed, supported and improved from within the heart of the region.

Mr Whitaker comments: “The move from a national Education Trust to being sponsored by the large, local and highly-successful Leeds-based College Group has been transformational and inspirational for our Academies. The White Rose Academies Trust is truly a Trust for Yorkshire and the young people of our region. Coupled with the appointment of two outstanding new Principals for Leeds East and Leeds West Academy this year, we are rapidly witnessing some of the best GCSE results we’ve ever secured, in addition to establishing bright and vibrant futures for our young people.”

Mr Chris Stokes, who was appointed as **Principal of Leeds East Academy in January 2017**, said: “I couldn't be happier for our students, staff and local community this year. We averaged **one grade better in every subject by every child this year**. We achieved this with **high-quality, first wave teaching and a focus on every child**. I am delighted for our young people, who leave us with the best possible outcomes for their future.”

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Students at **Leeds East Academy** celebrated a host of record-breaking subject results this Summer. **Caroline** secured **80 points**, with a Grade 9 for English Literature and Grades 7 for Maths and English Language. She also received A* for Chemistry, Physics and RE, with As in Biology, Geography, Graphics and Sociology. **Chelsea** (76.5 points) received a Grade 9 for Literature, an 8 for English Language and a Grade 7 for Maths. She also secured an A* for RE with As in Chemistry, Geography and Sociology. **Zohaib** (67.5) was celebrating today with a Grade 8 for Maths, Grade 6s for English Literature and Language, As in Chemistry and Physics and Bs in Biology, Geography and Photography.

Chris Stokes adds: "This year, through the relentless efforts of all staff and students at Leeds East Academy we have brought to an end a three-year decline in outcomes and set about building a brighter future for the Academy and all future students who will sit examinations in the years to come. Despite the increased rigour of new exam systems, we have delivered what we set out to achieve; A significant improvement in the progress made by all students across the Academy."

At **Leeds West Academy**, the proportion of students who are achieving a strong pass grade in **English and Maths has increased compared to last year** and overall, the Academy has made remarkable improvements in **20 subjects at A* to A**, and **across 16 subjects at A* to C**.

Principal Christian Wilcocks, who joined Leeds West Academy in late Summer 2017, said: "Our total points score - the average grades - have improved upon last year. Crucially, the **average grade achieved by our students has improved from a Grade D last year, to a Grade C in 2017**. The proportion of young people leaving with at least one qualification has now risen to **99.5% - the best results we've seen in three years.**"

Mr Whitaker: "I firmly believe that all the young people of Leeds are entitled to a first-class education offering exceptional, inspirational teaching. This year, The White Rose Academies Trust has secured that new standard of learning for students in our progressive schools. We know the future of Leeds is vibrant and exciting – but for our region to reach its full potential in future, it demands a serious investment in the young people who will, ultimately, drive forward and shape our city of tomorrow."

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Top achievers at Leeds East Academy:

1. Caroline: 80 points (1x9, 2x7, 4xA*, 4xA, 1xDist*)
2. Chelsea: 76.5 points (1x9, 1x8, 1x7, 1xA*, 3xA, 1xDist*, 1xDist)
3. Shamila: 72 points (1x9, 2x6, 4xA, 2xB, 1xDist*)
4. Zohaib 67.5 points (1x8, 2x6, 2xA, 4xB, 1xDist*)
5. Sasha : 67 points (2x7, 1x5, 1xA*, 5xB, 1xDist*)
6. Amira: 67 points (1x8, 1x6, 1x5, 1xA*, 1xA, 5xB, 1xDist*)

Top achievers at Leeds West Academy:

1. Sarah: 84 points (2x9, 1x8, 4xA*, 3xA, 1xDist*)
2. Erin: 83 points (1x9, 2x7, 5xA*, 3xA, 1xDist*)
3. Caitlin: 81 points (1x9, 1x8, 1x7, 3xA*, 3xA, 1xDist*)
4. Olivia: 76 points (2x8, 1x7, 1xA*, 5xA, 1xDist*)
5. James P: 76 points (2x8, 1x7, 1A*, 3xA, 3xB, 1xDist*)
6. Harry A: 73 points (1x8 1x7, 1x6, 1xA*, 4xA, 1xB, 1xDist*)

Chris Stokes was appointed as Principal of Leeds East Academy in **January 2017**. Chris began working for The White Rose Academies Trust as **Director of Mathematics**, successfully taking **Leeds West Academy** from **50% to 66%** in his first year, and **Leeds City Academy** from **23% to 51%** in 2016. Mr Stokes' blueprint for improvement has also been applied to the whole Trust where he also acted as the **Director of Assessment and Achievement**.

In November 2016, Mr Stokes was deployed as **Acting Principal** at Leeds East Academy, quickly establishing a bold new vision for the school which features the realisation of the school's **7 Core Values**, the **60 Second Challenge** within lessons and a highly effective focus on attendance across the school community.

Christian Wilcocks joined Leeds West Academy in the final term of 2017. As a Deputy Headteacher, Christian worked closely with Andrew Whitaker to transform learning and behaviour at Todmorden High School; taking the school from the bottom 5% of schools nationally, to the top 15% within a three-year period. Since September 2014, Christian has been Principal of Colne Valley High School, leading the school through a period of significant cultural change and improvement. Central to this has been a drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning with demonstrable results.

Christian is driven by the philosophy that every young person, regardless of their background, should make progress in every lesson and benefit from exceptional teaching, consistently high standards and shared high expectations. He adds: "The students of Leeds West deserve the greatest of opportunities for success to enable them to compete in an increasingly competitive world. As a school leader with the highest of standards, I will never be satisfied with mediocrity. I am duty-bound to ensure the young people in my care graduate fully prepared for adult-life. We must be secure in the knowledge that we did everything we could to enable our students to be the best they can be. This starts with having the highest expectations of our students, of ourselves and of each other."

The White Rose Academies Trust is a local trust dedicated to raising the ambitions and aspirations of young people. It is currently comprised of three academies which occupy sites in the centre, east and west of the city. The Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College**, one of the largest further education providers in the country which encompasses **Leeds College of Music** within its organisation. Through the College's expertise and national and international networks, our Academies now offer highly desirable employability prospects within education and beyond.

The White Rose Academies Trust is the only truly local Leeds partnership of schools that share the same ethos and that have pathways into Further Education through a special relationship with Leeds City College. The Trust shares a mission with the college to ensure that all students attending the academies have very well-developed employability skills. All WRAT Academies also work in conjunction with local businesses in formal relationships which commit employers to supporting young people to understand and prepare for the demands of the world of work.

The Executive Principal of White Rose Academies Trust is **Andrew Whitaker**. Andrew joined White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1st September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become outstanding providers of education to the communities that they serve.

Andrew's recent work includes leading the transformation of Todmorden High School. For more details visit: <https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/pdfs/TPR2016-Education-Secondary-North.pdf>

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