

## **PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release:**

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### **WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES STUDENTS HONOURED IN PRESTIGIOUS ROLL OF HONOUR**

Young people of Leeds are recognised for citizenship and bravery in worldwide Diana Award

To celebrate **Princess Diana's** Birthday this 20th Anniversary year, **The Diana Award** has released their **Roll of Honour** for 2017. The names of over **750 outstanding young people**, from across the UK and the world, was announced on 1st July. All the award winners have had a monumental impact on society and lives of those in their communities.

**Mohamad Khalil** from **Leeds City Academy** is a Syrian refugee forced to flee the war when he was just 10 years old, and has overcome incredible adversity in his lifetime including being shot in the thigh during an attack at his school. Learning English, he has used his experience to inspire and mobilise his peers into taking action and recognise the hardship faced by refugees. He has built social action projects to show the struggles faced by children caught in war torn countries and has coordinated presentations on the issue. Mohamad is always happy to share his experiences, selflessly supporting his family where possible.

**Lechelle Peart** from **Leeds East Academy** was diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta at birth, but refuses to allow any mobility difficulties to hold her back. Every day she models a positive mental attitude, shows resilience and works to the best of her ability even achieving 98% attendance at school. Dedicated to supporting The Family Fund through fundraising, Lechelle is keen to ensure that those with a disability have access to the equipment they need to make their day to day tasks easier. A true champion for supporting those around her and giving back, Lechelle should be very proud of her achievements.

**Tessy Ojo**, Chief Executive, **The Diana Award** said: "We are delighted to announce our Roll of Honour on Princess Diana's Birthday as we shine a spotlight on her legacy twenty years on. Today we celebrate young people for their selfless contribution to society, their courage and bravery, sometimes in the face of adversity."

**Andrew Whitaker**, Executive Principal of **The White Rose Academies Trust**, adds: "I am delighted and proud of Mohamad and Lechelle's prestigious commendation in The Diana Award's Roll of Honour. The young people in our care never fail to impress and surprise me with their bravery, determination and aspiration to succeed. We are truly surrounded by young heroes who inspire us every day. Thank you to The Diana Awards for supporting and fostering our students' incredible bravery."

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The **The Diana Award Roll of Honour** for 2017 is available at:

<http://diana-award.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2016-2017-Roll-of-Honour.pdf>

Nominations for **The Diana Award** 2018 are now open at:

[www.diana-award.co.uk](http://www.diana-award.co.uk)

**Leeds East Academy:**

[www.leedseastacademy.org.uk](http://www.leedseastacademy.org.uk)

**Leeds City Academy:**

[www.leedscityacademy.org.uk](http://www.leedscityacademy.org.uk)

**The White Rose Academies Trust:**

[www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)

**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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