



Keeping our family of schools connected
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM ■ JULY 2023 ■ ISSUE 10

'Working and learning together to improve children's lives.'

CEO UPDATE
from Jo Robinson

If you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to do so by email:
jrobinson@ycatschools.co.uk

Dear Colleagues

As we approach the end of term, I have been delighted to see the many special end-of-year events for children across our family of schools and have included a selection of photographs of some of the school events at the end of the newsletter.

A special thank you to all school staff and governors for their incredible hard work throughout the year on behalf of our children; it is greatly appreciated.

This term has seen the start of the implementation of our Trust Capacity Funded Projects. We have received support from a wide range of experts to help us further develop our operations and systems and thanks to everyone for the time they have given up to ensure the additional support has been as effective as possible.

Throughout the year I have been particularly pleased with our continuing support of schools' improvement by further developing the expertise of teachers and leaders through a wide range of evidence based collaborative practice that is having a significant impact on improving children's learning. Next year we will focus on identifying ways to further improve the effectiveness of teaching spelling and writing, and we will also be providing further CPD for our teaching assistants.

I am pleased to inform you that the Darley and Summerbridge Federation's conversion to our trust is on track for the start of next term and I look forward to welcoming the schools in September.

During the last few weeks schools have been informed of forthcoming increases in the cost of school meals as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. As a result, we will be carrying out a procurement process to ensure going forward our children continue to receive a quality meal at a reasonable price.

Finally, our latest bids for capital funding to improve the conditions of our buildings have been announced and we are pleased to confirm that works will be completed on Askwith School's roof and replacing internal fire doors at Bilton Grange School during the summer holidays.

I hope everyone has a great summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

With very best wishes

Jo Robinson

GOVERNANCE

Chair of Trustee Message:



Thank you to all staff, governors, trustees and members for their huge commitment to the work of the trust supporting our children.

I am providing an update on the work of YCAT to all parents in our family of schools and a copy of the letter is shown below.

I hope you all have a good end to term and a very enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

Jenny Baynes - Chair of Trustees

July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

YORKSHIRE COLLABORATIVE ACADEMY TRUST'S (YCAT) UPDATE REPORT FOR PARENTS 2022/2023.

As chair of the Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, I am very pleased to provide parents with an update report from the trust.

Our family of schools' continue to strive to provide the very best education, including children's personal development and well-being, for all of our children and pleasingly this has been verified by the strong OFSTED reports received by the three YCAT schools inspected during this academic school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our schools' staff, governors and children for their incredible commitment and hard work throughout the year and thank YCAT's central team for the important support they provide to our schools.

During the last two years the trust's focus on school improvement has prioritised supporting our schools' continued development of reading and maths provision for all children, particularly in light of covid disruption, and the implementation of a high-quality curriculum in all foundation subjects.

We have provided a wide range of bespoke CPD and support for teachers and leaders, and our schools' have worked collaboratively in a range of curriculum projects that have not only benefitted our children's learning, but further supported the development of staff expertise across our schools.

Maintaining our school buildings remains a key priority and we have successfully bid for building improvement grants for our schools that now total capital spending of £2.7million.

I am pleased to inform you that YCAT welcomed Bradley's Both Primary School, near Skipton, to our family of schools joining at the beginning of April 2023. We all look forward to working in partnership with Bradley's staff, governors and children and the school is already involved in many of YCAT'S collaborative activities.

YCAT's KEY AREAS OF FOCUS -2023/2024

- Further developing the range and expertise of specialist teachers and leaders across our family of schools.
- Improve schools' internet connections to enable us to maximise the benefit of technology for teachers and children.
- Further support improvements to the teaching of spelling.
- Supporting schools to meet the needs of all SEND pupils.
- Raising attainment through health and well-being project.
- Provide families with school meals that provide quality meals at a reasonable price.
- Complete additional condition surveys for all school buildings.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers for the vital support you provide for your children and your school. This is one of the key foundations that supports children's learning and personal development, supports school staff and lies at the heart of YCAT's vision and values:

'Working and learning together to improve children's lives.'

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs. Jenny Baynes
Chair of Trustees, YCAT.

Governor Skills Audits

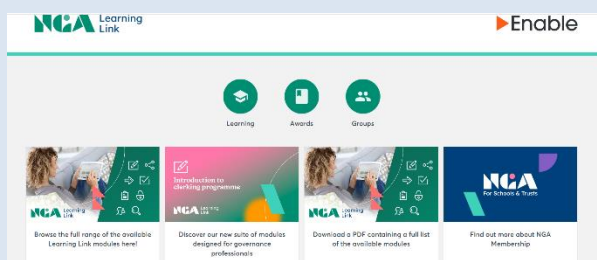
Thank you to those Governors who have been able to complete the Governor Skills Audit sent by Tracey Curtis, our Governance expert, via a link to Governor email accounts during the summer term. As not all Governors have been able to complete these to date, Tracey has not been able to complete an overview of training needs for each Governing body. We hope that she will be able to do this at the start of the new academic year and then we will be able to highlight CPD through the National Governance Association's 'Learning Link' to address any key areas of need.

National Governance Association (NGA)

Please don't forget that all school governors, trustees and members have individual membership of the National Governance Association NGA, and this provides access to key information and CPD online. For example, Safeguarding, Governor Visits to school and Understanding School Finance.

A full list of the available modules can be found following this link:

<https://www.nga.org.uk/media/5iilezcw/nga-learning-link-module-list-june2023.pdf>



Please note that modules do not need to be completed in one go, Governors can start a session and then return to it another day enabling you to break down an hour course into smaller bite-sized chunks.

If you have not yet received your log in, or are experiencing any difficulties accessing 'Learning Link' please let Janine Green know in the central team - jgreen.bilton@ycatschools.co.uk

We will continue our YCAT governors meetings and online CPD from September. The initial following dates have been planned and will be added to when we have the outcomes of the Skills audits and a more informed understanding of Governor training needs.

Governor Training/Network Meeting	Who for?	Date / Time
Chair of Governors' and Clerks' Briefing	Chair of Govs Clerks to Govs	Tuesday 5 September 9:30 – 11:00am
HART Governor Update To book follow this link: https://forms.office.com/e/TnraXkXdmz	All Governors	Tuesday 26 September 6:30pm to 7:15pm

YCAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Our networks and working groups have been really well attended this year by colleagues across the Trust. We strongly recommend that at least one member of staff from each school attends each network/group so that all schools receive the key messages from the Trust. In the new academic year, we are going to add a 'KS2 Spelling and Writing' Network to complement our Early Writing and Reading network that is well attended by our KS1 staff.

We will continue to provide our programme of networks for YCAT schools at no additional charge in 2023/24. These will be:

- Expert Practitioner Group
- Early Reading and Writing Network
- SENCO Network
- Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leader's Group
- EYFS Network
- Safeguarding Network
- KS2 Spelling and Writing Network

Dates for the diary:

Network/Group	Date (all meetings start at 3:45 and end at 4:30pm)
Expert Practitioner Group	Thursday 14 September 2023

Early Reading and Writing Network	Monday 2 October 2023
SENCO Network	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Deputy Headteacher and Senior Leader's Group	Thursday 19 October 2023
EYFS Network	Wednesday 4 October 2023
Safeguarding Network	Tuesday 7 November 2023
KS2 Spelling and Writing Network	Thursday 21 September 2023

Early in the new academic year we will be offering middle leaders across the Trust the opportunity to develop their leadership skills further by taking on key roles as network group leaders. More information about these opportunities will be shared in September.

Alongside our YCAT networks and groups all YCAT schools can access the full [HART](#) programme of CPD and membership free of charge.

We are very proud to share with you a snapshot of the feedback HART has received from this year's members:



“We have found the HART Meetings and CPD invaluable this year and would love to be part of it again next year” June 2023.

“Everything we have successfully implemented in school this year has been a result of HART’S excellent research led CPD. It has been refreshing to have been part of such helpful and supportive training programmes.” April 2023

“The visit provided great support helping us to improve our monitoring checks of pupils’ recall of knowledge.” January 2023.

**“As a result of all your support we felt well-prepared for our visit from Ofsted and had a successful inspection – thank you for everything!”
June 2023**

Please see below the full range of HART CPD on offer during 2023/24. To book on courses please follow the links provided for each course.



HART CPD CALENDAR 2023/24



CPD course	Date	Booking Link
How To Ensure Effective Alignment of Early Reading and Early Writing?	Thursday 28 September 2023 3:45 – 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/VJTdyEg2ir
Keeping Headteachers and School Leaders' Leadership on Track and Up To Date With The Most Impactful Approaches	Monday 9 October 2023 3:45pm – 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/eygbQWvCTs
Supporting Teaching Assistants to Help Pupils Know More, Remember More And Become More Fluent.	Wednesday 25 October 2023 2:00 – 3:00pm	https://forms.office.com/e/TaMgtpc8H6
Art & Design Subject Leader Update	Tuesday 12 September 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/9VEUsQip8j
Design Technology Subject Leader Update	Tuesday 26 September 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/yw7bGL07N8
English Subject Leader Update	Thursday 5 October 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/R7Mr461Mh5
Geography Subject Leader Update	Monday 23 October 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/GJqMFQv0tp
History Subject Leader Update	Thursday 9 November 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/1t312YdUUg
Mathematics Subject Leader Update	Monday 20 November 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/YG11k0iSvu
Modern Languages Subject Leader Update	Tuesday 5 December 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/4PdNiPvGA6
Music Subject Leader Update	Monday 15 January 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/q0muRuvDeJ
PE Subject Leader Update	Monday 29 January 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/kqTr4A0k6P

PSHE Subject Leader Update	Monday 5 February 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/ZN89gDgUe1
RE Subject Leader Update	Tuesday 20 February 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/cLXXFv23XZ
Science Subject Leader Update	Tuesday 5 March 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/Ku5hW5SP4W
Monitoring and Evaluating Curriculum Impact	Tuesday 21 November 3:45pm to 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/H6DpLc9vHF
Providing a Consistent and Effective Whole School approach to spelling	Thursday 18 January 2024 3:45pm – 4:45pm	https://forms.office.com/e/XYybg1EBMy

TRAINING DAY – MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023



There will be an online session at the start of the training day for all schools from 9.15 - 9.45am followed by an online session from John Rees for 30 minutes introducing 'Raising Attainment through Well-being,' a project that Trust schools will be engaging with during the next academic year.

From approx. 10:15am schools will be able to use the rest of the day for their own school priorities including a Safeguarding update on the changes to Keeping Children safe In Education (KCSIE) from September 2023.

RESEARCH UPDATE



It is over ten years since Professor John Hattie published his seminal work 'Visible Learning'. His meta-analysis identified the factors that have the most influence on successful learning.

Earlier this year Hattie produced his new book "Visible Learning- The Sequel." This has a very wide evidence base and includes a greater focus on the impact of teacher and learner "mind sets" on effective learning. Next year we will look at the approaches identified as the most effective ways to adjust and adapt pupils' learning.



At the beginning of July, Daisy Christodolou, from No More Marking, highlighted an increasing attainment gap for writing during this school year because weaker pupils are getting weaker and stronger pupils are getting stronger. She also discusses the most likely reasons for this attainment gap.

<https://blog.nomoremarking.com/the-attainment-gap-is-increasing-338f798a63e8>

Why is the attainment gap increasing?

Weaker students are struggling - but stronger students are thriving.

Over the last academic year, we've assessed the writing of nearly 400,000 students from ages 5 - 14 using Comparative Judgement. One of the most persistent findings is that in this academic year, the spread of attainment has increased. We've seen this pattern in every single year group apart from year 5.

What the data demonstrates is that this increase in spread is not just due to weaker students getting weaker. It's due to stronger students getting stronger. The Year 6s are doing better than high-attaining Year 6s the year before. But the low-attaining Year 6s are doing worse than the low-attaining Year 6s the year before. It's also a pattern we have only really seen this year. We saw fluctuations in average scores throughout the pandemic, but not big increases in spread like this.

So, what is the cause?

What we know that absenteeism is a growing problem, with lots of children missing school, so that may be a factor in the weaker performance.

But any explanation also has to consider the improved performance at the top end, and this is where things start to get controversial. We've spoken to a lot of our schools about this, and no clear answer emerges. Here are some of the suggestions we've heard.

- If weaker students are missing school and falling behind, how does that lead to stronger students doing better? If weaker students are absent from school, does that mean stronger students get more attention and do better?
- There has been extensive government funding for one-to-one and small group tuition since the pandemic. Has this helped higher-attaining students but not lower-attaining ones?
- Have stronger students been given more parental and tutoring support since the pandemic?
- Is the whole thing some kind of delayed post-pandemic reaction - school closures were bad for some pupils in the long run but good for others?

We don't know, but we'll continue with our assessments next year and extend them into Years 10 & 11, which we hope will give us more insights.

STAFF UPDATE



We are very pleased to announce that Melanie Tyson has been appointed Headteacher at Lothersdale Primary School from September 2023.

As a special transition arrangement Melanie has been able to join the staff at Lothersdale for the last 4 weeks of the summer term, which has been a fantastic opportunity for her to get to know the staff team and children in readiness for a positive start to the new academic year.

We wish Melanie all the very best in her new role. A special thank you to Andrea Walker who has provided interim Executive leadership at the school since February half term.

As we come to the end of this academic year it is important to say a huge thank you to the members of the YCAT staff team who are either retiring this summer, leaving to start new roles in September or

beginning new adventures in their lives! We are very thankful for their dedication to our schools over the years and grateful for the care and commitment they have shown to our children. They will all be greatly missed by our schools and everyone across YCAT wishes them all the very best for the future!

We say thank you and goodbye to

Annabelle Watson
EYFS Teacher
at Leyburn leaving after
2 years at the school.



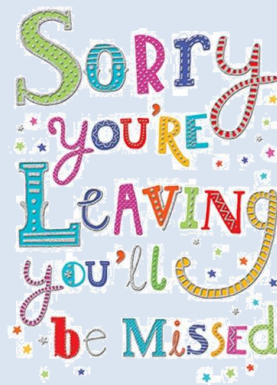
Kim Bainbridge
ATA at
Leyburn leaving
after 17 years at the
school.



Maddie Iveson
MSA at
Leyburn
is leaving after 9 years
at the school.



Sarah Hill
HLTA at
Lothersdale
is leaving after 7 years at
the school.



Amandine Driver
French teacher at
Lothersdale is
leaving after 4 years at
the school.



Rebecca Aldren
Teacher
at Lothersdale leaving
after 15 months at the
school.




Katy Whitley
ATA/HLTA/Afterschool
club leader at
Bradley leaving
after 7 years at the
school to complete SCITT
training.




Rachel Garrett
ATA/HLTA/Afterschool
club leader at
Bradley leaving
after 1 ½ years at the
school to complete
SCITT training.



Courtney Baker
Class teacher at Lothersdale leaving
after 6 months at the school.



Fiona Twigg
Afterschool leader at Lothersdale
leaving after many years in the role.



GENERAL UPDATES

Osmotherley Primary School

After two years the funded trust partnership work with Osmotherley has come to an end. We have established a strong working relationship with the headteacher, Jane Bamber, the staff team and governors, who have shown a huge commitment to school improvement and pleasingly the school recently received a strong good judgement in its OFSTED inspection. Congratulations to everyone at the school and we look forward to continuing to work with you through the HART Alliance.

Darley and Summerbridge Primary School Federation to join YCAT.



We are looking forward to welcoming Darley and Summerbridge Federation to the YCAT family of schools in 2023. The schools have been long-standing members of the HART alliance and we are very pleased they have chosen to join YCAT.

The conversion is progressing well, and we hope this will be completed for the start of September so that we are able to welcome Headteacher Nick Coates and his staff team to our training day input at the start of the new academic year.

Recommended Reads



City of Stolen Magic by Nazneem Ahmed Pathak

A breathtakingly evocative period mystery for children 10 years and above, steeped in magical lore, Pathak's debut travels from rural India to Victorian London as Chompa undertakes a quest to rescue her mother from the clutches of the sinister Company.

City of Stolen Magic is phenomenal - vivid storytelling that skilfully and unflinchingly weaves colonial history into an epic, breathtaking, magical adventure.' - Sophie Anderson

'Dazzling from start to finish. A spellbinding adventure fused with Indian folklore which sees glorious heroine Chompa journey from rural India to Victorian London as she searches for her mother.' - Abi Elphinstone

'An unexpected gem of a story. Packed with atmosphere - whether the narrow streets and red dust of Dacca or the grimy Dickensian squalor of Spittlefields - it's populated by larger-than-life characters you will love and hate. A stellar setting, a gut-punch of a twist, and an unforgettable heroine. This has all the hallmarks of classic children's storytelling.' - Nizrana Farook

North Yorkshire Pension Fund Annual Benefit Statements – Important Information for all Non-Teaching Staff

Your Annual Benefit Statement(s) as at 10/04/2023 for your Deferred membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme is now available for viewing on your personal online pension record(s), which can be found at <https://mypension.northyorks.gov.uk> If you also have Active membership in the Scheme your Annual Benefit Statement(s) for that membership will be available later in the year.

If you are not already registered for this facility, instructions on how to access your online pension record and view the statements can be found by emailing sjohnson@ycatschools.co.uk

Any queries regarding Annual Benefit Statements should be directed to the Pensions team on 01609 536335.



Calling all teachers, do you have a My Pension Online (MPO) account with Teachers Pensions?

Use My Pension Online to stay up to date.

Your pension is one of the key benefits of your career and it's important to make sure all your details are kept up to date. The easiest way to do so is to register for a My Pension Online (MPO) account.

With MPO account you can:

- Check your service and salary details to make sure the correct pension calculations will take place.
- Keep your contact details up to date.
- Let us know who you wish to receive a death grant if something were to happen to you.

As well as checking your details you can view your Benefit Statement, which is updated monthly, complete online forms, and use calculators to understand your benefits.

All you need to register is:

1. A few personal details
2. Your National Insurance number.
3. Your email address - we recommend a personal email address.

Please copy the link below to access the Member Registration form.

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/forms/registration>

Have a great summer!
Best Wishes
Sarah, Janine & Suzanne

OUT AND ABOUT IN YCAT SCHOOLS



Askwith Primary





Bradleys' Both Primary





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Hawes Primary



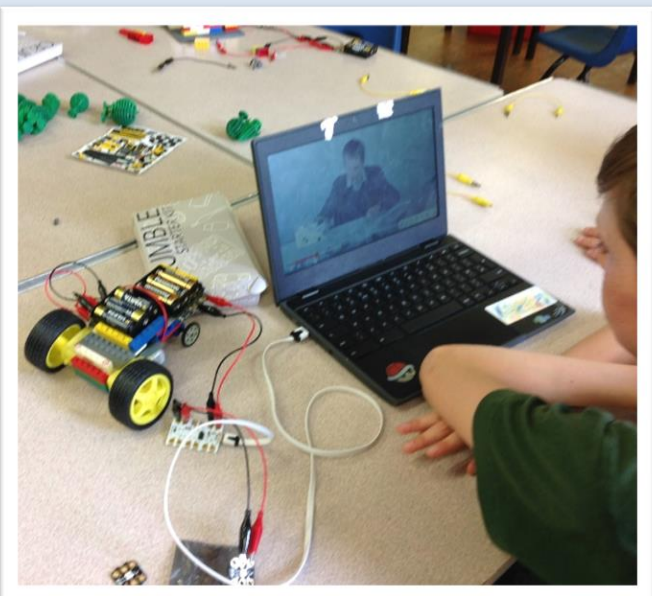


Leyburn Primary





Osmotherley Primary



Lothersdale Primary

