

# SCHOOL REPORT

September 2020



# Keeping an eye on what's important at our schools

I became chief executive of Ebor Academy Trust in February 2020, just days after the first confirmed cases of Covid-19 were reported in the UK – coincidentally at a hotel in York, where our central offices are based.

Who could possibly have guessed that within weeks, the entire world would be affected by the biggest public health crisis in anyone's lifetime?

While some people had predicted the inevitability of a global pandemic, certainly no-one was prepared for it. I'm sure we all remember very vividly the whirlwind of emotions connected to what was happening to us, our families, our communities and the wider world. It was – and for many people still is – a time of worry and uncertainty.

They say that crisis doesn't build character, it reveals it and in education in this part of England, we are fortunate to be surrounded by people who stepped up to the mark, and then some.

During lockdown, with a requirement by government to keep schools open for



vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers, there was a united and selfless response to an unprecedented challenge.

In schools you always put the children first. That's a given. In meeting after meeting of school leaders and decisionmakers from local authorities, multi-academy trusts and maintained schools, we found ways of cutting through the problems. We didn't always get it right first time and we were quick to acknowledge that – but when the history books are written, I take pride in the fact that when it mattered schools and teachers did their very best. And no-one can ask for more.

Covid-19 certainly threw me into a steep learning curve and, as I write, in September 2020, while it is not yet over a sense of a "new normal" is starting to take shape. It is fair to say that the Ebor that emerges from this strange time, will be different to the Ebor that went into it. Wiser, certainly, and more collaborative than before.

This is the sixth year that we have produced an annual magazine. It is a platform to celebrate some of the many good things that go on in our schools. It is always an opportunity to show that together, we are stronger. That has never been so apparent than with the events of this year.

I hope you enjoy reading about our Run around the World; our part in a new centre of excellence for disability; our gleaming new kitchens in Filey... and a lot more besides.

**Mrs Gail Brown**  
Chief Executive and  
Executive Headteacher

**It's all about the children:**  
Gail is pictured with pupils from Osbaldwick Primary Academy

## Meet the family

Ebor Academy Trust is made up of 22 primary schools, one secondary and a primary phase special school – 24 in total. We are always interested in speaking with other schools who may want to consider joining us.

As at 1 September 2020 Ebor comprises:

- Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy
- Haxby Road Primary Academy
- Brotherton and Byram Community Primary Academy
- Ebor Academy Filey
- Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy
- Sigglesthorpe Church of England Primary Academy
- Camblesforth Community Primary Academy
- Filey Church of England Nursery and Infants Academy
- Park Grove Primary Academy
- Sproatley Endowed Church of England Academy
- Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary Academy
- Easington Church of England Primary Academy
- Patrington Church of England Primary Academy
- Marfleet Primary Academy
- Tockwith Church of England Primary Academy
- Hob Moor Community Primary Academy
- Hob Moor Oaks Academy
- Lakeside Primary Academy
- Osbaldwick Primary Academy
- Tadcaster Primary Academy
- Riston Church of England Primary Academy
- Braeburn Primary and Nursery Academy
- All Saints' Church of England Infant Academy, Hessle
- All Saints' Church of England Junior Academy, Hessle



Ebor Academy Trust:  
our geographical area



Making their mark: children from Hob Moor Oaks Academy and Hob Moor Primary Academy signed the steel at the new build

# 'Centre of Excellence' is one of the first of its kind

Children at Ebor schools Hob Moor Oaks and Hob Moor Primary got the chance to leave their mark on a new Centre for Excellence being built on their grounds.

The trailblazing centre will be known as The Beehive. It will provide short overnight breaks for children with complex disabilities in York. Young people and their families will be able to receive specialist support from a wide range of professionals, including clinical psychologists, all in one building for the first time.

Our children were asked to help with the construction by laying



Coming together: new centre takes shape

the first bricks and signing their names on the steel which forms the structure of the building.

They were also involved in producing colourful safety posters for the building site.

The scheme – one of the first of its kind in the country – is a partnership between City of York Council and NHS England. It will enable many children and young people with complex needs to access the help and support they and their families need.

The brick laying and steel-signing marked a key stage of the project, which should be completed later this year. The project is being delivered by Sewell Construction.

## Our work for vulnerable children heard in Parliament

The work of Ebor Academy Trust in looking after vulnerable children during the public health crisis has been presented as an example of best practice to the education select committee in Parliament.

We set up a bespoke team at the start of the lockdown to identify children for "nurture sessions". Social and emotional matters are carefully handled on a one-to-one basis by trained staff.

Feedback from parents and carers has been positive. Ebor's safeguarding lead, Rebecca McGuinn, who has been running the welfare and wellbeing teams across the trust's schools, said it was vital that regular contact is made.

"Nurture and wellbeing is at least as important as more formal education during these troubling times," said Rebecca. "I am delighted the education select committee wants to learn more about how we do things – these are important messages that need to be communicated."

## Developing our training in education



Education Pathways, the apprenticeships and training arm of Ebor Academy Trust, is taking innovative steps to help upskill the education professionals of the future.

We are now an approved delivery centre for the Early Years Educator apprenticeship standard. Using funds provided through the government's Apprenticeship Levy, the centre is able to provide high-quality apprenticeship programmes

to early years' educators, school business professionals and teaching assistants at no financial cost to the individual or employer.

Ebor is one of only a handful of academy trusts to be delivering apprenticeships in this way and has been praised by schools minister Lord Agnew for its forward-thinking approach to accessing Levy funding.

"We are incredibly excited at the prospect of being able to contribute to improving outcomes for children by upskilling the education workforce through our apprenticeship programmes," said Sue Hinchcliffe, Education Apprenticeships Director

at Ebor Academy Trust.

"Centre approval for multi-academy trusts is rare, this is primarily something that FE colleges are accredited with. Our new delivery centre status means that we can now not only offer apprenticeships to our own staff, but we can also offer courses to staff at other multi-academy trusts as well as maintained schools."

It is hoped recent government incentives to encourage take up of apprenticeships will help accelerate the growth of Education Pathways.

More details and videos are on our website [www.ebor.academy](http://www.ebor.academy)



**Make no mistake, this was an amazing achievement!**



Layla and Poppy, Osbaldwick Primary Academy



Sophie, Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy



George, All Saints' CE Federation, Hessele

# The month we ran around the world

**Our route: achieved on time with kilometres to spare**

We did it! Schools across Ebor Academy Trust completed our Run Around the World charity challenge with 4,000 kilometres to spare – and raised £4,000 for NHS charities. Staff, children, families and friends

at all 24 schools made one last push on the final day and between us travelled a total of 44,456 kilometres (26,624 miles). The distance around the globe is just over 40,000 kilometres.

"It's an amazing achievement and everyone who took part should feel very proud of themselves," said Ebor's chief executive Gail Brown. "Not many people can say they were part of a team that ran around the world...!"

The challenge started on 1 May and participants ran, walked, cycled or wheeled every day throughout the month. They took part in fields, along coastlines, around the houses – as well as in back gardens and even in paddling pools.

Distances were logged via a Google app and every week we plotted the kilometres travelled onto a map of the world. Over 31 days we virtually trekked through Europe to Athens, New Delhi, China, Australia, the Galapagos Islands and Panama.

One day, perhaps, some of the impressionable young minds who took part in their loops and circuits





## Looking at the numbers

### Furthest distance travelled by school:

- 1st Staynor Hall with 5,803 km;
- 2nd Robert Wilkinson with 4,426 km;
- 3rd Tockwith with 1,977 km;
- 4th All Saints' Federation with 1,605 km;
- 5th Tadcaster with 1,437 km;
- 6th Sigglesthorne with 1,368 km;
- 7th Lakeside with 1,326 km;
- 8th Park Grove with 1,241 km;
- 9th Osbaldwick with 1,229 km;
- 10th Hob Moor Federation with 1,107 km.

### Most number of distances individually logged by school:

- 1st Robert Wilkinson with 691;
- 2nd Staynor Hall with 655;
- 3rd All Saints' Federation with 324;
- 4th Tockwith with 313;
- 4th Tadcaster with 294;
- 5th Lakeside with 281;
- 6th Osbaldwick with 234;
- 7th Park Grove with 202;
- 8th Filey Infants with 191;
- 9th Sigglesthorne with 167;
- 10th Camblesforth with 164.



Mira, Hob Moor Oaks Academy



Kessia and Juno, Brotherton and Byram

around their homes in the north of England, might get to do this for real...

"The purpose was to stay fit and keep healthy, as regular exercise is accepted as being beneficial for physical as well as mental wellbeing," said Mrs Brown. "It was also a welcome distraction to the school closure lockdown programme because of coronavirus covid-19.

"We set up a JustGiving page just in case anyone wanted to sponsor any of our activities – but recognising the lockdown was causing financial hardship for some of our families, it was only ever an option for people to take up if they wanted. If anything, this made the final figure, of £4,140 plus gift aid of £580, even more satisfying – our target was just £750. All money raised goes to charities supporting NHS staff and volunteers."

Picking up the fundraising gauntlet ▶



The Gibbons family, Staynor Hall Primary Academy



Even the goats helped: a pupil from Riston CE Primary Academy with companions



Henry, Sproatley Endowed CE Academy



# Swimming in paddling pool to clock up the distances



Michael and Alice, Sigglesothorne CE Primary Academy



Isabel, Hob Moor Oaks Academy, and her friend Josie from Applefields School



The Moughan boys, Camblesforth Community Primary Academy

► with enthusiasm was five-year-old Annie, a Reception pupil at Sigglesothorne Church of England Primary Academy in the East Riding. Annie and her many supporters raised over £2,000 as Annie cycled 155 miles. According to her mum, she now has "loads of memories and had loads of scrapes from falling off her bike!"

Annie's friend at another Ebor school, Alice, aged seven, of Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy in Selby, is another prominent fundraiser and cycled 106 miles over the month.

Gareth Jones, Ebor's PE lead, had the original idea for a month-long charity exercise event. "It was brilliant that so many of our pupils, staff, families and friends got into the spirit," he said. "I've heard so many positive stories of people's different exploits. One little girl even clocked

up some metres by swimming in the paddling pool in her garden!"

Two other multi-academy trusts – from West Yorkshire and Weston-Super-Mare – plus an independent school in York, were inspired to undertake their own version of our challenge.



Annie, left, of Sigglesothorne CE Primary Academy and Alice, of Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy in Selby, received special Ebor Achievement Award badges and certificates for their efforts



Thank you on behalf of the



We nominated NHS Together, the charity which supports the National Health Service, to receive money from our fundraising efforts.

In a letter of thanks, Seb Hargreaves said the charity was "overwhelmed and inspired" by our help:

"Because of you and many other brilliant fundraisers, we are able to support our NHS staff, volunteers, and patients in ways above and beyond what NHS funding can ordinarily provide," he said.

"Your support has helped to provide tablets so patients can communicate with their loved ones and feel less isolated. You have helped to kit out Wobble Rooms, which are dedicated areas of hospitals where staff can go for rest and relaxation during busy shifts.

"And your fundraising has funded activities to support young patients who are most likely to be adversely affected by the outbreak of coronavirus due to increased isolation. Thank you!"



Lilly, Staynor Hall Primary Academy



Tilly, Marfleet Primary Academy



Susanna and Rachel, All Saints' CE Federation, Hessle



Mrs Reed, teaching assistant at Lakeside Primary Academy, walked the Three Peaks with her family for the challenge



Emilia and Edward, with dad, Tockwith CE Primary Academy



Berzan, Braeburn Primary and Nursery Academy



# Shining a light on school estates

Angela Clark, head of school at Filey Church of England Nursery and Infants Academy, shows off the gleaming new kitchen and spacious hall extension at her school.

The work – worth some £285,000 – is part of

an extensive package of refurbishment and renewal of school estates at Ebor Academy Trust over the last year.

Marfleet Primary Academy also received a new kitchen and 15 of our schools had new

LED lighting schemes installed at a cost of some £500,000. These guarantee energy reductions of between 60-90% and will save thousands of pounds from bills. Importantly, it also improves the learning

environment for pupils and teachers.

Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy is being extended to accommodate extra children. The three-quarters of a million pounds cost is being met by North Yorkshire County Council.

## Network group for school business managers

Ebor Academy Trust, Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust and City of York Council are to receive funding to establish a network group for school business managers in the York area.

The Department for Education approved the application, led by Ebor, which aims to encourage collaborative working and achieving best value in purchasing.



## Library inspires a love of reading

Tadcaster Primary Academy now has an imaginative new library space, created by children and staff.

Each school team had chosen a favourite book to celebrate their love of reading, from 'Room on the Broom' to 'Mr Big' to 'Holes', and the library walls have been transformed with exciting new artwork.

York based children's author, Karen Langtre, sent a video message to the school and her trusty knight 'Sir Trumpsalot' cut

the ribbon and delivered an inspirational speech about the importance of reading.

Headteacher, Caroline Towler, said: "I am so proud of how hard the whole school team have worked to make our library such an inviting and relaxing place to enjoy reading. Our families were impressed with the transformation and the children are excited to start using this very special space."

Picture shows, from left, Haydn, Joe, Celia and Chloe in the new library.