

SCHOOL REPORT

September 2021

Lakeside Primary Academy pupil, Autumn, with her winning entry in our Euro 2020 competition – see page 4



EBOR ACADEMY TRUST

England might have just missed out on the Euros – but we found a novel way to support our national team

That's another way to look at it!

HOW WE'RE GETTING INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Excellence | Belonging | Opportunity | Respect

Refreshing our vision for Ebor's future

The effects of the pandemic continue to be far-reaching and here at Ebor Academy Trust, we are finally completing an important exercise that Covid had disrupted.

Working closely with Trustees, we have revisited and refined our strategic plan, looking ahead with a clear sense of purpose. This has made a refreshing change, given that for so long we have had to operate on an emergency basis, responding to government directives on how schools should handle the biggest public health crisis in a generation.

We continue to live our values and they still form the Ebor acronym – Excellence, Belonging, Opportunity and Respect. These values underpin all that we do.

We have crafted a vision and have set five objectives to achieve it. Our vision is to deliver high quality, rich and engaging education at the heart of our diverse communities. To do this, we are committed to building professional collaborations of best practice across and beyond the Trust. In this way, we seek to

enable all our learners to flourish and open doors to their best futures.

The first objective to deliver the vision is increasing or maintaining the high quality of education provision in all our schools. This commitment to school improvement – and every school, no matter how good, can always do better – will be a journey of continual improvement, aspiring for excellence.

Our culture, encompassing our values and safeguarding, will see our schools focussed on their communities, working alongside them for mutual benefit.

We will continue to develop our people, driving the moral purpose to improve life chances of both children and adults through education.

Our fourth objective is to have a capacity for potential growth and ensure the Trust delivers sustained improvement at all levels.

Finally, we want to increase our collaboration within and outside the Trust and in the communities we serve – widening the number of beneficial partnerships with other organisations and deepening relationships.

This ambitious three year strategy will help form action plans for the executive leadership team and directors.

But at a time of change such as the world has just experienced, there is a need to reassess, clarify and confirm. Without doubt we are embarking on an exciting journey with improving education at the heart of it all.

It will be quite a ride – come and join us if you can!

Mrs Gail Brown
Chief Executive and
Executive Headteacher



Spreading the word: Gail Brown on Sky News during the pandemic



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.

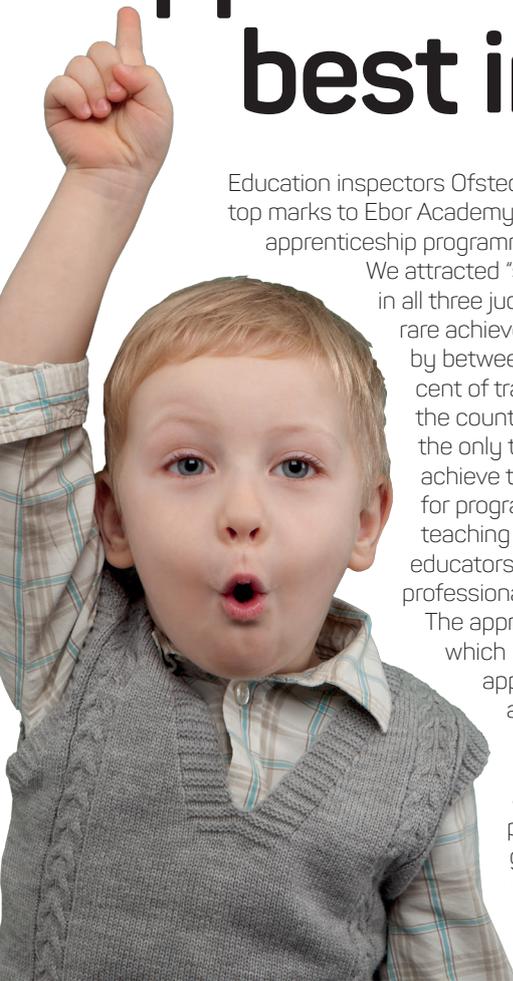
As at 1 September 2021 Ebor comprises:

- 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

Apprenticeships 'among best in the country'



Education inspectors Ofsted have awarded top marks to Ebor Academy Trust for its apprenticeship programmes.

We attracted "significant progress" in all three judgement areas. This rare achievement is only shared by between five and ten per cent of training providers across the country. Ebor is currently the only training provider to achieve the maximum award for programmes that upskill teaching assistants, early years educators and school business professionals.

The apprenticeships initiative, which makes use of the apprenticeship levy that all large companies have to pay, has previously been cited as an example of best practice by former government minister Lord Agnew. It means the apprenticeships – open to workers of all ages, not

just young people – are free for both schools and individuals taking the courses.

"This is the best possible outcome and the whole team is thrilled," said Gail Brown, Ebor's chief executive. "So much work has been put into making our apprenticeship programmes the best they can be and I am delighted the effort have been recognised at the highest level."

Initially the apprenticeships were offered to Ebor staff in the 24 mainly primary schools in the Trust, across York, Selby, on the Yorkshire Coast and in the East Riding and Hull. Since receiving main provider status, however, Ebor can now work freely with local authority maintained schools as well as other academies and trusts.

Sue Hinchcliffe, director of apprenticeships at Ebor, said: "Apprenticeships have moved on considerably from what they used to be. They are increasingly recognised as presenting exciting opportunities for both apprentice and employer."

"Ofsted's monitoring visit became a seal of approval for the best apprenticeships programmes across the education sector – for the ultimate benefit of all staff and the children and young people they work with."

"Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to access training and for developing staff of any age and can be adapted to meet schools' different needs."

Pennies all add up for charitable giving

Ebor is to launch its own voluntary charitable giving scheme.

Staff from all schools across the Trust, plus the central services team, have nominated the Alzheimer's Society to receive funds, which will be the pennies on the payslips of those taking part.

The initiative is something which will nurture a sense of Trust-wide belonging and do some genuine good in the wider world.

We were looking for a charity that works in all the areas served by our schools, from York and Selby to the Yorkshire Coast and the East Riding and Hull.

Fitting this criteria, the Alzheimer's Society won the staff vote in a four-way contest which means we will support them in 2021-22.

Throughout the year we'll keep in touch with our charity to see how they're getting on and what difference the money is making to them.

Our poetry collection raises funds for NSPCC

Over 400 entries on the theme of looking forward to life after lockdown were received for Ebor's Trust-wide poetry competition.

Judges paid tribute to the quality of submissions. Head judge Felix Hodcroft, a poet in Scarborough, said: "The poems remind us how painful lockdown has been but they also show us endurance and courage, love and hope."

"I congratulate all the entrants and thank them for devoting their time, care and emotional honesty. To the winners, I say: 'You've done brilliantly!'"

Entries have been compiled into a special booklet, with free copies going to winners and runners-up. Sponsorship meant we could afford



to print 600 copies – and in a unique partnership, the NSPCC will be handling their sale online, which means they get to keep the proceeds to help support their vital work.

"This has been an excellent, initiative that has been seized upon enthusiastically by many members of our school communities as well as in our classrooms," said chief executive Gail Brown. "We asked everyone to try and find their voice and some of the results are so heart-felt they bring a tear to the eye. I'd particularly like to thank Lisa Ponter, our literacy lead, for coming up with the idea."

Here's Keren Bebelagua's winning entry in the 8-11 age group –

Bloom

Last year was like a flower that didn't bloom,
 Last year was different than any other.
 Last year will never be forgotten,
 Don't remember it for its worst,
 Remember it for its best.
 Remember it for all the times you smiled,
 Last year might not have bloomed,
 But the seeds were sown for a brighter future,
 A generation who know the value of time with their friends,
 The importance of family,
 Appreciating the nature that surrounds them,
 The beauty outside of their own front door,
 Last year might not have bloomed,
 But you always will.
 So never give up,
 Be the amazing flower you have always been.



OUR SCHOOLS PLAY THEIR PART IN ENGLAND'S EURO 2020 FINAL

Football crazy!



Competition winners pictured with their entries

Ebor schools joined in the drama – and disappointment – of our national team's first major football tournament final in over 50 years.

England were beaten on penalties by Italy in the final of Euro 2020.

A few days before, on the morning after England's 2-1 semi-final victory over Denmark, we sent our headteachers a unique flag colouring-in competition which they could choose to issue to pupils to help celebrate the big game.

Schools asked children to print and colour in an England flag – complete with 'Come on England' message – and then have their photograph taken with them holding it.

Fourteen talented artists collected prizes of Ebor Achievement Award badges and all entrants received a certificate to commemorate this brief moment in history.

"Big, national events like these when the whole country comes together don't happen very often," said Gail Brown, Ebor's chief executive. "We were pleased to be able to offer our own contribution to mark the occasion."

Ten Ebor schools had winners – Lakeside, Tadcaster, Patrington, Alderman Cogan's, Staynor Hall, Haxby Road, Brotherton and Byram, Osbaldwick, Camblesforth and Easington.

Patrington had the most winners, with four children quick on the draw.

One of the winning flag entries was also photographed inside Wembley on the night of the final itself – the dad of one of our participants was lucky enough to have a seat behind one of the goals.

