

SCHOOL REPORT

September 2023



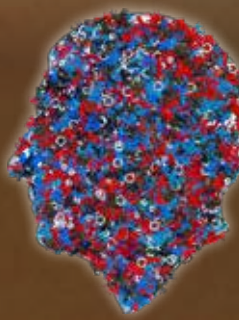
Pupil Parliament

Youngsters from Ebor schools show the grown-ups how it's done

PLUS



Harry's the
best in the
world at
kickboxing



Celebrating
King Charles'
Coronation

Graduation
celebration for
apprentices

Excellence | Belonging | Opportunity | Respect



Fitting way forward into our second decade

A notable highlight of this academic year has been the success of our first Pupil Parliament – representatives from each of our schools tackling big issues of the day and doing so with considerable thought and maturity.

We were so stimulated at some of the ideas pupils came up with, that we invited a selection to make a presentation to trustees. They did themselves, and their schools, proud: addressing a board of trustees can be daunting regardless of age, but our young people held their nerve – and impressed everyone in the room.

We tell the story in more detail on page 5.

At Ebor we have been sharing ideas and best practice between our schools for coming up to ten years and the many benefits are the same now as they were almost a decade ago. We are all so much stronger together and our family of schools collectively provides enriched education for some 6,000 pupils. As we look forward to the tenth anniversary of the founding of our trust, in



Helping Forces' children to thrive

Good news for children and young people of military families in York.

The role of Service Families Liaison

Officer has been secured for a further two years thanks to a successful funding bid, submitted by Ebor Academy Trust, to the Ministry of Defence.

The grant means the role can now continue, supporting children and families of military families at all York schools and universities, until at least July 2025.

Ebor stepped forward to take the responsibility of employing Beccy Dixon (pictured above) on behalf of the local area. Working closely with Army Welfare units, key members of the armed forces and other agencies, Beccy provides critical close support to service families across the Garrison especially at times of mobility and deployment.

"I am delighted that Ebor has managed to secure Beccy's services for another two years. The work she does in support of our service families is nothing short of vital and I am incredibly proud that she sits as part of our team," said Lt Col Matt Jones, York Garrison Commander.

December 2023, it satisfying to see schools that at one time needed plenty of support themselves, are the ones now able to offer support to others.

In our school improvement strategy for 2023-24, which you can read on our website, under 'about us', you will see we have implemented innovative changes in the way school improvement is being addressed.

Now we have lead schools in key areas of provision

Ebor Academy Trust recognises that a school-led system is the best way to bring about rapid and sustained improvements across the wider system and in particular our trust. Our lead schools show expertise that is translated into our varied range of contexts and be beacons of best-practice.

Lead teachers support headteachers in lead schools, along with lead practitioners and professional partners.

This adds up to a close integration of all our schools and is a significant leap forward as we enter our second decade.

Gail Brown

Gail Brown
Chief Executive

Ebor Academy Trust:
our geographical area



EBOR ACADEMY TRUST

Meet the family

Ebor Academy Trust is made up of 22 primary schools and a primary phase special school – 23 in total. We are always pleased to speak with maintained schools who may want to consider joining us – email interested@ebor.academy and we'll get back to you..

As at 1 September 2023 Ebor comprises:

- Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy
- Haxby Road Primary Academy
- Brotherton and Byram Community Primary Academy
- Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy
- Sigglesworth 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



All 23 schools in Ebor Academy Trust planted a tree to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Alongside each sapling is a plaque featuring individual winning designs from school-wide competitions.



Portraits of the King at start of his reign

King Charles has been sent a copy of this poster, currently on display in all Ebor schools, showing the 23 winning entries in our Coronation colouring competition.

Children used their imaginations and put union flags, crown jewels, UK icons and pictures of the Royal family in their drawings and montages to celebrate his Coronation.

The individual winning pictures will go on a special plaque to be installed next to a tree sapling at each school to mark the historic occasion – something not seen for over 70 years. The planting of the young trees will take place in the autumn term when the weather is wetter – the best time to plant them, according to the Woodland Trust who are our suppliers.

The King is well known for his environmental concerns and so planting a tree at each school helps symbolise sustainability.

"This will be a long-lasting commemoration of the Coronation which visitors to each of our schools will be able to see and appreciate in many years to come," said Ebor's chief executive, Gail Brown.



Do you want to shake my hand?

A Haxby Road Primary Academy pupil had a day to remember when he met the King and Queen.

Five-year-old Jason has a visual impairment which means he can't see clearly at a distance of over a metre. So City of York Council and Buckingham Palace arranged for him to meet the Royal couple in person during their visit to York.

Jason's grandmother Wendy Loveday said it was a magical day never to be forgotten.

"Queen Camilla came up to us and said: 'You must be Jason' and shook

my hand too. I was starstruck! Then she said, would you like to take a photo? I said yes, yes, let's take a photo!"

Camilla called the King over, they held Jason's hand and chatted to him, asking him what he was doing. "It was so natural. It was lovely," said Wendy.

Haxby Road Primary Academy headteacher Laura Robinson said: "Jason was so excited and was practising his handshaking with his mum the night before. Apparently he had said to the King, 'Do you want to shake my hand?'"



SPECIAL MOMENT: Five-year-old Jason and the Royal couple

New ERP will bring extra help for children with particular needs

Ebor Academy Trust is joining forces with City of York Council to provide a £1.4m additional Enhanced Resource Provision (ERP) for young children with communication and interaction needs.

The new provision, introduced at Lakeside Primary Academy in September 2023, will run on the same lines as the flourishing provision at Haxby Road Primary Academy. It is being funded by the council.

"This is good news. It's an outcome of our comprehensive, city-wide inclusion review which has focused on improving in-city provision for children and young people

with SEND. The Lakeside ERP will follow an existing, very successful model in supporting children with communication and interaction needs to attend a mainstream school," said Maxine Squire, assistant director of education at City of York Council.

"We will be developing the working partnership with Ebor Academy Trust and building on the success of the provision at Haxby Road."

"We are delighted to be working alongside the council, helping provide a valuable resource," said Ebor's chief executive Gail Brown. "It is testimony to Lucy Battersby – head of Haxby Road ERP – and her team,

that the new provision will follow the same model and bring genuine and long-lasting benefit for children at Lakeside as it does at Haxby Road."

Admission to the new enhanced resource provision at Lakeside is part of the special educational needs admissions process.

Five years ago, Haxby Road's ERP was one of only six in the country to be accredited as a centre of excellence. It scored top marks for supporting parents, young people and families; enhancing and adapting the environment; developing the workforce; identifying need; and providing appropriate intervention.

Our apprentices celebrate their success

The hard work of apprentices from Ebor schools and beyond, who have successfully completed their courses, has been celebrated with a graduation ceremony.

Our apprenticeship scheme – held up as an example of best practice by a government minister when it was launched – hosts accredited online courses for teaching assistants, early years educators and school business administrators. As a "main provider", with a "good" rating from Ofsted, our courses are offered across all schools and multi-academy trusts.

The graduation ceremony was also a celebration event, attended by apprentices as well as headteachers and school-based mentors.

"We wanted to recognise great determination and resilience. As well



Gail Brown, CEO, third from left and Sue Hinchcliffe, director of apprenticeships, third from right, with some of the apprentices graduating at the celebration event

as what apprentices did in school, they continued to work on their professional development, to learn, to improve their knowledge and skills and achieve accreditation and qualification," said Sue Hinchcliffe,

director of apprenticeships. "This has proved to be one of the most transformative things we can do."

■ See details on our website or email apprenticeships@ebor.academy to understand more or register interest.

Schools enjoy creating their own live radio shows

Tadcaster's radio team on-air

Six Ebor schools have been enthusiastically exploring the idea of establishing "Ebor Radio", primarily to

add a new dimension to teaching and learning, but which could also be used by teacher networks and for cross-trust collaborations.

With the Covid pandemic significantly affecting speech and language development, particularly in young children, this creative way of improving communication could also help boost pupils' confidence.

The schools involved – Haxby Road, Tockwith, Robert Wilkinson, Marfleet, Tadcaster and Filey Infants – all took part in individual day-long radio workshops to get a feel for the thrill

of presenting a live radio show. They spent the morning researching items for a magazine-style programme, had a rehearsal and then – with parents and carers and the rest of the school listening via the internet – went live.

The radio experiences were a big success and many parents contacted the mainly Year 5 classes running the show, with on-air messages of congratulations and support.

All schools said it was something they would like to do again and so ways are being explored to fund the necessary equipment.





Park Grove teaching assistant Grace Birch with Drew and Heath – the school's Pupil Parliament representatives – in the newly-decorated toilet blocks

All 23 schools in the trust have Pupil Parliament representatives, who meet regularly to discuss plans to improve their local environment and how to help build a more sustainable future.

All Saints' Juniors had a visit from their MP, Emma Hardy, who commended the children and said Westminster should look to them for lessons in politeness!

All schools have signed up to the United Nations' global goals programme, which targets ways to create a better world.

Children made presentations at Ebor's trustee development day to describe the many and varied actions different schools have taken in this, the first year of running the Pupil Parliament.

For most schools, this is a Year 5 activity but for Filey Infants, it was something for their Year 2s. They summed up their work by saying that lots of small actions can make a big difference, challenging teachers to

Order, order! Pupils show Parliament how it's done

use less paper and ink and planting bee-friendly plants.

Lakeside Primary Academy in York came up with the idea of colourful lightswitch covers, giving the simple message to only have lights on when needed – and to switch them off when they are not.

All Saints' Juniors in Hessle focussed on responsible consumption and production and now have QR codes instead of exercise books so they can more efficiently go online to learn different topics – and the school has saved £7,000 in the process over the year.

At Staynor Hall in Selby, a messy hair day is helping build a well in Africa

and walk to school competitions will save fuel emissions as well as being a healthier alternative.

Brotherton have set up recycling bins, swap shops, book swaps and uniform recycling.

Park Grove's big project was the artistic overhaul of their toilet areas, now themed, which brought in a local artist to help bring to life the children's ideas.

Ebor Academy Trust chief executive Gail Brown said the first year of the Pupil Parliament had been a big success. "It's a perfect example of collaboration in action," said Gail. "I can only describe what our schools have done in such a short amount of time as an incredible journey. Well done to them all."



Year group receives Blue Peter badges

Year 2 at Filey Church of England Nursery and Infants Academy have all received coveted Blue Peter badges. They received the green badge because they recycled and reused old clothes to make a drawstring bag. "We are incredibly proud of all of the children!" said Adam Jackson, KS1 Lead, Assessment Lead and Maths Lead.



Riston celebrates its 150th birthday

Everyone from Riston Church of England Primary Academy attended St Margaret's Church, Long Riston, to celebrate 150 years of the school.

The service was planned by Highflyers class and included information about the foundation of Church of England schools and some colourful stories from the school's past.

Parents, carers and members of the local community came together to launch a year of celebrations. Headteacher Jenny Marsden took the opportunity to share the school's new Christian vision and values.



Riston children lead the 150th birthday celebration of the school

Making a splash



Year 6 pupils at Easington Church of England Primary Academy had a splashing time on their residential.

Adventure and fun was the focus, with Wilderness Outdoor Education, giving the youngsters a taste of independence in the great outdoors.



We're off to see the Wizard

Staynor Hall children have performed the Wizard of Oz – and the start of a new annual tradition has been born.

From January to June children from Years 4, 5 and 6 have been working hard during lunchtimes and after school to create the wonderful show.

A dress rehearsal was held at Osborne House for older people, one of the school's community links. A spokesperson there said: "Everyone was talking about how brilliant the children were. The residents' spirits were elevated to a level I have not seen before. For many it was their first trip out in years apart from being taken to hospital."

The children then performed their show across two nights, where the feedback was that the

children looked very professional and it was the best primary school production some people had ever seen. The children were beaming with pride each night, as were the teachers involved.

The experience the children had from the production is incredible and this is now going to become a yearly tradition.

What the children said:

- "I've loved every second and I am so proud of the whole cast including the teachers."
- "I have enjoyed spending time with people we don't always get a chance to see."
- "I loved performing and getting into character."

Harry's the best in the world!

A Year 6 pupil at Lakeside Primary Academy has become world champion for his age in his favourite sport.

Harry Holland collected the prestigious title of Under-10 World Champion in Continuous Kickboxing at a challenging week-long event in Ireland. He also collected another world title in the team event.

Harry said: "It was a really good experience and it got really tough but I persevered and was really pleased with the result."

This means Harry will now travel to Florida to defend his world titles.

"We are so proud of Harry and all that he has achieved – but also the manner in which he has achieved it," said Lakeside headteacher Helen Hayes-Smith. "He showed commitment, determination and a great sporting attitude to the

challenge that faced him and we are so happy that he has been rewarded for his hard work. We cannot wait to see his sporting career flourish further."



Ambitious, impactful dance



Tadcaster Primary Academy's Y5/6, Team Neptune, took to the stage at York Theatre Royal as the only school among community and professional dance groups for Making Moves, an evening of dance and music.

The youngsters prepared for the big event during Thursday afternoon PE sessions.

"It was ambitious and impactful and we more than held our

own with the rest of the participants," said class teacher Tony Sands. "Our children were excellent ambassadors for our school and coped well with the on-stage rehearsals and transferring their routine from a school hall to a professional stage.

"We want our children to build these memories and experiences to feel empowered as they move to the next stage in their educational journey."

Stepping out for inclusivity

Inclusivity was celebrated at the Yorkshire Schools Dance Festival this year with participation from Hob Moor federation.

"We were incredibly excited to show off the children's hard work!" said Natalie Connolly, SENCO and dance project lead. "We created a performance all about our world and how truly special it is. They made us so proud and showed how incredible it is that both schools can work together as an inclusive federation – the children

laughed and smiled and danced their hearts out.

"Even the parents in the audience couldn't stop smiling! A massive well done to all of the children who were involved – we are all so proud of you."

Other Ebor schools taking part in the event, at Central Hall, York University, were Tadcaster, Camblesforth, Lakeside, Robert Wilkinson, Staynor Hall, Tockwith, Braeburn, Brotherton and Byram, Haxby Road and Osbaldwick.

Meet the recycled robots

Camblesforth Community Primary Academy pupils have built their own robots from recycled materials as part of an initiative developed by Drax to boost STEM education and skills.

Children aged between seven and 11 were provided with individual activity boxes containing a range of learning materials, games and resources they needed to build their robots. Their focus is on recycling and forms part of their school curriculum.

The robots are made from recyclable materials that can be found around the house, including bottles, tin cans and cardboard. They are designed to carry out recycling tasks such as having magnetic hands to pick up metal, or built-in compartments to store paper. The pupils with the best robots were given Lego sets and the school was awarded £250 to purchase STEM resources.



Showcase for reading

All things reading and phonics was the focus of the first "Reading Showcase," open to all Ebor schools and hosted by Haxby Road and Park Grove primary academies.

Amy Hunter, pictured, centre, with other participants, is the trust's early reading/phonics lead.

She said: "This was followed by a talk on embedding phonics and fidelity and then we spent the afternoon at Park Grove, exploring their provision, looking at their inspiring reading areas and had a talk delivered by the reading leads on the reading offer at Park Grove."

"The enthusiasm from the Ebor team was incredible to see, as well as sharing our drive and passion for prioritising the teaching of reading across our trust."



Tell us
what
you
think

Ebor Academy Trust is actively encouraging feedback from all our stakeholders so to help bridge any gaps between our schools and the trust.

At some schools, the benefit of being part of Ebor is obvious – providing specialist teaching, for example, so schools know about the involvement of the trust. At other schools, however, the link is perhaps not so clear and might involve back office support with finance or estates, for instance.

It's all part of our plans to become more involved with the communities we serve.

We have set up a special email address for parents and carers – or other stakeholders – to send in your views.

As a trust, what are we doing well and what could we be doing better?

Get in touch and let us know by emailing feedback@ebor.academy



Safeguarding leads take part in NSPCC video

A number of our designated safeguarding leads have taken part in a new NSPCC safeguarding training video.

"They spoke with knowledge, confidence, wisdom and passion about the importance of education safeguarding in the national picture of child protection and multi-agency working," said Rebecca McGuinn, the trust's safeguarding lead.

"They put Ebor Academy Trust's wider safeguarding teams firmly on the national map."

Contributors to the film were Steve Metcalfe, Alex Winter, Kelly Thomas, Laura Robinson, Sam Smart, Michaela Chalk and Lisa Nicholson.

Patrington the conker-ors

The importance of talking about our feelings was at the centre of World Mental Health Day for Patrington Church of England Primary Academy.

"I would like the children to know that in our school, every adult is a trusted adult and as such they should find the person they feel most comfortable to talk to if they have a

worry," said Gill Pepper, headteacher.

To make the day even more memorable, children were asked to collect conkers to bring to school to create a huge, conker-filled heart on the school field.

"This explains our thinking that "we can conquer (conker) any problem if we pull together," said Gill.



Conkers conquer all... pupils at Patrington celebrate World Mental Health Day