

CEO Autumn Term Update

Welcome back to the new half term. I hope that you all managed to enjoy some family time together over the October break. With Halloween, bonfire night and of course the celebration of Diwali, we welcome in what is always a busy run up to the Christmas break.

I have now had the pleasure of visiting each of the schools across the Trust, getting to know the staff and hearing about the plans for development. We celebrated a fantastic set of results this year, with some of the highest key stage 2 and GCSE results, both regionally and nationally. Many of our schools celebrated some 'best ever' results. These results reflect the hard work and resilience of our students, along with the unwavering dedication and commitment of our teaching and support staff and the support from parents and carers at home.

All our schools opened their doors for their open evenings last half term. The number of parents at each of these events was wonderful to see, thank you. It was good to have the opportunity to meet and chat to some of you at the open evenings for Great Park Academy and Gosforth Academy. The evenings really helped to celebrate the strengths of both schools. The staff at Great Park Academy proudly celebrated their recent Ofsted inspection outcome which demonstrates the success of this growing school. Both new school buildings are still on track to be opened for September 2025. If you get the chance to drive by, you can see the rate of progress being made. You shared with me some of your continued concerns about admissions following the report from the schools' adjudicator. We are working on the consultation document for the 2026 admissions, this will be shared with you soon.

I had the pleasure of attending the remembrance service delivered by the students at Gosforth Academy. Through recitals and music, the students gave a moving recognition of the sacrifices of our armed forces in past and more recent conflicts. Callerton Academy students have enjoyed their first residential visits since opening as a new school. The students and staff all had a wonderful time, and I am sure they will carry some of these experiences with them for a long time. Jesmond Park Academy has been awarded the 'School of Sanctuary' Award in reflection of their strong, inclusive welcome for new pupils. They were the first secondary school in the region to achieve this award which is a fantastic achievement.

In other good news, North Gosforth Academy is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious SPARX Maths School of the Month Competition, which runs nationally. The academy was chosen as the October winner due to the outstanding achievements of its students. Notably, Year 9 students demonstrated a significant improvement, leading the school to this win, as they showed more progress than any other year group. The Maths Department is extremely proud of all students, and I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone involved. It is fantastic to see that the hard work and dedication to Maths homework has paid off.

Dr Alexandra Thorp CEO

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As the days get shorter and we have darker mornings and evenings, a reminder once again about the importance of your children being in school, on time, every day. I know how hard it is as a parent to encourage your teenager out of bed and into their school uniform. However, the effort will pay off and will help to open doors for their future education and careers. Please do contact your child's school if you need any support in this area.

Yours sincerely,

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