

## **Astrea Academy Trust**

Ministers have now confirmed that Balby Carr Community Academy will join Astrea Academy Trust. This note provides further information on the trust.

Astrea Academy Trust (previously known as Reach4) was established in January 2016. The core mission of Astrea is to provide an education that “inspires beyond measure” in every school in the family. The Trust is made up of 20 schools; 18 in South Yorkshire and two in Cambridge.

Despite being a relatively new trust, Astrea has built a significant presence in Doncaster, with eight primary schools:

- Castle Primary Academy joined the trust in June 2016;
- Edenthorpe Hall and Hillside Primary academies joined in August 2016;
- Hexthorpe Academy joined in September 2016;
- Denaby Main Academy joined in October 2016;
- Kingfisher Academy joined in February 2017;
- Intake Primary joined in October 2017; and
- Atlas Academy (formerly Stirling primary school) joined in November 2017.

Collectively, this positions Astrea extremely well to provide the support that Balby Carr Academy needs in this next phase of the school’s development.

Astrea is led by Libby Nicholas, an exceptional leader who joined the National Fast Track Teaching Programme, and was recognised as one of the top ten nationwide fast-track teachers. Progressing quickly from teaching English to senior leadership roles, Libby was the Regional Director of Education for the South and West in a large multi-academy trust before setting up Astrea.

Astrea has been keen to engage with Balby Carr, even prior to the academy formally joining the trust. Moving forward, Balby Carr staff will be able to participate in all trust-wide training and share good practice, whilst pupils will continue to take part in Astrea events, such as the trust-wide Olympics and Poetry competition.

The Department for Education did not receive any views in relation to the proposal that Balby Carr Academy join Astrea Academies Trust during the listening period.

When Balby Carr joins the Trust in the coming months, Astrea will be setting and monitoring ambitious targets for pupils to support rapid improvement.

The Astrea team is looking forward to this exciting new chapter for Balby Carr and there will be more detailed engagement with parents and carers over the coming months.