





# Welcome from David Ross, our Sponsor and Chairman

I am delighted that you have decided to learn more about what an education at the David Ross Education Trust means for our students, our teachers and our communities.

As you will see, the last year has also seen a great many milestones achieved in our Trust's history and I hope that you enjoy reading our students' inspiring stories.

It is my belief that British education needs to be broader in the experiences and opportunities that it provides for young people. The 21st-century workplace needs open-minded and creative thinkers who are able to address the challenges of our times.

This is why a David Ross Education Trust education is compellingly different. As a leading multi-academy trust, we are committed to giving every student attending one of our schools a world-class education. An education that creates academically gifted, confident, well-rounded young people in the classroom, in the workplace and in their communities.

We pride ourselves on our academic rigour, driven by talented, dedicated and inspiring teachers who help our students to fulfil their true potential. We believe in opening our students'



eyes to the world around them. We do this through the only academy-wide enrichment programme of its kind within the state education sector. A programme that gives our students access to the kinds of life-changing experiences normally only available at fee-paying schools.

Our promise to every student at one of our schools is clear; we will help them to become their confident, academic best.

We achieve this through our focus on:

## Academic rigour

At the heart of any successful education is a commitment to exceptional academic achievement. We will always encourage and push our students to achieve the very highest levels they can.

We will find ways to inspire our students to be intellectually curious, interested in the broader community and world in which they live, and keen to absorb and embrace knowledge at every opportunity.

To help our students to achieve their very best, we expect our parents to be engaged in their development; from attending school events, to providing feedback to teachers about their son or daughter's progress. Quite simply, our students'

parents are part of the fabric of our school community.

Discipline is an important value at our schools. We expect every student to turn up on time and be polite and well presented – and we expect parents' full support in adhering to these standards.

## An all-round education

We hope that every student will not only be joining us for their classroom experiences. A hallmark of the David Ross Education Trust's reputation is the host of co-curricular enrichment opportunities we offer for all of our students.

Whether it is debating, drama, music, sport, art or outward-bound pursuits we want to support every child in developing the confidence and skills that will stay with them for life.

We hope at the end of their education we have developed intelligent, socially self-confident young people, well equipped for further education and the workplace – and keen to contribute to the community in which they live.

We want them to be aware of the challenges of 21st-century life – and sensitive also to the challenges of others.

As you will see, a David Ross Education Trust education isn't

to be drifted into. It's about embracing the opportunities and the challenges it presents, and helping prepare our students for an exciting future.

**David Ross**  
Sponsor and Chairman,  
David Ross Education Trust

## About David Ross

Continuing his family's long-standing commitment to the wider community, David Ross is a passionate philanthropist, dedicated to developing opportunities for young people.

One of the co-founders of Carphone Warehouse, David carries out his philanthropic work through the David Ross Foundation, which makes charitable donations to a range of educational, community and cultural initiatives including the David Ross Education Trust, the University of Nottingham, and the John Ross Community Fund.

The first school to join the David Ross Education Trust in 2007 was Havelock Academy, a secondary school based in David's hometown of Grimsby.



# About our Trust

**12,000** students

**1,900** teachers & staff

**34** academies

**22** primaries

**11** secondaries

**1** special school

The David Ross Education Trust is a network of unique and diverse academies, committed to becoming one of the top-performing multi-academy trusts in the country. Recognised as one of 11 system leaders nationwide, the Trust works with 34 primary and secondary schools across the country.

Our schools range from smaller rural primaries with around 50 children, to much larger secondary schools in the centre of urban areas.

In September 2017, the Trust's brand new through-school, Bobby Moore Academy, opened in the heart of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, London. The inspirational school, which currently caters for Year 7 students, will eventually educate, engage and inspire 1,560 primary and secondary school children across two sites that will sit alongside the former Olympic Stadium.

Working together, with a shared ethos and values, our close-knit family of schools allows pupils to begin and continue their world-class academic journey throughout primary and secondary school within the David Ross Education Trust.

- Yorkshire
- Lincolnshire
- Leicestershire
- Northamptonshire
- London



## Our mission

"Our mission is to give every child attending one of our schools a world-class education. We achieve this through our Trust's unique culture, where delivering academic excellence and embracing the value of enrichment and citizenship are at the heart of who we are, and what we do as an organisation.

"David Ross Education Trust schools create rich and exciting learning environments that inspire our students to become their confident, academic best through a broad and balanced curriculum."

**Rowena Hackwood**

Chief Executive Officer, David Ross Education Trust



# Embracing a world-class education

Our students don't drift into a David Ross Education Trust education. They embrace it.

Who better to tell our story than our students? As our talented students demonstrate, academic excellence, embracing the value of enrichment and investing in community citizenship are at the heart of who we are, and what we do as an organisation.

"I don't know any other schools that offer such amazing opportunities! These experiences have helped me to develop my skills both academically and socially and I know I've got the support of my teachers and the David Ross Education Trust."

**Lucas Gartshore**  
Student at Skegness Grammar School



David was recognised for his outstanding achievements at Charnwood College's Excellence Evening

## From Charnwood College to the University of Cambridge: David's story

Charnwood College student David Horstmann celebrated success this summer when he secured his place at the University of Cambridge to study Computer Science.

David's ambition to study at the University of Cambridge started after the David Ross Education Trust introduced him to an Oxbridge student. As part of this experience, David was able to find out more about the gruelling interview process and prepare himself for life at the world-renowned centre of learning.

Throughout his time at Charnwood, David consistently excelled academically, but also benefited from a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities provided by the Trust.

From visiting Google UK's Head Office in London to serving as Head Boy at Charnwood College, David has regularly acted as a representative for the school and a role model for his peers.

A skilled pianist, David also regularly competed in the Trust's Music Cup, showcasing the broad range of skills that he has developed.

**"The opportunities that I have experienced since our school joined the David Ross Education Trust have been incredible. They have helped me to develop my skills and achieve my ambition of studying at the University of Cambridge."**

**"I cannot thank my teachers enough for helping me to become an independent thinker and learner. I can't wait for what the future holds."**

## In a league of his own – top of the exam table, top of the podium: Lucas's story

In 2017, Lucas Gartshore was one of the top-performing students in the country at GCSE.

The Skegness Grammar School student secured the very best grades in all nine of his subjects, achieving the new Grade 9 in English Language, English Literature and Maths as well as seven A\*s.

Alongside his academic studies, Lucas has thrown himself into the outstanding enrichment opportunities the school is able to offer as part of the David Ross Education Trust.

In 2016, Lucas was one of only 11 students from across the Trust to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime ecological conservation project in the Caribbean.

As part of the trip Lucas spent time learning more about climate change and completed a wide range of community work.

A regular competitor in the Trust's Summer Cup, Lucas also got the opportunity to meet and learn from gold-medal-winning Olympians.

The talented student, who is currently completing his A levels in Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry at Skegness Grammar School's Sixth Form, hopes to study Chemistry at the University of Oxford; an ambition fuelled by an Oxbridge conference held at the school.

An all-round top performer, Lucas has shown dedication, commitment and focus across every part of his education.



Lucas and his Mum Tracey, celebrating on GCSE results day

**"I don't know any other schools that offer such amazing opportunities! These experiences have helped me to develop my skills both academically and socially and I know I've got the support of my teachers and the David Ross Education Trust."**

**"I definitely feel that I am on the right path to securing my place at Oxford."**



# Academic excellence

David Ross Education Trust schools create a rich and exciting learning environment that inspires students to become their confident, academic best.

We are committed to giving every child attending one of our schools a world-class education. An education that creates academically gifted, confident, well-rounded young people in the classroom, in the workplace and in their communities.

## Our performance

- The David Ross Education Trust is recognised as one of 11 System Leaders for education across England.
- **81%** of primary school children now attend a school that has been rated Good or Outstanding since joining the Trust in comparison to 32% on conversion.
- Half of the Trust's secondary schools that have been inspected since joining the Trust are also now ranked Good or Outstanding.



There have been many outstanding performances across our Trust's schools.

Here are some of the highlights:

- In 2017, Greenfields Primary School, in Kettering, was ranked in the **top 3% of schools nationally** for pupil progress in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Pupils and staff at Ainthorpe Primary School, in Hull, saw Key Stage 2 **results rocket from 22% to 70%** in 2017.
- Humberston Academy, in Grimsby, currently ranks in the **top 20% of schools** in England for student progress, and is consistently named one of the top-performing schools in North East Lincolnshire.
- This year Welton CE Academy, near Daventry, celebrated a **100% pass rate** at Key Stage 2.
- In 2016, Barnes Wallis Academy, in Tattershall, claimed the title of **the most improved secondary school in Lincolnshire**, while Charles Read Academy, in Corby Glen, was ranked one of the **top 100 most improved schools** in England in 2015.



# Academy spotlight: Greenfields Primary School



**Greenfields  
Primary School**  
*Broadening Horizons*



Greenfields Primary School in Kettering is now ranked in the top 3% of schools in England for progress in reading, writing and mathematics and is rated as one of the top five schools in Northamptonshire for the same measure.

The school was recently crowned East Midlands Primary Champion at the prestigious TES Pupil Premium Awards, held at the House of Commons, and was a Primary School Finalist in the Northamptonshire Education Awards.

This kind of success is a far cry from the academic picture when the school joined the David Ross Education Trust in November 2013. At that time, the school had a challenging reputation in the local community and progress levels in all subjects were significantly below the national average.

Through the support of the David Ross Education Trust, and a relentless focus on raising aspirations, building academic standards and offering a broad and balanced curriculum, the school has been transformed.

In the summer of 2015, Ofsted rated the school as 'Good', praising the leadership, quality of teaching and the positive attitude of pupils. Greenfields is now going from strength to strength.

Working in partnership with schools across the David Ross Education Trust, Greenfields Primary School is able to share best practice and access a wealth of enrichment opportunities that are unique to the network.

The school has also embraced the Trust's leading eLearning programme, making digital technology an integral part of lessons every day.

Sandra Appleby, Headteacher at Greenfields Primary School, said:

"Our recent successes are not only because of the outstanding progress that our children make, but it is also down to the expertise and efforts of our staff who work tirelessly to provide the very best outcomes for our pupils.

"Working in the heart of our community, we are also delighted that we have just opened a dedicated nursery provision, catering for families in our local area.

"We are proud to work with our colleagues across the David Ross Education Trust, sharing best practice and benefiting from the one-of-a-kind experiences and learning opportunities on offer as part of the network."

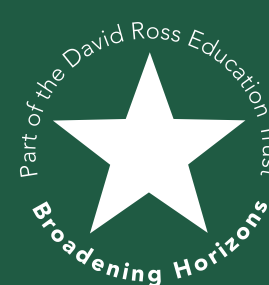


"We are proud to work with our colleagues across the David Ross Education Trust, sharing best practice and benefiting from the one-of-a-kind experiences and learning opportunities on offer as part of the network."

**Sandra Appleby**  
Headteacher, Greenfields  
Primary School



# Academy spotlight: Humberston Academy



## Humberston Academy

Before joining the David Ross Education Trust in 2011, Humberston Academy in Grimsby faced an uncertain future. Fast forward to today, and the school occupies an elite category following their 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating from Her Majesty's Inspectors.

After celebrating an impressive set of GCSE results in 2016, Humberston Academy was named the top-performing secondary school in North East Lincolnshire. The academy topped the region's performance rankings across three out of four key government measures.

The latest GCSE results from 2017 show that an incredible 80% of students achieved the new GCSE standards in English, while 78% of students achieved this new measure in Maths, marking another incredible year for the school.

As well as thriving academically,

students at Humberston Academy fully embrace the opportunities provided as part of the Trust's pioneering enrichment programme.

In the last year alone, many of the students have competed in high-profile sporting events alongside Olympic royalty such as Sir Steve Redgrave and Colin Jackson CBE, taken part in workshops with professional operatic performers from Nevill Holt Opera, and travelled to tropical climates to take part in ecological conservation programmes.

Humberston Academy has close ties with the Trust's local primary schools, Edward Heneage Primary Academy and Fairfield Academy, where they actively share best practice and ways of working to build stronger communities. These close links with the Trust's surrounding schools and other local primaries have allowed

students to continue, or begin their world-class education at Humberston Academy and benefit from the school's winning culture of embracing academic excellence. Matt Watling, Principal at Humberston Academy, said:

"It gives me great pleasure seeing our students celebrate so many fantastic achievements every year. Not only is this down to the fantastic staff who are so committed to developing the potential of our students, but also the genuine partnerships that have developed through the David Ross Education Trust.

"As a network, we test ideas, share best practice and work with other schools within the Trust to help challenge our thinking. The opportunities that are available beyond the classroom are also a vital part of our ethos, helping us to push our students further and believe in what they can achieve."

"The opportunities that are available beyond the classroom are also a vital part of our ethos, helping us to push our students further and believe in what they can achieve."

**Matt Watling**

Principal, Humberston Academy



# Embracing outstanding opportunities

We recognise that to achieve academic excellence, we need to provide our young people with a broad and rich curriculum that will inspire them to excel throughout their lives.

We strive to ensure that our young people are intellectually curious, interested in the broader community in which they live, and keen to absorb and embrace knowledge at every opportunity.

"The experiences that I have had access to have been unbelievable. Taking part in all of these sporting events has made me even more determined to keep training and to work hard in order to reach the next level in my performance."

**Victoria Godwin**  
Malcolm Arnold Academy



Victoria celebrates Gold at the David Ross Education Trust Summer Cup

## A gold-medal exam performance: Victoria's story

Victoria Godwin began her secondary school career at Northampton's Malcolm Arnold Academy, the Trust's largest secondary school.

Following her impressive GCSE performance this summer, achieving the highest grades across English and Maths as well as five A\*s and two As, Victoria has now been awarded the David Ross Education Trust scholarship and will complete her A levels at Skegness Grammar School.

As well as excelling academically, Victoria has also shown exceptional sporting talent. In 2015, Denise Lewis OBE named Victoria a shining star of the Trust's sporting Summer Cup. Victoria was selected as one of only two students to receive mentoring from an elite athlete and has taken part in many training opportunities with the British Olympic Association.

Through the support of the Trust, Victoria has worked alongside some of the country's most inspirational athletes, giving her the insight she needed into the rigour, determination and ambition required to achieve her academic and sporting aspirations.

**"The experiences that I have had access to have been unbelievable. Taking part in all of these sporting events has made me even more determined to keep training and to work hard in order to reach the next level in my performance."**

**"I am thrilled that I am going to be staying within the Trust and studying at Skegness Grammar School."**

## From Head Boy to Uppingham School scholar: William's story

William Greenhalgh was in Year 7 when Charles Read Academy joined the David Ross Education Trust in 2013.

Now, four years later after achieving outstanding GCSE grades, William will join the prestigious Uppingham School in Rutland, thanks to a Sixth Form Scholarship with the Trust's independent school partner.

This was not simply based on William's academic skills alone but the range of extra-curricular activities that he took part in and his commitment to his community that really made William stand out from the crowd.

From participating in international expeditions to competing in Trust-wide debating competitions and sporting events, William has always thrown himself into the opportunities on offer at the David Ross Education Trust.

As Head Boy at Charles Read Academy, William led the school's student council, taking on the role of ambassador at many external events and speaking to senior leaders about his experiences of a Trust education.

**"Not only have I left Charles Read Academy with some great qualifications, but I have experienced some incredible opportunities that I will never forget. One of my highlights of my time at Charles Read was being appointed as Head Boy. This experience has enabled me to build on my confidence and help prepare myself for the future."**



William has fully embraced the academic and enrichment opportunities offered by the Trust



# Outstanding opportunities

## Here are just some of our students' recent highlights:

- Once-in-a-lifetime **opportunities to travel the world** with Outward Bound Canada and take part in challenges and volunteer projects across the globe.
- Trust-wide sports tournaments attended by **Team GB sporting heroes** such as **Sir Steve Redgrave, Colin Jackson CBE** and **Crista Cullen MBE**, allowing our students to show what sport means to them.
- A VIP drumming masterclass with **Pink Floyd's Nick Mason**, providing the opportunity for music scholars to learn from the very best.
- A tennis coaching session with Andy Murray for four lucky students during the week that he was named **World Number One**.
- A unique opportunity to visit **Google UK's Head Office**, providing a behind-the-scenes tour of the global company and insight into future careers in technology.
- A partnership with the **Economist's Burnet News Club**, allowing students to learn from international experts and debate complex current affairs issues.
- Inspirational workshops with world-renowned artists including **Marc Quinn, Jonathan Yeo** and **David Dawson**, helping students to explore their creativity and inspiration.
- **Music festivals and choral workshops** delivered by acclaimed musicians and conductors to build students' confidence and grow their musical talents.
- Professional performances with the **Nevill Holt Opera, Shakespeare Schools Festival** and the **National Youth Orchestra**.
- **Talent development pathways** for sport, music and the arts, allowing students to explore their passions away from the classroom.
- Higher education opportunities and experiences delivered by the **University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham** and **Uppingham School**, helping to prepare students for their academic future.



## The Burnet News Club: a platform for our students to share their views

Thanks to an innovative partnership with the Economist Educational Foundation, students from across the David Ross Education Trust are sharing their views on the world as part of the Burnet News Club, a unique project for school pupils.

The Club, which links school pupils with experts from across the globe, has encouraged our pupils to discuss topical issues and develop their skills of negotiation, logic, storytelling, scepticism and curiosity. As part of the project, pupils have had the chance to write articles and share their points of view on wide-ranging global and national current affairs subjects.

In recognition of his incredible contribution to the project, Ryan, a Year 8 student at Malcolm Arnold Academy, was recently invited to Buckingham Palace to collect an 'Outstanding Contribution Award' for the exceptional quality of his writing and debating skills.

Ryan said:

**"I am thrilled to receive this award. I have enjoyed participating in debates and discussions and it has provided a platform for me to share my thoughts and arguments on key current affairs issues. Being part of the Burnet News Club really gets you thinking about your point of view in the context of what's happening in the world around you."**

**"I am looking forward to taking part again next year along with the rest of my peers at Malcolm Arnold Academy."**





# Strong community

At the heart of our Trust is our firm belief in creating outstanding community citizens.

Our partnerships, our culture and our commitment to the communities that we serve, define who we are and how we set about achieving our objectives and our aspirations.

We expect our students to be kind, courteous and respectful of others in everything that they do. It's about creating schools and students that our communities can be proud of.

From contributing to their School House, to representing their peers as part of the School Council, teamwork, democracy and proactive participation are encouraged from the very moment that pupils begin their school career with the David Ross Education Trust.

Community cohesion is promoted through our local, national and international links. Every student is encouraged to take part in community challenges in order to help give back to their local community, to value our local neighbourhoods and to learn to empathise with others.



## Our partners

In order to deliver a world-class education, we work with world-renowned organisations that are specialists in their fields.

Through their support we can further enrich the learning experiences of our pupils, and provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and experiences that are truly unique to our Trust.

We are incredibly proud of our partnerships with many prestigious organisations including Russell Group universities, independent schools, arts and music specialists, national governing bodies, professional clubs and many hundreds of national, regional and local organisations across the UK.







For further information about the  
David Ross Education Trust  
please visit

[www.dret.co.uk](http://www.dret.co.uk)