**A Personal Perspective**

**2018/2019**

Beckfoot Upper Heaton School is a relatively new school with just short of 550 students. We converted to academy status in September 2015 when we became part of the ‘Beckfoot Trust’. I am the Headteacher and I lead Beckfoot Upper Heaton day to day.

Our core purpose is for all Beckfoot Upper Heaton learners to enjoy school, become independent learners and to expect success. Indeed, our school motto: ‘ENJOY – LEARN – SUCCEED’ very much reflects our ethos.

We are very ambitious for our school. We want to become one of the finest examples of comprehensive education in the country and are at the outset of a journey that is determined to achieve that goal. In March 2018 Ofsted judged the school to be good in all areas indicating that:

‘Standards of pupils’ behaviour are very good, as a result of the high expectations of leaders and staff’.

**and**

‘As a result of the culture established by leaders, pupils are self-confident and have high aspirations for their futures’.

Indeed, the school has been completely transformed from the failing school we took on just over three years ago and we remain determined to do even more for our students and the wider community.

In January 2017 we moved into our brand new state of the art school. By September 2018 our outside spaces and play areas will be complete and we are very excited about the future. It has already had a noticeable impact and will further support our work on developing the learning culture we want to create in our school. We are doing special things here and in the summer of 2018 our progress has, once again, been fantastic. Indeed, our progress in the basics 9-5 put us in line with the top 5% of similar schools nationally and our P8 score being +0.43. That score ranked us 2nd overall when compared against similar schools nationally.

As already stated we are a part of the Beckfoot Trust. Currently, two schools within the Trust, Beckfoot School and Hazelbeck Special School, are judged to be ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted. It is our collective goal to achieve that status within the next three years.

Other features of the Trust include:

The award of ‘Leading Edge’ status.

* Recognition, nationally, for the commitment to developing the next generation of teachers.
* Establishment of the Beckfoot Teaching School in September 2015. The Trust has been recognised nationally for its commitment to developing the next generation of teachers and runs a School Direct Training programme. It is also renowned for its leadership development programmes that apply to all schools within the Trust.
* Renowned for the high quality of Leadership Training for all staff; for Research and Development into teaching practice and belief in the value of student leadership.
* We are renowned for our commitment to student leadership. Our core purpose is for all

Beckfoot Trust learners to enjoy school, become independent learners and to expect success. Indeed, our school motto ‘ENJOY – LEARN – SUCCEED’ very much reflects our ethos and our image of the ‘Beckfoot Upper Heaton Learner’ illustrates the skills and qualities we are seeking to nurture in our students.

* The establishment of a June to June curriculum where all students move up an academic year for the last 5 weeks of the year. This allows better use of this time, launch new courses and re-energise students at the end of the year.
* We have a three-year Strategic Vision (2016-19) which sets out our strategies to further improve and puts down in words the key principles that shape our ethos.

Strategically we focus exclusively on the following 4 priorities:

1. To ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently good – day in, day out;

2. To ensure the curriculum experience is truly personalised, relevant and exciting;

3. To ensure that the support and guidance structure cares for and encourages learners to take ownership of their learning.

4. To ensure that an outstanding leadership and management culture exists for all.

Obviously, to work with us you must aspire to be an outstanding colleague and be comfortable with high levels of accountability for the progress of learners. You must be willing to share and to learn. You must be prepared to go the extra mile, be a leader and not a follower. Above all else, you must like young people and aspire to make them outstanding citizens. Schools are no place for cynics; we only appoint positive people who want to make a difference. In return we cherish our staff. We provide excellent working conditions, proper planning time, a structured professional development programme and the resources to carry out a professional job. We are backed up by superb Trust Governance and we are financially secure.

We are excited by what we are doing here. There is a strong moral dimension to all our work. We believe that what we do at Beckfoot Upper Heaton prepares our students to be the **leaders of tomorrow**. We want to continue to grow as a learning community.

If you feel inspired by working alongside students and believe you have the qualities needed to contribute towards our development, then please apply.

**Simon Wade**

**Headteacher**