



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST



**Working
for Us**

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A Warm Welcome from Our Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for expressing your interest in joining Pontefract Academies Trust. We hope that you find the information provided on our website and in our Working For Us booklet helpful during the application process.

Pontefract Academies Trust is a Multi Academy Trust consisting of nine schools, including seven primaries and two 11-16 secondary schools. All of our schools are located within a close geographic area in and around Pontefract, and we serve a diverse community of pupils from various catchment areas. As CEO of the Trust, I am confident that our schools can achieve great things for the communities we serve.

Our primary outcomes at Key Stage 2 now sit at 24% above the national average, with five out of the seven being in the top 5% of the country for combined outcomes. Our secondary schools Key Stage 4 results for English, Maths and Science are well above national average and both schools had successful visits from Ofsted in 2024 and 2022.

To work in our Trust, you must be a dedicated and outstanding colleague who upholds our values and commitment to pupil progress. You must be willing to learn, lead, and go the extra mile for our pupils. We are looking for positive people who want to make a difference and are achievement-focused with a clear focus on pupil outcomes.

We have just announced an exciting development, a proposed merger with Ark Schools. This is set to take place in September 2026, a step that reflects our ambition to grow, never settle, and to do what's right for our pupils, staff, and community.

Take the time to read our core values and guiding principles to ensure that there is a cultural fit. If you believe that there is a cultural fit, then I urge you to apply. You can be sure we will take time and care in reading your application form and covering letter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Appleyard', written in a cursive style.

Julian Appleyard OBE
CEO – Pontefract Academies Trust



About Us.

About Us.



Pontefract Academies Trust is a cross phase Multi Academy Trust of nine schools; seven primary and two secondary schools.

Our family of schools educate around 4000 pupils and are all based within close geographic area in and around Pontefract.



CARLETON
HIGH SCHOOL



THE KING'S
SCHOOL



DE LACY
PRIMARY SCHOOL



LARKS HILL
J & I SCHOOL



ORCHARD HEAD
J, I & N SCHOOL



CARLETON PARK
J & I SCHOOL



HALFPENNY LANE
J, I & N SCHOOL



THE ROOKERIES
J, I & N SCHOOL



NORTHFIELD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Each school has its own website, please visit these websites to find out more about the school where you will be working.

Joining Pontefract Academies Trust will not only give you the opportunity to develop your career in the school you are based, but to work across the Trust to develop your practice, skills and experience to support your career development aspirations.

Many of our school improvement aims are shared across the Trust and this allows us to maximise the opportunities to promote staff, second staff to projects and lead discrete areas of school and Trust development.

Mission, Vision and Values.

Our Mission.

Running top quality, high achieving schools that give our children and young people the chance in life they deserve.

Our Vision.

Where every child and young person makes outstanding progress.



Excellence as Standard.



We set high standards. “Good enough” is simply not. We do not accept second best from our students or ourselves.

The Trust aims to be a highly reliable school improvement organisation that is disciplined in its approach to improving performance. A Trust with clear plans and simple and precisely executed systems that not only develop and sustain excellent performance, but never stifle individual flair.

Stronger as One.



We take collective responsibility for each other and the results of all of our children and young people. We enjoy sharing our success as a Trust while recognising the strengths of individuals and each school.

To this end, collective accountability is rooted in a “if one fails we all fail” mentality. As a family of schools we collaborate with each other, challenge each other and share best practice. We do not let competition get in the way of our desire to get the best outcomes for all.

Mission, Vision and Values.

Achievement Without Excuses.



We have an unwavering focus on achievement. This is paramount so that all of our children and young people enjoy greater life chances.

We take responsibility for ensuring that they succeed. We own our own performance and do not rest on our laurels or seek to blame others.

Our People Matter.



We know that our people make a difference to the lives of our 3-16 year-olds. We want to make our schools places where great teachers want to teach, lead and build a career. Investment in the recruitment, development and retention of the best people is a top priority.

We aim to provide professional work environments where our people have the support and tools to do a great job and push our children and young people to scale new heights in a safe and secure environment.

Students Come First.



Our schools are run for the benefit of children and young people, not the ease of adults. Their achievement comes first and staff in schools and the central Trust office work to this end.

The Trust aims to keep low priority tasks away from front line teachers and leaders so that they can focus explicitly on our core business of teaching and learning.



**What We Offer
Our Staff.**

Benefits and Rewards.

We wish to appoint people that understand and believe in our values and guiding principles and recognise that the best educational institutions inhibit a number of common characteristics; an achievement focus and a no excuse culture, high quality leadership, true investment in staff development and a resolute refusal to accept low expectations of self and others.

When you join Pontefract Academies Trust you join a community dedicated to making a positive impact on society. We believe that transforming lives and communities starts with taking care of our staff and ensuring their happiness and wellbeing. That's why we offer a range of benefits that aim to challenge and value our employees, making them feel appreciated and motivated.

A list of our Rewards package for all staff can be found below:


 **24/7 Employee Assistance Scheme**

 **Salary Sacrifice Scheme**

 **Free Flu Vaccinations**

 **Discounted Gym Membership**

 **Blue Light Card**

 **Discounts at numerous retailers including O2**

 **Free eyecare via Specsavers**

 **Childcare Vouchers**

 **Laptop (dependent on role)**

 **Conditions of Service**

 **Continuous Service**

 **Generous Employer Pension**

 **Fantastic Family Friendly Policies**

 **Exciting Career and Leadership Pathways**

Benefits and Rewards.

Annual Leave Entitlements for Support Staff

All support staff are entitled to a generous annual leave entitlement based on their salary, which increases with length of service, plus 8 statutory bank holidays.

Pay Scale	<5 years	5 to 10 years	>10 years
G2, SCP 2 to G5, SCP 9	26 days	31 days	31 days
G5, SCP 10 to G8, SCP 27	29 days	31 days	32 days
G9, SCP 28 to G13, SCP 48	31 days	31 days	34 days



Wellbeing at Pontefract Academies Trust.

The welfare of our employees is of utmost importance to us.

At the Trust we work with Schools Advisory Service (SAS) to offer a comprehensive wellbeing offer to staff.

SAS offer a variety of complimentary services which are confidential, clinician-led and managed by their NMC registered nurses.



The offer from SAS includes:



Physiotherapy



Counselling



Nurse Support



Integrated GP Service



Weight Management



Mindfulness



Preparing Parents



Food Sensitivity Testing



Financial Wellbeing



SAS Gym



Private Medical Operations

Everyday Development Framework.

Our Everyday Development Framework (EDD) is designed to replace traditional appraisal frameworks by putting staff first to foster a culture of continuous growth, retention, and wellbeing.

Key highlights of EDD include:



Flexibility

More flexible opportunities to meet with managers, and increased flexibility over deadlines and targets.



Personalised Goals

Autonomy to set fluid and flexible goals in three areas: personal development, career, and leadership.



Professional Learning Hub

A hub with access to learning resources, training materials, career pathways and more, for continued development.



Development Days

Three Everyday Development (EDD) days for self-directed time away from the workplace to recharge and reflect on your personal and career goals.



Staff Culture.

At Pontefract Academies Trust we are committed to providing a welcoming, friendly and inviting workplace but it is our people who make such.

Every colleague is committed to fostering an inclusive environment in which staff and pupils thrive. At PAT we value meaningful relationships between staff as this is what we believe that happy and motivated staff create the best possible learning environments.

Don't just take our word for it...



Year Leaders at The King's School surprising staff with iced coffee on a summer afternoon.



Staff yoga session on an INSET day at Halfpenny Lane.

"The staff are committed and more importantly kind to one another. The staff look after each other and collectively ensure everyone feels part of the team and cared for."

Carleton Park Junior & Infant School



Staff at The Rookeries enjoy a workout - CrossFit style.

"I have felt valued and have felt so lucky to have been given the opportunity to work in such a wonderful, caring and supportive workplace."

Orchard Head Junior, Infant & Nursery School

Edurio Staff Survey.

This year's survey saw an excellent 81% response rate, giving us a meaningful and accurate picture of how colleagues feel across the Trust.

Key Highlights:

89% of staff feel that the Trust's values and mission are clear.

86% of staff would recommend our schools as a good place for their children to study.

85% of staff would recommend Pontefract Academies Trust as a good place to work.



2025 Edurio Awards

We are proud to have won three awards. These awards are based on national survey data from the 2024/25 academic year and are a powerful reflection of the culture we have built.

Trust Value Award – Excellence Pontefract Academies Trust

Placing us among the top 10 performing trusts nationally, based on staff feedback.

Staff Choice Award

Larks Hill Junior & Infant School



This achievement is testament to 100% of staff recommending the school as a great place to work, and 100% of staff saying they would send their own children to Larks Hill.

Trust Benefit School Award

De Lacy Primary School



This regional award recognises the school in each region whose community is most confident that being part of their Trust is beneficial, recognising excellence at the school level.

Commitment to Professional Development.



Our Everyday Development Framework (EDD) recognises the importance of personalised development to support staff on their own unique professional journey. We continue to invest in the professional development of staff and are committed to offering a variety of carer opportunities.

A brief overview of opportunities available to staff are mentioned below, but our leaders are eager to support career progression and we encourage those conversations to take place in one-to-one meetings and performance reviews.

All Employees

Career and Leadership Pathway

Pontefract Academies Trust not only seeks to attract the best people, but we also aim to ensure they are subject to first class career development opportunities. The Trust is keen to support leaders at different stages of their career and offer a range of leadership development programmes so that our staff can become the very best version of themselves, both personally and professionally.

Ongoing Training and Development

Our EDD Framework supports flexible and adaptable learning and development programmes that are relevant to your role and career aspirations. These are discussed on a regular basis with your line manager with the aim of fostering professional skills and developing future leaders.

Commitment to Professional Development.



Teaching Staff

Early Career Teacher

We recognise that being an ECT can sometimes be daunting as you embrace the challenges that teaching presents. It is essential therefore, to have a programme of development that supports all ECTs. At Pontefract Academies Trust every ECT benefits from a weekly trust-wide professional development programme. This programme focuses upon the 'craft' of teaching and learning. It allows our ECTs to perpetually reflect upon their strengths and to tweak their practice to become the best version of themselves.

It is essential that ECTs have the opportunity to learn from each other and have a forum where they can test new ideas, remove barriers to performance and quickly gain the confidence and skills to cope with the demands of the teaching profession.

The ECT development programme ensures that the ECTs are upskilled quickly and make rapid advancements in their development. Each ECT has their own mentor to ensure all of their additional support needs.



Teacher Training

Through relevant partners, we offer training opportunities so that aspiring teachers gain the necessary educational and personal development. Trainee teachers receive a combination of classroom teaching experience, structured support and bespoke mentoring to develop their knowledge and skills. The Trust aims to ensure that only passionate people, who inspire pupils, will be offered training places. Trainees will benefit from a Trust approach where everybody uses their collective expertise to support others. All trainee teachers will also benefit from full participation on our ECT programme.



Trust-wide Opportunities

There are various ways in which teachers can contribute and actively participate in trust-wide initiatives, providing them with ample opportunities to make a difference.

These initiatives include:

- ✓ Pioneering new systems and approaches based on current educational research, which allows them to be at the forefront of educational thinking and development.
- ✓ Transferring between schools to support school improvement or gain additional experience to prepare themselves for promotion.
- ✓ Leading a particular subject in Trust-wide curriculum development.



Applying
to Work
for Us.

Applying to Work for Us.

If you decide to apply, we do appreciate how long it takes to apply for jobs and you can be sure we will take time and care in reading your application form.

We provide a range of information on our website to guide you through our application process. For all our vacancies we provide:

- A job description and person specification.
- Details of the role.
- A standard application form and equal opportunities monitoring form.

It is important you provide all the information requested. This allows the recruitment panel to assess your application against the job description and person specification.

We are an equal opportunities employer, welcoming applications from everyone. The Pontefract Academies Trust is wholly committed to ensuring children and young people are fully supported and safe. We are dedicated to the safeguarding of all children and young people whilst promoting their welfare.

Any offer of employment will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure and pre-employment checks (will include on-line checks).

Shortlisted applicants will also be asked to provide a self-declaration form.



Expected Timescales

We shortlist posts within 10 working days of the closing date. Due to the volume of applications across the Trust we will only contact shortlisted candidates.

We reserve the right to interview prior to the closing date and close posts earlier than advertised. This is where we have held a vacancy for an internal redeployee or received a high volume of applicants. We therefore encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible for any vacancies.

Interviews generally take place within 15 working days of the post closing. Some interviews will happen quicker than this. If any preparation is required, we will inform you when we invite you to interview.

We will also ask you to bring documents with you to interview, please have these available, as this supports our pre-employment checks.

We will inform candidates if they have been successful at interview within two working days of their interview, this will generally form the verbal offer of employment. We will also contact unsuccessful candidates. Feedback is available, on request.



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