



Get to know

# Reach Schools

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Rebecca Cramer, CEO

v.June, 2023



## Reach Schools is a Multi-Academy Trust with:



**Reach Academy Feltham**, open since 2012.



**A new all-through school** opening in Feltham in 2024 for 1,080 pupils. Located adjacent to Reach Academy Feltham.



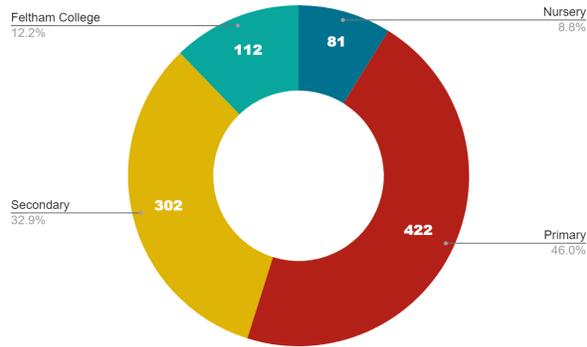
**A sixth form** with 120 pupils, growing to 400 pupils co-located across the two school sites.

Plus,

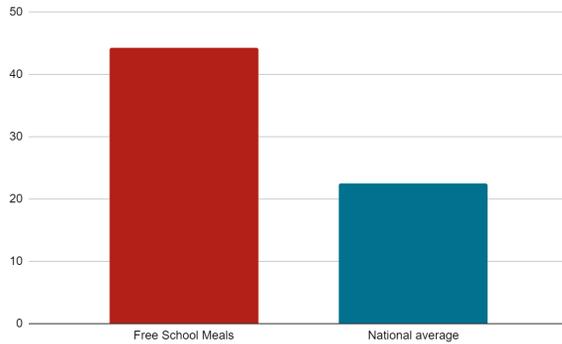
- **Initial teacher training** in partnership with South West Teacher Training,
- **Foundation Degrees** in Early Years and SEND delivered in partnership with Kingston University and
- **The Reach Children's Hub** delivered in partnership with The Reach Foundation.



## Reach Academy Feltham: Key Facts



13 miles from central London



Only 20% of young people in Feltham progress to higher education. Reach Academy bucks this trend locally with over 90% progressing each year.



over 30 clubs on offer

99%

parental satisfaction



## All Children, Every Day

**“We believe, passionately and immovably, that every child can and should go on to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity. “**

Reach Academy Feltham is a co-educational, non-selective free school. Located in Feltham in the London Borough of Hounslow in London, England, the school was founded in 2012 by Ed Vainker and Rebecca Cramer, who both did the Teach First programme, along with Jon McGoh.

**The aim has always been to provide an outstanding education to children from all backgrounds, particularly those who need it the most.**

The school serves students from low socio-economic backgrounds from the ages of 2 to 18 and has a focus on preparing students for university and the world of work. The curriculum includes a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy as well as a range of extracurricular activities such as music, drama, and sports.

**One of the unique features of Reach Academy Feltham is its partnership with Reach Children's Hub**, which provides a range of support services to children and families in the community. This includes early years education, health and wellbeing support, and parenting courses.

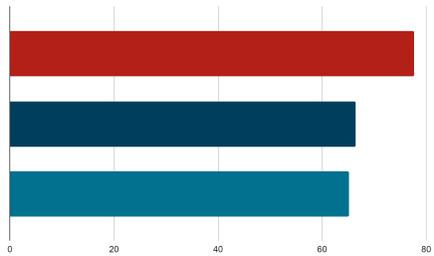
**The school has received numerous awards and recognition for its high standards of education.** It was the 7th most oversubscribed school in London in 2022. It has also achieved excellent results in national exams across the school.

Reach Academy Feltham is a highly respected school that provides an exceptional quality of education to its students while also engaging deeply with the local community and providing support to families. Its ethos is grounded in relational work, high expectations and exceptional amounts of love and care. **Pupils and families are happy at Reach Academy Feltham and they are well supported to flourish in childhood and beyond.**



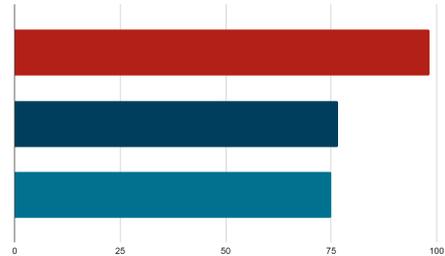
# Exceptional Outcomes

## Outcomes aged 5

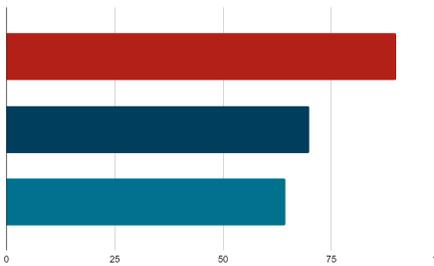


REACH ACADEMY  
LOCAL AVERAGE  
NATIONAL AVERAGE

## Y1 Phonics screen

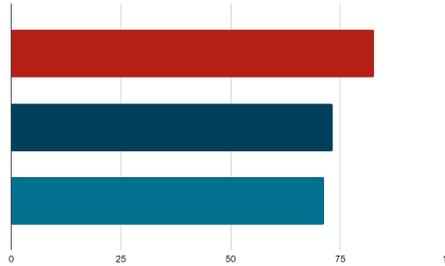


## Average KS1 result

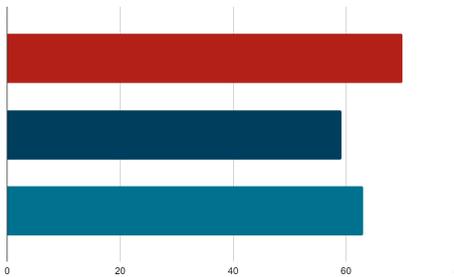


REACH ACADEMY  
LOCAL AVERAGE  
NATIONAL AVERAGE

## Average KS2 result

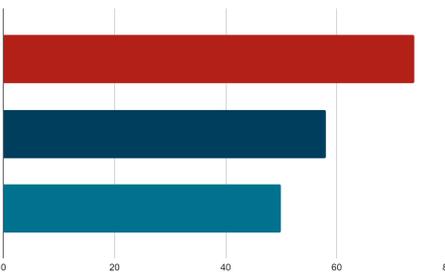


## A Level Grade A\*-B

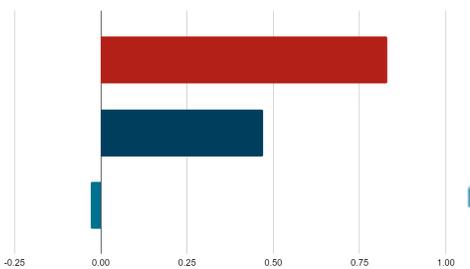


REACH ACADEMY  
LOCAL AVERAGE  
NATIONAL AVERAGE

## Grade 5+ English/Maths

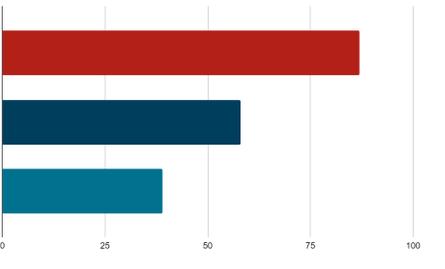


## GSCE Progress 8



REACH ACADEMY  
LOCAL AVERAGE  
NATIONAL AVERAGE

## EBACC entry





## Small But Mighty







# Disproportionate Sector Influence

## School dinners: pupils given a taste of quality

Chips, over-boiled vegetables and packed lunches are banned from the Reach Academy free school, where the head eats with the pupils



boris Image 2

PUPILS and teachers at Reach Academy in Feltham welcomed the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to the borough's only free school on Wednesday.

## H is for Harry review - hard lessons to be learned



This heartbreaking documentary charts the struggles of a year-seven pupil from a disadvantaged background - and offers no easy answers



News > Politics

## LAST DAY OF TERM! David Cameron leaves Sam to do the packing as he uses last official outing as Prime Minister to visit a school

Pregnant Kate bonds with young children on school visit

The Duchess of Cambridge is due to give birth to her third child in April

10 JAN 2018, 11:50 GMT

## Meet the head who built a school for social justice

Ed Vainker started a high-achieving free school in a deprived area of London from scratch. 'I believe in social justice,' he tells Tes. 'That's why we're here'







## Relentless Pursuit Of Excellence

In 2012, Ed Vainker OBE, Jon McGoh and Rebecca Cramer came together to start Reach Academy. Their path to meeting each other was winding. Ed & Jon had been at Cambridge together. Jon was, and still is, an entrepreneur, who runs a successful summer school programme in Cambridge. **Rebecca and Ed both trained to teach through the Teach First Programme.** Ed was in the first cohort of Teach First then moved to Washington DC to work for Teach for All while Rebecca was still working in London schools.

Shortly after Ed's son was born, sleepless nights resulted in confusion over cinema timings & an attempt to see Social Network turned into a chance encounter with **'Waiting for Superman'**; a film about Geoffrey Canada's schools in NYC & the charter school movement more broadly. That night, Ed went home and created a blueprint for his dream school. Over 3000 miles away, in London, Rebecca, frustrated by the English education system, was researching all-through schools and writing her own **plan for a dream school.**

Lunch with a mutual friend, the sentence 'I want to start my own school', one skype call (with Ed) and a drink (with Jon) later, and Rebecca and Ed were quitting their jobs to start Reach Academy Feltham. That was 10 years ago. **Those dream schools became Reach Academy Feltham.**

**We believe, passionately and immovably, that every child can and should go on to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.**

Fast forward to now, those original ideas still hold and our tenacity for achieving our vision drives everything we do. We have a second school opening in 2024. We have the most brilliant, kind and passionate team you could ever wish to work with or have your child grow into adulthood under the guidance of.

**We are up for doing exciting things, taking some calculated risks and championing the children who need it the most.** They deserve everything we give to our own children and they need even more. Oh, and that baby who was born in Washington DC, he's now in Year 8 at Reach Academy Feltham!



## Committed Founders



### Rebecca Cramer, CEO of the Reach Academy Trust

Rebecca worked in three London schools prior to founding Reach Academy Feltham with Ed Vainker and Jon McGoh. She is passionate about ensuring that all children have the life opportunities they deserve and works relentlessly to achieve this goal.

Rebecca has been influenced by visits to schools around the world and has recently returned from a visit to Singapore as part of a delegation sent by the Department for Education and The British Council.

She studied Geography at the University of Bristol and trained to teach through the Teach First programme. In 2018 Rebecca was named a top-50 finalist in the \$1million Global Teacher Prize.

She has previously chaired Heads Forward, the network of Teach First Ambassador Headteachers and the Hounslow Senior Leaders of Teaching and Learning network.



Rebecca also sits on the DfE Mental Health RCTs (Education for Well-being) Advisory Group.

Rebecca is a Trustee of First Give, a charity inspiring young people to engage with social action. Rebecca is also a trustee of SHiFT, a charity which she co-founded in 2019. SHiFT aims to break the cycle for children and young people caught up in crime.

## Ed Vainker OBE, CEO of the Reach Foundation

Ed has a track record of excellent results in urban schools, working in schools in Peckham and White City and teaching French, History and Literacy.

Prior to setting up Reach Academy Feltham with Rebecca Cramer and Jon McGoh, he was based in Washington DC, helping to train outstanding teachers around the world. He brings many innovative approaches from the countries he visited to Reach.

Ed studied History at Cambridge University, has a Masters in Comparative Education and was a Sauve scholar at McGill University.

In 2019 Ed was awarded an OBE for Services to Education.

## Jon McGoh, Chair of the Reach Foundation Board of Trustees

Jon is the Chair of the Reach Foundation, a charity he founded in 2008. He is also the co-founder of Reach Academy, and currently sits on the Reach Academy MAT Board. Jon is a social entrepreneur working across education, travel and documentary film.

Jon founded Reach Cambridge Ltd in 2004, an organisation that specialises in running residential summer schools for international students. More recently he produced the documentary film 'H is for Harry' and is a Director of Mercurial Pictures Ltd.

Jon studied at Cambridge University, has been a Sauve scholar at McGill University and was a Winston Churchill Fellow with his report focussed on cradle-to-career models in the US and Finland.

Jon's belief in the need for a more equitable education system stems from his early experiences running university access projects, fueled by his subsequent experiences over the 10+ years since co-founding Reach Academy.



## 10 years on

Our first Reception cohort are in Year 10, Harrison, from our first Year 7 cohort, is back at Reach as part of the facilities team and Beck, our first teacher hire is now the Co-Headteacher.

Over **100 residential trips** have taken place in the past 10 years from Berlin to the Brecon Beacons.

More than **300 clubs** have been provided for pupils.

We have **trained 75 teachers** from scratch.

We have delivered **1.4million meals** to all of our children, ensuring a health lunch for all

Throughout we have stayed true to our founding principles, but as the cost of living impacts our families and the increase in costs of everyday amenities impacts our budgets, we are in a difficult situation to ensure that we can keep providing the education we so passionately believe in to the children who need it most.



# 2022 Leavers' Destinations







## State Of The Nation

# Cost of living crisis: extra 1 million UK children set to go hungry

- » Free school meals rethink urged - to prevent many more children falling into food poverty
- » 1.6m currently eligible, but concern for further 1m whose parents are hit by rising food prices
- » Government reluctant to relax rules to offer school meals to all families on universal credit

PG

*'i' front cover, Wednesday 9th February 2022*

Children are at the forefront of the cost of living crisis. Nationally, [one in four households with children have been forced to skip meals](#), a figure which is inevitably higher in Feltham.

Our community faces unequal access to wider opportunities - children from wealthier backgrounds are far more likely to participate in music, sport and arts activities outside school. Currently only 20% of young people in the local area progress to higher education compared to over nearly 80% in neighbouring Osterley. We are on a mission to change the narrative.

Children in Feltham are brilliant and talented and deserve equal access to opportunities. At Reach Academy Feltham last year, 100% of students progressed to university or a high tariff apprenticeship.



## School Funding Crisis

School funding has never been tighter - Reach Academy Feltham faces a **500% increase in energy bills** from November 2022, reducing our capacity to provide the exceptional resources our children deserve.

	Last year	Budgeted	This year + beyond
<b>Gas</b>	£18,000	£62,000	<b>£102,000</b>
<b>Electricity</b>	£73,000	£189,000	<b>£367,000</b>

**Unfunded teacher pay rises** and increases to support staff salaries have added significant additional budgetary pressures. This equates to hundreds of thousands of pounds in some schools. **The cost of a box of plain A4 paper** rose from £11.92 in September 2021 to £22.50 in September 2022 and continues to increase. Our **school lunches** cost only £2.30 per day per child. This is exceptionally cheap compared to other state schools and incomparably cheap compared to independent schools. Many families are struggling to pay even this amount.

This lack of flex in the school budget coupled with **pressure on families** means that, for the first time since the school opened 10 years ago, we are not going to be able to realise the vision of the school without additional funding streams.

Things are predicted to continue to be financially challenging for schools, with unrest across the profession and a recruitment crisis adding to the load.

**45% of our pupils** from Reception to Year 11 are eligible for Free School Meals which means that **their household income is less than £7,400 per year**. This is approximately 324 children at our school.

As a state funded school we receive the following approximate funding per pupil per year on average:

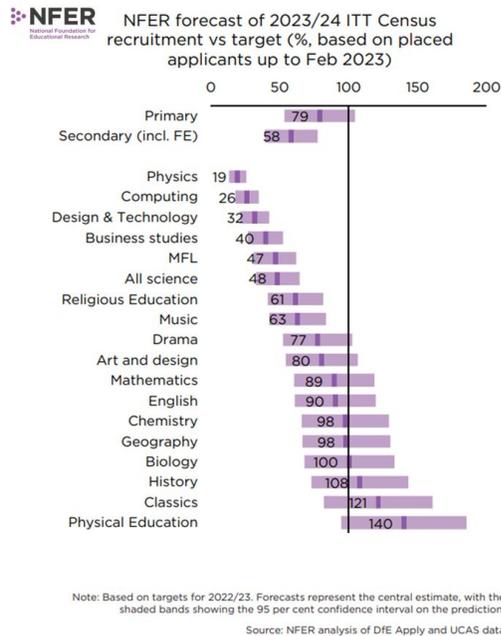
Age range	£ per pupil (approx.)
Reception - Y6	£3,500
Y7 - Y11	£5,200
Sixth form	£4,500



## Great teachers change lives

We all know from experience and from research that the very best teachers leave a lasting legacy. **The profession is in crisis.** Recruitment and retention has never been more

challenging.



The number of teachers entering the profession is worryingly low and the competition for great teachers is staggeringly fierce.

In order to attract teachers, many of the larger Multi-Academy Trusts offer salaries inflated above other schools and/or give golden handshakes upon joining, something that we simply can not afford to do.

What we can do, though, is offer exceptional opportunities for professional development, colleagues who are world-class and a supportive leadership team who truly understand the role for

flexible working in schools.

This academic year we will have only 5 teachers move on from the school. In all cases the decision has been heavily influenced by their partner's career choices.

We began our own Initial Teacher Training three years ago to attempt to buck the national trend and attract local talent who otherwise might not have entered teaching. Nationally the Department for Education will end the year achieving only 48% of their target for Secondary teachers entering the profession.

**We need to ensure that our teachers are expertly developed, superbly supported and sufficiently remunerated to attract and retain them and ensure the very best outcomes for our children.**



## Our value-add proposition for children and families

**Our school exists to eradicate the educational and experiential gap between children from low socioeconomic backgrounds in Feltham and their wealthier peers.** This gap had widened as a result of the covid-19 pandemic and continues to rise exponentially due to increases in costs of living.

Over the past 10 years we have significantly subsidised the cost of activities, educational resources and essentials such as costs of food and school uniform in order to ensure that every single one of our pupils is able to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity during their school years and, crucially, in their adult lives. We have done this via careful budgeting, occasional fundraising and historically sourcing additional funding routes e.g. via the DfE.

We submit balanced budgets, spend income thoughtfully and innovate where possible to create efficiencies in a fundamentally inefficient system, for example by creating the [Reach Children's Hub](#).

Our young people will have the skills, academic qualifications and attributes to go anywhere and do anything they wish to in life. They are provided with love, challenge and support, along with many and varied opportunities to expose them to the wider world, ignite their passions and learn alongside others from within and outside of their school and community.

Our outcomes are in the top 10% nationally across all measures from Early Years to A Levels and 100% of our pupils in Y13 last year are now attending a place at university or are accessing a high tariff apprenticeship.

Of all schools in England in 2022 with pupil deprivation above 40% and no entrance selection criteria based on religion, Reach Academy's Progress 8 score ranked us 11th in the country.

**These results place our happy, loving school in stark contrast to others serving similar communities.**

**We need your help to continue to deepen our impact and ensure that factors outside of our control do not negatively impact the future of generations to come.**





## Join our mission

We are always so grateful for any support that anyone can offer. From reading with students, to mentoring, to financial support that enables us to provide life-changing opportunities for our students; it all adds up to a big picture.

**At Reach Academy our aim is a life of choice and opportunity for every single child.**

We are looking for funding for specific items that either reduce pressure on our budget or provide opportunities that we otherwise will be unable to.

If you would like to visit the school or have a further discussion please do not hesitate to get in touch with the CEO Rebecca Cramer on [rebecca.cramer@reachacademy.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.cramer@reachacademy.org.uk).

