



Sharing Success

celebrating the power of partnership

2024

Our Impact

Our mission is to improve educational outcomes across the North. We are succeeding. We are also forging lasting connections between professional friends, sparking innovative collaborations, and reshaping the landscape of education itself. Schools, Academies and Trusts should thrive together, not be seen as rivals. Our collective purpose is the same; to enrich children's lives and help them to succeed in life.

There are over 1,300 schools, academies, Local Authorities and Trusts who are involved in the Education Exchange. Projects range from Reading Strategies, Raising Attainment Projects, Leadership secondments, to whole scale Interventions to support Schools, Academies and ultimately Trusts requiring immediate support. Education Exchange partners have delivered rapid improvement across the country. These include high impact projects with Barnsley, Doncaster, North Tyneside, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Bristol, Cornwall, Dudley, Wiltshire, Birmingham and Nottinghamshire local authorities.

The contents of this booklet will give you an insight into the impact that our professional partners and friends are having on their communities and schools.

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**We work to drive achievement,
address disadvantage and raise
the aspirations of the children and
communities we serve.**



The Brooksbank School

School had been placed in special measures with significant safeguarding concerns. Prior to the publication of the report, The Regional Schools Commissioner approached the Education Exchange to lead a project to provide school improvement support.

Within a short time frame, a team of education professionals with significant experience in rapid school improvement were brought together to support the school.

Working as part of the Education Exchange partnership, a large number of experienced senior leaders came together and swiftly implemented structural and systematic changes to ensure the safeguarding of students and to support high standards in the school.

Together Learning Trust named as the new sponsor for The Brooksbank School.

The Trust, which includes schools in Kirklees and Calderdale including the highly regarded Ryburn Valley High School and Honley High School, was part of the immediate improvements at The Brooksbank School since an Ofsted report found significant issues at the school.

The collaborative approach and cohesive plan, enabled Brooksbank to successfully transition to Together Learning Trust by the end of 2022.



What you can see very quickly is the collaborative nature of the Education Exchange and bringing really high quality people together, who really know what to do and what they want to achieve. You've seen massive progress in a really relatively short space of time.

Danny Armitage, Director of Operations
Together Learning Trust



Danny Armitage
Director of Operations,
Together Learning Trust



**THE
BROOKSBANK
SCHOOL**



professional generosity and friendship

Milton School

Milton Special School had been placed in special measures with significant safeguarding concerns. The Regional Director approached the Education Exchange to lead a project to provide school improvement support.

Working with Interaction and Communication Academy Trust (ICAT), The Education Exchange provided capacity in areas such as safeguarding, governance, teaching and learning, ICT infrastructure and estates.

Members making up the team on this project included:

- Tom Banham: CEO at HCAT, *Accounting Officer support*
- Simon Witham: CEO at Venn Academy Trust, *Special school MAT expertise*



Without the friendship and professional generosity of those named in this article and many others, projects would not be possible. It is this continued investment and ethical practice which results in improved opportunities and outcomes. As a result of the collaborative approach and cohesive plan, Milton School successfully transitioned to Venn Academy Trust in July 2023.



On visiting the school, meeting the staff and reviewing their current provision, a holistic approach to their curriculum was implemented. This is further supporting pupils in engaging more successfully with learning. We ascertained which interventions would be most beneficial, identifying those that could be implemented in the short, medium and longer term and potential staff who could lead in each area.

Jo Pittard, AP Principal
Delta Academies Trust

As we all know, at times, schools and Trusts get into challenging positions. It is really pleasing to see that stakeholders from right across the sector have come together, in a period of time that is challenging for all educational establishments, to work together to ensure that the children get the quality of education they deserve.

Tom Banham, CEO
HCAT

The support from the Education Exchange has been greatly appreciated by the Executive team and Trustees. The swiftness and thoroughness of the support provided has been of huge benefit to the capacity of the Executive Team, school leadership teams and to the education of the pupils the Trust serves.

Dawn Whiteley, MBE
ICAT



Power BI

This Project was commissioned by Doncaster Local Authority.

Power BI is online analytics software that provides senior leaders and other key staff with up-to-date headline information which can be used to initiate informed discussions, to promote active monitoring, and to identify areas of concern.

Power BI enables a user to:

- Reduce workload by developing reports and dashboards that provide immediate access to pertinent information.
- Inform decision making
- Access information easily on multiple devices.
- Promote standardisation and collaboration.
- Benchmark against national, regional and local averages.



I have really enjoyed my time working with Bridlington and Headlands developing their use of Power BI. There was an opportunity with the staff to develop their skills so they could design the visualisations and allow senior leaders the opportunity to build the key measures that they wanted to drive. We now have attendance and behaviour dashboards in place from SIMS, which update at set points in the day which will allow key staff to be more greatly informed of any emerging trends.



Our next steps with BI are to start looking at progress data connecting up to SISRA and developing the use of interventions tracking to consider their impact of those. This has not been a one way process and whilst working with the two schools it has given me the opportunity to reflect on our practice and identify areas we as a Trust could improve further. I look forward to continuing the work with Bridlington and Headlands and happy to support other schools in the future.

Andy Woodcock, Trust Director MIS, Exams & Student Services
New Collaborative Learning Trust



Launchpad for Literacy

These projects are delivered alongside the Launchpad for Literacy creator. Launchpad for Literacy is a systematic, skill-based approach, improving outcomes in the Early Years and beyond by identifying and closing specific skills gaps. It ensures that practitioners have a greater level of diagnostic capability, establishing reasons and solutions to underpin informed interventions.

The project launched in summer 2021 with Barnsley Local Authority. Schools applied, received the resources and were invited to an introductory session to demonstrate using the Toolkit. A second cohort took place in spring 2022; A total of 73 schools have benefited from a programme of CPD and a series of face to face and virtual training sessions.

We have targeted schools through our 'Narrowing the Gap' project to support the use of Launchpad for Literacy. The project is being rolled out to private providers and childminders.

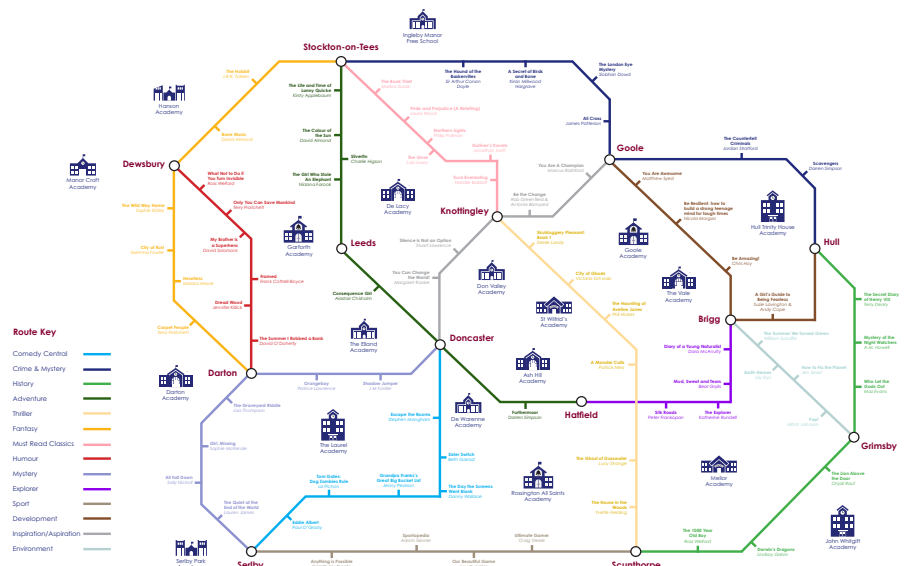
The start of the project focused on improving literacy across the early years and improving outcomes in phonics. Post project, Barnsley LA EYFSP data for 21/22 was for the first time above national (67.1% GLD compared with national at 65.2%). The literacy element within GLD was 68.2%, compared with 68.8% nationally.

The impact was further embedded this year with preliminary data currently at 68.6% GLD, compared with national at 67.3% and the Literacy element at 70.2%, compared with a national of 69.8%. Phonics data for this year, although unvalidated, places Barnsley in the top 7% nationally.

Reading Routes

Northern Education Trust (NET) have kindly shared their Reading routes as part of an Education Exchange project. NET have three 'Outstanding' secondary schools inspected on the new Ofsted framework.

NET have embodied the ethos of the Education Exchange and provided all aspects of their Reading Routes including policy and all the resources they have developed and used so successfully. It's not surprising this approach to reading is already having impact.



Quality Assurance

The Education Exchange has worked alongside school and Trust leaders to establish rigorous and reliable quality assurance systems.

Introducing a coherent system of quality assurance allows for professional engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and external agencies, using a common language of school improvement.

This system of quality assurance enables the alignment of self-evaluation with future planning and facilitates rapid improvement.



Engagement in QA

Trusts:

The Constellation Trust
The Rose Learning Trust
Inspiration Trust
Dixons Academy Trust
Swift Academy Trust
Leger Trust
Dudley Academy Trust

Schools/Academies:

Ridgewood School
Hall Cross Academy
Minsthorpe Community Academy
Gosforth Central Middle School
Bradford Headteacher Group

Ridgewood School

We are delighted with the support we have received from the Education Exchange. We have been able to evaluate our Pupil Premium provision.

A team of leaders came together to support us with this process. The whole review was challenging and rigorous, but most importantly, supportive and collaborative. Senior and middle leaders involved in the day learned a huge amount from the process, and the accuracy of our evaluation of impact for Pupil Premium has increased, which ultimately benefits the students.

In addition, Barry Found (Director of Quality Assurance) worked with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers to support our school self-evaluation. All colleagues involved described this as the very best leadership CPD we have experienced in years. Improving the scope and accuracy of our self-evaluation and sharpening the focus of our school improvement planning.



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Rose Learning Trust

Our work with the Education Exchange has been focused on school improvement and the establishment of key criteria around what to ask and what to look for when quality assuring a school.

This has been a keystone for our school improvement strategy with an Education Exchange Partner working with schools to develop these new ways of working.

Having a coherent and clear approach with a clear structure to assess against has enabled us to use it at school level, peer partner level with other schools and Trust level as part of our quality assurance mechanisms.

We have endeavoured to support and give back into the Exchange through our work with Launchpad for Literacy and Let's Think in English.

We also have facilitators who support the NPQ programme and our Director of Early Years has worked with the Education Exchange to plan and deliver training. More recently, we have contributed to the improving attendance programme, sharing our good practice.



The Rose Learning Trust works in partnership with Exchange Teacher Training to deliver high quality school led initial teacher training across south Yorkshire.



**Exchange
Teacher Training**

The
Rose
Learning Trust



**The Education
Exchange**

Minsthorpe Community College

Minsthorpe Community College is a single academy Trust and, as such, we place high priority on effective collaboration and networking with other trusts and academies.

This outward-facing approach allows the College to keep abreast of national and local developments and to share expertise with like-minded colleagues. At a Wakefield Secondary Heads Network meeting in 2021, our leaders attended a presentation about the Quality Assurance processes in place across Delta Academies Trust. Leaders at Minsthorpe had been working relentlessly to develop our curriculum and were poised to review our QA Policy, following the pandemic. We sought advice from the Education Exchange of which their generosity has extended way beyond initial advice.

Over the past two years, Education Exchange members have worked with senior and middle leaders at Minsthorpe delivering training, sharing in joint QA activities and offering insightful feedback. This has been done with knowledge, experience and expertise, but always in the spirit of collaboration. Leaders at Minsthorpe have felt empowered to shape the policy and procedures to meet the needs of our staff and our students.



The training that I've gained through working with Barry via the Education Exchange on quality assurance and the EIF has been excellent! It has facilitated a revised and standardised QA policy that not only considers workload and ensures a sustainable, manageable process but has also significantly strengthening the College's successful self-evaluation of the quality of education

Sarah Adams, Assistant Principal
Minsthorpe Community College



Inspire Partnership MAT

Over the last 12 months Barry Found, Director of Quality Assurance, has worked across our Trust and used his framework for carrying out reviews of our schools.

Over the last 12 months Barry has worked across our Trust and used his framework for carrying out reviews of our schools. In every review Barry has used coaching in order to develop staff. Two senior leaders have shadowed him on every review, and through this process they have developed significant skills.

Through the partnership, we have been able to take a 'lens' out of whole school development and look at how this is woven throughout our day-to-day school culture. This has allowed us to have precise and focused school development discussions and evaluations. This is allowing us to get the 'little things' right to make the big difference.



Barry has supported our school through an initial visit and more specific work with subject leaders. This has greatly impacted upon our school improvement plan as well as instilling confidence within the staff team. The approach was supportive and not judgemental, it encouraged staff to thrive, recognising strengths whilst identifying areas for further development.

I was lucky enough to have a fantastic opportunity in working alongside Barry last year whilst he conducted a Review Visit through Education Exchange at a school in Doncaster.

During the review myself and my colleague had the opportunity to work alongside Barry in prepping for the visit by using the model he had developed.

The model was thorough and detailed outlining the process as well as the monitoring activities to be conducted. This included question prompts.

During the review we were able to use his model and help support the leaders of the school in evaluating accurately where the school was and what was needed to help move the school forward.



Dixons Academies Trust

We began working with the Education Exchange after attending a presentation for headteachers across Bradford.

Since engaging with the Education Exchange directly, the support and guidance has enhanced our Quality Assurance framework and supported further development of our academy transformation model.



Three of our most complex academies have been supported with thorough reviews being conducted across various areas including the quality of education and behaviour and attitudes, as well as bespoke reviews in specific subjects.

The collaboration with our leaders has been invaluable, affording them the opportunity to benefit from extensive knowledge and experience. Through the Education Exchange's approach, our leaders and academies have gained increased confidence in their strategic direction. Moreover, this assistance has been crucial in refining our processes, resulting in our staff and students being better positioned due to the support received.

Campsmount Academy

Campsmount School has engaged in a transformative partnership with Education Exchange, focusing on robust subject-based and whole school quality assurance.

The collaborative QA approach is fundamentally developmental, involving the systematic collection of information, identification of areas for celebration and improvement, planning of actions and interventions, and subsequent measurement of their impact. Working alongside senior and middle leaders throughout the school, invaluable guidance was offered on the methodologies and processes that underpin effective meetings with leaders, student and staff voice interviews, lesson visits, and work samples.



Our work with the Education Exchange has led to the implementation of a common QA approach across the entire school, fostering increased confidence and expertise among staff in conducting QA processes.



professional generosity and friendship

The Constellation Trust

The Education Exchange has provided our Trust with invaluable support. We have been fortunate to work with colleagues who have willingly shared their time and expertise to help improve systems within our schools.

Equally beneficial is having a network of other CEOs who are willing to offer advice and support during the current 'challenging' times. Membership of the Education Exchange provides unique and invaluable CPD for senior leaders, removing barriers between Trusts and allowing best practice to be openly shared.

On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the invaluable support in enhancing our school's monitoring procedures and upskilling our staff.

The expertise and dedication have been instrumental in strengthening our ability to effectively track student progress, identify areas for improvement, and provide targeted support to ensure that all students reach their full potential. The commitment to professional development has empowered our staff members to embrace new technologies, implement innovative teaching strategies, and foster a culture of continuous learning within our school.

Coaching and guidance have instilled confidence in our educators and equipped them with the necessary skills to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education. The Education Exchange's contributions have made a profound impact on our students, staff, and the entire school community.



Our school has been supported with quality assurance systems in English. Working alongside leaders, evaluations of the subject have been made using a 'QA in a day' model. This involved carrying out various activities with leaders, having discussions with staff and children, as well as sharing how to concisely record and summarise evidence across the day.

The knowledge and insights shared led to improved and more efficient methods of forming evaluations across the school. Leaders felt empowered and equipped to use this as a model for QA in other subjects and other areas of school improvement.

The whole process was clear, concise and supportive. It reassured us about how far we had come as a school and clarity on what we needed to do next.

Francis Askew Primary School



The Education
Exchange

Together Learning Trust

The Education Exchange worked with Together Learning Trust to support three secondary schools in the conversion to Eduqas WJEC specification.

Dave Hewitt (Executive Headteacher, Together Learning Trust) approached Andy Barnett (Director of Secondary Education, Delta) to ask for support from the Delta director team with the conversion to Eduqas. The 3 schools had all taught AQA for a significant period of time and the newly appointed Director of English also had limited experience with the new specification.

The support has been in numerous formats:

- Visits to Delta schools to observe Year 11 lessons / walking talking mocks and also the opportunity to discuss with teaching staff and HOD's about the change and the specification
- The Director of English has visited The Education Exchange for a full day of CPD with the Executive Director of English for Delta
- Sharing of resources such as walking talking mock launches
- Moderation of key pieces of work to support accurate predictions
- A visit to Honley High Schools to quality assure lessons, books and conduct CPD with all 3 HOD's of English which included recent mock exam moderation
- Excellent network links to be able to pick the phone up and ask any questions relating to the GCSE.

The magic of collaboration and support.



A heartfelt thank you & invitation to share

As we review this newsletter of shared success, one constant is clear; the collective engagement, collaboration and remarkable impact of this community we have built.

Each project undertaken, each resource shared, each insightful discussion reflects a shared commitment to excellence and sparks the engine of educational growth. We are not merely colleagues and professional friends, but collaborators, weaving a tapestry of innovation and best practices that elevates the educational landscape. To every member, we extend our sincere appreciation for your invaluable contributions.

We're witnessing a synergistic ecosystem where expertise transcends individual classrooms and transforms into collective momentum. This is the power of The Education Exchange.

Our incredible community thrives on sharing. Let's amplify each other's voices and continue to build this extraordinary support system for educators, by educators. Head over to our social media channels and let your successes be heard. Let's keep making education a collaborative adventure.

