



Astrea Academy Trust

LEARN, THRIVE, SUCCEED



Annual Report

2025

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Our Trustees

It is my pleasure to introduce the trust's 2025 Annual Report.

I thoroughly enjoy my school visits, where I gain an insight into the day-to-day work of colleagues and have the opportunity to recognise and celebrate their work. It is important that our successes are shared. Not only to acknowledge hard work, but also to inspire colleagues both within and beyond the trust. This report achieves exactly that, and I am happy to see so much to celebrate across all areas of education, including both teaching and support functions.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to all colleagues across the trust for your dedication to providing a life-changing learning experience for our students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees and governors across all our schools. They generously volunteer their time to support the trust and

each school, making a valuable contribution to our children and local communities.

One clear highlight of the past year has been the publication of 'Astrea 2030', our new strategy that sets a bold direction for the trust. I am incredibly proud to work with a trust that not only articulates strong visions and values, but actively delivers on them, particularly through its relentless commitment to removing barriers to a brilliant education and its determination to disrupt disadvantage. Every student deserves a high-quality education that allows them to excel, both during their time at school and beyond.

As you read about the many successes, I hope you feel, as I do, a strong sense of determination and ambition. I am confident that, together, all Astrea students can learn, thrive and succeed.



Mr Ben Brown
Chair of Trustees



Dr Tesca Bennett
Vice Chair, Chair of Education
and Safeguarding



Chris Rossiter
Chair of People, Remuneration
and Operations



Peter Burrows
Chair of Finance and Budget



Marina Muirhead
Chair of Audit and Risk



Faye Craster



Dr Meesha Warmington



Penny Alford



Claudia Bickford-Smith



Duncan Cooper

Welcome from our CEO

Rowena Hackwood



This past year was a pivotal one for the trust. Not only did we achieve 'Good' Ofsted ratings across all of our schools for the first time, but we also launched our 'Astrea 2030' strategy.

This strategy sets out a clear and ambitious pathway to fulfil our aim of giving every Astrea student an advantage for life, equipping them to be confident and competitive in all that they do. Crucially, it also strengthens our commitment to providing greater support for those children who face disadvantages.

In addition, we have seen significant improvements in both our parent and staff surveys, with an increase in overall positive responses. In particular, results show that in the majority of our academies, between 80% and 90% of parents report that their child is happy at school.

These improvements are, in part, the result of our continued focus on strengthening both our internal and external communities. Which, alongside our other strategic priorities, is something that we will continue to develop further.

Looking forward, we will continue to build on the progress we have made and remain steadfast in our commitment to academic excellence. Guided by our renewed strategy and vision, we will keep striving to provide the highest standards of education and opportunities for our students.

I would like to thank all our colleagues for their hard work and determination. I look forward to seeing what we can all achieve together in the exciting year ahead.

About Astrea

Since launching with just six schools in 2016, we have grown into a vibrant network of 26 academies across South Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire. Our mission is to provide an exceptional, academically rich education that empowers every pupil to learn deeply, thrive personally and lead successful lives.

Our Vision and Values

Working together, Astrea schools will tackle head on the barriers that stand in the way of children's success. We will do this through a relentless commitment to a brilliant education, a focus on inclusion for all and by delivering on our promise of broad opportunities and supporting and sustaining thriving communities.



SCHOLARSHIP:

We are informed by the best of academic and organisational thinking and research, using this where we can and expanding it where possible.



CURIOSITY:

We ask searching questions, not taking things at face value, seeking out the best of what is known and engaging in appreciative enquiry.



TENACITY:

We deliver on our promises and see things through to completion. We embody pace, urgency and determination in our focus on improving outcomes for children and on our own performance.

Astrea in Numbers

26
ACADEMIES

2,000

MEMBERS
OF
STAFF



£115m

TOTAL
INCOME

100%
RATED 'GOOD'

14,000 PUPILS

£3.9m

REINVESTED
INTO SCHOOLS
TO IMPROVE
FACILITIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURE







Astrea 3.0

In 2025 we were not only proud to see all our schools achieve 'Good' Ofsted ratings, but also the launch of our 'Astrea 2030' strategy. This marks the start of Astrea 3.0 and the realisation of our collective ambition as a trust and as a community united by scholarship.

Since our founding in 2015 and the arrival of our first schools in May 2016, Astrea's journey has unfolded in three parts: an initial entrepreneurial, fast-growing phase; a post-pandemic phase of consolidation and greater definition; and now this third phase: Astrea 3.0.

We can have confidence that our approaches to curriculum, pedagogy and culture are delivering results, so this strategy is about going further and faster.

To do this, we embrace the principles of excellence and community. Our success will require a step-change in the pace at which we realise academic improvements and so this strategy aims to remove barriers and to empower leaders to make that change.

We must achieve this with - and not just within - our communities and so our strategy sets out how we will thrive together.

Central to this is the need to disrupt disadvantage. Where children are held back by their circumstances, it is our mission to meet these challenges with them.

None of this can be achieved without the dedication and expertise of the brilliant people who share in our mission and values. This strategy is a promise to our students and it is a promise to all of the professionals and volunteers who will enable this success.

Read
more
here:



Our Schools and Principals

PRIMARY



Melisha Trotman



Bee Wood



Katie Adamski



Claire Blagden



Joanna White



Tom Orr



Jack Moore



Kara Robinson



Claire Costello



Katy Richards



Jeni Ward



Laura Sunley



Kirsten Middleton



Amy Marie Fielding



Helen Broad



Catherine Skinn



Jane Dawtry



Louise Stanton

SECONDARY



ASTREA ACADEMY
DEARNE

Amir Arezoo



ASTREA ACADEMY
NETHERWOOD

Andy Downing



ASTREA ACADEMY
WOODFIELDS

David Scales



COTTENHAM
VILLAGE COLLEGE

Hanan McKeand



ERNULF ACADEMY

Thomas Fisher



LONGSANDS
ACADEMY

Francis Bray



ST IVO
ACADEMY

Jess Pearce

ALL-THROUGH



ASTREA ACADEMY
SHEFFIELD

Rachel Flemming (Primary)
Dave Boyd (Secondary)

SPECIAL



THE CENTRE SCHOOL
COTTENHAM

Sue Raven MBE

Academic Outcomes

PRIMARY

Area	2023/24	2024/25
Phonics	77%	79%
Multiplication Tables Check	18.9%	20.5%
KS2 Reading	62%	63%
KS2 Writing	61%	64%
KS2 Maths	63%	66%
KS2 Combined	50%	55%

SECONDARY

Area	2023/24	2024/25
A8	43.35	44.47
9-5 English & Maths	41.6%	45%
9-5 English	57.8%	59.1%
9-5 Maths	46.8%	50.9%
9-4 English & Maths	60.9%	65.5%
9-4 English	72.5%	74.7%
9-4 Maths	65.2%	69.7%
EBacc 4+	16.6	18.4
EBacc 5+	8.9	9.3

DESTINATIONS



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



The University
of
Nottingham



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

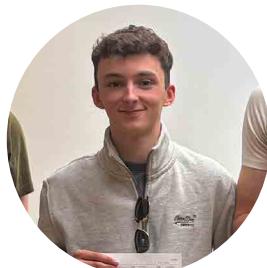


The
University
Of
Sheffield.



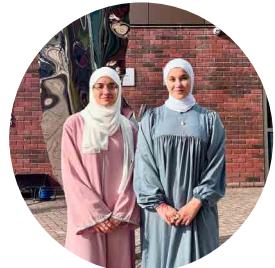
Mia
Longsands Academy

Along with other students celebrating their A-Level results, Mia celebrated a successful application to Oxford University to study biochemistry after getting an A* in biology and chemistry and an A in maths.



Jake
St Ivo Academy

Jake celebrated his academic success after achieving four A grades in his A-Level results and is now studying law at the University of York.



Ariam and Nadia
Astrea Academy Sheffield

Ariam and Nadia achieved an incredible AAAA* in their A-Level results and both successfully applied to the University of Sheffield to study medicine.

Achievements and Celebrations



St Ivo unveils new Sixth Form centre

The renovated Sixth Form centre at St Ivo Academy was officially opened at the start of the term. Parents, students, staff and other attendees were able to see the improved spaces and brand-new facilities.

Cottenham Village College unveils new community 3G football pitch

Cottenham Village College welcomed the local community to celebrate the official opening of their new 3G football pitch. Guests were treated to a training session and a football match between two local girls' football teams.



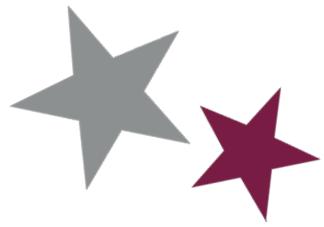
Longsands raise over £2,200

Sixth Form students and teachers at Longsands Academy took part in an annual Paint Run, raising over £2,200 for their prom.

Carrfield earns award for kindness

Carrfield Primary Academy was recognised as a Social Impact School by SuperKind, a national platform designed to help schools make a positive impact in their communities. In addition, the school also earned a School Games Mark Gold Award; a fantastic and well-deserved recognition of the school's commitment to PE and sport.





Astrea Academy Sheffield Young Carers

Astrea Academy Sheffield was recognised by Sheffield Young Carers for their commitment to identifying and supporting their young carers.

Hartley Brook are Astrea Olympics winners

Pupils from 18 Primary schools across South Yorkshire came together at the English Institute of Sports Stadium in Sheffield for the annual Astrea Olympics. Well done to Hartley Brook Primary Academy who won both the KS1 and KS2 games.



Celebrating success in girls' football

Astrea Academy Dearne earned the Equal Access Award, placing it in the top 5% of schools nationally for girls' football. The school offers equal access across lessons and extra-curricular activities and is close to meeting the 2028 target of 90% participation.

Woodfields named 'Secondary School of the Year'

Astrea Academy Woodfields have been named 'Secondary School of the Year 2025/26' by the Prestige Awards, which celebrate excellence among education establishments, businesses, and individuals who provide outstanding services in Yorkshire.



Staff and Student Spotlights



Sue Raven MBE

The Centre School

Sue Raven, Principal at The Centre School, was made an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for services to children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

"All children deserve an excellent education and I truly believe we give every student at The Centre School the very best start to their adult life." - Sue Raven MBE



Kirsten Middleton

The Hill Primary Academy

Kirsten Middleton, Principal at The Hill, was invited to a special Royal Garden Party dedicated to those working in education. The event was hosted by King Charles III to recognise and celebrate the contributions of individuals working in UK education.



Kerry Ann Beet

Atlas Academy

Kerry Ann Beet, Safeguarding Lead at Atlas Academy, was recognised as a 'Unsung Hero' in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for the impact she has had on families. Kerry Ann's role places her at the heart of student welfare and her unwavering commitment to safeguarding and support has a profound impact on the lives of the children and their families.



Aleksa **Astrea Academy Woodfields**

Aleksa, pictured with Julie Atkins (Head of Performing Arts), won the Spirit of Music in Secondary Schools Trust award after working with the organisation to learn how to play part of an orchestra along with her school colleagues.



Ava **St Ivo Academy**

Ava was nominated for an award in the 'Young Hero Award' category and judges acknowledged her as "a true inspiration and a shining example of the impact the young person can have on their community."



Aren **Astrea Academy Netherwood**

Aren triumphed over more than 35,000 students from schools across the country in the Speakers Trust Speak Out Challenge, a programme designed to empower young people with the skills and confidence to express their ideas and opinions effectively.



Penelope **Longsands Academy**

A Longsands Academy student received praise for her entry in the Anthea Bell Young Translators competition. Penelope received a special commendation for her translation of the poem "Les Colombes" by Gautier.



Tommy and Zac **Gooseacre Primary Academy**

Tommy and Zac received a tie from Barnsley Football Club – a well-deserved reward for their football talents and their abilities as excellent role models.

Hexthorpe Choir **Hexthorpe Primary Academy**

The Hexthorpe Primary Academy Choir group spread the joy of music at several events, including at an event at Woodfields Academy and at the Doncaster Dome.

Lailah and Jah **Hatfield Primary Academy**

Lailah and Jah earned themselves a trophy for fundraising the highest amounts as part of a ProStrike fundraising event.

“My child is empowered and confident.”

“Providing a warm and welcoming environment for students and parents.”

“Excellent support, effective communication, friendly and helpful staff.”

“School dinners are good.”

“Brilliant teaching.”

“The lessons are interesting and kids are encouraged to do their best.”

“My daughter is happy to come to school and to learn new things.”

“The teachers are helpful.”

“The staff are very supportive and approachable.”

“I feel fully supported”

“Homework is amazing. I can see a big difference in my son’s confidence.”

“Children are learning whilst enjoying the school life.”

“We are happy with everything.”



Parent Voices



It is vital that our academies listen carefully to, and act upon, parent feedback. Working in tandem with parents and allowing them to have a voice that is clearly heard will not only strengthen our sense of community, but will also improve the quality of education and pastoral care our pupils receive.

Through community advisory groups; 'You Said, We Did' initiatives; interactive surveys and parent committees, our academies provide a wide range of opportunities for parents to submit important feedback.

Over
70%

of Primary children report feeling happy at school (with majority of schools at 80-90%+).

Over
80%

of parents across both phases report that their child feels safe at school.

Over
80%

of parents across both phases report that the school has high expectations.

Leading Voices



Rowena Hackwood -
Astrea Academy Trust CEO
SchoolsWeek

Multi-academy trust mulls 'action short of merger' with other trusts.



Gemma Driver - Head of Sixth Form
(Astrea Academy Sheffield)
UCAS

Teachers back UCAS personal statement reforms as 'fairer' and 'less stressful' for students.



James Garnett – Interim IT Director
(Astrea Academy Trust)
TES

Three ways we're boosting our schools' cybersecurity.



Rosie Hart – Head of Safeguarding
(Astrea Academy Trust)
TES
How safeguarding leads fall into the regional inconsistency trap.



Charlotte Cooper - Deputy Director of Curriculum & Assessment
(Astrea Academy Trust)
TES

The struggle to avoid a crisis-driven curriculum.





Supporting our Schools

The trust is committed to ensuring our schools, colleagues and students can thrive. Through strong central support and shared expertise, the trust works in partnership with schools to strengthen practice and enhance day-to-day experiences across our network.

Here are some of the ways that the trust has supported colleagues in our schools.



Trust-Wide Secondary INSET Day

The entire Astrea Secondary school community came together for the first annual trust-wide Secondary INSET Day. The event saw Astrea schools across the country take part in a day of inspiring talks, collaborative workshops and networking with colleagues. The day provided staff with an excellent opportunity to learn and share best practice between experts across all our Secondary schools.



New IT Improvements

The trust's IT department have continued to develop the digital infrastructures of our schools, including crucial network improvements and updates to servers and hardware. The team work to ensure colleagues across the trust are safe and supported, rolling out improved and streamlined cyber security processes and procedures.

Helping Schools to Support Pupils

Safeguarding developments across Astrea Academy Trust included the roll out of the Looked After Children and Post Looked After Children network, alongside strong engagement from Designated Safeguarding Leads in the Astrea Safeguarding Network. DSLs benefited from expert input on contextual safeguarding, shared effective practice through peer training and enhanced their knowledge through attendance at the CST Safeguarding Conference. Through the National Association for Academy Safeguarding Advisors, the Head of Safeguarding works in partnership with over 90 multi-academy trust partners. This includes developing safeguarding strategy, bespoke safeguarding leadership training and consulting on national policies.





New Website Infrastructure

The trust developed their website infrastructure for all schools, developing new, modern websites; introducing additional support channels and new methods for managing content.



Supporting You Further

Colleagues across the trust can now benefit from a new partnership with the Maternity / Paternity Teacher Project. In addition, the trust rolled out a new range of employee benefits and introduced a new system to streamline personal development objective setting and appraisals.



CIPS Procurement Excellence Standard Award

The award shows how the trust has developed the procurement function in the last four years. It shows alignment between procurement practice and Astrea's wider strategic priorities of operational excellence, sustainability, and value for money and helped to shape the organisation's continuous improvement plans and reaffirm commitment to sector-leading standards.



Food for Learning

Over the past three years, Astrea Academy Trust's Catering team has transformed its provision by placing fresh, high-quality food at the heart of school life. Through strong partnerships with local suppliers, they source fresh, seasonal ingredients that reduce environmental impact and support local economies.

This fresh food ethos enhances student health and wellbeing, supporting focus, engagement, and lifelong healthy habits. The transformation reflects Astrea's ongoing commitment to excellence, ensuring every meal nourishes both body and mind.

Looking Ahead

As a trust, we're continuously planning ahead to ensure our schools are future-proofed, investing thoughtfully in our environments to support learning now and in the years to come. The year ahead will see a number of these plans realised, with key building works, renovations and improvement projects moving from vision to delivery.

Here are some of the projects that will come to fruition in 2026.

◆ **LONGSANDS SIXTH FORM RENOVATION**

The Longsands Sixth Form building will be renovated in time for the September 2026 start. The work, which is part of a £1m whole-school development project, will include a new café and improved spaces for socialising and learning (see image right).

◆ **GOOSEACRE BUILDING WORKS**

Gooseacre Primary Academy pupils will benefit from extra learning spaces thanks to a building development project which will be complete in 2026.

◆ **HARTLEY BROOK SEND HUB**

A new SEND Hub at Hartley Brook Primary Academy will provide key provisions for children with complex needs. The aims are to enable children to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

◆ **SECONDARY CURRICULUM UPDATE**

The trust's Secondary curriculum team are devising updates that will be ready for implementation in September 2026.

◆ **10 YEARS OF ASTREA ACADEMY TRUST**

The trust community will be celebrating 10 years since our formation.

2026



Artistic impression.

Contact Us



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www.astreaacademytrust.org



01144 783 830



Astrea Academy Trust



@AstreaAcademies



Astrea Academy Trust

Visit our website or follow us on social media to keep up to date with news and updates from the trust. Alternatively, if you have an enquiry or want to speak with a member of staff, please contact us via the details above.











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