

## Dear Parent / Carer

As we move towards the end of the school year, I wanted to write to give you a flavour of life within the Astrea family over the academic year.

There are now 27 academies in our trust, 22 in South Yorkshire where we have our roots and a growing hub of 5 in Cambridgeshire.

We are delighted to welcome our new schools; Astrea Academy Dearne, Ernulf, Longsands, St Ivo and Astrea Academy Woodfields.

And although we are only three and a half years old, we have a growing track record as we establish ourselves as a family of schools that aims to provide an education that inspires beyond measure.

## Exam results and Ofsted inspections

Our primary schools continue to excel, and this year's Key Stage 2 results saw us improve yet again on what had already been an impressive rate of improvement. Since 2016, we have now seen a 28% point increase in results in terms of the proportion of children now meeting the expected national standards in reading, writing and maths.

This rate of improvement is more than double the national rate of improvement, and I am very proud of the hard work and commitment that each of our primaries has shown. Particular stand-out performances include Hatfield improving from 32% to 52% since 2017 and Kingfisher who have gone from 35% to 65%.

GCSE and A level performance will be known in August, but we anticipate some similarly positive stories from across our academies, including a significant number of young people taking up university places in some of the top universities in the country.

We have had eight Ofsted inspections this year, and I am delighted to say that every single inspection saw our academies improve on their previous Ofsted grade. Those academies that were already performing well, have continued to do so.

Particular congratulations to The Hill, Castle and Hartley Brook who moved from Special Measures to Good. Edenthorpe Hall and Byron Wood have also done astonishingly well.

A review in June from Challenge Partners recognised the rapid improvement at Astrea Academy Dearne, it was rated Good across the board.



This year saw 315 students take part in the Astrea Shakespeare Festival, during which children from Edenthorpe, Carrfield, Gooseacre, The Hill, Hatfield, Hartley Brook, Highgate, Kingfisher, Castle, Atlas, Greengate Lane, Lower Meadow, Waverley and Intake primaries all performed at the Merlin Theatre in Sheffield.

Our pupils were praised for both their talent and behaviour and were fine examples of the Astrea qualities of contribution, aspiration and happiness. It was an absolute joy to see children from years 3 to 6 so competently reciting Shakespeare by heart. Congratulations to all involved.

## The Astrea Promise

But of course, a successful education cannot be measured in test and exam results alone, or even in Ofsted inspections. We are fully committed to providing an education that inspires beyond measure, and that includes activities that range beyond the classroom.

The Astrea Promise was developed with this vision in mind. The Primary Astrea Promise sees all of our primary schools commit to children having the opportunity to take part in 30 memorable activities and challenges during their time with us.

Working their way through bronze, silver and gold activities, pupils experience a whole range of exciting projects, from growing and eating their own food through to visiting a university. The Primary Promise also includes at least one visit to London and one visit to a foreign country.

These opportunities have all been designed to help develop character, by encouraging and nurturing resilience, empathy, aspiration, contribution and happiness, and include activities such as "breaking a record" as Hexthorpe Primary did in May with the Danceathon for Year 1s. Or 'creating a collective sculpture', where Year 2s at Highgate worked together to create a rock sculpture for the academy's outside area. Or visiting a foreign country with Castle Academy who, for the first time, took Year 6 pupils to France!

During the year, The Astrea Promise provided over 200 events and experiences across the trust with nearly 10,000 individual memories being made by pupils attending these different events.

In Autumn Term, The Rainbow Promise for Early Years pupils will be launched across the trust, which will guarantee even more experiences for pupils, before they reach the age of five. Next academic year also sees the launch of the Diamond and Platinum Secondary sections of The Promise for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. This will mean that children of every age within our family are eligible for The Promise activities, helping to bring to life the Astrea commitment to Inspire Beyond Measure.

Watch this space for the Staff Astrea Promise too!

I hope this has been a useful round up of the school year and its main highlights. All that remains is for me to thank you for your ongoing support to your academy and to wish you and your family an enjoyable break over the summer holidays when they arrive.

With every best wish,



**Libby Nicholas**  
Chief Executive

