

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 JULY 2017

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

North Yorkshire Secondary Teacher of the Year Awards

On Thursday 29 June, Yorkshire woman Corrine Browne, double Paralympic gold medallist archer and the first ever disabled British Olympian, presented awards to six teachers and support staff at the first North Yorkshire Secondary Teacher of the Year awards. Forty nominees were shortlisted across six categories from secondary schools across North Yorkshire. The awards were the brainchild of Headteachers that make up the secondary improvement partnership and they used the partnership's funding to host this event aimed at identifying great practice, raising the profile of teaching and improving the esteem of the profession. Congratulations to the following winners:

- Teaching Assistant of the Year; Cathy Mitchell from Thirsk School and Sixth Form
- Special Needs Teacher of the Year; Joanne Pottage from King James School, Knaresborough
- Outstanding Support in Schools - Non-Teaching, individual or team; David Cracknell, Site Manager at Rossett School, Harrogate. Highly commended Award to Carey Huegett, St John Fisher Catholic High School in Harrogate
- Outstanding School Teaching Team of the Year; The Maths Department at Upper Wharfedale School
- Newly Qualified Teacher of the Year; Hannah Markham, Rossett School, Harrogate, Highly Commended Amy Shaw at Settle College
- Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School; Andrew Wilkinson at The Wensleydale School, Leyburn, Highly Commended Paul Wilson at Norton College

We hope to develop this event and in doing celebrate the success of the teaching profession on an annual basis and extend across all phases.

Provisional end of key stage results

This year's key stage SATS results were published on 4 July and North Yorkshire schools and pupils should be congratulated on the significant and rapid improvement in outcomes at both key stages 1 and 2. At the end of this second year of the new assessments outcomes improved by 8%, so North Yorkshire saw 59% of pupils achieve the expected national standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined. This remains 2% below the national average of 61%. The percentage of pupils achieving the higher standards were above national in reading (2% above, an increase of over 6% to 71%) and writing (3% above), although below in mathematics (2% below).

At key stage 1 outcomes in all subjects have improved, and reading and writing currently appear to be in line with provisional national. In 2016 North Yorkshire had dipped below national at Key Stage 1 for the first time, in the first year the new curriculum was assessed.

In Early Years, 72% of children have achieved a good level of development, meaning North Yorkshire has moved from being in line with national in 2016 to 1% above the provisional national in 2017. The proportion of Year 1 children who have reached the expected standard in the year 1 phonics check has increased by 2.5%, compared with a 0.5% improvement in provisional national results. This has had the result that North Yorkshire phonics outcomes of 81% are in line with the provisional national in 2017.

School Ofsted inspection outcomes

The percentage of good or outstanding primary schools has declined to 88%, placing North Yorkshire almost 2% below national; both North Yorkshire and national averages have declined since March 2017. The percentage of good or outstanding secondary schools is 7% above average at 85%, compared with national 78%.

The percentage of children attending good or outstanding primary schools in North Yorkshire is 89%, slightly below national average of 90%. A very high proportion (88%) of secondary age pupils continue to attend a good or outstanding school, 7% above the national average of 81%.

Around 3% of North Yorkshire schools currently hold an inadequate judgement: eight primary schools and two secondary schools. The LA is working closely with the dioceses, Regional Schools Commissioner, the schools themselves and potential academy sponsors. All schools have a support plan, and there is a consultation on closure underway for Ingleby Arncliffe. Easingwold will convert to an academy on 1st October, sponsored by Outwood Grange Academy Trust and Richmond CE will become part of the Dales Academy Trust on 1st November.

School Organisation

In the recent period there have been a number of school closure consultations either underway, under consideration or completed. These are difficult times and we are very keen to reiterate the LA position. We still believe that small schools enhanced by partnership arrangements of whatever form can continue to deliver quality local education within rural locations. However, even in established smaller school partnerships, we are starting to see financial challenges emerge. Certainly tiny schools detached from such partnerships face real financial, recruitment and as a result performance challenges. The schools affected by current closure proposals are: Drax Community Primary School (closure effective from 31 August 2017), Horton in Ribblesdale CE VA Primary School (closure decision effective from 31 August 2017 upheld by Schools Adjudicator on 29 June 2017), Rathmell CE VA Primary School (closure effective from 31 August 2017), Ingleby Arncliffe CE VA Primary School and Swainby and Potto CE VA Primary School (Statutory notice period ends on 21 July 2017 – Executive decision scheduled for 5 September for potential closure 31 December 2017) and Skipton Ings Community Primary School (Informal consultation closes on 15 September with consideration by Executive scheduled for 17 October 2017).

North Yorkshire Coast Opportunities Area

The commitment to Opportunity Areas has been renewed by the new government. Opportunity Area Programmes have been set up in 12 areas of the country identified as social mobility 'cold spots'. They will receive £6M in funding over the next three years and will create local partnerships with early years providers, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, charities and local authorities. The first meeting of the Partnership Board will take place shortly to discuss and confirm priorities for the first stage of the programme. The initial priorities will focus on early years provision and development, maths and literacy skills and outcomes at secondary schools. The programme has already delivered a Phonics Roadshow - attended by 13 local primary schools - as well as provided funding through the Careers and Enterprise Company for pupils to interact more regularly with local businesses.

School budgets

Members will be no doubt be aware – not least through the increased reporting in the media – of School Funding pressures. Schools in North Yorkshire are also seeing such pressures and this is evidenced both by the decreasing balances during the last financial year and also in the budget plans submitted to us.

While we are working with schools and looking at how costs can be reduced (including possible structural options), we will also continue to lobby central government to ensure that schools in North Yorkshire receive a favourable deal in any redistribution of funding. We await the government's next actions on the proposed National Funding Formula and are hopeful of further statements before the summer recess. We also continuously review how we allocate money to schools and additional funding of £1.96m was delegated to schools in April 2017 from budgets previously managed centrally.

Cllr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills