

## PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

### Appointment of Executive Principal

Andrew Whitaker has been appointed as the new Executive Principal of White Rose Academies Trust.

Following a period as Vice Principal at Greenacre Academy, Andrew was appointed as Headteacher of Todmorden High School and steered the school from an Ofsted rating of ‘requires improvement’ (2013) to ‘good with outstanding features’ (2015). Over the last three years he has led the school from the bottom 5% of schools nationally to the top 18% of schools.

Professor Ray Lloyd, Chair of White Rose Academies Trust, said: “The Trust’s vision is to be an exceptional and responsive academy group providing life changing education, skills and experiences for individuals in our academies and in their communities. Following high levels of interest in the post we sought an outstanding leader with the ability to rapidly drive our school improvement agenda, delivering on the Trust’s fundamental commitment to further improve educational outcomes for our students. The Board looks forward to working with Andrew as he leads the White Rose Academies Trust through its next exciting phase of development. It would be remiss of me at this point, however, not to acknowledge the outstanding work of the current Executive Principal/CEO, Annette Hall, which has put us in a strong position to grow and further develop. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the Board’s sincere thanks to Annette for her inspirational leadership of the Trust since its inception in 2014.”

On accepting the position as the Trust’s new Executive Principal, Andrew Whitaker said "I am both delighted and humbled to be appointed as the new Executive Principal at the White Rose Academies Trust. Following the inspirational leadership of Annette Hall, I believe that the Trust will continue its transformation into a truly outstanding provider of education. Having spent an increasing amount of time with colleagues within the Trust, I have been impressed at their dedication, professionalism, pupil centred ambition and the warm welcome afforded to me. Going forward, my key focus will be to firstly ensure that all pupils attending our academies feel safe and happy and secondly that all pupils achieve outstanding rates of progress in their education. In addition, I will also ensure that all colleagues have the resources and support to take forward the inspirational vision of the Trust.”

Andrew will take up the position on 1 September 2016.

#### Executive Principal / CEO: Annette Hall

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## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

**White Rose Academies Trust** is a local trust dedicated to raising the ambitions and aspirations of young people. It is currently comprised of three academies which occupy sites in the centre, east and west of the city. The Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College**, one of the largest further education providers in the country which encompasses **Leeds College of Music** within its organisation.

The White Rose Academies Trust is the only truly local Leeds partnership of schools that share the same ethos and that have pathways into Further Education through a special relationship with Leeds City College. The Trust shares a mission with the college to ensure that all students attending the academies have very well-developed employability skills. All WRAT academies also work in conjunction with local businesses in formal relationships which commit employers to supporting young people to understand and prepare for the demands of the world of work.

**More details about White Rose Academies can be found online at [www.whiteroseacademies.org](http://www.whiteroseacademies.org)**