



## PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

20 September 2016

### WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES TRUST FORGE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH GORSE ACADEMIES TRUST

Exciting partnership provides high level leadership, subject improvement & operational support

The **White Rose Academies Trust** are delighted to announce a strategic **Trust Development Agreement** with the **Gorse Academies Trust**. This agreement will provide **high level leadership, subject improvement and operational support** to both the White Rose Academies Trust and the current Academies within the Trust; Leeds City Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds West Academy.

**Andrew Whitaker**, Executive Principal of the White Rose Academies Trust, stated: “All staff within the trust are focused on delivering an outstanding level of education to all students who attend our academies. Whilst we recognise the improvements taking place every day in our academies, we are ambitious to accelerate and embed further improvements and we are confident that the expertise of the Gorse Academies Trust will play a central part in helping our Trust to provide an outstanding world class education to all of our students.”

**Sir John Townsley**, Executive Principal of the GORSE Academies Trust, added: “All of us at The GORSE Academies Trust are particularly excited about the development of our partnership with the White Rose Academies Trust. We know that all profound and sustainable improvement emerges through partnerships which are of the highest quality. We know that the White Rose Academies Trust shares our determination to change the life chances of children who come to our schools from some of the most impoverished parts of the Leeds city region and we are confident that, under the new leadership of Andrew Whitaker, the trust will prosper in an environment which is characterised by the highest standards of integrity, sincerity and compassion. If we can seek to ensure that children in the White Rose Academies Trust do well in their examinations and go on to secure excellent jobs and places at top universities then our city will be a better place, and significantly so.”

**Executive Principal / CEO: Annette Hall**

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## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

**Andrew Whitaker** joined White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1 September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become outstanding providers of education to the communities that they serve.

Andrew's recent work includes leading the transformation of Todmorden High School. For more details visit: <https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/pdfs/TPR2016-Education-Secondary-North.pdf>

**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.

The Executive Principal of The White Rose Academies Trust and Leeds West Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds City Academy is Andrew Whitaker.

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

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