



SJT/caw

20 January 2025

Dear Colleague

Many thanks for displaying an interest in the role of **Executive Principal** at The GORSE Academies Trust.

It goes without saying that the process of appointing to this role is of great importance to all of us within the trust. The successful candidate will be a key player in the strategic and operational running of one of the most successful educational trusts in the country. We employ close to 2,000 professionals and teach to 12,000 children and young people. Our annual turnover is now in the region of £100million.

Our trust is exceptionally well viewed by all key stakeholders nationally and regionally. We enjoy an excellent relationship with our local authority, with our Regional Director and the Department for Education more widely. Over recent years our trust has been amongst the highest performing in the country on a consistent basis and in all measures. This has included the progress and attainment of disadvantaged learners which, over the coming five years, will remain our most important area of focus as a trust. The successful candidate will be integral in this work.

We also operate the largest School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme in the country; GORSE SCITT was judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding in all areas of its work in 2023 and forms an aorta of brilliant teachers to our schools and our partner schools across the city region. GORSE SCITT is part of Leeds Teaching School Hub which has proven itself to be one of the most effective Teaching Hubs in the country. It provides an array of highly successful NPQs each year as well as bespoke CPD and partnership work.

As a trust we are not driven by the spur of growth, for growth's sake. We remain committed to focusing our work on the Leeds city region. This is essential to us because we are a humble but ambitious organisation which revels in the opportunities provided by partnership, conversation and dialogue. For us, growth has been managed with extreme care. We have combined the sponsorship of a small number of inadequate schools with the opening of four free schools recognising that the challenge of the former is considerably greater than the challenge of the latter. One of those free schools, The Stephen Longfellow Academy, provides alternative education for 200 pupils who would otherwise struggle to succeed in mainstream schools. The successful candidate will be responsible for directly line managing The Stephen Longfellow Academy for at least their first two years in post, because of its importance around inclusion and the achievement of disadvantaged learners as well as the destinations our young people progress to.

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**The GORSE Academies Trust**, c/o John Smeaton Academy, Smeaton Approach, Barwick Road, Leeds, LS15 8TA

**Chief Executive Officer:** Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH

**Deputy Chief Executive Officer:** Mrs L Griffiths BSC (Hons) NPQEL

**Chair of the Board:** Mrs A McAvan BA (Hons) NPQH

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# GORSE

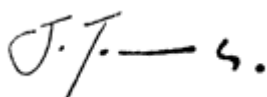
We anticipate that the successful candidate will work very closely with our trustees and local governing bodies and continue to ensure that our external relationships are exemplary. Our new Executive Principal will need to be an exceptional ambassador for our trust and someone who quickly gains the respect of the Principals, Directors and our professional body more widely. We are a high performing organisation and the standard of our professional body reflects this. We are a trust that welcomes debate, discussion and a humble approach but one that is determined to break the stubborn link between poverty and achievement. Our professionals operate with integrity and a relentless passion for achieving our mission. The successful candidate must be prepared to model this and work with the Executive Team in a proactive and, where necessary, reactive manner for the benefit of our young people.

If, having read through the application pack, you do decide to put forward an application then we would love to hear from you.

As well as completing the application form provided you will be asked to write two separate statements, each being no more than two sides of A4 paper. The first should set out your experience and achievements which are relevant to this post. The second should set out your vision for ensuring that children and young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are taught in a manner which ensures that their achievements and future destinations are truly exceptional.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**Sir John Townsley**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Leanne Griffiths**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer