

**NORTHERN STAR
ACADEMIES TRUST**

HARROGATE HIGH SCHOOL

Our vision: ***Learning First ...***

Our overarching vision centres on developing children into well-informed, confident, articulate, and responsible adults through our CARES values.

We are a friendly, inclusive school in the spa town of Harrogate, small enough to give every student our personal care and attention, but large enough to provide a good breadth and quality of education. There are currently around 720 students on roll (Y7-11), with student numbers increasing year on year to our PAN of 750. We place learning first for all our students, providing good quality teaching and a flexible curriculum within a culture of mutual respect and responsibility. We strongly believe that this is the key to raising the achievement of all our young people.

The school became an academy in June 2012. In April 2015, we formed the Northern Star Academies Trust with Skipton Girls' High School. Since then, seven other schools have joined our thriving trust and we work closely with them all. NSAT is a mission-driven Multi-Academy Trust, with an unwavering commitment to inspiring and supporting young people of all ages to fulfil their potential and better the world. It offers access to a professional and supportive community of academies, leaders and practitioners.

We are fortunate in having moved into a new school in February 2017. As a result of being part of the Priority Schools' Building Programme, we now have state-of-the-art facilities including a 5-court sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite, teaching kitchen and bistro as well as spacious learning environments in all subject areas.

Central to our work is quality first teaching for all students. Pedagogy and practice development are threaded through our weekly 1.5-hour professional development sessions with teachers. We are also highly focused on driving literacy and enabling all students to flourish as successful communicators. This includes a tutor time reading programme and a continuous focus on reading for pleasure through DEAR (Drop Everything And Read). We promote evidence-based practice and staff regularly meet to discuss aspects of teaching and learning in our working groups, from which we have developed our growing HHS Teacher toolkit. Staff are supported to develop their practice through a range of partnerships, both within and outside of our MAT (e.g.: Northern Lights Teaching School Alliance, the Red Kite Teaching School Hub, ECTs/NPQs through Ambition).

We offer many varied enrichment opportunities to our students, including performing arts clubs, music ensembles, sports clubs/teams, and educational visits/experiences to grow cultural capital. We seek to develop leadership at all levels and our student leadership team works with senior leaders to be an agency for positive change in school. We have an active parents' forum who are highly supportive of the work we do.

Thank you for your interest in our school and this post. We look forward to hearing what you can bring to this position and our students.

Mr S Gill, Head of School

'Learning First'