



LAURUS
TRUST

Annual Review
2019



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This Annual Review looks back at the achievements of Laurus Trust schools over the last academic year and also covers events occurring in the first term of 2019/20. The data presented here relating to academic performance and school rolls is to 31 August 2019. Performance is benchmarked against the national average for each measurement. The national average Progress 8 score is 0.00 and Attainment 8 is 46.5. For the expected level of Primary Reading, Writing and Maths the national average percentages are 73%, 78% and 79% respectively.

‘We are ambitious, we want the best opportunities for all our students.’

**Tony Little,
Chair of Trustees**

In this annual report you will hear about many remarkable achievements by our young people. All our schools in the Laurus Trust are focused on supporting young people to be the best they possibly can be. A Laurus education is built on four cornerstones: academic aspiration (opening the door to the future of choice); cultural engagement (with a particular stress on the arts and the power of language); competition and physical endeavour (as a key to physical, social and emotional health); and leadership and service.

As the Trust’s rubric puts it, “By the time they leave the school each student should have that true sense of self-worth which will enable them to make wise choices, stand up for what they believe in and, in doing so, be of value to society”.

The rhetoric of aspiration is perhaps easy enough, but we go to considerable efforts to embed the cornerstones in all our planning and practice, from the way we teach mainstream subjects, to the Electives programme, to a co-curriculum programme as rich and varied as we can make it. Measurable things matter, such as exam results. Those things that are difficult to measure, like the so-called ‘soft skills’ and qualities of character, matter even more. Employers tell me that they see any number of well-qualified school leavers and graduates who are not much use to them. We delude our children if they believe that paper qualifications are the be-all and end-all.

We are hugely fortunate to have a CEO and leadership team that embrace the Laurus vision with passion and commitment, and exceptional teachers who inspire children every day. The Laurus Trust is an infant in academy trust terms, but it is growing in numbers and in its determination to be a standard for excellence. We are ambitious, we want the best opportunities for all our students.

'As a new and growing Trust we continue to go from strength to strength'

**Linda Magrath,
CEO**

As we reach the end of another year it's been a great opportunity for me to reflect on all the many successes we have had as a Trust during 2019. It never ceases to amaze me how much is achieved by the schools in the Laurus family each year and how exceptionally hard our staff work to make this happen.

In the summer of 2019 pupils at Gorsey Bank, our lead Primary School, achieved another great set of results in this year's End of Key Stage 2 assessments when 93% of pupils achieved the expected standard or above in Reading, 92% in Writing and 97% in Mathematics.

In August, the A Level results at Cheadle Hulme High School (CHHS) yet again demonstrated how we are levelling the playing field for state school students. Currently 48% of independent school pupils in England were accepted by the top 30 most selective universities, compared with 18% of pupils in state schools.

At CHHS this year the figure for those students who have gone on to study at these same top 30 universities is 63% - a third higher than in the independent sector. At GCSE 41% of all the grades this year at CHHS were 9-7 or A*/A. This led to Times education journalist Alistair McCall's comment in The Sunday Times' annual Parent Power review:

'If you don't want to pay, pray or sit an entrance exam, the first non-faith, non-selective school in the regional rankings is in 14th place – Cheadle Hulme High School.'

In September our new free school, Didsbury High School, opened successfully and on time thanks to the work of Estates, ICT, Finance, HR & Payroll and admin support alongside their new teachers. We were also delighted to welcome to Laurus the staff, students and parents/carers from Hazel Grove High School (HGHS).

It's true to say that the new academic year got off to a cracking start with 2,195 new Laurus pupils starting at their new schools in Year 7, reception and our nursery based at Cheadle Hulme Primary School. Also starting with us in September were 39 Associate Teachers embarking on their teaching careers, guided by our team of outstanding academic mentors and support staff working in the Altius Alliance, our teaching school.

As if that wasn't enough, in the second week of term Gorsey Bank Primary School had a visit from Ofsted! Unsurprisingly they gave them a glowing report, praising the school for the excellent behaviour and positive attitudes of pupils and noting how hard they work in lessons.

Demand for a place at a Laurus school remains high with a total of 4,204 applications to join a Laurus secondary school in September 2020. The admissions process for our Primary Schools closes in January so we await the outcome of that with interest.

Similarly, the Oxbridge 2020 recruitment process is currently in full swing, and 10 Laurus Sixth Form students, across Cheadle Hulme and Hazel Grove High Schools, have been invited to interview. Outcomes will be announced in the New Year.

A recent staff survey highlighted that 95% would recommend working at the Laurus Trust to a friend and 87% felt that they had the opportunity to learn and develop in the last year.

As a new and growing Trust we continue to go from strength to strength and for me it is an absolute privilege to work with such a committed, talented and supportive staff. We have seven schools of which to be very proud, where everybody has an equally important role to play in our continuing success. Long may it continue!

The Law Family Educational Trust

The Law Family Educational Trust (LFET) is the charitable trust established by Andrew Law to support the Laurus Trust. The aim of LFET is to help raise all-round educational attainment levels and eventually serve as a template for state school co-curricular activities nationwide. The LFET approach is entrenched in the belief that personal development and aspiration are promoted by participation in a whole range of activities. LFET believe that all students have the potential to fulfil their ambitions whether they be academic, musical, sporting or creative. LFET aims to support the Laurus Trust's Cornerstones programme.

Thanks to LFET funding over the last 12 months, Laurus pupils have benefited in a variety of ways. LFET has provided beginners' musical tuition for brass, woodwind and string instruments across all secondary schools, and supported the inaugural Laurus Musician of the Year.

Thanks to LFET, the Trust Head of Voice has augmented our Elective provision, offering Voice workshops to pupils and one-to-one coaching for staff and pupils alike. Hazel Grove has seen its hall refurbished, providing Drama and Music with a performance space of real quality.

Funding from LFET has allowed secondary and Sixth Form students to visit the University of Oxford, to debate at various Model United Nations conferences and to participate in the Laurus Optimates as part of the Scholars and Academic Society.

In addition, LFET's financial support for the Culture and Creativity Festival at CHHS and Electives at all Trust schools means that our pupils have been exposed to experiences not normally accessible to state school students.

The purchase of new computers and new musical instruments at Hazel Grove High School, the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area at Gorsey Bank Primary School, library funding for all schools means that the education of our students is supported by the very best resources and facilities right across the Trust.



Secondary Academies

Cheadle Hulme High School

Ofsted Outstanding

Head of School: Dave Brown

Woods Lane
Cheadle

chhs.org.uk

Pupils on roll
(as at 31/08/19)

1672

Attendance

96.2%

Progress 8 score

+0.75

5+ in Maths
and English

67%

Attainment 8 score

58.0

Percentage of
GCSE grade 7+

42%

2019 represented another stunning summer of success by the students of Cheadle Hulme High School. Our progress 8 score of +0.75 puts us in the top 3% of all schools nationally. Incredibly strong A Level results saw our students progress far and wide to take up places at the most selective universities in the country, including three to Oxbridge. 2019 saw us record our best ever attendance figure.

Our fantastic academic achievement is only a tiny part of the story at CHHS. Our cornerstones curriculum: academic aspiration, leadership and service, culture and creativity, and competition and physical endeavour, details the amazing offer of extra-curricular experiences and activities that enrich the lives of our students.

Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form

Ofsted Outstanding

Director of Sixth Form: Holly Eckhardt

Average A Level
grade

B

Percentage of A
Level grades A*-B

73%

Percentage of students
accepted by the most
selective universities

52%

Current applications
to Oxbridge

14

Current applications
to study medicine

16

Laurus Cheadle Hulme

Ofsted Not Inspected

Head of School: Gill Theobald

Cheadle Road
Cheadle Hulme

lauruscheadlehulme.org.uk

Pupils on roll
(as at 31/08/19)

210

Attendance

97.29%

Our inaugural year has been unique and has generated many lasting memories which staff and students will recall throughout their years at Laurus Cheadle Hulme. The staff know all the students really well and great working relationships have been formed - these will stand us all in good stead for our next four years. We empower our students to take part in social action projects and have raised a staggering £5,000 for local charities this year.

At Easter 2019 we moved into our state-of-the-art new school building and everyone has settled in very well. The children are growing into young adults and are all starting to develop the qualities and habits that we promote daily - courage, social intelligence, vitality, curiosity, perseverance, integrity, gratitude, self-control and optimism.

Laurus Ryecroft

Ofsted Not Inspected

Head of School: Martin Vevers

Cryer Street
Droylsden

laurusryecroft.org.uk

Pupils on roll
(as at 31/08/19)

154

Attendance

97.7%

Following on from the success of last year, Laurus Ryecroft opened its doors to another Year 7 cohort in September 2019. The students have settled in quickly and are making the most of all the opportunities afforded to them through the curriculum, electives programme and additional trips and visits.

The cornerstones are at the core of everything we do at Laurus Ryecroft, with all staff determined to supply the opportunities to help form young people who we can be incredibly proud of as well as ensuring that they are provided with the knowledge to take them beyond their experiences. We look forward to the next stage in our school development as we move over to our brand new building in the next few months.

From September 2019

All three of the Trust's free schools that opened in September 2018 continue to be oversubscribed. The expansion of the Trust - with the opening of Didsbury High School and Hazel Grove High School joining the Trust - has led to an additional 147 new employees, excluding TUPE transfers.

A significant amount of due diligence, support and investment was carried out in the latter part of the financial year on the transfer of Hazel Grove High School into the Trust. This was effective from 1 September 2019 and the board of trustees are delighted to welcome the 175 members of staff, all the students and their parents/ carers into the Laurus Trust family.

Didsbury High School

Ofsted Not Inspected

Dr David Woollley

The Avenue
Didsbury

didsburyhighschool.org.uk

211

Pupils on roll

This September saw the opening of Didsbury High School. We were heavily oversubscribed in our inaugural year, although early indications suggest that this will become commonplace. Our brand new school is a joy to behold and has wonderful facilities.

The first term at Didsbury has been memorable, with an abundance of opportunities for our students: we have truly made our mark in the local area with our sporting prowess. The culmination of our biology week saw our first careers fair – we believe it is never too early to consider your aspirations!

Our subject ambassadors have wowed the local community during Open Evening and represented us with solemnity at Remembrance. Our main focus however is always the hard work in the classroom, and it is here that DHS students really flourish.

Hazel Grove High School

Ofsted Requires Improvement

Head of School: Martin Stewart

Jacksons Lane
Hazel Grove

hazelgrovehigh.co.uk

1494

Pupils on roll

As of September, Hazel Grove High School joined the Laurus Trust. Over the summer, following an amazing effort from the support staff team, there were some significant improvements to the school infrastructure. Some of the improvements in facilities included internal and external building work, complete new IT infrastructure, hundreds of new PCs and fully refurbished assembly hall along with many classrooms.

This first term of Hazel Grove joining the Laurus Trust has seen lots of positive changes, with the existing team of staff and students joining the wider Laurus family. New behaviour and assessment systems are some of the key developments and these systems are starting to become embedded. Similarly, there has been a significant focus on the curriculum and the classroom, with students making an excellent start to the academic year.



Primary Academies

‘It is great to see the increasing collaboration between primary staff and to see this extending to the children’

**Lisa Woolley,
Executive Head (Primary)**

The last year has been excellent for both Laurus Primary Schools with pupils achieving well academically and personally. It is great to see the increasing collaboration between primary staff collaborating and to see this extending to the children too. They particularly enjoyed watching a pantomime together again this year.

In September, our founding cohort of Primary Associate Teachers started their Primary PGCE programme with us. Two have already been offered and accepted jobs within the Trust - an exceptional achievement that bodes well for our commitment to ‘growing our own’.

In 2020, governance arrangements across the Trust will expand from two Academy Committees to seven! We will certainly need more governors, to build on the success of our established Academy Committees, particularly in our new schools, so look out for more about this in the New Year.

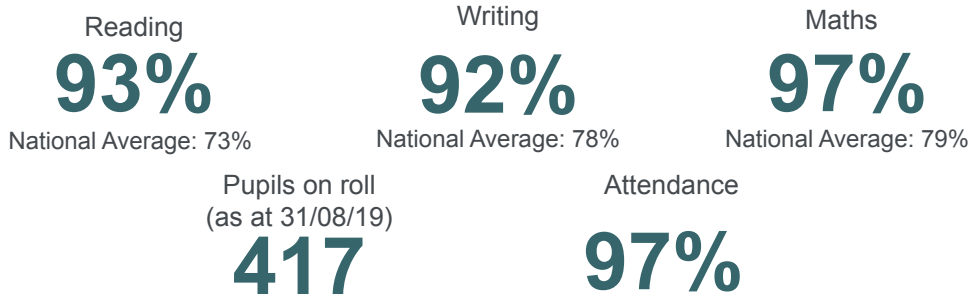
Gorsey Bank Primary School

Ofsted Good

Head of School: Joe Maguire

Altrincham Road
Wilmslow

gorseybank.org.uk



A hugely successful 2019 saw excellent Key Stage 2 results from the summer which have put us in the top 2% of school nationally and 2nd highest in Cheshire East. Outcomes from our Early Years, Year 1 Phonics Check and Key Stage 1 are also well above the national average again this year.

This year also saw us achieve the NAACE Award (recognising our pioneering use of technology), the first level of the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award and a Gold Schools Games Award as well as the renewal of our creative quality standard Artsmark.

We had an eventful start to this academic year with our Ofsted inspection in week two! The process was hugely positive with so much to be proud of for the whole school community and a return visit secured for 2020-21.

A new initiative this year has been the creation of our Pupil Parliament which seeks to further develop pupil voice in school with UK Parliament Week giving us a vehicle to show our pupils how they can make their voices heard on the issue of Climate Change. Having last year raised nearly £2,000 for the charity Retrak, we have this term been working hard on our support for this year's school charity The Ronald McDonald House Manchester including a performance by our choir alongside the Manchester Survivors Choir and a group of staff tackling the Wilmslow Festive 10k.

Cheadle Hulme Primary School

Ofsted Not Inspected

Head of School: Elise Drake

Cheadle Road
Cheadle Hulme

cheadlehulmeprimaryschool.org.uk



After achieving some of the best results for the Early Years in Stockport, our founding cohort have certainly risen to the challenge of being excellent role models for those children who joined us in September. It has been a delight to see Cheadle Hulme Primary literally double in size this September in terms of pupils, parents and staff!

Our Nursery and Kids Club continues to go from strength to strength. Demand for places continues to increase so we will be recruiting more staff to join our dedicated team in the New Year.

It has been lovely to see the school community coming together at many events over the year including latterly the Quiz Night, Winter Wonderland and Nativity Performances organised by our dedicated PTA and staff team. We have been inundated with parents looking around the school ahead of the mid-January deadline for a September 2020 Reception place. Early indications suggest that we will be over-subscribed for the third year running. We are looking forward to building on the success of our opening year as we start 2020.

Teaching School

Thirty-four Associate Teachers gained QTS with a PGCE (SCITT) in June 2019. The SCITT now offers courses across the full range of areas within 11-16 education with the exception of music and the social sciences. Twenty-eight Associate Teachers started in September 2019 and, although this is fewer than the previous year, there was a conscious decision to close some courses due to the number of new staff joining CHHS at the same time.

The SCITT recruited its first primary cohort for training in the 5-11 age range; 13 Associate Teachers started their courses placed in the six primary alliance schools in September 2019. Thirty nine Secondary Newly Qualified Teachers (18 from our own Altius cohort) are beginning their teaching careers with Laurus. A further three are starting in primary. The Trust continues to benefit from the SCITT programme in growing our own. A programme of professional development is in place for all NQTs within Laurus to ensure that they receive the same opportunities and training, although adapted to each individual school.

PE and Varsity

The sport varsity events have continued where they left off last year, with the exciting addition of both Hazel Grove and Didsbury High School.

A dedicated focus on sport saw the Laurus Ryecroft boys' football team go the whole season unbeaten, winning the Tameside league cup, Tameside Cup and the Tameside League. As a result, six of the students have now been signed by professional clubs. The girls' rugby team scooped the Tameside cup and nine of the girls who never played rugby prior to attending Laurus Ryecroft now play externally. The boys and girls won the rugby varsity with Laurus Cheadle Hulme and CHHS also winning at football and indoor athletics. CHHS Yr 7 girls were Junior NBA quarter finalists (this was the first time the school has entered this competition). In CHHS's first climbing competition two students won gold medals in their age categories and there was success against other Stockport schools in football and athletics and Y7 Quad Kids were Stockport Champions and second in the whole of Greater Manchester

Individual successes include George Balderson captaining England U19s cricket, Lewis Mckinny making his professional debut for Oldham Athletic, Jordan Boom making his for Bolton Wanderers and Greg Wild being selected for England basketball.

Laurus Ryecroft and Laurus Cheadle Hulme were awarded the Gold Sports Mark, rewarding the schools for their commitment to the development of competition across the school and into the community and Sporting Ambassador Paul Dickov continues to facilitate the delivery of a high-level LFET programme of engagement to raise standards across all abilities.

Laurus sports clubs

In April 2019 Club Laurus, the community sports facility at Laurus Cheadle Hulme, opened. It follows in the footsteps of Club Cheadle Hulme, based at Cheadle Hulme High School, and continues the Trust's commitment to providing affordable sporting activities to the local community to help improve physical and mental wellbeing.

The next addition to Laurus's family of community sporting facilities, Club Didsbury, is on track to open to the public at Didsbury High School in January 2020.





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Laurus Trust
Woods Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, SK8 7JY

www.laurustrust.co.uk