

5 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of a crucial consultations regarding the Admissions Policy of both Trinity Academy Halifax (TAH) and Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB). As a parent/carer of a current Akroydon pupil, you will be aware that the academy is part of the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The founding academy of the MAT was Trinity Academy Halifax, and it was joined recently by Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge.

**Trinity Academy Halifax** is also the home of the Trinity Teaching School Alliance and the West Yorkshire Maths Hub. Moreover, it is the highest performing secondary school in the local authority (see the Calderdale secondary league table below), and is the only mainstream secondary school in Calderdale to have its quality of teaching rated as 'outstanding'.

**Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge** was in the top 1% of most improved secondary schools in the country last year, with transformational and outstanding results achieved after just 18 months working as part of the Trinity MAT. Indeed, its 2018 pupil outcomes placed it second (only to Trinity Academy Halifax) in the league tables of Calderdale schools.

#### Calderdale secondary school performance tables 2018

**Note:** Progress 8 measures the progress of all pupils in a school across English, mathematics, sciences, history, geography, modern foreign language and up to three other subjects. It is recognised as the main measure when judging the effectiveness of any secondary schools.

Ranking	Name of institution	Progress 8 score	P8 description
1	<b>Trinity Academy Halifax</b>	<b>+0.59</b>	<b>Well above average</b>
2	<b>Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge</b>	<b>+0.40</b>	<b>Above average</b>
3	Crossley Heath Grammar School	<b>+0.39</b>	<b>Above average</b>
4	Rastrick High School	<b>+0.37</b>	<b>Above average</b>
5	The Halifax Academy	<b>+0.30</b>	<b>Above average</b>
6	Calder High School	<b>+0.20</b>	<b>Above average</b>
7	Ryburn Valley High School	<b>+0.15</b>	<b>Average</b>
8	North Halifax Grammar School	<b>-0.04</b>	<b>Average</b>
9	Brighouse High School	<b>-0.13</b>	<b>Average</b>
10	Brooksbank High School	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>Below average</b>
10	Todmorden High School	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>Below average</b>
12	Lightcliffe Academy	<b>-0.42</b>	<b>Below average</b>
13	Park Lane Academy	<b>-1.25</b>	<b>Well below average</b>
LA avg.		+0.06	
National avg.		-0.02	

Data taken from latest Department for Education (DfE) School Performance Tables:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&region=381&laname=calderdale&geographic=la&for=secondary&basedo>

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[n=Overall%20performance&show=All%20pupils&datasetfilter=provisional&searchtype=&laname=calderdale](#)

Since joining the Trinity MAT, a significant number of Akroydon parents have repeatedly asked if that meant their son/daughter would automatically be able to get into one of the MAT's high-performing secondary schools. **Unfortunately, up to this point the answer to that question has been 'no'.** However, the local governing body of Akroydon has recently requested that both secondary schools included it as a feeder school in their admissions policies.

*As a result, the governors at Trinity Academy Halifax and Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge have agreed to go out to consultation on this, with a view to including Akroydon as a feeder school in both of their admissions policies.*

**Points to consider:**

1. Since its opening in 2009, Trinity Academy Halifax has not included any primary schools in its admissions policy, so admitting APA is a significant step. It should also be noted that Akroydon would be the only primary school in Calderdale to be named as a feeder school to Trinity Academy Halifax. Whilst there are 330 places available at the academy each year, it receives more than 750 applications and so competition to be admitted is fierce.
2. This development does not mean that Akroydon will no longer also have feeder school status to Lightcliffe Academy – that situation will not change; this simply means that instead of having preferred access to one secondary school in Calderdale, parents of our pupils will have preferred access to three (and two of them are the highest performing schools in the whole authority).
3. When a parent considers a secondary school place for their son/daughter, they are entitled to choose up to 5 preferences. By becoming a feeder school to both of the Trinity MAT local secondary academies, you are ensuring that your son/daughter gets the highest priority and is far more likely to be able to attend the secondary school of your choice. **That is why it is so vital that you take an active role in the current consultations at both secondary academies.**

**Next steps:**

With the above in mind, I felt it was necessary to specifically inform the parents/carers of our pupils at Akroydon in order to ensure that your voice is heard in this consultation.

**I would urge all our parents/carers (and wider stakeholders) to contribute to these two consultations to ensure the very best progression to secondary education for the young people of our local community.**

Further details of how to do this can be found on both academy's websites:

<https://sowerby.trinitymat.org/> (Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge)

<https://trinityacademyhalifax.org/> (Trinity Academy Halifax)

If you have any specific questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me directly on [ceo@trinitymat.org](mailto:ceo@trinitymat.org)

Thank you for your continuing support.

*M Gosling*

Michael Gosling  
CEO – Trinity MAT

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