



# City of Doncaster Council

Contact: Riana Nelson  
Tel: 01302 737800  
Fax: 01302 737100  
Email: [Riana.nelson@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Riana.nelson@doncaster.gov.uk)  
Our ref: RN/LH/SF – HT/CEO  
Website: [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)  
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Dear Colleagues,

As we begin another school year, and post a very busy first week back, we wanted to write to acknowledge all of the hard work and commitment that you and your staff have given over this last year and indeed few years during very difficult times.

The Doncaster system has developed a truly sustainable model moving forward, enabling the foundations for the Education and Skills strategy to be built, making it even more real and embedded in the place.

As ever the last few weeks leading up to the start of term have been incredibly busy. It was a particularly pertinent time for our young people across all education phases with multiple assessments and results taking place. We are very proud of the outcomes that we continue to achieve year on year, representing overall improved outcomes across all phases from Early Years through to Key Stage 5. Such achievements are only gained through the hard work of our system workforce and strong leadership, for this we are incredibly thankful on behalf of the children, young people and families of Doncaster. Highlights for this year include:

- Early Years Foundation Stage is sustaining well against national, which given the significant of the speech, language, communication needs, this is not to be underestimated.
- Key Stage 2 improvement rates exceed the overall improvement nationally.
- GCSE outcomes are now broadly strong, with the most significant improvement in our more deprived communities. We fair well and are at, or exceed, national indicators for the most part with a larger proportion of schools now in the upper quartile nationally.
- Level 3 (Key Stage 5) outcomes, show a significant increase in A level grades at the higher levels, as is the case with applied general and technical qualifications, with more young people achieving AAB/distinctions and we have more young people pursuing level 3 qualifications moving on to university than ever before.
- Importantly, indicative figures suggest that we are also improving outcomes for our more vulnerable young people.

Ofsted outcomes for settings are now also exceeding 92% good or better across the board. Our families can have faith in the fact that young people for the most part attend settings who are good or better.

Whilst we don't underestimate the significance of these outcomes and should all be rightly proud of them, we can all also acknowledge and recognise that there are still areas for improvement,

specifically for those young people identified as needing SEND support, but also in varying degrees across the system for persistent absence, exclusions and suspensions and mobility.

It takes a community to achieve what we have and will continue to achieve. We acknowledge that none of this is achieved without some self-sacrifice, so as we start a new school year, please do so knowing that the impact that you have had on the place and for individual families and children and young people is significant and will leave a lasting footprint for years to come, but with a collective renewed effort on the areas that we know we still need to ensure consistency of improvement across the system to secure equity of opportunity for all children and young people.

Last week you will have seen the launch of our new [Education and Skills Hub website](#), which following feedback we will use as the main communication tool, but also to sign post to key news items and education related developments and processes. Please do take a look. Any feedback would be appreciated. We have also established a specific twitter @EduSkillsDN, so if you are on twitter and haven't followed us yet, give us a follow..... Lets celebrate the great work that is going on in Doncaster far and wide....

As always, we are committed to continue to support you individually and collectively in our partnership endeavour to ensure the very best outcomes for our children, young people and families, driving Doncaster to be a learning city.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us or our services directly for information and/or support. In the meantime, we look forward to engaging further over the coming academic year.

Kind regards



**Cllr Sue Farmer**

**Riana Nelson**

**Leanne Hornsby**

**Cabinet Member,**

**Executive Director, Children**

**Service Director, Education & Skills**

**Equity, Education and Skills**

**Young People & Families**