

Date: **EMBARGOED UNTIL 0830 01/04/2022**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Exceptional Ofsted Inspection for The Link Academy, Netherton**

The Link Academy in Netherton, Dudley, has leapt two grades in a recent Ofsted inspection and is now rated as 'Good' across the board. Moving from 'Special Measures' to 'Good' in one go is an exceptional result only achieved by twelve other schools in the last ten years.

Emma Edwards-Morgan, Principal at The Link Academy, said, "When I joined the academy as principal three years ago, I said that it was a fantastic opportunity to change lives among the young people of Netherton and the surrounding area. Now I can say that we are truly giving our learners the education and opportunities that they deserve."

"This inspection report is a great reward for our staff, learners and parents and carers. I am so proud of them and look forward to more great progress in the future. I am determined that we shall continue to improve and we have set our sights on achieving outstanding results for the children in our community."

Jo Higgins, Chief Executive of Dudley Academies Trust, said, "I am absolutely thrilled for everyone at The Link and for all of the Trust staff who support them. I want to send a big 'thank you' to all of them. Learners at The Link Academy can now believe that they are good enough to achieve the top university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. We are teaching them to dream big and will do everything to help them to realise their ambitions."

Lowell Williams, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Dudley Academies Trust said, "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised the very significant positive improvements that have been made; this is a resounding endorsement of the approach Dudley Academies Trust has been taking. I am certain that we will see continuing progress at The Link and across our other academies."

The Ofsted inspection report states that:

"High ambitions are seen in all aspects of school life"

"The pupils are deservedly very proud of their work."

"High-quality teaching helps all pupils learn well"

"Leaders have established strong routines for behaviour".

## Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology  
Priory Villa, 3 Ednam Road, Dudley, West  
Midlands, DY1 1HL

Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams

Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



### Addendum:

The Link Academy, formerly Hillcrest School and Community College, is one of four secondary academies that belong to Dudley Academies Trust, which also runs Blowers Green Primary.

Emma Edwards-Morgan, a former pupil at The Link Academy, then Hillcrest School, was appointed as principal in January 2019.

The Inspection of The Link Academy took place on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February. The report is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/144952>

### Notes to editors:

Dudley Academies Trust (DAT) was created in September 2017. It consists of four secondary schools in Dudley MBC, St James Academy, The Link Academy, Pegasus Academy and Beacon Hill Academy.

Jo Higgins is Chief Executive of Dudley Academies Trust

The DAT website can be found at: [dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk](http://dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk)

The DAT is sponsored by Dudley College of Technology, which was rated as an “outstanding” provider by Ofsted in 2017.

**ENDS**



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