



# THE ST AUGUSTINE'S ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;  
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;*

*all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;*

*all academies strive to be outstanding.*

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## School Improvement Update-January 2022

In the Autumn Term we continued to improve as a school. [We achieved the following:](#)

### Standards

At the end of December, all children in Year 2 to Year 6 completed a set of assessments which allowed us to analyse their academic attainment and progress. It is clear from the assessments that the progress made by our children over the past term, and since the previous lockdown last January, has been significant. In May and June, our Year 2 and Year 6 children will complete standardised assessments. Below are our current projections alongside our most recently published school statistics from 2019 as a means of comparison:

	Reading		Writing		Maths		Reading, Writing + Maths combined	
	Dec 2021	May 2019	Dec 2021	May 2019	Dec 2021	May 2019	Dec 2021	May 2019
Year 6	73%	34%	63%	68%	78%	58%	56%	28%
Year 2	72%	61%	76%	59%	60%	67%		

As you can see, these projections are a significant improvement already on our 2019 results. With a term and a half until the SATs, we are expecting further improvements, especially in writing. Targeted pupils are being offered small-group tuition sessions after school with a teacher, to ensure that all pupils are given the chance to achieve their best

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PART OF THE FORGE TRUST. CEO: MR L. HESSEY MA Ed (dist), NLE, FCCT. CHAIR OF TRUSTEES: MRS SUE TRENTINI



possible attainment by the end of the year. [We are unrelenting in our mission to ensure that our children make the best possible progress.](#)

### Site Improvements

Following feedback from children, the school invested in a new trim trail to improve the playground area. This was installed during the summer break and once it had passed all checks it was open for use in early September- the children love it and use it every day. [The installation of a new Trim Trail provides the children with an improved area to play in and supports our desire for pupils to be more active during break times.](#)

### Extra-curricular Opportunities

During the autumn term, we were able to provide a full range of after-school clubs free of charge. The clubs offered a range of sports activities, art, coding and cookery. In most cases, these are provided by academy staff members who voluntarily give up their time to provide an extra-curricular activity for the children. [At St Augustine's, children have access to a variety of after school activities. We endeavour to adapt to the children's interests and offer clubs which they have shown enthusiasm for.](#)

### Visit by Local MP

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September Brendan Clarke-Smith, the Member of Parliament for Bassetlaw, visited The St Augustine's Academy. He toured the school accompanied by Mrs Selden and the Trust CEO, Mr Hessey. Mr Clarke-Smith was extremely impressed by what he saw; he thought that the behaviour of the children and the overall provision was 'outstanding'. We look forward to inviting him back again in the future. [We are always pleased to invite other leaders and members of our community into school to share our successes.](#)

### Student Teachers

We have supported a number of student teachers and teaching assistants in the autumn term all of whom have thoroughly enjoyed their time with us and have learned a great deal. [We have a strong teaching staff who are keen to impart their knowledge and skills in the profession to future teachers.](#)

### Academy Arrangements

Despite the continued presence of Covid 19, we were very pleased to get parents back on site in the autumn term and to be able to hold parent consultation meetings face to face. Additionally, we were able to go ahead with the nativity performances from EYFS and Key Stage 1 and the KS2 Christmas musical performance. These were well attended by parents. [Following the restrictions that were in place for much of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, we are keen to ensure that parents are invited into school at every possible opportunity during this academic year.](#)

## Reading

A major focus for our school is reading. Over the past year we have invested significantly in new decodable reading books (these support children in the early stages of reading) and reading for pleasure books. The new Reading Champion (Ms Walker) is now well-established in school. She enthusiastically leads the reading for pleasure agenda. The Key Stage 2 pupils are now reading material better suited to their interests and abilities, using our lexile system, and the children's keenness to read at home has never been greater. The academy library has been given an exciting facelift and is now used on a daily basis. Our investment in reading books and the library outlines how important reading is to the children. It is noticeable that they are more enthused about reading and the assessment data shows that our children are improving with their reading ability. Ensuring our children become confident and active readers is one of the most important skills that we can develop.

## Phonics

We have continued to improve how we teach phonics and early reading following the Early Reading Policy developed by the leaders of The Forge Trust in consultation with the English Hub. Representatives from the Hub have carried out two further phonics audits which praised our good practice and strong phonics leadership. Our pupils are now reaping the rewards of improved phonics teaching and in November we assessed 92% of our Year 2 pupils as being at the required standard in phonics. The National average in 2019 was 82%. We recognise that reading is the most important subject in school and vital for our children's future life chances.

## New Starters

We have been pleased to welcome 17 new children in years 1-6 who have started at The St Augustine's Academy since the beginning of this academic year and to 20 new children whose parents chose our FS2 provision from other settings. We are delighted to be attracting new families to St Augustine's from inside and outside the area. We are proud of the quality of education and care that we offer and it is pleasing that this is being recognised.

## Trips and Visits

Our children missed out on opportunities during the restrictions in 2020 and early 2021. Therefore, we have been very keen to ensure that our children have been able to make up for lost time. Most children in school have had the opportunity to go on a visit or they have had a visitor in school. In year groups where this has not happened yet, exciting experiences are planned. In addition to our good academic offer, we are passionate about providing a wide range of outside opportunities for our children, particularly opportunities which give the children the chance to make strong connections with their home town.

Our first 'official' term supported by the Forge Trust has been exciting and the dedicated staff at school have continued to work extremely hard embracing and embedding the Trust philosophies and policies quickly and effectively. Many of the changes which have been put in place are already having a positive impact on teaching and learning.

As always, we value the opinions of our parents and other members of the school community so please do not hesitate to get in touch via [office@thestaugustines.co.uk](mailto:office@thestaugustines.co.uk) with any suggestions of further improvements which we might make.

Mrs Louise Selden

Principal

Mr Steve Houghton

Vice Principal

Miss Sarah Baldwin

Vice Principal