



Region Academy Growth Fund

We would like to bring to your attention a new funding round that was launched on 18 November. The Regional Academy Growth Fund is to support the growth of successful trusts and to increase capacity of sponsors to raise standards in failing schools. It will also offer trusts the opportunity to establish a new presence or 'hub' in a geographical area. In East Midlands and Humber I would welcome applications from trusts that would like to create a new hub in East Riding, Lincolnshire, Derby or Derbyshire.

We will prioritise applications that meet the specific needs in the region, including a focus on Derby as an Opportunity Area. I would encourage you to discuss your growth plans with your regional project lead or by emailing EMH.RSC@education.gov.uk

You can find out more information and apply at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regional-academy-growth-fund>

Season's Greetings!

As the term draws to a close it seems a good time to reflect on progress made and to look forward to plans for next year. The merged East Midlands team is now well established and the new structure we developed is working well and at pace. The numbers of academies within the region has continued to grow; with an increase to 942.



We have also seen improvement in the performance of academies across the region both in terms of numbers performing above the floor and of numbers moving out of Ofsted category. Craven Primary Academy in Hull is a good example which has moved from Special Measures to Outstanding in its recent inspection. However, despite improvement there still remains a legacy of poor performance which needs to be addressed.

I have presented at 12 events around the region since September and have highlighted the very clear lead from the Secretary of State that the key focus of our work should remain on quality of provision. As a region we have an aspiration for all young people to attend at least a good school and we need to ensure that all our academies are delivering a high quality education. If we are to achieve this, then we need to work collaboratively and be prepared to share our very best practice.

Multi-academy trusts remain central to our strategy and to help support and develop the wide range of trusts we have operating across the region we will be delivering a number of new programmes which will begin in the New Year. One of these will be our 'Readiness for Growth' programme, we expect this to be popular, so do look out for details and sign up if you are interested. All sessions will be delivered by existing practitioners and be a genuine opportunity to network and collaborate.

We will be writing to all trusts in the New Year to remind them about reviewing their governance arrangements and ensuring they are fit for purpose. We have reviewed a significant number during the Autumn term but we know there remain a number of boards that no longer have appropriate representation and clear separation between members and directors. We will provide you with more detail in our letter but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the RSC office.

Finally, thank you for all your hard work this year, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Do you have a good news story that you'd like us to share? [Email](#) us

East Midlands and
Humber in numbers

Primary Academies
611

Secondary Academies
279

All-Through
Academies
9

Alternative Provision
Academies
14

Special Academies
30

Free Schools -
26 open
17 in pre-open stage

Open Sponsors -
126

Ofsted: Academies
recently moving up 2
grades

Well done to Bishops
Lonsdale CofE Primary
and Nursery School,
Derby, whose recent
Ofsted inspection led
to improved
judgements. (from
special measures to
good)

School financial health

Good financial health is essential to delivering high quality education. As with other public services, schools will face additional financial pressures in the next few years. This means that there is more need than ever for schools to improve their financial efficiency.

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-financial-efficiency-a-guide-to-getting-started> where you can find an overview of the schools financial efficiency support package and a guide to getting started.

Having access to good financial advice and support is an important part of running an effective school. We have developed the financial health checks structure to help schools to identify what support they need.

We have also started to develop a directory of some of the suppliers that can provide these checks, or elements of these checks. The structure and directory are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-financial-health-checks-supplier-directory>

Significant Change

Academy trusts proposing to make a significant change to the characteristics of an open academy, which will affect clauses in their funding agreement, must submit a proposal for change in advance of the change being made. **Failure to do so could constitute a breach of a funding agreement.**

For all significant change enquiries and proposals, academy trusts will need to contact the department, via an enquiry form, at least three months prior to the proposed change coming into effect. This is to ensure that there is time for the decision to be made and that the funding agreement and, if necessary, the admission arrangements can be varied before the change can take effect.

Proposals for change must be submitted to the department through one of two processes, the 'fast track' application or 'full business case'. Guidance for academy trusts on how to apply to make significant changes is published on gov.uk at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-significant-changes-to-an-existing-academy>

The process for applying to make a significant change remains the same; the trust must apply via the academy.questions@education.gsi.gov.uk mailbox.

If you or a colleague are not on our mailing list and would like to receive future newsletters, please [email](#) us.

Address: ARDG EMH - 6th Floor St Pauls Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield,

Safeguarding

The latest revision of the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance came into effect on 5 September 2016 at the start of the new school year.

Among the changes, the guidance contains a new section dedicated to online safety and advice on dealing with abuse.

It sets out the legal duties you must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges.

Further information and guidance can be found here by clicking on the following link [Keeping children safe in education](#)

Coasting Schools Update

The Department for Education has proposed a coasting definition to help the Secretary of State to identify schools better where pupils are not fulfilling their potential so that these schools get the focus and support that they need to improve. The proposed definition, which Parliament is considering, is published at: gov.uk/government/publications/primary-school-accountability (primary); gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure (secondary).

For many schools, meeting the proposed coasting definition will be the starting point for a discussion. I plan to write to schools in January – once the regulations containing the definition are approved by Parliament, made and published. I would like to work with these schools to understand the wider context of the school and to agree with them what, if any, additional support they might need. As a result of these discussions, I might conclude that:

- The school is supporting pupils well and that no additional support is required;
- The school already has a sufficient plan and the capacity to improve - and do not need any additional support;
- The school would benefit from additional support, for example from a National Leader of Education or through a partnership with another school.

The Secretary of State also has the power to take formal action in a coasting school. This could include a maintained school becoming a sponsored academy or rebrokering an academy to a new sponsor or multi-academy trust. We expect this to happen by use of statutory powers in only a small minority of cases, where it is assessed that improvement cannot be brought about in any other way.

The Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust

The [Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust](#) created Miriam's Vision - a programme produced by teachers for teachers and also available on the government's [Educate Against Hate](#) website. The Trust has been funded by HMT to evaluate the interpretation, implementation and impact of Miriam's Vision lesson plans and supporting resources in actual classroom settings. The Trust is looking for c. 30-100 diverse secondary schools across the country to take part in this study. Participating schools are required to:

- deliver two or more of our modules (range offered in www.miriamsvision.org) over a period of [please insert], with students and teachers required to complete a short feedback questionnaires on completion of each module; and,
- allow HMT researcher (with DBS clearance) access to educators to follow up questionnaires with in-depth interview and provide a qualitative dimension to our investigation, and access to focus groups of learners to collect qualitative data.

Schools interested in taking part or wishing to find out more should contact the Trust directly: <http://miriamsvision.org/contact>

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Dates for your diary

**Sheffield One Stop Shop
Roadshow – Tuesday 24
January 2017 at St
Paul's Place, Sheffield**

The Sheffield One Stop Roadshow is aimed at all academies and maintained schools in Sheffield. Please look out for your invitation.

If you would like further information or would like to register, please email us at

emh.rsc@education.gov.uk

Sponsor/MAT Conference

Save Tuesday 14th March 2017 for our annual Sponsor/MAT conference. Venue and further details to be confirmed soon.

NCTL

Are you making the most of NCTL's School Governance training programme? workshops have been extended to September 2017.

For further information on development opportunities for governors please contact:

College.LICENSING@education.gov.uk

School Improvement Fund

The Secretary of State has announced from September 2017 two new additional sources of transitional funding to support school improvement, to be targeted where it is most needed:

- A **£140m** per year Strategic School Improvement Fund – new money to build school-led capacity.
- A **£50m** per year grant for LAs to enable them to carry out monitoring and brokering activities.

The **£140m fund** will be available to academies and maintained schools most in need of support. This is additional funding.

Schools will be able to apply to the fund either alone, or as a group of schools, with the support of a teaching school/NLE, LA or RSC, to receive additional funding to support school improvement provision.

RSCs, Teaching Schools and LAs will be involved in encouraging and supporting bids.

The Secretary of State is committed to more schools becoming academies, able to take full advantage of the freedoms that come with that and able to partner together in strong multi-academy trusts.

While the number of academies will continue to increase, we will have a diverse system of maintained schools and academies for some time, and during this interim period, local authorities will continue to play an important role in relation to their maintained schools, including in relation to driving towards a school-led improvement system.

We will provide more information on how schools can apply to the fund, as soon as it becomes available.

Is your school in need of a Spanish Modern Foreign Language teacher?

We are delighted to be working with the Spanish Ministry of Education to join their Visiting Teachers programme. The programme has now been extended to England and provides opportunities for schools in England to recruit high quality teachers from Spain to not only teach the language but also immerse pupils in cultural aspects.

Visiting teachers from Spain will be available from September 2017 for one year initially, with the option to renew annually for up to a length of 3 years.

If you are interested in recruiting high quality teachers from Spain and would like further information as it becomes available please register your interest [here](#).

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