

20 April 2018

Pele Trust awarded £88,000 Department for Education (DfE) grant

Pele Trust is a proposed Multi Academy Trust of primary and secondary schools within the Ponteland schools partnership; the group of schools include Belsay Primary, Darras Hall Primary, Ponteland High School, Ponteland Primary, Richard Coates CE School and St. Andrews Heddon-on-the-Wall Primary.

In December the group submitted a grant application to the MAT Development & Improvement Fund (MDIF) and over the Easter break we were informed that our bid had been successful stating that, *'We are pleased to say that based on the strength of your application your trust has been provisionally awarded a MDIF grant.'*

The grant funding will be used to support the start up costs of forming the Trust such as new financial systems and management information software licences for all schools. The grant is intended to be paid in full at the point when Pele Trust is legally formed following the conversion of each school to Academy status.

Ponteland High School Headteacher, Kieran McGrane, commented:

"This is a very welcome financial boost as part of our planning for Pele Trust and I believe it demonstrates the faith the DfE has in our ability as a group of schools to form a high quality educational Trust. Our schools, governors and Directors have recently articulated our core purposes as a Trust which we feel capture what we stand for; these are:

1. To build a learning community, brought together by choice, that enables our schools to support and challenge each other to provide consistently outstanding education whilst offering a stable pathway for students, parents and staff
2. To have an influential voice and be instrumental in contributing to the development and enrichment of education in the north-east of England"



Headteachers of the schools involved in Pele Trust.