

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closing the Achievement Gap - Future Leaders Heads show average increase of over 7% in 5A*-Cs (incl. Eng + maths) GCSEs

Schools with a Headteacher that has been trained on the Future Leaders programme are improving GCSE results by over 7% on average, according to results released today.

These results represent excellent progress for this group of Heads, all of whom are leading schools which face significant challenges and are in their first or second year of headship. Despite their lack of experience, they are making gains that are comparable with those achieved by the top performing Academy chains.

Among the success stories is Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy: Principal and Future Leader Andrew Day was appointed in January 2009, at a time when the school had achieved 19% 5A*-C including English and maths. This year it achieved 57% - an impressive 16 percentage point increase on 2010 and the best results in its history - showing the great strides the Academy has made to improve the life chances of all its students.

Andrew Day said: "I am immensely proud of all the staff and students at Knights Academy who have worked so hard to achieve the best results ever. Sheer hard work, rigour and determination are what it takes to ensure schools make excellent progress, and to be the most improved school in the borough is testimony to all the effort, not only of the last year, but since the very start of the process in 2005, when only 2% of our children gained the minimum standard. This year that figure is 57%, and next year we will improve again."

Another success story is at Oasis Academy Coulsdon: Principal and Future Leader David Millar took over leadership of the school in January 2009 (the school had been taken over by the Oasis Academy chain the previous year). Last year, it achieved 37% 5A* - C including English & maths. This year, staff and students are celebrating the outstanding 50% 5A* - C including English & maths (a 13% improvement from 2010) beating all previous school records.

David Millar said "This is a very good day for the Academy; our improved results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of students and staff. We have amazing students and it's wonderful to be able to celebrate so many individual successes."

Heath Monk, CEO of Future Leaders commented: "I am delighted at the good progress made by our nine Headteachers who have contributed to this year's encouraging results. These gains demonstrate the critical importance of high quality, values-driven leadership in challenging schools and also highlight the great value for money in investing in high potential school leaders."

"However, we know that this is just the starting point. The link between low family income and poor educational attainment remains and, unless addressed, will continue to have long-lasting negative effects on hundreds of thousands of young people's life chances across the country."

Future Leaders offers high potential teachers the opportunity to become outstanding headteachers after four years, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and experience needed to make a lasting impact in challenging schools.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

Leading a school – especially one in disadvantaged circumstances – is a complex job with often conflicting variables, many of which make it difficult to make a lasting impact in a short amount of time. Despite that, early indications show the nine schools with Future Leaders Headteachers saw improvements in their 2011 results:

School	2011 results (% 5A*-C GCSEs including E+M)	2010 results (% 5A*-C GCSEs including E+M)	Increase
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	57%	41%	16
Oasis Academy Immingham	46%	39%	7
Oasis Academy Shirley Park	52%	45%	7
Stretford High School	51%	45%	6
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	31%	29%	2
The Warren Comprehensive School	46%	39%	7
Oasis Academy Coulsdon	50%	37%	13
Abbeydale Grange School	26%	23%	3
Haggerston School	56%	53%	3

Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy is a multi-cultural, oversubscribed, "rapidly improving", 3-19 comprehensive Academy in Lewisham, London.

Andrew Day (Future Leader Cohort '06) and Principal started his teaching career in South Africa in a multi-racial, independent school, with an inspirational head who sent him to teach in an outreach programme in the townships of Cape Town. He immigrated to the UK in 1989, and continued to teach in the independent sector. He gained his MBA and then went into the travel industry as an independent tour operator, but realised his true vocation lay in teaching and he returned to teach in a Surrey comprehensive for almost two years before joining the Future Leaders programme as part of the inaugural cohort in 2006. In December 2008, just two and a half years after joining, Andrew became the first Future Leader ever to reach headship. He took up post as Principal of the challenging inner city Academy in the September 2009.

Oasis Academy is the former Coulsdon High School, a school whose reputation had hit rock-bottom, whose results were close to failing and whose pupils were severely disaffected. David and his team have effectively transformed leadership and management; improved teaching standards, and raised attainment.

David Millar (Future Leader Cohort '06) and Principal went on to read History at the University of Kent at Canterbury. His original intention of pursuing a career in law was abandoned when a PGCE in Secondary History changed these plans forever. One teaching placement in an urban complex school, and a second more affluent, middle-classed establishment, helped to define the teacher that David was to become. Inspired by those working tirelessly in challenging circumstances and frustrated by complacency in the comparative ease of the other school, David looked for an urban complex school to begin his teaching career. In 2009, he became the youngest Future Leader to secure a headship at 31 years.

About Future Leaders

Future Leaders was founded on the premise that school leadership is the single most important controllable driver of achievement in schools and even more so in challenging schools. Alongside the quality of teaching, the quality of leadership has been identified as most highly correlated to the ability of some schools to outperform their more affluent peers, despite high levels of disadvantage.

But in the UK, demographic changes among heads and senior leaders combined with the changing nature of schools and the education system are driving a significant shortage of quality leaders.

The Future Leaders programme aims to improve the life chances of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds by raising their attainment through effective, inspirational school leadership. Our focus is on relentlessly achieving quality, on pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a headteacher in the 21st century, and on creating leaders (from the widest possible talent pool) who can drive systemic change in an ever more complex environment.

Future Leaders offers a three-year leadership development programme for current and former teachers who wish to make the biggest difference in leading a challenging school. After a year-long apprenticeship under a successful urban head with cutting-edge UK and US-based training, coaching and mentoring from education leaders, participants should gain a senior leadership role after 12 months, be ready for NPQH after three years and be seeking a headship position after an intense four years. Participants and residency schools are recruited for London, the North West, the Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, the South Coast, and the North East from 2012.

Future Leaders is making a difference:

- We are creating an enduring network of talented and inspiring senior leaders with the skills and experience to improve outcomes for pupils from deprived backgrounds.
- In 2006, 20 participants started their Future Leaders journey in London. There are now 270 Future Leaders working in more than 200 challenging schools across 5 UK regions; London, the North West, the Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the South Coast impacting on the life chances of more than 200,000 pupils in disadvantaged areas
- 15 Future Leaders participants have secured headteacher posts (some of which are due to start in September this year). There are an additional 3 Associate Heads.
- We are improving the diversity of senior leaders - Of all five cohorts, 51% are women, 20% have had significant experience/established careers outside the teaching profession and 21% are from BME backgrounds.
- 95% of cohort '10 participants secured senior leadership roles in education for 2011/12.
- 96% of participants across all cohorts (Cohorts '06-'11) are in senior leadership roles in education.