

ASCENT ACADEMIES' TRUST





GEOGRAPHY & SCALE



5 special academies across 3 Local Authorities

Barbara Priestman Academy 11-19 ASC

Portland Academy 11-19 SLD and PMLD

The New Bridge Academy 11-19 SEMH

Hope Wood Academy 2-19 generic

Ash Trees Academy 2-11 SLD and PMLD



Mission

To provide exceptional education and support for young people with special educational needs.

Values

We **embrace difference**, celebrate diversity and promote equality

We **continually learn** in order that we can respond to the needs of our young people

We **continually improve** through sharing and creating best practice models

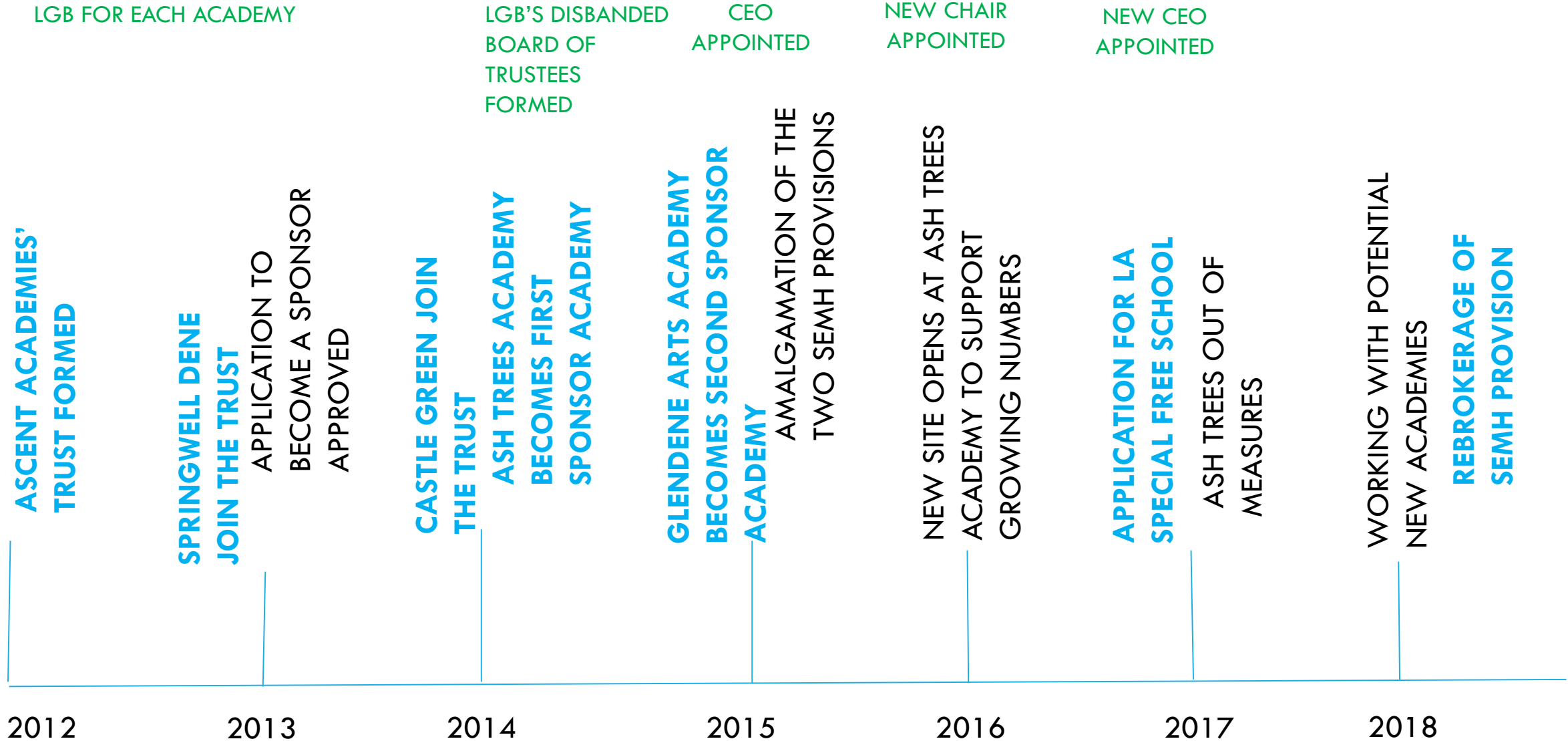
We **build impactful collaborations** across the Trust and with wider partnerships

We **respect** each person's distinctive contribution and develop their talents

Vision

We will create learning environments where young people thrive, developing physically, academically, socially and emotionally. We will ignite curiosity, ambition, aspiration and aptitudes in our young people so they can play the fullest part possible within their communities.

ASCENT TIMELINE



GLENDENE ARTS INTERIM ACADEMY BOARD

In June 2014, an Interim Academy Board was formed for Glendene after school was placed into Special Measures and the governing Body and most of the leadership had either resigned or had been removed.

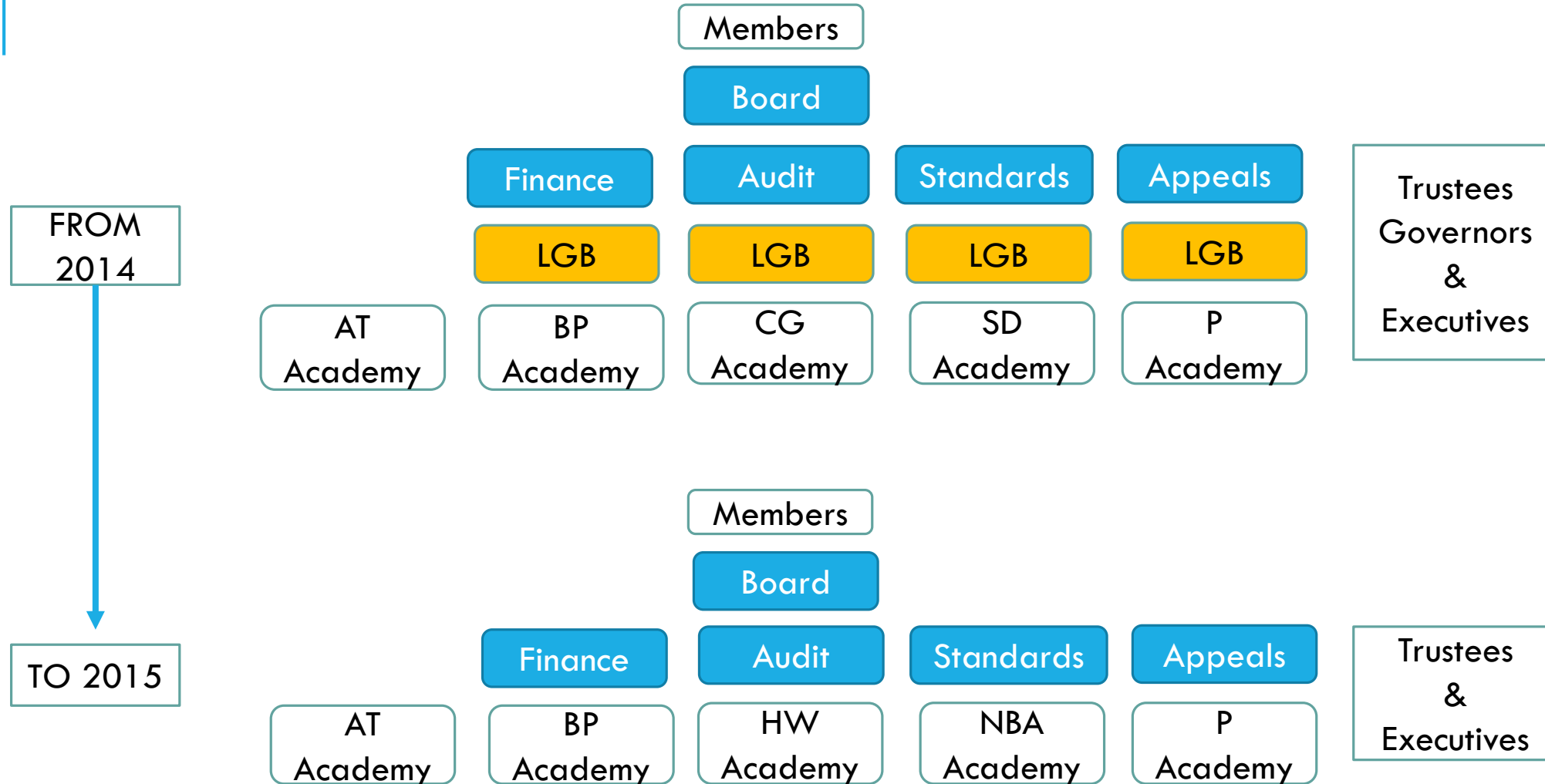
The Principal of New Durham College, John Widdowson, an LA officer Neil Griffin, Roy Patel, Kate Berkely (Head of Pennyman Primary Academy) two parent governors and Nick Hurn were the members of IAB.

The school was in an appalling state. There were huge financial problems, some very serious staff and safeguarding issues and a general level of incompetence of the likes I have never seen before.

Over the next few months the IAB struggled with the shear scale complexities of the challenges we faced. We were able to enlist a variety of support from a range of different sources with limited success. However things started to rapidly improve key when we enlisted help from Ascent Trust for interim support.

Between 2014 and 2015 the academy made good progress under the guidance and support of the senior staff from Ascent. Glendene joined Ascent Academies' Trust in November 2015 under it's new name of Hope Wood Academy.

RE-FOCUS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TRUST.



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When Ascent took on its first sponsor academy Nov 2014 - Ash Trees Billingham, it became apparent that the Trust needed a central leadership model and an CEO, Mr Paul Makin was appointed in September 2015 as an interim CEO on 3 days a week.

As the trust continued to grow from 2015 onwards the Board realised that:

1. The CEO could not line manage all the schools and the MATs needs, new personnel and monitoring systems and still retain an effective oversight.
2. The CEO's role must move from executive head of all schools to a more strategic and outward-facing role.
3. The need of new appointments in order to support CEO along with centralization of the governance and back office functions
4. That the skills, expertise and membership of the Board must be able to keep pace with the demands and challenges of the Trust.

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP OF THE TRUST.

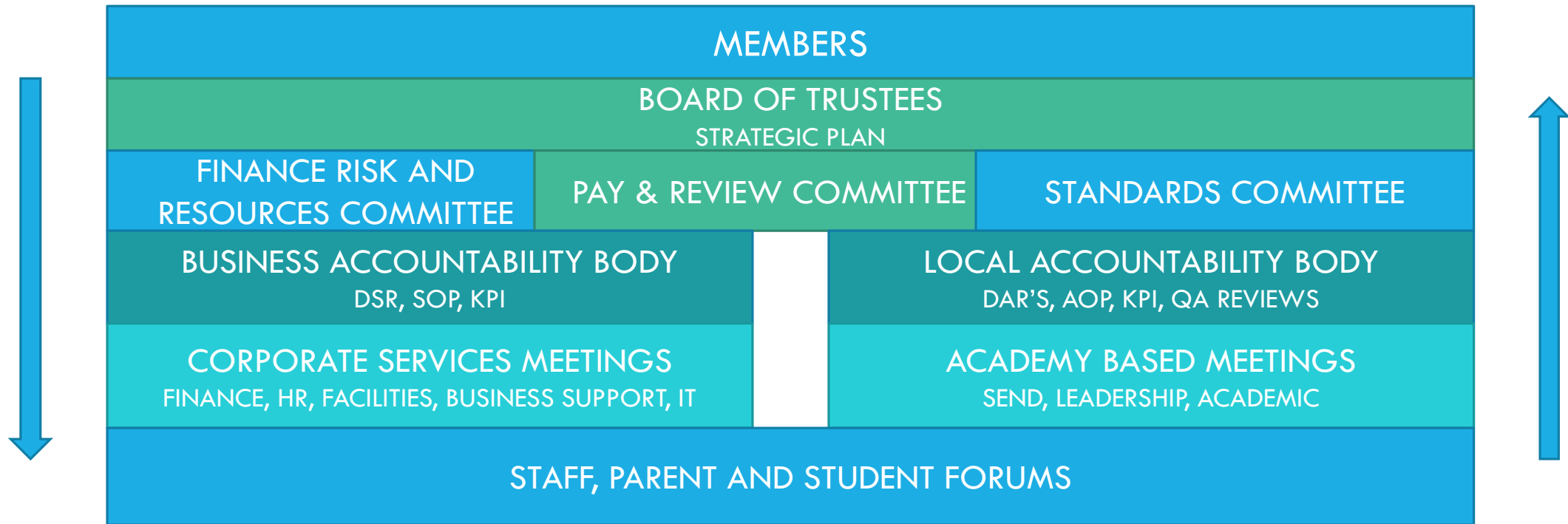
FROM
2014



TO 2018

EXECUTIVE HEAD			EXECUTIVE HEAD	
Headteacher	Headteacher	Headteacher	Headteacher	Headteacher
Safeguarding	HR	MAT Admin	Facilities	Finance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES				
CEO			DEPUTY CEO	
2 X EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHERS –STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT, TEACHING AND LEARNING & CURRICULUM (across all academies)			HR LEAD	IT LEAD
SAFEGUARDING LEAD	PERSONAL DEV + ATTENDANCE LEAD	BEHAVIOUR LEAD	FACILITIES LEAD	GOVERNANCE LEAD
			FINANCE LEAD	



ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES

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Quality Assurance reviews – termly monitoring

External view from school improvement partner

Other external assessments/reviews e.g. National Autistic Society peer review, Investors in People.

Local Accountability Body reports to Trustees – Dynamic Academy Review & Academy on a Page

KPIs updated termly against priorities in the strategic plan

BENEFITS

- Regular updates to Trustees on each academy (half termly)
- External validation of judgements
- Clarity of where and when Trustee action is needed
- At a glance KPI grid for all academies and services for Trustees

THE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

	Mr/Mrs	First name	Surname	Expertise	Current/Most Recent Occupation
Chair	Mr	Nick	Hurn	Leadership/Mains stream Education	Trinity Trust and Cardinal Hume Academy - CEO & Head Teacher, Regional Head Teacher Board/Formal Ofsted Inspector
Vice Chair	Mr	Roy	Patel	Safeguarding	Self Employed IT Consultant
	Ms	Kath	Armstrong	SEND	Farringdon Academy-ASD Provision Manager, Manager of SENDCO & SEN Pathway
	Mr	David	Barker	Education/Youth work	Springboard - Chief Executive
	Mrs	Nadine	Hudspeth	Communications & Marketing	Gateshead College - Director of Marketing & Communications
	Mrs	Val	Milnes	HR and Personnel	Retired - previously a Manager at Gentoo
	Mrs	Michelle	Quinn	Leadrship/Youth Work	Director of Chameleon Vocational Training, part time school administration.
	Mrs	Lynn	Watson	Leadership/SEND /Ofsted	Lynn Watson Educational Consultancy Limited, Previously Director of Education, Percy Headley Foundation, Ofsted Inspector
	Mrs	Rachael	Whorlton	HR and Finance	Virgin Money, People Services Manager
	Mr	Paul	Wright	Finance	Carrier Rental Systems (UK) Limited, Finance Director

CURRENT POSITION. WHERE WE ARE NOW...?

Free School

New Bridge Academy

Increase number of schools in Trust

Growing number of partnerships

MAT partnerships

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Our strategic plan aims to;

Ensure all academies are at least good

Grow the MAT-bringing in expertise as well as considering further sponsor academies

Continue to develop cross academy curriculum and assessment processes

Develop future leaders

Establish Ascent as a preferred employer



QUESTIONS?