

08:00 - 08:45			
<i>Registration, refreshments & exhibition</i>			
08:45 - 09:00	Welcome: Chris Zarraga, Director, Schools North East & Tim Care, Ward Hadaway		
09:00 - 09:40	18 Months into Delivering the Opportunity Mission in the NE: Successes, Challenges and Priorities for 2026 Katherine Cowell, Regional Director, Department for Education		
S E S S I O N R O U N D O N E			
09:45 - 10:25	Collaboration Navigating the Changing SEND Landscape Erica Wolstenholme, National Coordinator for Whole School SEND, nasen	Community Setting up and Managing Subsidiaries - Legal and Operational Insights for Trusts Tom Shears & Tim Care, Ward Hadaway LLP	Challenge of Inequality North East Education Policy Update Ben Hardy, Policy Manager, Schools North East
10:25 - 11:10	<i>Refreshments & exhibition</i>		
11:10 - 11:50	Curriculum Review: Insights for Trust and School Leaders Dr Vanessa Ogden, CEO, Mulberry Academy Trust & former member of the Curriculum Review Panel		
11:55 - 12:35	Main room Panel Debate: The New Ofsted Framework Chair: John Roberts, Tes Panellists: Andy Jordan, ASCL, Chris Mitchinson, South Hylton Primary Academy & Kate Reid, Polam High School, Colin Lofthouse, CEO, SMART	Classics Suite The Lower Achievement of White Working-Class Pupils at School, and What Might be Done About it? Stephen Gorard, Professor of Education, Durham University	
12:35 - 13:35	<i>Lunch & exhibition</i>		
13:35 - 14:15	S E S S I O N R O U N D T W O		
	AI in Action: Collaborating for Smarter, Happier Schools David Baldwin, NTLT, Andy Sherlaw, WBHS & Fleur Wilkinson, John Spence	Smarter Spending, Better Systems: Unlocking Impact Through ICFP Zoe Levitt, Education Director, Consilium Academies	Building an Effective Trust Attendance Strategy Louise Sanderson, Croftway Academy & Paul Martindale, WISE Academies
14:20 - 15:00	S E S S I O N R O U N D T H R E E		
	Why Policymaking is so Hard Sam Freedman, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government	Harnessing the Spark: How a Bold Vision, Careful Planning & Positive Culture Drive a Successful Merger Louise Spellman & Katy Riley, Spark Education Trust	Ganging Up on the Problem: Mapping Partnerships to Tackle Inequality Sean Harris FCCT, Director of PLACE, TVED
15:05 - 15:45	S E S S I O N R O U N D F O U R		
	Horizon Scanning for Trust Finance and Operations: Preparing for What's Next Sam Freedman, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government	Now We Are Merged: Leading With Vision After a Trust Merger Alice Witherow, Cheviot Learning Trust	Tackling Inequality Through Community Collaboration, insights from Poverty Proofing® Ancha Stoodley, Poverty Proofing the School Day Team Manager, Children North East
15:45	<i>Close</i>		