

08:00 - 08:45		Registration, refreshments & exhibition	
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	
09:45 - 10:25	SESSION ROUND ONE		
	Collaboration	Community	Challenge of Inequality
	Navigating the Changing SEND Landscape Erica Wolstenholme, National Coordinator for Whole School SEND, nasen	Setting up and Managing Subsidiaries - Legal and Operational Insights for Trusts Tom Shears & Tim Care, Ward Hadaway LLP	North East Education Policy Update Ben Hardy, Policy Manager, Schools North East
10:25 - 11:10		Refreshments & exhibition	
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		Classics Suite
	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		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		Lunch & exhibition	
13:35 - 14:15	SESSION ROUND TWO		
	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	SESSION ROUND THREE		
	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	SESSION ROUND FOUR		
	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		Close	