



16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Colleagues,

**Update on the Proposed Merger between Cathedral Schools Trust and Trust in Learning Academies**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, we wrote to inform you of the proposed merger between Cathedral Schools Trust and Trust in Learning Academies and invited you to engage with the process. We are now writing to share an update from the engagement period, which took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and to confirm our next steps. The purpose of this engagement was to ensure that all staff, parents, carers, and other stakeholders were fully informed about the reasons for the proposal and to offer the opportunity to provide feedback or raise any initial questions.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all colleagues who took the time to respond through the survey, attend drop-in sessions, or engage in conversations with their school headteacher, trust colleagues, or directly with the CEO. We are very grateful for your reflections, questions, and the thoughtful manner in which you approached this stage of the process.

The feedback provided has helped shape ongoing planning and offered valuable insight into the priorities and concerns of our staff teams. Many questions and feedback focused on curriculum, trust growth, and the potential impact on working practices. All areas which we recognise are highly important to you as staff members and essential to securing the best outcomes for our pupils.

In response, we have updated the FAQs on both trust intranet and websites to reflect some of the more commonly asked questions. Where more detailed individual questions were raised, responses will be offered directly over the coming weeks. All feedback will be shared with both Trust Boards and the Transition Group to support informed planning.

We recognise that some questions raised during the engagement relate to areas that are still being developed or depend on future decisions. As such, certain details cannot yet be confirmed. These areas will be addressed through future communications, and both trusts remain committed to keeping staff and all stakeholders updated and informed as the process progresses.

The next step is for the Department for Education to consider the merger proposal and is expected to reach the Advisory Board in June for a final decision. In the meantime, we remain committed to keeping you informed through regular updates and internal communications. Should you wish to raise any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact [engagement@edwinpeople.com](mailto:engagement@edwinpeople.com).

Thank you again for your continued professionalism and support during this important stage of our development.



**Sue Elliott, CEO**

**Trust in Learning Academies**



**Neil Blundell, CEO**

**Cathedral Schools Trust**

**Hugh Barrett, Chair**

**Trust in Learning Academies**

**Sir David Eastwood, Chair**

**Cathedral Schools Trust**