

20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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

Dear Colleagues,

On 23rd 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 then provided an update following the engagement period, which took place between 23rd April and 16th May 2025, to confirm our next steps.

As always, we remain committed to keeping our colleagues, union colleagues, and wider stakeholders informed as the project progresses.

As shared in our previous update, the next formal step is for the Department for Education (DfE) to consider the merger proposal at their monthly Regional Advisory Board meeting. We had been advised that this was expected to take place in June.

We are writing now to update you that there is likely to be a slight adjustment to this timescale, and our application is expected to be considered in July instead. It is very common for the scheduling of DfE Advisory Board meetings to evolve, as the DfE routinely manages a large number of proposals and agenda items.

This is a routine part of the DfE's internal processes and does not reflect any change in the merger proposal itself or in the very strong progress made so far. The proposal continues to move forward as planned, and both Trusts remain fully committed to this work.

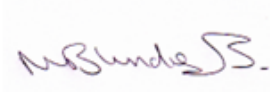
We will of course continue to keep everyone updated and now expect to be able to share the next formal update early in September. In the meantime, all preparatory work is continuing, and both Trusts remain focused on ensuring the day to day management and operation of our schools remains unaffected.

If you have any further questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact us at [engagement@edwinpeople.com](mailto:engagement@edwinpeople.com).



**Sue Elliott, CEO**

**Trust in Learning Academies**



**Neil Blundell, CEO**

**Cathedral Schools Trust**