

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

**Subject: Merger between Trust in Learning Academies and Cathedral Schools Trust – DfE Approval**

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to confirm that the Department for Education (DfE) has now formally approved the proposed merger between Trust in Learning Academies (TiLA) and Cathedral Schools Trust (CST)

The DfE's approval is a significant step forwards in our plans to merge our two successful trusts, allowing us to move into the next phase. During this next phase our Trusts and schools will continue to operate as they do now, with a clear focus on delivering excellent education for the children and young people we serve. We remain committed to taking things forward thoughtfully, with the best interests of our pupils, staff, and school communities at heart. We will also be continuing our due diligence activities and look forward to working with many of you in our schools in the coming weeks as we further inform the project.

The next stage of our plans will focus on establishing shared systems and developing a clear strategy. This will include agreeing on a new name for the Trust and defining our mission and values. We are committed to creating opportunities for teams across both Trusts to work closely together, strengthening relationships and ensuring that every child in our school's benefits from bringing together the very best of both Trusts.

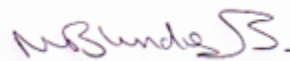
Regular newsletter updates will be shared as our plans develop, and you will have further opportunities to ask questions and contribute to shaping our future together. In due course, we will be working closely with staff and trade union representatives to ensure that all appropriate HR and organisational processes are followed that form part of the merger, including TUPE. We expect to be able to update you further on this next week.

In the meantime, our Frequently Asked Questions document remains available for reference on the websites for both Trusts ([www.cathedralschoolstrust.org](http://www.cathedralschoolstrust.org)) and ([www.tilaacademies.co.uk](http://www.tilaacademies.co.uk)) and may provide helpful clarification for any immediate questions. Alternatively, please do contact your central team through the normal channels with any queries or you can continue to contact our project managers, Edwin People via email on [engagement@edwinpeople.com](mailto:engagement@edwinpeople.com).

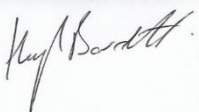
We are excited by the opportunities that this merger will bring for staff and our pupils and we look forward to sharing with you our developing thinking over the coming months.



**Sue Elliott, CEO TiLA**



**Neil Blundell, CEO CST**



**Hugh Barrett, Chair**

**Trust in Learning Academies**



**Sir David Eastwood, Chair**

**Cathedral Schools Trust**