

**South York**  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York. YO10 4FY  
T: 01904 633300 E: [office@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:office@fulford.york.sch.uk) W: [www.fulford.york.sch.uk](http://www.fulford.york.sch.uk)

11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers/Stakeholders

## **Consultation on a proposal for South Bank Multi Academy Trust to join with South York Multi Academy Trust**

### **Context**

Our Trust Board has been discussing how we might work in closer partnership with some of our local schools to provide mutual support, challenge and benefits for each other.

We have been in discussions with South Bank Multi Academy Trust who share the same ambitions for their pupils. Both trusts have a clear commitment to providing an outstanding education in the heart of their local community. We value the unique qualities and strengths of all our schools.

Collectively our Trust Boards believe one of the best ways forward to further enhance our work is to bring our multi academy trusts together in a formal merger. All our schools would work more closely together within a combined multi academy trust.

We would now like to consult with parents, carers, staff and other stakeholders, on these proposals and this letter provides you more information, whilst also inviting you to let us know your views.

### **Proposal**

The proposal is for South Bank MAT to join South York MAT to become a combined Trust with a total of eleven schools, listed below:

- **Archbishop of York CE Junior School**
- **Carr Junior School**
- **Dunnington CE Primary School**
- **Escrick CE Primary School**
- **Fulford School**
- **Knavesmire Primary School**
- **Millthorpe School**
- **Scarcroft Primary School**
- **Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School**
- **Woodthorpe Primary School**
- **York High School**

We believe pupils and staff would benefit from the greater opportunities that formal partnership, through the combined MAT, would bring, which include:

- extending learning opportunities and activities for pupils
- developing and enriching the curriculum through partnership working and shared resources
- further improve the quality of education in each school by enabling the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning
- enhancing the professional development of teaching and support staff
- building mutual support and accountability between the Head Teachers and between the Governors
- securing cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services

### **Vision, Values and Ethos**

We are looking to collectively build on the clear core purposes that both trusts have. We want every child and young person to benefit from being part of our Trust, throughout their educational journey and beyond. All our decisions are rooted in shared values.

As a trust we would be:

**Aspirational** – our schools will strive to maximise the life opportunities of our students and staff, and to add value to their future lives. We would set high standards and expectations for all and put in place the excellence of support needed to fulfil those ambitions.

**Inclusive** – everyone will be treated equally and with respect. We would encourage and support diversity and inclusion, championing the benefits this brings to everyone in our Trust, our communities and in the wider society.

**Creative** – pioneering new ideas is key to developing. We would not accept the status quo, but embrace brave thinking, innovation and individuality to make education exciting and progressive.

**Collaborative** – we would continue to promote the distinctiveness of each of our schools whilst working together as equals. Our schools will work in partnership to enhance the quality of education and outcomes for all across our Trust and the wider communities we serve.

In all we do we would work with **integrity** – we expect honesty, fairness, reflection, emotional intelligence and respect. We would actively promote and encourage such behaviours, helping others to develop and grow as people who are ready to serve their communities as positive role models.

We know the transformational power that education provides. We would strive to offer the highest quality of education in all our schools facilitated by:

- Outcome-driven school improvement.
- Value-led teaching and learning.
- A cohesive curriculum and staff offer.
- Celebrating the individuality of our schools.

We would:

- Establish clear lines of accountability throughout the organisation.
- Lead and facilitate the sharing of good practice and innovation between schools.

- Provide expertise and resource in specialist areas that schools can access quickly.
- Provide a strong career development pathway for all staff.
- Provide value-added central support services that removes the administrative burden on headteachers and schools, allowing them to concentrate wholly on their learning offer and educational excellence.

**How can we find out more about each of the MATs involved in this proposal?**

### **South Bank Multi Academy Trust**

South Bank MAT has 6 schools: Carr Junior School, Knavesmire Primary School, Millthorpe School, Scarcroft Primary School, Woodthorpe Primary School and York High School.

All schools work collaboratively to ensure that best practice is shared and there is a clear focus on school improvement. South Bank has a commitment to working closely with its community and places excellence at the heart of all it does.

Find out more about South Bank MAT at [www.southbanktrust.co.uk](http://www.southbanktrust.co.uk)

### **South York Multi Academy Trust**

South York MAT has 5 schools: Archbishop of York CE Junior School, Dunnington CE Primary School, Escrick CE Primary School, Fulford School and Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School.

There is a strong and inclusive partnership between all schools with a focus on supporting and inspiring pupils, families and the wider community. Schools offer challenge and support to each other, benefitting both staff and pupils.

Find out more about South York MAT at [www.southyorkmat.co.uk](http://www.southyorkmat.co.uk)

**How do I find out more, and how do I respond to the consultation?**

Consultation will begin today, 11 October 2021, for a period of four school term weeks and will end at 3pm on 12 November 2021.

This letter together with the attached frequently asked questions document provides you with some background information, additionally we are offering the following opportunities for you to attend a drop-in session at Fulford School to answer any questions about the proposals:

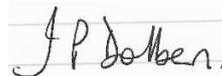
Drop in session: 6pm, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Fulford School.

Our Trust Board would very much like to hear your opinion and would encourage you to respond to the consultation. Please email any comments to [consultation@fulford.york.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@fulford.york.sch.uk) by the deadline of 3pm 12 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Lewis  
CEO - SYMAT



Ian Dolben  
Chair of SYMAT Board

**Be Aspirational ~ Be Collaborative ~ Be Inclusive ~ Be Responsible**