

South York  
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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

18 November 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

Since its formation in 2018 the schools in SYMAT have worked collaboratively for the best interests of our pupils and wider community. We are proud of the work we have done and our achievements to date. The strength all our schools gain from standing shoulder to shoulder with each other, sharing best practice and benefiting from our central services and educational provision is very real. In a turbulent educational background, the level of support we are able to give each other is invaluable.

Our values and the inclusive nature of our trust is fundamental. Serving our community is of the highest importance to us all. We know that to develop the work that we feel so passionately about we need to increase in scale. Government recommends that to be a fully sustainable trust we should be educating some 7,500 children and young people.

Our work is based on collaboration, not a top-down model and we have always looked to work with likeminded schools and trusts.

Over recent months our trust board has been in discussion with STAR MAT 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 both value the unique qualities and strengths of all our schools.

Collectively our Trust Boards believe the best way forward to further enhance our work is to bring our Multi Academy Trusts together in a formal merger. All our schools would work closely together within a combined multi academy trust.

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

The schools involved in this proposal are:

**South York Multi-Academy Trust:**

Archbishop of York's CE Junior School, York  
Bishopthorpe Infant School, York  
Dunnington CE Primary School, York  
Escrick CE Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Fulford School, York  
Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary School, York

**The Star Multi-Academy Trust:**

Appleton Roebuck Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Brayton CE Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Kellington Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Kirk Fenton CE Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Monk Fryston CE Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Riverside Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Saxton CofE Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Sherburn High School, North Yorkshire  
Sherburn Hungate Primary School, North Yorkshire  
South Milford Primary School, North Yorkshire  
Tadcaster Grammar School, North Yorkshire

This is an exciting time for our Trust and schools and a fantastic opportunity for us to further strengthen our partnerships as a group of like-minded education providers by formalising the relationships between us.

The newly formed Trust will be a Multi-Academy Trust based across North Yorkshire and York. The Trust is determined to deliver the very highest standard of education through collaboration, sharing of best practice and is underpinned by our shared ethos and values. We are currently working to develop a name that reflects these principles and our deep connection to the local community, and we look forward to sharing it with you very soon.

We are currently engaging on our proposals with pupils, parents/carers, the Local Authority, staff, governors, unions, the Diocese of York and the wider community and as a key stakeholder in this decision we want to give you every opportunity to find out more and ask questions.

The engagement period will run from 18 November 2024 – 18 December 2024. Following the engagement period, a report on the findings will be published and made available to all stakeholders via our Trust website.

To help parents/carers and the community in developing their knowledge and understanding of what is involved, we have organised an information session, which will take place at:

Fulford School  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
5:30pm presentation followed by questions and a drop in from 5:45 to 6:45pm

The session will be an opportunity to ask questions about how this will affect the school and your child(ren). The CEO and trustees will be available to talk to you and you will also be able to register your comments, queries and any thoughts on opportunities or concerns.

We also enclose with this letter a copy of some Frequently Asked Questions, which you may find of interest. On the Trust website we have created an academy engagement area where you will find the information shared with you today as well as an online questionnaire which will be available following the engagement meetings. Further detail will also be added as it emerges.

In order that we gather as broad and deep a range of opinions as possible, we strongly urge you to participate by attending the organised information session.

If you are unable to attend but would like further information you can contact the Trust in the following ways:

- By email at: [consultation@southyorkmat.co.uk](mailto:consultation@southyorkmat.co.uk)
- Complete our online survey on the Trust website following the engagement events:  
<https://southyorkmat.co.uk>

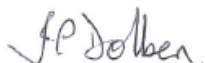
We look forward to speaking with you soon and to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely



Steve Lewis  
**SYMAT - CEO**

Yours sincerely



Ian Dolben  
**SYMAT – Chair of Trustees**

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