

18 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Since our formation in 2018, The STAR Multi-Academy Trust has worked collaboratively for the best interests of our pupils and wider community. We are so proud of the work we have done and our achievements to date. The strength all our schools gain from working together, sharing best practice and benefiting from our central offer and educational provision is very real. In a turbulent educational world, the level of support that we are able to give to each other has proven invaluable.

Our values and the inclusive nature of our trust are fundamental to what we do. Serving our communities is of the highest importance to us all.

We know that to continue to develop the work that we feel so passionately about, we should look to appropriate growth and connections. Our work is based on collaboration, and we have always looked to work with like minded schools and trusts.

Over recent months our Trust Board has been in discussion with South York MAT (SYMAT), who share the same ambitions for their young people. Both Trusts have a clear commitment to providing an exceptional education in the heart of our local communities. 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 new 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

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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 in 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 ([www.starmat.uk](http://www.starmat.uk)).

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 on:

Tadcaster Grammar School  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
6pm presentation followed by questions and a drop in from 6:30 to 7:15pm

The session will be an opportunity to ask questions about how this will affect your child's school and the Trust. 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: [engagement@starmat.uk](mailto:engagement@starmat.uk)
- Complete our online survey on the Trust website following the engagement events: [www.starmat.uk](http://www.starmat.uk)

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

Yours sincerely

**Ian Yapp**  
CEO  
The STAR Multi Academy Trust

**Nick Sheppard**  
Chair of Trustees  
The STAR Multi Academy Trust

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Enclosed: Frequently Asked Questions