



Monday 27th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you well and that the Christmas and New Year break was a really enjoyable one.

Following my previous letter in the Autumn Term, I'm writing to you with an update regarding our plans to join United Learning Trust. Over the Autumn Term, we took part in the due diligence processes, which included consultations with staff and parents, and recently received confirmation that the United Learning Board of Trustees have given us approval to join.

The final stage of the process involves an application to the DfE to gain their permission to become an Academy and join the trust. This is likely to take a couple of months, with the aim for us to officially join United Learning in time for the next academic year, September 2025. I will update you later in the year on how this progresses.

At this point, I would like to thank all parents that have fed back and those that attended the Trust information evening in November. Some excellent questions have been asked and a positive discussion took place on the night.

Some of the topics that were discussed are below, with a summary of the responses. If you would like additional information, I have reattached the FAQ document that I sent out in November, and a copy of the presentation that was shared with parents at the information evening is available to view on our website.

Topic/Question	Summary Response
What will happen to the financial reserves held by the school when joining the trust?	- United Learning does not pool reserves; the transfer has no impact on the reserves position of the school, and the school can use the reserves they do hold on identified school priorities.
Will the school continue on the school rebuild programme?	- The school will continue with the programme, with the feasibility stage due to start by Easter.
How will local schools in the trust work together?	- Schools are clustered and can work together in a number of ways to benefit staff and students. For example, sharing best practice across subject leaders, joint inset days, student competitions or events. - Schools within a cluster can also support one another at a leadership level and with some more centralised positions, such as an executive business manager across a cluster.
My child has SEND, will they still have access to the same level of support?	- Yes. The trust will work with the school to further develop provision through access to strong practice within the group while also learning from practitioners in the school.
What will the difference be for my child?	- There may not initially be much noticeable difference. In time though, the additional opportunities and range of support on offer to the school will enable improvements across many areas.





Does the trust take a top slice of the budget?	- The trust receive a per pupil amount that is utilised to provide support for schools across a range of areas – this is outlined in detail in the attached FAQ document.
How are catchment areas affected by joining the trust?	- The catchment area won't be affected by joining the trust. The school will continue to work with the Local Authority to best serve the community.
Would students be moved between schools in the trust?	- No, students wouldn't be moved to other schools within the trust. - There may be occasions where things such as respite placements/step outs are supported by other schools in the trust but these already happen, and would continue to happen, with schools outside of the trust
Will the school's vision and values change?	- The school's vision and values will remain the same - From the work already undertaken, it's clear that the vision and values of the school very much align with those of the trust
Can a school leave a trust after joining?	- It's possible but a complex process and hopefully something that wouldn't ever need to be explored
How does teacher training work when part of the trust?	- The school can continue to utilise any teacher training routes that it already uses. In addition, there is a trust teacher training programme, which was recently graded outstanding by Ofsted, that can be utilised by the school.

Thank you for the excellent parental support that we receive. We're really excited about the future of the school and believe that in partnership, we can achieve great things.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Rogers
Headteacher