

INFORMATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONVERSION TO A MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

What is a Multi-Academy Trust?

A Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of academies that are governed by a single academy trust with a board of trustees who are responsible for the strategic oversight of the academy. Each academy has its own governing body.

Why convert?

Schools have always operated within a changing educational landscape and it is the Government's vision that the majority of schools in England will convert to Academy status and will cease to be 'maintained' by their Local Authority. As Denbigh is already an Academy, the Multi-Academy Trust model is the next step in enabling us to work together with other schools to ensure there is a consistently high quality experience for all students; share resources and services more effectively and provide consistent and continuous support for young people in keeping with our ethos.

What are the benefits?

Students and staff have the opportunity to collaborate with other schools on academic projects, enrichment activities, trips and clubs. Staff can also share best practice and expertise and benefit from a broader Continuing Professional Development programme.

Receiving funding directly from the Department for Education (DfE) means that a group of schools could exercise combined purchasing power, and therefore obtain better value for money.

What will it mean for Denbigh?

As an outstanding school, a Teaching School, SCITT and Maths Hub, our success in leading school improvement provides us with opportunities to create a trust and to share this experience to improve the education of students across a number of schools. We believe creating a MAT will provide opportunities for our schools to share best practice, share our best resources and to improve and manage efficiencies, particularly the back office functions across schools (e.g. payroll, HR & IT).

What doesn't change?

Each Academy in the Multi-Academy Trust would still be bound by the statutory codes for Special Educational Needs and the Admissions criteria for each school would remain unchanged.

If we proceed, when will the change be made?

If the proposed change to become a MAT goes ahead, the expectation is that the new arrangements will start at the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year, September 2016.

Who will lead the conversion process to become a MAT?

The Headteacher, Leadership Team and governors of Denbigh School will direct and drive the process, development, and implementation to become a MAT.

We welcome and encourage your views. The consultation process will start on Thursday 28th April and run for four weeks until Thursday 26th May, 2016. Please forward any comments or questions to headteacher@denbigh.net.