

29 April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

SOUTH BANK ACADEMY TRUST UPDATE

As we approach the end of our first month as the South Bank Multi Academy Trust (MAT), we wanted to give you more information on how the MAT is taking shape, what we'll be working on over the next few months and how we're responding to the ever-changing education landscape.

Roles and Responsibilities

Although the MAT is governed by the Board of Trustees, day-to-day running at Trust level is delegated to the Headteacher Group, which comprises all the Headteachers of our schools. Their roles are:

- Trevor Burton (Millthorpe) - Trust Principal and Accounting Officer. As Accounting Officer, Trevor is the senior officer of the MAT responsible to Parliament and the Department for Education (DfE) for the proper use of our funding. As Principal, he is also responsible for providing the DfE with a point of contact and a holistic view of the MAT's performance.
- Anna Cornhill (Scarcroft) - Headteacher Group Chair. As Chair of the Headteacher Group, Anna will chair the Headteacher Group across the MAT and coordinate its work. A National Leader of Education, Anna is also responsible for school-to-school improvement and developing our curricula.
- Adam Cooper (Knavesmire) - Adam is responsible for communications and for working with any schools that may wish to join our MAT in future (see below).

Next Steps

Our priorities this term are:

- Finding opportunities for staff from the different schools to share expertise, particularly in relation to enriching the curriculum, and easing the transition between primary and secondary schools.
- Developing our financial procedures and controls to ensure robust accountability and best value for money.
- Delivering training to Trustees, Governors and staff to ensure everyone understands their roles in the new structure.

The Bigger Picture

When we consulted on the MAT proposal last year, we envisioned that the MAT would grow slowly over time. Since then, however, the education landscape has changed dramatically - most recently with the publication of the government's white paper proposing that all schools should be required to become academies by 2022.

In light of these changes, many schools in York have been considering their options with regard to academisation. From the beginning, our MAT was an inclusive project that grew out of discussions with other local schools. Given the changing situation, it is possible that other schools may be interested in joining our MAT sooner than we originally thought. If this happens, we will look to support mutually beneficial partnerships, while preserving the ethos and capacity of the MAT. We will keep you fully informed of any developments.

Further Information

We are currently updating the MAT website, which is at www.southbanktrust.co.uk. This will soon have full details of our Trustees, Headteachers and Governors, as well as our Articles of Association, Scheme of Delegation and other relevant documents. In the meantime, as ever, if you have any questions about the MAT, please don't hesitate to contact us via the Clerk to the Board, Lesley Buckley, on 01904 686404 or clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk.

Yours faithfully



Edwin Thomas
Chair of Trustees



Nicki Mitchell
Vice Chair of Trustees