



10.7.18 Statement on trust merger and next steps

Since the Trust Board last wrote to you in June, Members and Trustees of the Adventure Learning Academies Trust (ALAT) and Bright Tribe Trust have been working together to review the strategic direction of the trusts and the proposed merger of ALAT and Bright Tribe.

Board meetings held on 6th July approved a number of resolutions to develop the future organisation of the trusts. These included the appointment of new Member-Directors to oversee the delivery of the trusts' objectives and the stepping down of the prior corporate members.

Trustees are delighted to welcome the new Members – who bring significant experience of education to the governance structure - and wish to thank its outgoing members - Helping Hands Trust Ltd. and Adventure Learning Schools – and their Representative Michael Dwan for their contributions to the establishment and development of the Trusts over a number of years.

The new Members have confirmed that the proposed merger will not now progress and that separate trust boards will be formed to enable each trust to work more effectively at local level.

Trustees are also very pleased to welcome additional Trustees appointed by the new Member-Directors – who bring significant experience and skill from the education sector and industry. The names and brief profiles will be posted on the trusts websites today. Trust boards have been asked to meet at the very earliest opportunity with a brief from Member-Directors to strengthen both independent and collaborative working practice to continue to drive school improvement.

For the Trustees of both boards, the Chair commented “Bright Tribe Trust and ALAT will continue to work together in a mutually supportive role, sharing best practice and resources, with the new organisation providing opportunity to further develop other local partnerships relevant to the delivery of the unique vision of each trust in order to further strengthen outcomes for all children and young people in its academies”.

This decision will not change the day to day running of schools in either Trust which will continue to focus on the education of children as it's number one priority.

FAQs:

Who are the new members?

Bright Tribe Trust

Ruth Dolan (Continuing Member)

Kate Brunt – CEO The Rivers C. of E. Academy Trust, Worcester, Member of the West Midlands Head Teacher Board, a member of the Department of Education's Head Teacher Reference Group, a National Leader in Education, and a Lead Ofsted Inspector

Teresa Tunnadine CBE – CEO Middlesex Learning Trust, Regional Coordinator for Teaching Schools in North West London and South Central England and a member of the North West London South Central Head Teacher Board

Adventure Learning Academy Trust

Ruth Dolan (Continuing Member)

Paul Jones OBE – Education Consultant, PLJ Education Consultancy; Retired CEO First Federation MAT; NLE; South West Head Teacher Board member

Lorraine Heath – Headteacher, Uffculme School, founding school of Uffculme Academy Trust, and lead school within the West Country Teaching School Alliance; former South West Head Teacher Board member

Who are the new trustees?

Bright Tribe Trust

Sarah Brown – Ex Head of Cash, Barclays and experienced Non-Executive Director.

Nikki King OBE – Former Managing Director and Honorary Chairman, Isuzu Trucks Limited; Chairman of the Greenacre Academies Trust; Member of Head Teacher Board; Individual Mentor for young people; instrumental in the creation of the Recovery Industry Support Charity.

Angela Barry – CEO, Woodland Academy Trust Headteacher, National Leader of Education, Mentor, Educationalist, Interim CEO Schools Company.

Others remain as current

Adventure Learning Academy Trust

Dave Baker – CEO Olympus Academy Trust, elected member of the Head Teacher Board for the South West 2014-17, Trustee on Board of Bristol City Community Trust

Alan Edwards – Managing Director of SLR, a global environmental professional services company providing environmental consultancy services to the private & public sector across the UK and internationally.

Antony Power – Head of Education at Michelmores with extensive previous experience in commercial property, social housing and Private Finance Initiative projects.

Others remain as current

What are the financial implications for both Trusts and their schools?

There will be no change to the current arrangements for individual school funding