

 #MATformation

Establishing or Joining Multi-Academy Trusts:

Ensuring strong leadership, identity and collaboration

www.oego.co/MATformation

Expert speakers include:

Brian Lightman

Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL

Libby Nicholas

CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust

Carol Dewhurst

Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust

KEY BENEFITS

PROS AND CONS

A factual, balanced debate on the benefits and pitfalls

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Make the right decision for your school or academy's future

LEGAL CLARITY

Step by step guides from top education lawyers

Establishing or Joining Multi-Academy Trusts

Develop your roadmap for joining or forming a MAT, retain your school's identity and understand the pros and cons of different models for an efficient transition

The Government have made their plans for a school-led improvement system clear, and Multi-Academy Trusts sit at the very heart. However, joining or forming a MAT is serious undertaking. To ensure the best future for your school or academy, it is vital you understand the pros and cons of different models, know what options are available and act on practical, unbiased and legal guidance.

- Are you concerned about losing your school's individual identity?
- Do you know how to establish a MAT and avoid the common pitfalls?
- Are you worried about forced academisation and want to 'jump' rather than be 'pushed'?

This timely, national conference gives you a chance to take stock, ask your burning questions and find the right path for your school.

Key focuses on the day include:

- hear from a range of existing MATs and gain a varied, unbiased view of the pros and cons of different models and leadership structures
- understand what to look for in a potential MAT partner to enable you to retain your individual school identity
- ask your key questions to top education lawyers to ensure you remain compliant and avoid the common pitfalls.

This is much more than a one-day conference, gain access to a wealth of wraparound resources from optimus-education.com to provide further support back at school. Head to oego.co/MATformation to create your free delegate account and find out more.

Who should attend?

- Headteachers
- Principals
- School Business Managers
- Finance Managers
- School Governors and Trustees

This year's speakers include...



Brian Lightman

Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL

Brian Lightman was General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders from September 2010 - January 2016. Now a self-employed leadership specialist, he has a wide ranging portfolio which includes working with individual and groups of schools providing coaching for middle and senior leaders, professional development and support for school improvement.



Libby Nicholas

CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust

With degrees in English & Philosophy, Libby wanted to teach and help young people. She completed her PGCE and progressed quickly from teaching English to increasingly senior roles in positions such as Head of Year, Assistant Head, Headteacher, Deputy Director of Education at the Girls' Day School Trust and Regional Director of Education for the South & West at the Academies Enterprise Trust.



Robert Hill

Education Consultant, Writer, Analyst and Visiting Professor, UCL Institute of Education

Robert's work focuses on supporting the development of effective multi-academy trusts (MATs), teaching school alliances and other forms of school partnership. He also contributes to the Future Leaders' programme for executive principals and chief executive officers of MATs.



Nick MacKenzie

Partner, Browne Jacobson

Nick leads the education team on corporate and governance matters and also heads up the firm's Birmingham education team. He has particular expertise in developing innovative approaches to academy groups, collaborations in the education sector (including all types of college and school on collaborations and joint ventures) and Teaching Schools.



Scott Walker

Regional Director, Academy Ambassadors

Scott Walker taught maths and ICT in secondary schools for 20 years before working as a school improvement advisor for an LA and then the DfE. He led the national programme to mainstream the work of Excellence in Cities and then became one of the national advisers to the academies programme. He continues to work part-time for the DfE as an education adviser on the academies free school programme.



Carol Dewhurst

Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust

Carol has been Chief Executive Officer of Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust since April 2014 overseeing the Trust growth from a three school MAT to Trust of 10 schools and over 7,000 pupils. Carol's work for BDAT also enables her to support a number of regional and national initiatives, most recently advising the Diocese of Leeds on their academy strategy and chairing the DfE West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership on collaborative working across education in the region.

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| 09:00 – 09:40 | Registration, refreshments and networking with attendees from your local area | |
| 09:40 – 10:00 | Chair's Introduction & Welcome <i>Brian Lightman, Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL</i> | |
| 10:00 – 10:40 | The role of system leadership in a rapidly changing educational landscape: What is the place of single and multi-academy trusts and how do we ensure that the system has enough capacity to support the schools that are not yet good enough? | |
| 10:40 – 11:30 | Understand the benefits of MATs and how to unlock them: Economies of scale, shared resources, recruitment, retention and meaningful collaboration – real world examples of the benefits and potential challenges of MATs The MATs debate A factual, balanced debate on the pros and cons of joining or creating a MAT <i>Libby Nicholas, CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust</i> <i>Robert Hill, Education Consultant, Writer, Analyst and Visiting Professor, UCL Institute of Education</i> <i>Carol Dewhurst, Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust</i> | |
| 11:30 – 11:40 | Questions | |
| 11:40 – 12:10 | Morning Refreshments | |
| 12:10 – 13:00 | Targeted workshops: Pick and choose your sessions depending on your current position | |
| 1A: How to set up a MAT | 1B: Retaining your ethos and identity | 1C: Academy conversion process |
| Your step-by-step guide to forming a MAT: Understand the key characteristics of existing MAT models and structures, successfully develop your business plan and avoid common pitfalls <i>Nick Mackenzie, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP</i> | Joining a MAT and retaining your own identity: Recognise the non-negotiable areas you want to preserve and understand what to look for in a MAT to maintain your individual school ethos <i>Brian Lightman, Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL</i> <i>Steve Taylor, Executive Headteacher, Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust</i> | Clarify the legal process of converting: How to apply for academy status, your consultation requirements and the key steps for a successful conversion <i>Gain access to our academy conversion governor briefing to share with your governing body</i> |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Networking Lunch | |
| 14:00 – 14:50 | Targeted workshops | |
| 2A: Sustainable growth | 2B: The process of joining a MAT | 2C: Financial responsibility and compliance |
| Develop a foundation for sustainable growth in a MAT: Use technology effectively, centralise services and avoid the common pitfalls of expansion to ensure your MAT is future-proofed | Understand the legal process of academy transfers and recognise the essential steps for you and your chosen MAT to ensure a smooth process and harmonious relationship <i>Plus, gain a toolkit of essential questions to ask any potential partner</i> <i>Nick Mackenzie, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP</i> | Clarify your financial obligations as a standalone academy or MAT, report clearly to the EFA and ensure robust financial management and compliance across your organisation <i>Gillian Pigott CPFA, Director of Business Finance and Development, Tudhoe Learning Trust</i> |
| 14:50 – 15:20 | Roundtable discussions | |
| 3A: Building a board | 3B: Attracting the right partners | 3C: Staff |
| Good governance in MATs and how it works in practice: Understand how existing governance and leadership structures will change when you become a MAT and how to build a board to drive improvements <i>Scott Walker, Regional Director, Academy Ambassadors</i> | Marketing your values and culture to attract potential partner schools to enable open, constructive discussions whilst negating the fear of aggressive takeovers | Understand the impact joining a MAT or converting to an academy can have on staff terms and conditions, recruitment and retention and manage potential concerns from colleagues |
| 15:20 – 15:40 | Afternoon refreshments | |
| 15:40 – 16:30 | Targeted workshops | |
| 4A: Funding and finance | 4B: Identifying the right MAT | 4C: Governance |
| Clarify the different approaches to finance across your MAT, understand 'top-slicing' and know how to pool and distribute funds fairly to ensure financial stability | Understand the strengths and weaknesses of your school, the pros and cons of different MAT structures and identify which type of MAT would be the best fit to support your school <i>Steve Taylor, Executive Headteacher, Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust</i> <i>Carol Dewhurst, Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust</i> | How does the role of existing school governors change when joining a MAT: Understand the differences between local governing bodies and local advisory bodies and know what robust governance in a MAT looks like <i>Libby Nicholas, CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust</i> |
| 16:30 | Conference Close | |

Establishing or Joining Multi-Academy Trusts

One Day National Conference - 29th March 2017, Leeds

How to register

1. Book online and receive instant confirmation

oego.co/MATformation

2. Email: james.allen@optimus-education.com

3. Questions: Call James on 020 3325 0362

Please see

www.oego.co/TandCs for our subscriptions, cancellations and refund policy

Pricing

| Prices | |
|---------------|---|
| Primary | £299 + VAT |
| Secondary | £379 + VAT |
| LAs | £429 + VAT |
| Others | £459 + VAT |
| Unlimited CPD | Included in your Unlimited CPD membership fee |

1

Before
the day

Create your account at oego.co/Delegate and find out what changes to expect when you're in a MAT

PLUS

- Use the self-assessment survey to reflect on your current situation
- Gain access to the Multi-Academy Trust myth busting webinar
- Read the article on working together for school improvement

2

During
the day

Have your burning questions answered by top education lawyers and existing MAT leaders

PLUS

- Discuss challenges with peers and build up a network of support
- Select targeted workshops to suit your specific need
- A toolkit of essential questions to ask any potential partners

3

After
the day

Log in to oego.co/MATformation-resources to access a range of resources to aid your transition

PLUS

- Use the self-assessment survey to see what you've learnt
- Gain a legally approved due diligence checklist

4

Share
across your school

Share our resource pack with your governors or trustees to provide clarity on their responsibilities

PLUS

- Access the MATs report on growing a MAT successfully and sustainably
- Download the speaker presentations and share these with colleagues

Start accessing these resources today by creating a free delegate account on oego.co/MATformation-resources

Remember, Optimus Unlimited members can attend and access resources for 35+ conferences a year!
Get in touch to learn more