

Establishing or Joining Multi-Academy Trusts:

Ensuring strong leadership, identity and collaboration

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

29th March 2017, Leeds

09:00 – 09:40	Registration, refreshments and networking with attendees from your local area		
09:40 – 10:00 Chair's Introduction	Chair's introduction and welcome <i>Brian Lightman, Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL</i>		
10:00 – 10:30 Educational landscape	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? <i>Chris Tweedale, Chief Executive, Aldridge Education</i>		
10:30 – 11:20 The MATs debate	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 <i>A factual, balanced debate on the pros and cons of joining or creating a MAT</i> <i>Brian Lightman, Education Consultant and former General Secretary of ASCL</i> <i>Libby Nicholas, CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust</i> <i>Carol Dewhurst, Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust</i>		
11:20 – 11:30	Questions		
11:30 – 12:00	Morning refreshments		
12:00 – 12:50	Targeted workshops: Pick and choose your sessions depending on your current position		
	Setting up a MAT <i>The following sessions will address the key challenges of forming a MAT</i>	Joining a MAT <i>The following sessions will provide guidance for those looking to join an existing MAT</i>	Options and challenges <i>The following sessions will cover various options and provide guidance on key challenges</i>
	1A	1B	1C
	How to set up a MAT	Retaining your ethos and identity	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>	Is it possible to join a MAT and retain 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> <i>Adrian Shardlow, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP</i>
12:50 – 13:50	Networking Lunch		
13:50 – 14:40	Targeted workshops		
	2A	2B	2C
	Leadership and governance	Identifying the right MAT	Managing multiple schools

<p>How does existing school leadership and accountability change when joining a MAT: Understand the differences between local governing bodies and local advisory bodies and know what robust leadership in a MAT looks like</p> <p><i>Libby Nicholas, CEO, Reach4 Academy Trust</i></p>	<p><i>Large chains vs. small local MATs Multi-phase vs. single-phase MATs</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Steve Taylor, Executive Headteacher, Robin Hood Multi Academy Trust Carol Dewhurst, Chief Executive Officer, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust</i></p>	<p>Scaling up without blowing up: how to effectively manage multiple schools as a trust, embed consistent working practices that work locally whilst providing central oversight, reporting and appropriate intervention</p> <p><i>Adam Watson, Director, Every</i></p>
<p>14:40 – 15:10 Building a board</p>	<p>Building a board: Good governance in MATs and how it works in practice: Understand existing governance and leadership structures will change when you become a MAT and how to build a board to drive improvements</p> <p><i>Scott Walker, Regional Director, Academy Ambassadors</i></p>	
<p>15:10 – 15:30</p>	<p>Afternoon refreshments</p>	
<p>15:30 – 16:20</p>	<p>Targeted workshops</p>	
<p>3A</p>	<p>3B</p>	<p>3C</p>
<p>Financial responsibility and compliance</p>	<p>The process of joining a MAT</p>	<p>Sustainable growth</p>
<p>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</p> <p><i>Andy Bird, CEO, Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust</i></p>	<p>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</p> <p><i>Plus, gain a toolkit of essential questions to ask any potential partner</i></p> <p><i>Nick Mackenzie, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP</i></p>	<p>Develop a foundation for sustainable growth in a MAT, centralise services and avoid the common pitfalls of expansion to ensure your MAT is future-proofed</p> <p><i>Andrew Lagden, Educational Consultant</i></p>
<p>16:20</p>	<p>Conference Close</p>	