

Establishing or Joining Multi-Academy Trusts

Legal support, practical strategies and unbiased advice to support and guide your decision to join or form a Multi-Academy Trust

29th November 2017, London

09:00 – 09:45	Registration and refreshments		
09:45 – 10:00	Chair's Introduction & Welcome <i>Brian Lightman, Education Consultant & former General Secretary of ASCL</i>		
10:00 – 10:30 Keynote 1	In conversation with Dr Tim Coulson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The key benefits that involvement in a MAT can provide - Effective MAT leadership: challenges, opportunities and common pitfalls - The role of the RSC and what the future might look like <i>Dr Tim Coulson, Chief Executive, Samuel Ward Academy Trust & former Regional Schools Commissioner</i>		
10:30 – 11:10 Keynote 2	The MATs debate: A factual, balanced discussion on the pros and cons of joining or establishing a Multi-Academy Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there such a thing as economies of scale in the majority of MATs? - Does joining a MAT have to result in diminished autonomy? - Is it possible to maintain your school values whilst embracing a new ethos - Are MATs successfully improving student outcomes and raising standards? - What is the role of 'trust' in a MAT? <i>Clare Collins MBE, Head of Consultancy, National Governance Association</i> <i>Nick Mackenzie, Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP</i>		
11:10 – 11:20	Questions		
11:20 – 11:50	Morning Refreshments		
11:50 – 12:15 Keynote 3	Rethinking models for efficient financial operations: Know what to outsource, understand the technology required and gain tips to maintain a robust, consistent financial process across a trust <i>David Bond, Financial Controller, Lion Academy Trust & Lion Education Trust</i>		
12:15 – 13:00	Streamed Sessions 1		
	1A	1B	1C
	A practical guide to forming a MAT	Due diligence	MAT-wide technology and cost saving
	Practical insights from a recently formed Multi-Academy Trust on the processes, pitfalls and compliancy issues involved in setting up a MAT <i>Gain a process checklist on the journey</i> <i>Jeremy Rowe, CEO & Ali O'Connor, Director of Business and Finance, Waveney Valley Academies Trust</i>	Understand the due diligence process, clarify the different approaches available and ensure the financial and legal position of the whole group is clear and transparent <i>Nick Mackenzie, Partner, Jamie Otter, Legal Director & Natasha Duckett, HR Consultant, Browne Jacobson LLP</i>	Key steps and tips to successfully utilise technology to realise cost savings and enable sustainable growth of a Multi-Academy Trust <i>Jesse Johnson, Head of Multi-Academy Trusts, RM Education</i>
13:00 – 13:50	Lunch		
13:50 – 14:40	Streamed Sessions 2		
	2A	2B	2C
	Retaining autonomy	Staff structures and HR	The evolving role of the SBM
	<i>Can you join a MAT and retain your autonomy?</i> How to identify your non-negotiables and find the right MAT to allow individual school decision making <i>Leave with a list of questions to ask potential partners</i> <i>Karen Burns, Chief Executive, Carillion Academies Trust</i>	Enhance retention by successfully harmonising staff terms and conditions, reassuring employees and unlocking the benefits of the larger workforce available through a MAT <i>Naseem Nabi, Partner, Veale Wasbrough Vizards</i>	Moving from an operational to strategic role: Clarify new responsibilities and gain strategies to manage increased workload and accountability <i>Matthew Clements-Wheeler, Business Manager and Deputy Head, Bordesley Green Girls' School</i>

14:40 – 15:00	Afternoon Refreshments		
15:00 – 15:50	Streamed Sessions 3		
	3A	3B	3C
	Finance	Exploring approaches to local governance in MATs	The role of the CEO
	Financial compliance as a Trust: Clarify your legal financial obligations, understand the different financial structures and ensure robust financial management <i>NASBM Representative</i>	Understand how the roles and responsibilities of your existing governing body is likely to change when joining an MAT <i>Clare Collins MBE, Head of Consultancy, National Governance Association</i>	How to manage the transition from Headteacher to MAT leader: New responsibilities, crucial first steps and ensuring support from key stakeholders <i>Karen Burns, Chief Executive, Carillion Academies Trust</i>
15:50 – 16:20 Keynote 4	What does the research say about the success of the Multi-Academy Trust movement and has enough research been conducted to present tangible arguments about the benefits of MATs? <i>Karen Wespieser, Head of Impact, National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)</i>		
16:20 – 16:30	Questions		
16:30	Conference Close		