

**19
Mar
2024**

The Lowry Hotel,
Manchester

**Increase trust capacity and
drive improvement while
prioritising risk management
in a time of uncertainty.**

Building a High Quality Trust

EXPERT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Liz Anderson

Education Leadership
Consultant, Former Trust CEO

Mark Unwin

CEO,
Create Partnership Trust

Jonny Uttley

CEO,
The Education Alliance

Collaboration

Connect with other trusts in your region to learn from mistakes and benefit from successes.

Stability

Ensure you retain key staff, have clear succession protocols, and monitor your trust capacity.

Quality

Evidence your strengths clearly and improve weaknesses to boost your trust's reputation.



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*Includes one free place at up to 10 conferences, with 50% off any further delegate places

**Includes one free place at any of our conferences, with 50% off any further delegate places

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or call 020 8315 1506

optimus-education.com/membership

Welcome

to Building a High Quality Trust. We're delighted to see you!



Liz Anderson
Education Leadership Consultant,
Former Trust CEO
Conference Chair

Which workshop did I choose?

Your workshop choices are printed on your badge. If you wish to change sessions, or have any enquiries, visit our registration desk.

General enquiries

Need any help? Visit our registration desk. Remember to take good care of any valuables as neither the venue nor Optimus Education can be responsible for any loss or damage.

What else does Optimus Education do?

You can find out more about Optimus Education, our membership, awards, and in-house training centre at our stand.

Your views matter

At the end of each session, there will be a QR code. Please scan this to share your views on the session.

We really do appreciate your feedback, as it helps inform our future events and further improve conferences to best suit your needs.

What's coming up?

Visit optimus-education.com for more information on upcoming conferences and training events. Don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions, want to book your next conference, or receive any further information about Optimus Education:

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Access resources

What's in the resource area?

As well as every speaker's slides, you'll find these additional resources.

[MAT CEO skills audit](#)

[Five ways to make your MAT more sustainable](#)

[MATs: how can you support your communities?](#)

[How can you make your MAT attractive?](#)

[MAT operations: pitfalls to avoid](#)

How do I access the resource area?

Visit: oego.co/Build-a-Trust

Click Access Resources

Log in with your usual Optimus details.

Not got an account yet?

Click **create a free delegate account** to get set up.

Be sure to register with the email address used to book your conference place.

You'll receive an email with a one-time link which will take you into your new account.



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IMP ICFP



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Multi-year capabilities

Let's book a time to have a chat

Book now



Programme

09:00 – 09:55 Registration, refreshments, and networking

09:55 – 10:00 Welcome and housekeeping from Optimus Education – part of Shaw Trust

10:00 – 10:20 Chair's welcome and what's your growth intention?

Liz Anderson, Education Leadership Consultant, Former Trust CEO

10:20 – 10:50 Lessons from trust growth

Discover pitfalls and successes from recent trust growth, including how an approach was made and how the integration process occurred.

Dan Thomas, CEO, The Learning Partnership

10:50 – 11:10 How are developing MATs embedding an agile, needs based approach to financial management?

Embed value for money principles into your trust ethos, curriculum planning and financial planning to ensure that resources are both deliberately allocated and regularly assessed against trust priorities.

Will Jordan, Co-founder and CEO, IMP Software

11:10 – 11:20 Q&A

11:20 – 12:00 Morning refreshments, networking, and exhibition

12:00 – 12:50 Workshop choices 1

1A – THE GRAND BALLROOM

Create a robust financial roadmap for an expanding MAT

As your trust grows, have an effective and efficient long-term strategy in place for stability.

Liam Knowles, Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Leading Learners MAT

1B – MEETING ROOMS 2, 3 & 4

Develop and retain high-performing staff

Create an innovative professional learning programme that attracts staff and furthers their growth.

Lisa Fathers, Deputy CEO, Bright Futures Educational Trust

1C – MEETING ROOMS 7 & 8

Craft your digital strategy

Develop your vision, transform it into a tangible reality, and understand what effective digital leadership looks like in line with DfE standards.

Ricky Brown, Teacher and Apple Professional Learning Specialist, Sync

12:50 – 13:45 Lunch, networking, and exhibition

13:45 – 14:35 Workshop choices 2

2A – MEETING ROOMS 7 & 8

Community collaboration

Deepen roots in your communities, connecting with families and other trusts to strengthen your impact and improve your visibility.

Dr Aneela Bukhari, Head of Education, Ormiston Trust

2B – THE GRAND BALLROOM

Drive school improvement at scale with trust collaboration

Drive your improvement at scale across your schools, ensuring lessons are learned and shared.

Paul K. Ainsworth, Education Director, Infinity Academies Trust

2C – MEETING ROOMS 2,3 & 4

Enhancing governance

A perspective on a leader's role in empowering trustees with quality assurance, compliance, and strategic insight.

Mark Unwin, CEO, CREATE Partnership

14:35 – 14:55 Afternoon refreshments, networking, and exhibition

14:55 – 15:30 Resilient organisations start with strong succession plans

Develop the next leaders in your trust so you can backfill in case of trust growth, promotion, departure, or absence.

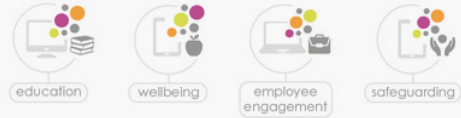
Jonny Uttley, CEO, The Education Alliance.

15:30 Conference close



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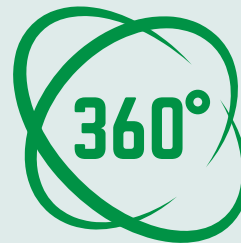
Safeguarding

Pinpoint the exact origin of issues before they escalate.
Validate existing policies.
Give everyone in your care a voice!



Benchmarking

External Benchmarking Compare against other schools & MATs.
MAT Benchmarking Compare your own schools against each other.
Internal Benchmarking Compare classes & years within each school



360 Analysis

Rate your own skills.
Compare to how your colleagues rate your skills.
Measure and monitor improvement or negative changes over time.

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Links & Downloads

[Information Pack](#)

[Example Report](#)

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Upcoming conferences

Optimus Education's conferences bring school leaders and managers together, helping you go back to your school ready to implement practical strategies and new policies that work.

March

National Career Guidance Show (NCGS) North

20 MARCH, LEEDS

Embrace. Evolve. Succeed: preparing for future careers in the ever-changing world of work.

 [#NCGS2024](#)

MAT Regional Network: North East

25 MARCH, SUNDERLAND

Gatherings of educational leaders and innovators that cover five major areas in the UK.

 [#oeMATs](#)

MAT Regional Network: Central Midlands

26 MARCH, NOTTINGHAM

Gatherings of educational leaders and innovators that cover five major areas in the UK.

 [#oeMATs](#)

MAT Regional Network: North West

27 MARCH, OLDHAM

Gatherings of educational leaders and innovators that cover five major areas in the UK.

 [#oeMATs](#)

April

National Career Guidance Show (NCGS)

17 APRIL, LONDON

Embrace. Evolve. Succeed: preparing for future careers in the ever-changing world of work.

 [#NCGS2024](#)

MAT Regional Network: South East

17 APRIL, GILLINGHAM

Gatherings of educational leaders and innovators that cover five major areas in the UK.

 [#oeMATs](#)

May

SEND Provision

14 MAY, LONDON

Confidently lead SEND provision with high-quality teaching and pastoral support, built upon a foundation of strong and compassionate relationships with students and families.

 [#oeSEND](#)

HR Update and People Strategy

15 MAY, LONDON

Refresh your knowledge with legal updates and industry advice to deepen the impact of your people strategy.

 [#oeHR](#)

June

MAT Regional Network: South

4 JUNE, PORTSMOUTH

Gatherings of educational leaders and innovators that cover five major areas in the UK.

 [#oeMATs](#)

Leading Safeguarding 2024

13 JUNE, LONDON

Future proof your safeguarding practice and strengthen your leadership to deepen your impact.

 [#oeSafeguarding](#)

MAT Excellence in Action

27 JUNE, SOLIHULL

Improve strategy across your trust and learn from the impact achieved by trusts recognised through the MAT Excellence Awards.

 [#oeMATs](#)

MAT Excellence Awards

27 JUNE, SOLIHULL

Celebrate impact and achievements in your multi-academy trust.

 [#MATExcellenceAwards](#)

September

Child Protection in Education

17 SEPTEMBER, LONDON

Strengthen your safeguarding skillset with updated guidance and tools at the 20th annual conference.

 [#CPinEd](#)

October

Child Protection in Education

1 OCTOBER, MANCHESTER

Strengthen your safeguarding skillset with updated guidance and tools at the 20th annual conference.

 [#CPinEd](#)

November

Mental Health & Wellbeing in Schools

15 NOVEMBER, LONDON

Confidently lead mental health and wellbeing provision to enable your staff and students to thrive.

 [#oeWellbeing](#)

MATs Summit

27-29 NOVEMBER, BEDFORDSHIRE

Exclusively designed for executive officers within MATs, influenced by extensive research and feedback from across the sector.

 [#oeMATs](#)

Speakers



Liz Anderson

Education Leadership Consultant, Former Trust CEO

Liz entered the education profession following a successful 10 years in industry working in sales, training and people development. She has since led significant improvement in schools, both as headteacher and as CEO of Djanogly Learning Trust. Liz was instrumental in forming the Trust which now has nine schools in the East Midlands, all serving disadvantaged communities. As a school leader and MAT CEO, Liz also has extensive experience building a MAT from its formation to successfully sponsoring nine academies. She has worked in partnership with local authorities, other MATs and the DfE to share best practice. Liz is now working with other trusts looking to further develop and grow.



Paul K Ainsworth

Director of Education, Infinity Academies Trust

Paul has held director of school improvement roles in four multi-academy trusts and is currently education director with Infinity Academies Trust in Lincolnshire and facilitates the Education Executives Network for Forum Strategy Group. He has supported leaders of small rural primary schools to large 11 to 18 urban secondaries, working intensively with those in Ofsted categories. He is the author of nine books and his latest work is *No Silver Bullets: Day-in, day-out school improvement*. He has spoken at many educational conferences and a TEDx.



Ricky Brown

Teacher and Apple Professional Learning Specialist, Sync

With over 20 years of experience in the education sector, Ricky works with organisations around the UK to enhance the way they use technology. Ricky's specialist subjects include leadership and management, accessibility, and strategic planning. He currently leads the CPD and training for educational specialist Sync and co-ordinates projects for a range of schools, colleges and charities - including Family Fund and Guide Dogs Association for the Blind.



Dr. Aneela Bukhari

Head of Education, Ormiston Trust

Aneela provides strategic and managerial oversight for the YSA programme for roll out in schools across England, within the Ormiston network, as well as external schools. Prior to this, she was head of school improvement and CPD in the largest privately-owned school system in the world, which has a portfolio of over 200 private schools and employs over 8000 teachers in Southeast Asia. She was a faculty member at a university teaching BA and Masters in Education as well as advisor to the Ministry of Education in the UAE.



Lisa Fathers

Deputy CEO, Bright Futures Educational Trust

Lisa has more than 25 years' experience in education, as a teacher, leader and executive MAT leader and NLE. Lisa has strategic oversight of school improvement, risk and assurance, and people development. She has a real passion for talent development, alongside MAT to MAT collaboration and stakeholder engagement. Lisa has a wealth of experience of delivering training to a wide range of clients from a diverse range of sectors. She is a mental health first aid instructor and led the first ever Greater Manchester Mentally Healthy School programme which won a national award.

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Speakers



Will Jordan

Co-Founder and CEO, IMP Software

Will Jordan FCCA has worked with academies and MATs since the first 'phase two' academies opened in September 2010. As a qualified accountant and financial technology specialist, Will now works with established multi academy trusts to strengthen their financial planning and reporting processes by replacing legacy software with MAT specific, agile tools.



Liam Knowles

Chief Finance and Operations Officer, Leading Learners Multi Academy Trust

Liam has over 15 years' experience across various finance and audit functions in not for profit organisations. He has been with Leading Learners MAT since June 2020 and has helped facilitate the Trust's organisational maturity and growth to 10 schools, with more on the horizon. Liam is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Managers Institute (CMI). He is passionate about equity of opportunity, ensuring pupils receive the best possible experience, and is proud to be a board member of a community-focussed housing association.



Dan Thomas

CEO, The Learning Partnership

Formed of two local trusts, The Learning Alliance and The Learning for Life Partnership, Dan oversees a diverse new multi-academy trust containing 15 schools. They deliver excellent educational provision for pupils in primary and secondary schools across the North West. Dan works across the trust to help make sure they meet their ambitious goals. As well as setting forward-looking direction, and assisting The Learning Partnership's experienced and knowledgeable trustees, his role includes ensuring that schools are supported very well, including in relation to their leadership.



Mark Unwin

CEO, Create Partnership Trust

Mark is a highly accomplished education professional, bringing a wealth of expertise as CEO at Create Partnership Trust. With a background that includes serving as a deputy CEO, executive headteacher, headteacher, school improvement partner, visiting fellow, and university visiting tutor, he has demonstrated strong leadership abilities in various educational settings. Throughout his career, he has led schools serving across a range of communities, in cities including London, Manchester, Liverpool, Stoke and Birmingham and has demonstrated an ability to transform schools.



Jonny Uttley

CEO, The Education Alliance Multi-Academy Trust

Jonny has been in post since April 2018, having previously been head teacher at South Hunsley School. TEAL is a trust of ten schools in East Yorkshire, Hull and York, serving over 6500 students, and a SCITT which trains around 60 new entrants to the profession each year. As a National Leader of Education, he has worked with schools in many different contexts and is committed to a school improvement approach that puts real ethical leadership at the heart of our system, so schools create cultures in which staff genuinely thrive. Jonny is also an elected member of the DfE Advisory Board for Yorkshire and the Humber.



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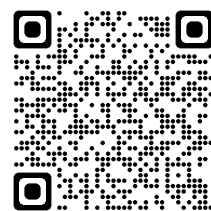
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- Mrs A Martin, CEO, QEGS MAT

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The flagship summit for multi-academy trusts returns in 2024, designed exclusively for MAT leadership teams

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Trusts in attendance

Archbishop Temple Multi Academy Trust
Aston Community Education Trust
Central England Academy Trust
Consilium Academies
Create Partnership Trust
E-ACT
Education Learning Trust
Empower Trust
Flying High Trust
Hoddesden St Paul's Church of England Primary School
Inspiring Learners Multi Academy Trust
Isle Education Trust
Leading Learners Multi Academy Trust
Leger Education Trust
Marches Academy Trust
Mighty Oaks Academy Trust
New Collaborative Learning Trust
Northern Star Academies Trust
OAK Multi Academy Trust
Omnia Learning Trust
One Excellence Multi Academy Trust

Ormiston Academies Trust
OWLS Academy Trust
QUEST (A Church of England) Schools Trust
Rainbow Education Multi-Academy Trust
Severn Academies Educational Trust
St Barnabas Church Of England Multi Academy Trust
St Chad's Academies Trust
St Lawrence Academies Trust
St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust
The Bridge London Trust
The Laurus Trust
The Oak Trust
The Priestley Academy Trust
The Rosedale Hewens Academy Trust
The STAR Multi Academy Trust
The Sycamore Church of England Trust
Together Learning Partnership
Vantage Academies Trust
Victoria Academies Trust
White Woods Primary Academy Trust
Youth Engagement Schools Trust

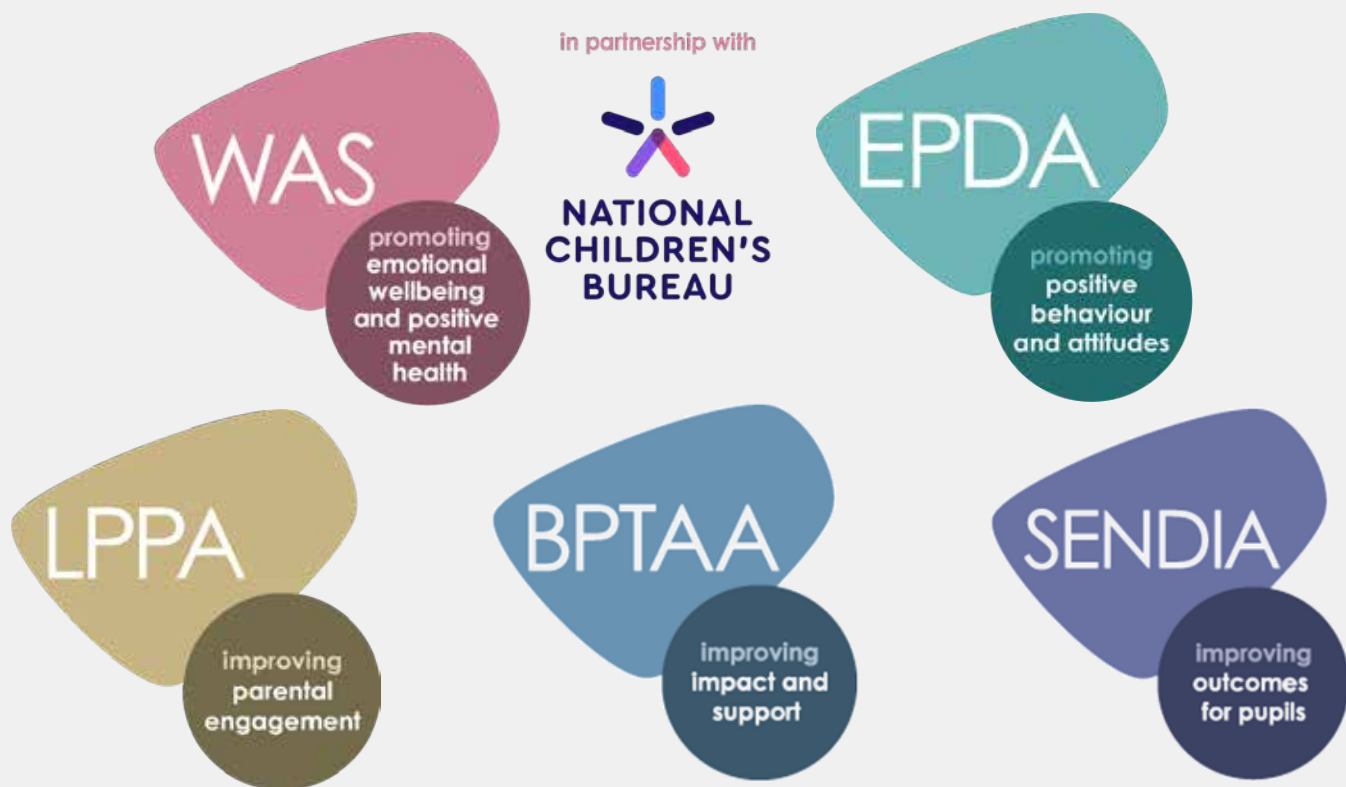


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Help pupils grow in confidence and skills through learning outside



PUPIL RESILIENCE AWARD

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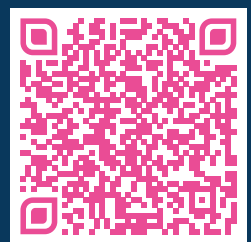


STAFF WELLBEING AWARD

Support and improve physical, emotional and mental health for all staff

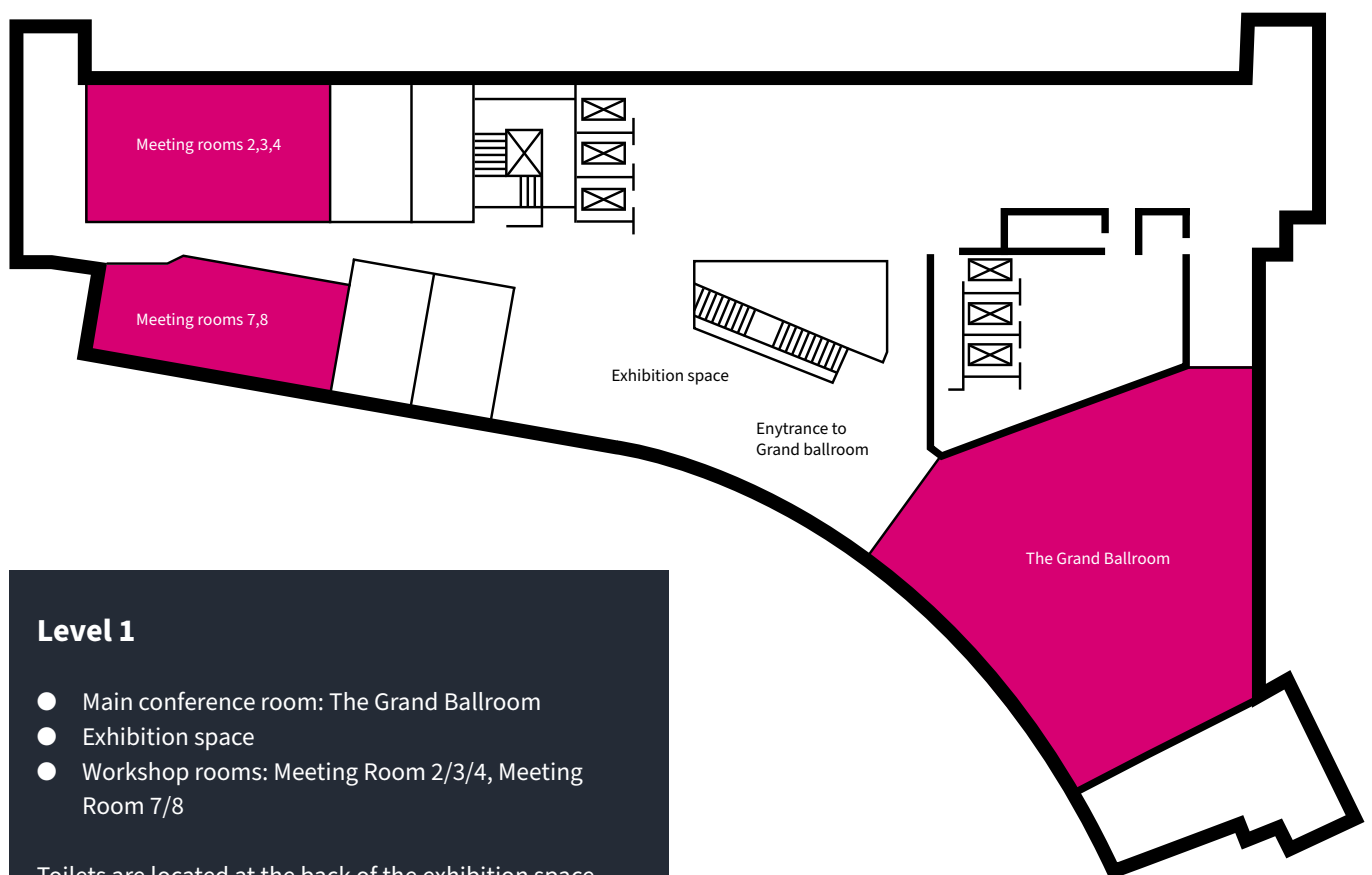
Drive school improvement today by visiting the new website or visit the Optimus Education stand today

VISIT WEBSITE





Venue floor plan



Level 1

- Main conference room: The Grand Ballroom
- Exhibition space
- Workshop rooms: Meeting Room 2/3/4, Meeting Room 7/8

Toilets are located at the back of the exhibition space, if you do have any issues location them please seek out a member of staff at the Optimus Education stand or registration desk.

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InMAT, Northampton, 11 schools



"The team's communication throughout the process was spot on – timely and supportive. We have appointed a new member to our board through this process and we're really grateful for the introduction."

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust, Bristol, 15 schools



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MAT Regional Networks

Unlocking Excellence Together

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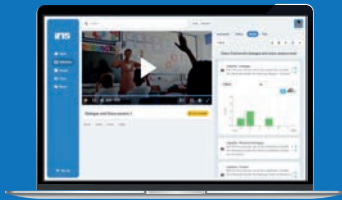
Optimus Education are delighted to offer the MAT Regional Networks designed specifically for MAT leaders.

Taking place across the UK, these networks are designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among executive leaders at a regional level.

For more information about your local network please visit oego.co/MAT-Regionals.

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Spread good teaching practice, maximise collaboration and enable coaching over distance



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Apple Learning Institute



Apple Learning Institute is a two day course which allows education leaders to step back and analyse their current approach to 'digital'. During the course, every participant will develop a Digital Learning Plan that is personalised to their school, enhance their digital and leadership skills to ensure the plan is realised, and on completion walk away with Apple Learning Leader recognition

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Alice LeFeuvre, Lady Barn House School



in partnership with



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