

# Joining the Alliance Schools Trust

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# Present this evening...

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- ✓ Mrs Sue Collings, CEO of The Alliance Schools Trust
- ✓ Mr Ian Bacon, Director of Education
- ✓ Mr Rod Gibberd, Interim COO
- ✓ Mr Andy Crossey, Chair of Governors
- ✓ Mrs Eileen Northey, Vice Chair of Governors
- ✓ Mrs Jane Young, School Business Manager
- ✓ Mr Andrew McGinnes, Headteacher

# Guiding the strategic direction of a school is one of the key responsibilities of a Governing Body

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In the Education White Paper, March 2022 the government envisioned a system where all schools are part of, or are in the process of joining, a strong trust by 2030.

The role of a governing board in the process of academisation is primarily strategic, focusing on due diligence, legal compliance, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the school to achieve the best outcomes for pupils.

While operational tasks may be delegated to school leaders, the governing body is responsible for making the final decision on whether to join or form an academy trust.

*If we do not make a decision ourselves, there is a chance that the decision may not be in our hands in the future.*

# Drivers for Academisation

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- ✓ We are doing well – we do not need “rescuing”!
- ✓ But we do want more inspiration!
- ✓ Only 2 Secondary Schools left in Bucks County Control – “lack of scale”
- ✓ Greater freedom over curriculum
- ✓ Potential to apply for additional grants
- ✓ Greater Strategic Control
- ✓ More flexibility in recruitment, pay scales, performance-based pay
- ✓ More freedom to create roles suited to school priorities
- ✓ Greater availability of support from the right MAT
- ✓ Cost Reductions through economies of scale in a MAT
- ✓ Sharing Experience within the MAT
- ✓ Improved internal CPD capability in a MAT

# Proposal: TBS to join the Alliance Schools Trust

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## Together we are stronger ...

- ✓ Not fixing weaknesses – future-proofing success
- ✓ A ‘family’ of schools to work and learn together thus enhancing outcomes and experiences for students
- ✓ Opportunities for curriculum development, innovation and enrichment through shared expertise and resources
- ✓ Strong secondary school improvement team
- ✓ Access to specialist SEND provision
- ✓ Enhanced opportunities for staff development, promotion, and retention
- ✓ Aligned core values
- ✓ Strong governance
- ✓ Longer term financial stability and opportunity

# Proposal: TBS to join the Alliance Schools Trust

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## Together we are stronger ...

Autonomy & Identity – The vision of the Alliance Schools Trust is uniting the collective strengths of its schools to deliver exceptional Education, Care & Opportunity for everyone within its learning community. Through meaningful collaboration and partnership, each school retains its distinctive character while working as true allies – celebrating diversity, empowering lives and driving ambition and achievements for all. The school admissions, catchment, branding and uniform will remain the same.

Leadership – Outstanding leadership expertise in the secondary sector with access to prestigious CPD, staff development and Teacher Training partners.

Funding – The school will be supported by a Shared Services Team who will provide expertise in HR, Finance, IT, Estates, Legal and Governance. The school will have access to School Capital Allocation Funding for building and refurbishment projects.



# Next Steps

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- ✓ Consult stakeholders- Staff, Families, Neighbours, Local Schools, Local Authority
- ✓ “No question is a silly question” – a full commitment to ensure that every question gets answers
- ✓ Email [trust@buckingham-school.org](mailto:trust@buckingham-school.org)
- ✓ Due Diligence/TUPE of staff/Legal Formalities
- ✓ If agreed by the Regional Director (DfE), Academy status early 2027



# Questions