

25 April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you all as parents and carers of students who attend an Academy within our Trust to provide an important update in relation to Norfolk Academies.

Norfolk Academies, following a strategic review by the TEN Group, is exploring the option of a merger with a larger schools-based Trust because significant changes in education policy and funding mean it is increasingly beneficial for schools to be partnered with other schools in larger Trusts.

The move away from vocational learning in schools and the corresponding shift to a more academic curriculum, has weakened the rationale for bringing together primary and secondary schools into a federation with a college of Further and Higher Education and a University Technical College (the model developed by the TEN Group).

At the same time, continued funding pressures have added to the case for individual schools and smaller Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to look at achieving 'economies of scale' by joining together to form MATs with greater numbers of schools. Through a merger with another MAT, Norfolk Academies is seeking to put in place a sustainable model of school improvement that will enable its Academies to continue to improve teaching and learning, student progress and attainment, in spite of the ongoing funding challenges in education.

Please note that Mr Jim McAtear (the Chair of Norfolk Academies Board) has stressed that the Trust will only go ahead with a merger if a suitable MAT partner can be found and if Norfolk Academies is satisfied that the proposed merger will bring about the sought-after benefits for its current Academies. Initial discussions with a number of MATs are currently being held and will be followed by a more formal evaluation process. Mr McAtear and the wider Norfolk Academies Trust Board have agreed to keep all stakeholders updated over the coming weeks and months.

If any of the above information raises concerns or questions then please do not hesitate to contact the Principal of your child's Academy in the first instance.

With kind regards



**Neil McShane**  
**Executive Principal of Norfolk Academies and**  
**Principal of Attleborough Academy Norfolk**