



20th March 2025

Dear Families

Consultation on Potential Trust Merger

We hope you are well, and that the term is going well for your child/ren across our families of schools.

We are writing to outline an exciting opportunity for both **Shires MAT** and **Endeavour Schools Trust**. Our two trusts are considering a merger to help benefit the educational offer locally for children and families. In addition to benefits for pupils we believe there will be considerable advantages for staff through CPD, new pathways and responsibilities and that we will be able to recruit and retain high quality staff.

The potential merger will establish a trust of over 600 staff and 4,500 pupils across 11 schools locally. We believe this presents a positive opportunity for our schools, students, and communities. By increasing our collaboration and shared capabilities, we will be able to offer enhanced professional development opportunities to staff, through increased best practice and resource sharing and training, helping to retain and recruit high-quality staff. Similarly, we believe it will enhance our school improvement capability and will help us to drive further educational excellence in our classrooms, so we can deliver the very best education to students.

As the views and feedback of our school communities are hugely important to us, we have developed a consultation through which you can express your views about the proposed merger. We are eager to hear your thoughts and perspectives as part of this process. The consultation will run from **Thursday 20th March 2025 – Friday 2nd May 2025** and full details are available online at [Merger Consultation | Shires MAT](#) We encourage you to respond to the consultation and look forward to hearing your feedback. A merger feedback form is available at <https://forms.office.com/e/Syxvfz5U8v>

To support this process, we will be hosting several public meetings about this. These events will take place on the following dates and times and invite you to attend:

Ridgeway Secondary School, Astwood Bank, B96 6BD - Monday 31st March 6.00 - 7.00pm

Crabbs Cross First School, Redditch, B97 5JH – Tuesday 1st April 6.00 - 7.00pm

The Vaynor First School, Redditch, B97 5BL - Tuesday 29th April 6.00 - 7.00pm

We appreciate you may have questions and we have therefore created a FAQs document via the website, to answer any immediate questions you have. However, should you have any further questions please do consider attending one of the sessions or reach out directly so we can help. Please contact merger@shiresmat.org.uk or merger@endeavourschools.org



Whilst these proposals are only in the early stages, and no final decisions have been made, we remain extremely excited about the potential it will deliver for students, staff and the wider school community alike, and so we hope you too feel enthused about these plans.

In the meantime, we wish you all a successful end to term and would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and collaboration as we explore this exciting opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Lee Gray
Chief Executive
Officer
Shires MAT

Mike Thake
Chair of Trustees
Shires MAT

Nicki Wright
Chief Executive
Officer
Endeavour Schools
Trust

Clare Banks
Chair of Directors
Endeavour Schools
Trust

merger@shiresmat.org.uk

merger@endeavourschools.org