



Update from Futura Learning Partnership and Olympus Academy Trust on their proposal to merge and form a new Trust

Friday 7 February 2025

Since announcing the proposal to merge and form a new Trust, in December 2023, Futura Learning Partnership and Olympus Academy Trust have been working together to explore opportunities and options for a merger. A Joint Steering Group comprised of trustees and executive officers from both Trusts has been meeting fortnightly and the Trusts have engaged in several collaborative activities across the primary and secondary phases, including sharing and developing best practice and supporting one another with areas of challenge.

As a result of these explorations, both Trusts have determined that a genuine merger of two like-minded Trusts, to create a new Trust and identity, is the right way forward. Creating a larger Trust within the same geographical area makes sense in many ways, specifically by increasing the capacity to support school improvement and by providing wider opportunities for colleagues and learners. Trustees have also drawn the conclusion that a larger Trust, with a substantial number of large secondary schools, would be much more financially resilient than both Trusts are at their current scale. For both Futura and Olympus, the notion of wanting to grow is balanced by a desire to retain all that is good, positive and successful about the existing Trusts.

The Department for Education has given positive feedback on the initial proposal and invited the Trusts to make a formal application to merge. This will go to the South West Regional Director's Advisory Board in April 2025 and, if approved, the target date for the new Trust to commence operation is 1 January 2026.

The Advisory Board meeting agenda will be made public on www.gov.uk in the first week of March and all key stakeholders will have the chance to express their views on the proposed merger via the representations process. Each Trust will share the link to the Advisory Board agenda that will include a link to the 'representations inbox' where staff, parents and local communities will have the opportunity to put forward their views on the proposal.

If the DfE gives formal approval in April, both Trusts will then undertake detailed due diligence before making the final decision to merge. This will include formal stakeholder consultation with staff, parents and local communities. You will receive regular updates as plans develop but, in the meantime, it is very much business as usual as both Trusts concentrate on their core business of supporting their schools.

If you wish to find out more about each Trust, please look at the respective websites in the first instance:

www.futuralearning.co.uk

www.olympustrust.co.uk