

10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Department for Education's approval of the merger between Trust in Learning Academies (TiLA) and Cathedral Schools Trust (CST), we are writing to share a further update on the progress of this work.

We appreciate that there has been a number of updates in recent weeks as the merger process progresses. Our intention is to be transparent at every stage and ensure that all members of our trust communities feel informed, reassured and included in the journey ahead.

As a result of the DfE's decision and following a period of significant due diligence, both Trust Boards have now agreed on several key next steps. This due diligence has included careful legal and financial assessment to ensure a strong and stable foundation for the future of the merged Trust.

In order to minimise both the operational impact on schools and the legal costs associated with the merger, it is standard practice for one trust to remain legally open while the other transfers into it. We can now confirm that, following this assessment, the Trust in Learning Academies (TiLA) legal entity will form the base for the new merged trust.

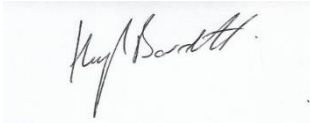
It is important to note that this is a legal and administrative decision. As shared previously, there are exciting plans underway to develop a new name, vision and identity for the combined trust. This work is being developed collaboratively with senior leaders and headteachers from across both organisations, and we look forward to sharing more on this with you in due course.

Significant work has been ongoing to review the executive leadership arrangements for our planned merger. We are delighted to be able to share with you that effective from the legal date of merger, Neil Blundell will take up the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with Sue Elliott taking up the position of Deputy CEO/Chief Operating Officer (COO). Our respective Trust Boards are delighted that we will retain the collective leadership and strengths of both Neil and Sue for our new Trust. Their appointments are crucial in driving forward our shared vision and will support us in our next phase of providing high quality education and operational excellence for our schools, pupils, staff and the communities in which we serve.

As before, we would like to reassure you that there will be no immediate changes to your child's school as a result of these developments. Our priority remains the provision of excellent education, and the changes now being implemented are primarily focused at trust level.

We are excited by the opportunities that this merger will bring for staff and our pupils and we will update you as things progress over the coming months.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via our independent project managers, Edwin people at [engagement@edwinpeople.com](mailto:engagement@edwinpeople.com).



**Hugh Barrett, Chair**

**Trust in Learning Academies**



**Sir David Eastwood, Chair**

**Cathedral Schools Trust**