



Leigh Academies Trust and The Williamson Trust Merger Agreed

The merger between Leigh Academies Trust (LAT) and The Williamson Trust (TWT) has been approved following rigorous due diligence, subject to completing the TUPE process successfully.

Directors of both trusts and the Regional Schools' Commissioner have agreed that Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, The Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Allhallows Primary Academy and Stoke Primary Academy can join LAT from January 2019.

At a series of consultation events involving staff, parents and governors over the last few months, LAT and TWT have addressed concerns raised and identified the opportunities this partnership will create. Key advantages for students and staff include:

- combining the best practices of both trusts;
- achieving economies to redirect more money to teaching and learning;
- ensuring strong and effective central services;
- sharing an expanding school improvement team;
- linking Kent and Medway Training and Medway Teaching Schools Alliance to provide professional development for staff at all levels; and
- creating a powerful network of 23 open academies and assuring their long-term future.

Simon Beamish, Chief Executive of LAT, said:

"The last few tremendously rewarding months have built strong and positive relationships with new colleagues in TWT. The future is very bright indeed as we become one of the largest and most successful multi-academy trusts anywhere in the region. Together we believe in the transformative power of a broad and balanced education for all our young people, to shape their lives and transform their communities."

Eliot Hodges, Interim Chief Executive of TWT and Headteacher of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, added:

"This is an extremely exciting venture for all of the schools in The Williamson Trust and we look forward to the opportunities that this new collaboration will bring. The chance to work more efficiently will be of great benefit for all our current pupils and the chance to develop our practice with a wider group of schools will benefit both organisations whilst continuing to make the most of our existing strengths."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Beamish", with a long, sweeping underline.

Simon Beamish
Chief Executive
Leigh Academies Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Hodges", with a horizontal line underneath.

Eliot Hodges
Interim Chief Executive
The Williamson Trust