



# Alder Community High School

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## OUR MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST PLANNING & CONSULTATION

Alder Community High School, Hyde Community College, Mossley Hollins High School and Droylsden Academy have jointly submitted three application forms to the Department for Education (DfE) and the Regional Schools' Commission (RSC) in December 2019:

Application 1: for the 3 maintained schools to apply to become academies subject to a statutory consultation;

Applications 2 & 3: for the schools to come together to form a brand new sponsored (by Tameside College/Clarendon VI Form, as Droylsden Academy is now) Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), to be named:

the **Tame River Educational Trust [TRET]**.

Our proposed launch-date is September 2020 should consultation make that possible. There is a long way to go before then, **not least a statutory consultation process** with parents and staff (which will not begin until we hear back from the RSC and only if their response is positive) and due diligence. We have not yet received any feedback on our applications but are aware that since three of the schools have buildings and facilities' management that are part of Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs) there may well be significant complications. We would need the support of the Local Authority (LA) and the DfE. It is by no means certain that we will be successful but it is important to keep all parents, staff, partners & key stakeholders abreast of this milestone in our planned journey towards our preferred MAT. **The systematic and hugely significant removal of funding to Local Authorities since 2010 (with no apparent prospect of it returning) and the associated significant loss of school improvement and support functions from the LAs through no fault of their own, has meant that – in England today – almost 75% of all secondary schools in the country are academies.** We intend to take control of the situation for our school and get the best out of forging a more formal and legal partnership with our 3 other partner secondary schools. Depending on the outcome from the Department for Education, we will soon begin a formal statutory consultation process with parents and staff.

We have an exciting vision for the potential of the MAT to bring a significant educational and cultural dividend to each school and each school community and have already undertaken some planning work with the support of each school's Governing Body, Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), staff and from the sponsor itself. We have a carefully selected shadow Trust Member Group and Trust Board ready to lead and to support each school's Local Governing Body, should the MAT plans come to fruition. The proposed MAT has a MAT implementation plan in operation to guide us towards the launch should consultation permit and we will write a MAT Schools' Strategic Improvement Plan subject to final approval from the DfE, RSC, LA and a favourable outcome from the statutory consultation. In essence, then, there's much still to cover and on which to consult.



At present we have a clear vision document and outline model for what we are calling ‘aligned autonomy’ (**where we protect the separate identity and rich distinctiveness of each school at the heart of its community whilst collaborating on common themes and approaches, where appropriate**) and schools’ improvement. Our MAT will have 4 key purposes that will guide our joint working and be the measure of our success:

**The Tame River Educational Trust [TRET]**  
Great schools in which to learn, teach and belong

In the Tame River Educational Trust [TRET] our family of community-based schools share the same 4 educational purposes, promoted and supported by each school and our Sponsor:

4 PURPOSES

- 1 Our Trust will host a family of great community-based schools in which to learn, teach and belong.
- 2 Our Trust will become known for imbuing in our learners positive character traits and enquiring minds and for the talent and professionalism of our staff.
- 3 Through a cycle of creative self and peer improvement, any school with us for three years or more will be in the top 25% of similar schools nationally for the academic progress of its learners.
- 4 Students in our Trust will receive a distinctive Trust-wide Community and Educational Dividend (in the arts, sport and sciences, where significant additional opportunities will be made available to them in one or more of these disciplines).

We will present more information on our progress and work together as it becomes available. We are determined that our MAT will be distinctive and special, protecting the autonomy and rich distinctiveness of each school and community in fundamental respects but aligning through our jointly constructed and fully agreed Scheme of Delegation on common practices in other key areas where this is seen as best practice. **Should the application and consultation prove successful, there will be a rich MAT offer for students in terms of learning, achievement, character, personal development and wider curricular opportunities and for our staff in a bespoke training and development programme from Initial Teacher Training (ITT) to expert teacher and from teacher and support staff member to leader and manager.**

We will keep you posted. We would encourage you to chat to us about anything at all in relation to our plans, in the meantime, even before any statutory consultation with you begins. Should we be given approval to move to formal consultation we will share anything that is required by our students, staff, parents and partners. Please watch this space...

Kind regards,



Mr R O'Regan  
Headteacher



Mrs J Hodkinson  
Chair of Governors

