

Spencer Academies Trust and Trent Academies Group agree partnership.

The Directors of the Spencer Academies Trust and Trent Academies Group are delighted to announce that they have reached agreement in principle to merge, creating one of the largest multi-academy groups in the East Midlands.

Subject to due diligence and appropriate regulatory approvals, the merger is likely to take place in the 2018-2019 academic year. The combined group will retain the Spencer Academies Trust name, and will continue to be led by the Spencer Academies Trust Chief Executive Paul West. Three current Directors of the Trent Academies Group will join the Board of Directors, which will be led by the Spencer Academies Trust Chairman, Peter Marples.

The enlarged group will comprise 15 schools of which 8 will be secondary, meeting the needs of over 17,000 pupils across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire. With anticipated future growth, including the construction of new schools, nearly 20,000 East Midlands' pupils and students will be educated in the Trust by 2020.

The Chairman of Spencer Academies Trust Peter, Marples said, "We are delighted to announce this partnership with, subject to due diligence, Trent Academies Group. Rushcliffe has an exceptional track record and is acknowledged to be one of the highest achieving schools in the region – and we are confident that we can support Arnold Hill and Farnborough Academies on their road to improvement."

"As one of the first decisions to align neighbouring Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT) in the country, this agreement is an example of shared education leadership and governance in the interests of local children and students."

"Spencer Academies Trust is committed to developing as a regional trust with a national reputation for excellence. That vision underpins our decision to work together. Together, the Spencer and Trent Academies Trusts will be able to further improve access, opportunity and experience of a quality education to more children across the region, in a relationship which will make all of our schools stronger."

Andrew Pickin, Chairman of Trent Academies Group, added, "When Phil Crompton, our current CEO, made the decision to retire, the Board determined that the best way to build on the legacy of TAG was to add more capacity to the Trust. We wanted to find a partner who had the same values, ethos and commitment to excellence as TAG. In Spencer Academies Trust, we believe we have found not only that, but also a Trust that has huge ambitions for its future."

"All schools in the group will have a valuable role to play and the support of Spencer, with a track record of high standards and performance improvement will ensure that we too build on the current strengths of Arnold Hill and Farnborough Academies. Rushcliffe, particularly, will have a key role to play across the enlarged group. We look forward to concluding the formalities over the next few months so we can plan for an exciting new future for our students and employees."

Paul West, Chief Executive of Spencer Academies Trust said of the news, "Collaboration and partnership is an important part of delivering on our vision to deliver an outstanding, nationally regarded, standard of education, while remaining deeply rooted in communities across the East Midlands. We look forward to working with the Trent Academies Group to deliver life changing and outstanding education for the 4,000 pupils currently enrolled."

"I am pleased to be able to lead Spencer Academies Trust as a local education employer of choice and create further opportunities, not only for our students, but also for our hard working and highly committed employees. We have a growing and expert team of teachers, leaders and education support professionals focused on performance improvement, and this will be further strengthened by the partnership and the impressive capacity of the TAG staff".

Phil Crompton, Chief Executive of Trent Academies Group said, "Finding the right partner to build on the great work we have done at TAG has taken many months and I am delighted to be able to recommend this merger to the Board. There are many great people within both organisations, and the spirit of both Trusts will live on."

"I have led Rushcliffe under the banner of 'Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly' and took the same line into the Trent Academies Group. It is clear that the Spencer Academies Trust has a similar commitment to developing the whole child and an appreciation that whilst exam results matter enormously there is so much more to a great education."

Notes

About The Spencer Academies Trust

The Spencer Academies Trust is a high-performing multi-academy trust with schools across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, and under both Nottingham and Derby local authorities. As of 2018, the Trust comprises twelve schools with five secondary and seven primary academies.

Working across highly diverse city and rural communities, the Spencer Academies Trust has a strong track record of school improvement, and a reputation for high expectations and standards in member schools. The Trust also leads an extensive programme of professional development for teachers, leaders and educational support staff.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Paul West, Spencer's aspiration is to be 'a high-performing regional trust with a national reputation for excellence.'

About The Trent Academies Group

The Trent Academies Group consists of three secondary academies in the Nottingham conurbation with 4000 pupils and 400 members of staff. The Trust was started in 2015 by the then Headteacher and governing body of Rushcliffe School in West Bridgford with a view to supporting schools facing extra challenges. It has operated under a banner of "Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly" to highlight the belief that individuals have many talents and schools have a duty to encourage their full development.

Enquiries

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