

The Bridge Education Partnership (TBEP)

Following communication in January regarding Hardenhuish, Sheldon and St Laurence secondary schools exploring formal partnership working within a newly-formed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), The Bridge Education Partnership, there has been extensive discussion both in the individual schools and collectively to discuss possibilities. As part of this, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been drawn up between the schools outlining: benefits and opportunities; the purpose of forming such a partnership; the principles and goals for the partnership; relationships with stakeholders and the community; and intentions for further growth, should the formation of the MAT come to fruition.

All three of the individual governing bodies have voted to approve the MOU which means that the three schools will commit to a design phase, a process that will take somewhere between four and eight months. During this time, all stakeholders will be consulted, and there will be an opportunity for others within the community to hear more about the plans. Once the design and consultation phases have been completed, a formal proposal can be submitted to the Department for Education for consideration. If the proposals are approved, then an implementation phase will take place during 2024.

At this stage, the individual schools are committed to working together, but there remains much more to discuss and explore before the proposals can be developed and submitted, and before anything is formally agreed or approved.

As an early action, a webpage will be developed to enable information to be shared with all stakeholders; a centralised email address will also be created where any questions can be posed for consideration within the next step of the process.

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