

Dear Parents and Carers of The Griffin Primary Community

We are writing to inform you that Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust will be submitting an application to the Department for Education West Midlands Regions Group to transfer from a Single Academy Trust (SAT) into a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

Throughout the planning phase and since opening The Griffin Primary School Academy Trust, the plan has always been that The Griffin School would cease to operate as a Single Academy Trust and transfer into this MAT.

As we are already a Trust no formal consultation is required. However, as our ethos and values are deeply rooted in transparency, openness and collaboration we will be carrying out a consultation process and the feedback received will be considered by the full board of trustees.

We are delighted that the relevant legal work has now been completed to enable us to take this exciting next step and the timeline is such that, if the application is accepted, the transfer will take place on 1 September 2026.

### **What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?**

A Multi Academy Trust is a charitable company and is responsible for overseeing the running of a number of schools. It has three layers of governance: the Members, the Directors/Trustees and the Local Governing Bodies.

A MAT is formed when its articles (legal document) are approved by the DfE and it is registered at Companies House as a company. MATs are made up of a number of academy schools and there isn't a set number of schools that makes a MAT. The partnership established between all schools in the MAT ensures that the schools can share skills and best practice and make optimum use of resources, ensuring best value for money for each school.

In many ways the children will not notice any immediate difference, they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. However, in time the children will perhaps notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn due to enhanced transition and from greater links with each school within the Trust.

### **Will any changes to the school be made as a result of the transfer?**

We do not intend to make any changes to the day-to-day work of either school following transfer, other than to adjust the governance arrangements and accountability that comes with working within a Multi Academy Trust and to bring closer working practices between the schools in the Trust.

The Griffin Primary School and Lawrence Sheriff School have already built up a collaborative relationship, with shared staff training and shared services for HR, Finance, IT and Estates management. Children and young people from both schools have benefitted from joint PE, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and Art projects. We are planning for greater opportunities to work together within the shared vision of being Happy and Successful schools.



To differentiate between Lawrence Sheriff School and the MAT we plan to change the name of the MAT to The Sheriff Partnership. The name of both schools will remain as they are.

### **How do I learn more, and how do I respond to the consultation?**

We are consulting with everyone associated with our school and the Trustees would very much like to hear your opinion.

The consultation period will run from **midday on Friday 6 February 2026 until midday on Monday 13 April 2026.**

We have set the form below for parents of Lawrence Sheriff School and The Griffin Primary School who wish to respond to the consultation. If you wish to share your views, please do so:

- in writing by completing the Form via the link [Stakeholder Consultation](#), emailing [TSP@lawrencesheriffschool.com](mailto:TSP@lawrencesheriffschool.com) or by post to The Sheriff Partnership Consultation, c/o Lawrence Sheriff School, Clifton Road, Rugby, CV21 3AG
- in person by attending a consultation meeting at Lawrence Sheriff School on Monday 16 March 2026
  - 5-6pm for parents of children at either The Griffin Primary School or Lawrence Sheriff School
  - 6-7pm for wider stakeholders

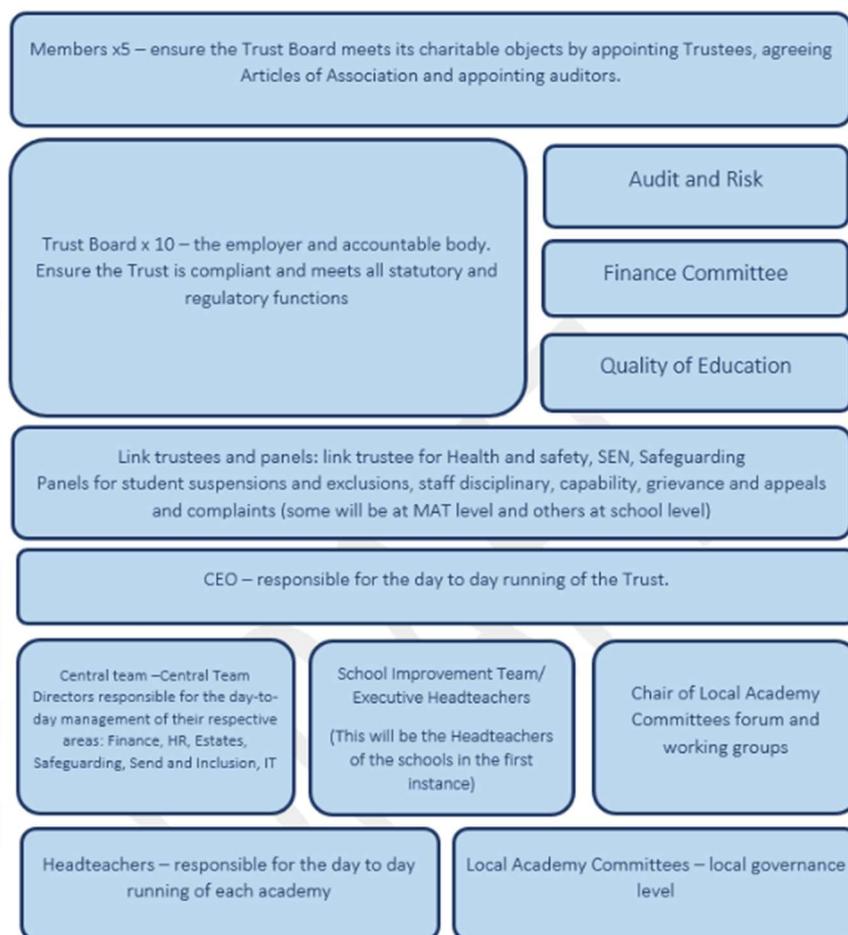
With warm regards

Trustees of Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust

Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 8963659. Records are held at the registered office which is Lawrence Sheriff School, Clifton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3AG.



## The Sheriff Partnership



**Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust** is in the process of applying to transfer to a MAT which will be named **The Sheriff Partnership**. We are currently sponsoring The Griffin Primary School, a free school opened on the Gateway development to the north of Rugby in September 2023. LSS is one of only 87 schools selected to be a National Teaching School Hub (TSH) and we have worked collaboratively with a large network of schools across the region for many years. As a TSH we are uniquely positioned to support schools in developing and delivering outstanding provision for staff and students. Our values and behaviours underpin all that we do and we place huge emphasis on doing things the right way, developing trust and respect, and creating a culture where people matter.

We are looking to develop a MAT where all schools play an equal role, and the unique identity of each school is respected. The scheme of delegation will provide schools with control over key areas of how their school operates and the 'top slice' will provide for an effective central team and allow centralised services to grow as the MAT grows. We are talking to a small number of local schools who share our vision of what a successful MAT can look like and we anticipate that the MAT will be set up with Lawrence Sheriff School and The Griffin Primary School initially. Whilst the MAT will grow, it will remain on the smaller side so that the 'extended family' approach to working together can be protected and nurtured. In order to make the most of economies of scale, all schools would need to use the same financial packages and payroll services and this would be supported centrally. It is envisaged that over a period of time financial, HR and procurement services can become more centralised. In addition, money will be spent on providing specialist support across the MAT e.g. SEND provision and Safeguarding. Whilst systems and processes can become streamlined and this will be financially beneficial for schools, the main focus of the MAT would be on raising outcomes and improving the educational experience for all children and young people: schools should be **happy and successful**. It is our strong belief that this is not best achieved by all schools following the same curriculum model. Schools know and understand their own setting and context best; whilst all schools will support and challenge each other, the unique character of each school would be protected.



## What do we stand for as a Trust?

Our **Mission** is to develop a network of schools that are happy and successful. Schools which will support high academic outcomes and personal development.

Our **Vision** is that all members of each school community feel valued, know they have a voice that will be listened to, and that they can and should achieve their very best in all that they do.

Our **Values** centre on building positive communities where kindness is important and people matter. Communities where we strive for academic excellence, develop an enriched curriculum and nurture a love of learning.

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Our Trust works collaboratively whilst allowing each Academy the freedom to deliver the curriculum as best fits their pupils as long as it delivers positive outcomes.

Whilst the individual nature of each school is protected and nurtured, all schools within the Trust work together for the good of all the children in the Trust, not just for the benefit of their own school.

The Trust develops opportunities for staff to work with other schools across the MAT.

A high-quality Governance and Executive Leadership structure provides support and challenge for all academies to perform at a high level and ensure clear accountability at all levels.

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### We are schools

- Working with a shared vision that, when united, we better serve the children in our schools
  - Working together to form a Trust our communities can trust: one which is focused on developing individual excellence in every way possible
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### We are a Trust

- Where school leaders work together on curriculum and enrichment opportunities
  - Where Headteachers work together as an Executive Forum to ensure a coherent strategic direction and drive is in place
  - Where each Headteacher is committed to working across the MAT and having an impact beyond their own school
  - Where the Golden Thread of high-quality ITTECF and CPD is embedded throughout each school, utilising the unique position of the Coventry and Warwickshire Teaching School Hub
  - Where clear and consistent financial procedures and reporting systems are in place across the MAT
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### What do we expect from our Academies?

#### All schools must

- Buy into the Mission, Vision and Values of the MAT
  - Commit to collaborate fully as a member of the MAT
  - Commit to spending time supporting and helping other schools across the MAT
  - Agree to follow the financial policies and procedures of the MAT
  - Show a positive attitude to support, challenge and collaboration
  - Be willing to report school performance and financial information to Executive Leaders and Trustees
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### What will the Academies get out of the MAT?

- Trust, Respect and Collaboration
- A high-quality Central Support Team and Trust Board to support and challenge the school
- Clear and sound financial procedures which comply fully with the Academy Trust Handbook
- A range of networks which collaborate to improve outcomes across the MAT
- Independence to apply MAT principles to the context of their own community and maintain control over a number of significant areas, this will be set out in the Scheme of Delegation
- A shared commitment from all schools that the MAT must be greater than the sum of its parts





**Lawrence Sheriff School opens doors  
for both students and staff.  
Let's open more doors together.**



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