

WHAT IS A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST?

And why would QEGS join?

WHAT IS AN ACADEMY TRUST?

- Academies receive funding directly from the government and are run by an academy trust. They have more control over how they do things than community/maintained schools.
- For example they do not have to follow the [national curriculum](#) and can set their own term times.
- **Academy trusts**
- Academy trusts are not-for-profit companies. They employ the staff and have trustees who are responsible for the performance of the academies in the trust. Trusts might run a single academy or a group of academies.
- Some academies are supported by sponsors such as businesses, universities, other schools, faith groups or voluntary groups. Sponsors work with the academy trust to improve the performance of their schools.

WHAT IS A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST (MAT)?

- When two or more academies join together to form a partnership
- Share the benefits of working together
- A MAT can involve either primary or secondary schools or a mixture
- Special schools and Pupil Referral Units and some other providers also
- MATS vary in size from 2 academies to over 40

CONTEXT

- QEGS converted to become a stand alone academy in 2011
- Not sponsored
- In 2020-21, 79% of secondary schools were academies
- 87% of academies were in MATS
- Greater collaboration and support
- Current national picture –White paper: Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child
- “By 2030 all children will benefit from being taught in a school in, or in the process of joining, a strong multi-academy trust, which will help transform underperforming schools and deliver the best possible outcomes for children”

TRUSTEES' VIEWS

- Various possibilities for QEGS
 - Do nothing and hope for the best
 - Start our own Multi Academy Trust
 - Join other Grammar Schools (not established currently, geographically far away)
 - Join an established Cumbrian MAT
- Board wants a proactive approach
- Join an established Cumbrian MAT preferred option
 - Best for our students and staff
 - Best for Cumbrian children in the wider community
 - Best opportunity to make the most of what we can offer

GUARANTEES FOR QEGS

- To go forward with joining a MAT, we need four guarantees
 - Selective nature of our intake.
 - All staff Terms and Conditions are maintained.
 - Land and estate
 - Keep our ethos and control over our Curriculum



WEST LAKES MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



WHY WEST LAKES?

- Already approached before the White Paper
- Initial discussions for several months.
- SLT review of alternatives
- Lots of benefits to both schools
- Things in common.



WHY WEST LAKES?

- Outstanding, high achieving schools
- Thriving sixth forms
- Sharing best practice
- Teaching School Status – only one in Cumbria
- CPD for staff – at all levels

WHY WEST LAKES?

- Benefit to students from all academies within MAT
- Development of pedagogy/resources
- Staff development
- Economies of scale in budgets and resources
- Support for admin/finance/IT/estate teams
- Extra layer of local support for QEGS

West Lakes
Academy
&
WLMAT



QEGS

WHY WEST LAKES?

- Geography - commitment to Cumbrian children
- No conflict of interest in terms of catchment
- Name change to reflect the whole Cumbria ethos
- We work with WLAT already:
- One Cumbria

CONSULTATION

- Consultation link open now
- Free text only
- 24/5 deadline for comments
- Trustees meeting 6/6 to consider
- Staff, students and wider community
- Decision to proceed and request support from the Regional Schools' Commissioner
- January 2023