



1st May 2026

Consultation on the planned merger of Elements Diocesan Learning Trust (Elements) and Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust (DoWMAT)

Dear Families,

We hope you are well and that your family has had a good start to the summer term. We would like to share some information on an exciting proposal to explore the possible merger between Elements Diocesan Learning Trust and DoWMAT. As you may be aware, I have been leading Elements Trust as Interim CEO since the retirement of Sarah Riley as CEO in December 2025. As part of this interim role, the DoWMAT Trust Board has been exploring a potential merge between the two Trusts.

We believe the possible merger presents a really positive opportunity for our schools, children and communities. As Diocese Trusts we are both guided by the Church of England’s vision for education and believe the proposed merger strengthens our commitment to nurturing spiritual, moral, social, and academic development. By coming together as two trusts, which will provide increased capacity and expertise, we strongly believe we can deliver even greater outcomes for our children and young people, staff and communities.

By increasing our collaboration and shared capabilities, we will be able to offer enhanced professional development opportunities to staff, through increased best practice and resource sharing and training, helping to retain and recruit high-quality staff. Similarly, we believe it will enhance our school improvement capability and will help us to drive further educational excellence in our classrooms, so we can deliver the very best possible education to children.

We also believe this merger would provide improved operational efficiencies as regards procurement, finance, and administration and enhance financial and longer term sustainability for both Trusts.

As the views and feedback of our school communities are hugely important to us, we have been hard at work developing a consultation through which you can express your views about the proposed merger. We are eager to hear your thoughts and perspectives as part of this process. The consultation will run from Friday 1st May to Monday 1st June 2026, and full details and documentation are available on our website here [Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust - Merge Consultation](#). We encourage you to respond to the consultation and look forward to hearing your feedback.

To support this process, we will be hosting several forums and meetings about this. Meetings for parents are on the following days at St Barnabas CE School, Drakes Broughton or online should you wish to attend:

Public/Family Consultation Meetings
St Barnabas CE School, Drakes Broughton - 17:00-18:00 1 st June 2026
MS Teams – 1800-19:00 11 th May <i>(please request the MS Teams link via the email below)</i>



If you would like to attend, please email mergerconsultation@dowmat.education so we can make appropriate seating and preparation arrangements or send you the MS Team link as appropriate.

We appreciate you may have questions and so we have therefore created an FAQ document to answer any immediate questions you have; there is also a survey to capture your feedback and both can be found on the website at [Diocese of Worcester Multi Academy Trust - Merge Consultation](#). However, should you have any further questions please do attend one of the sessions or reach out directly via email at mergerconsultation@dowmat.education so we can help.

We are excited about the proposed merge and potential it will deliver for children, staff and the wider school community alike, and so we hope you too feel enthused about these plans. In the meantime, we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and collaboration as we explore this exciting opportunity.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Shelley".

Vicki Shelley
Interim CEO Elements
CEO DoWMAT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Reeson".

David Reeson
Elements Trust Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Stephens".

Chris Stephens
DoWMAT Trust Board Chair