

22 September 2026

Dear Colleagues, Families, and Local Governors,

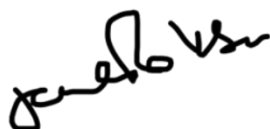
Welcome back to the 2026-27 academic year.

We are writing to you after the merger consultation has come to a close. Thank you very much to those of you who engaged with the consultation. We are aware that the Trusts' Executive Teams posted answers to 17 frequently asked questions posed during the consultation process on our respective Trust websites in July to address the matters of common concern that had arisen before schools broke up for the summer holiday. Executives will now be gathering all responses received since the consultation opened and presenting them to their respective Trust Boards shortly for detailed consideration enabling Trustees to make a decision in the best interests of each Trust as to whether or not the proposed merger should proceed. This decision making, if in favour of a merger, would remain subject to the Department for Education's approval.

As we have stated throughout this process, our aim, should we proceed, is to bring together two remarkably similar, local primary school Trusts and ensure we preserve the expertise, learning, improvements and experience gained during our separate journeys to date rather than see a smaller trust having to slot into the structure and practices of a larger trust, which we know can occur in a merger with more of a takeover feel, and which risks losing a lot of good work and people along the way. If we approve the merger proposal, we intend this to be a coming together, with mutual respect, of neighbouring partners that have great potential to be stronger, higher performing and more resilient together.

We will write again with our decision before the half term break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Robson'.

Jane Robson
Acting Chair of Trustees at IPAT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Rendall'.

Patrick Rendall MBE
Chair of Trustees at LAT