



Our ref: DSN/KPA

18 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Place Partnership – The Next Step for Our Trust

I am delighted to write to you with an update on the proposed merger between Maltby Learning Trust (MLT) and Accord Multi Academy Trust.

As referenced previously, this is a planned voluntary merger of two successful and well-established educational Trusts to create one new entity named **Place Partnership**. From 1 September 2026, Place Partnership will serve approximately 9,000 young people across 12 academies in West and South Yorkshire, ranging from ages 2-18.

The merger represents a strategic alliance that will bring together the strengths, resources and shared values of both MLT and Accord to enhance the educational entitlement for all children, offer greater expertise across schools and improve long-term sustainability for staff, pupils, and communities.

Following a period of due diligence and consultation with parents, stakeholders and local communities, the merger was approved by the Department for Education (DfE) in November 2025. We received strong support during consultation, particularly from Rotherham, Doncaster and Wakefield Local Authorities.

I wish to reassure you that, at the point of legal transfer on 1 September 2026, your child will not notice any immediate difference to their education. Academies will retain their own identities, including uniform. Pupils and students will be in the same classrooms and with the same teaching staff, supported by the same pastoral/associate staff. We will continue to strive for an outstanding education for all our children in every school.

The merger will, however, allow us to direct increased funding towards education by combining our resources and achieving greater economies of scale. We also hope to strengthen the expertise and specialist knowledge of our staff through increased opportunities for collaboration.

I am pleased to confirm that from 1 September 2026, Alan Warboys, founding CEO of Accord, will be leading Place Partnership as Chief Executive Officer. Alan has extensive experience in education and leadership and has undertaken deployments to support academies and Multi Academy Trusts throughout the region.

Alan became Principal of Ossett Academy in 2015, prior to the establishment of Accord in 2016. Trustees and I have complete confidence that Alan, supported by an experienced and dedicated executive team, has all the necessary skills and experience to take Place Partnership forward and build on the many strengths evident across both individual Trusts.

I will continue to work with Alan and broader stakeholders to support the transition from MLT into Place Partnership, before retiring at the end of the academic year. I can certainly look back on my time at Maltby Academy and then Maltby Learning Trust with great pride. It has been a privilege to work with some incredible

children, staff and community members over the last 20 years and shape something unique in each of the respective learning communities.

I am extremely grateful for the commitment and support of our parents and carers during my time at MLT. There is no doubt that those sustainable improvements secured in Maltby Academy in the first instance have been replicated across each of the schools that have subsequently joined the Trust. The multi-academy framework has helped transform the quality of provision and opportunities offered in each of our schools and they will never look back in terms of the high-quality education on offer. I am confident that strong foundations are in place for the next successful chapter for our children and young people.

I hope this provides reassurance ahead of September and I will continue to share further updates in the coming months.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sutton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Sutton
Chief Executive Officer