

Futura and Olympus joint update for stakeholders – 27th March 2024

In December 2023, Futura Learning Partnership and The Olympus Academy Trust issued a joint communication to inform stakeholders that trustees and executive leaders understood that further growth would be essential in order to be able to provide increased support for our schools, and specifically in order to have more specialist capacity to help our schools improve. They had also drawn the conclusion that a larger Trust, with a significant number of large secondary schools, would be much more financially resilient than both Trusts are at their current scale.

A working party of two trustees and three executive leaders from each Trust met weekly during January and February. They were asked to consider the viability of a merger and to report to the Futura and Olympus Boards in late February in order to inform a decision about whether to pursue the idea. The guiding principles for the working party were:

- What is in the best interests of all learners; and
- How to provide wider career opportunities for staff.

The working party has now reported to the Futura and Olympus Boards and both Trusts' Chief Executive Officers have updated the Interim Regional Director and her team at the Department for Education about progress to date. Both Trust Boards are positive about the potential benefits of this merger and we will continue exploratory discussions about the implications and opportunities. Our thinking remains that a merger between Futura and Olympus would not take place before September 2025 and that business will continue as normal in both Trusts in the meantime. However, the Boards have agreed that Futura and Olympus should work collaboratively in the meantime to:

- Share identified areas of best practice;
- Support one another with areas of challenge and low capacity; and
- Address areas of priority for both Trusts where there would be benefit to do so, including financial resilience and long-term viability

If you wish to find out more about each Trust, please look at the respective websites in the first instance:

www.futuralearning.co.uk

www.olympustrust.co.uk

We will provide further updates in due course, including about collaborative working between Futura and Olympus.