

Academisation Alert w/b 12th May 2025

If you haven't already completed your consultation questionnaire – please do as it's essential that we listen to your voice!!! If you still haven't received your unique code for your consultation then contact Mr L Cross as a matter of urgency.

A massive thanks to Mark, Lynsey and David for their time on Friday 9th May 2025 I know they particularly enjoyed spending time with parents and pupils alike.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Is this a takeover by the Trust?

No, this is a voluntary Academy conversion enabling the Full Governing Body (FGB) the autonomy to choose which Academy Trust they feel would best align to the school's strategic vision. It also builds upon our previous 10 years of collaborative work.

- What does The Matrix Trust get from this?

An opportunity to work with fantastic teachers and pupils in enabling them to reach their potential and provide them with enriching experiences above and beyond the current offer. We also get the expertise at all levels on how best to support pupils with SEMH which will support parents and pupils within Walsall.

- Why choose a Trust with limited Specialist School experience?

As a school we have continuously outperformed a number of SEMH Academies, LA Maintained and Independent Schools for over 10 years. Therefore, there would be limited positive impact to formalise a relationship with said organisations. It is the FGB's commitment to enhance and future-proof Elmwood School. A collaboration with another Special School would also not be appropriate in our school's drive in meeting the SEMH needs of our pupils (we are a very unique school environment). We believe that The Matrix Trust provides these opportunities to enhance our school offer.

- Does the school have a financial plan?

Yes, annually we have to provide a 3-year financial plan to the LA and this demonstrates that the school has financial integrity and sufficient funding to ensure the needs of the pupils are paramount. This was shared as part of due-diligence with The Matrix Trust. Elmwood will continue to have financial control over its budget and the funding for Elmwood pupils will continue to be spent on them.