

Woodthorpe Primary School
Summerfield Road
Woodthorpe
York YO24 2RU

T: 01904 806460
E: finance@southbanktrust.co.uk
W: www.southbanktrust.co.uk

13th December 2021

Dear all,

As many of you will know, we have been discussing a potential merger between our Trust and South York MAT. Our discussions have been productive and it was clear we have a shared set of values and a shared appreciation for countless brilliant things our schools do on a daily basis.

However, I am writing to let you all know that we have decided to end our merger discussions, although we look forward to continuing to cooperate closely in the coming months and years.

Throughout the public consultation that we conducted over the past two months, a clear theme from all our communities was the importance of maintaining a balance between church and community interests in the proposed merged Trust. All Trustees felt that the current structure and governing documents that SYMAT operates under struck that balance well.

However, during this consultation period, we were informed by the Diocese of York that the Articles, currently governing South York MAT would need to be updated to reflect changes since SYMAT was set up.

During initial discussions Trustees were reassured that the changes were minor and reflected improvements in practice since SYMAT inception. However, more detailed discussion of the proposed changes with the Diocese indicated that, if adopted, they would alter the balance and nature of South York (and hence the new MAT) in a way that the Trustees felt would be unacceptable to secular schools.

Respecting the wishes of our communities - which were communicated clearly during the public consultation - was critically important to all of us and so earlier this month the Trustees of South Bank have decided to conclude discussions on merger and remain as a standalone Trust.

The trustees of South York MAT will be considering their position at their next meeting on December 16th. Both Trusts, however, have agreed to continue to work in close collaboration, reflecting the shared values and shared approach that have been a key part of the merger discussion so far.



Everyone involved in the merger discussions are looking forward to continuing to work together, and with other schools and Trusts within York as we continue to support the fantastic work done in all our schools and the brilliant achievements of the children and young people that we have the privilege of supporting.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Wiggins

Chair of Trust Board
South Bank MAT

