

How can I become involved in the work of Friars Multi Academy Trust?

Two of the main ways of supporting the work of our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) are by becoming a Governor or Director of the MAT. This section briefly sets out how this could happen.

Becoming a Governor

Friars Academy and Chelveston Road School are the two schools within the MAT. Friars is a well-established and successful academy and Chelveston Road School is due to open in September 2021. Governors are volunteers who play a vital role in;

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing school spending and making sure that the money is well spent
- Holding the Headteacher or school leadership to account

On a day-to-day basis this involves Governors attending up to 6 meetings per year, reading documents and approving policies produced by the School, coming together annually to review school progress and to plan for the future and visiting the school to take part in 'Learning Walks' with a member of staff to discover how the school's plans have an impact on students' learning (When COVID regulations permit). To become a Governor you don't need any qualifications but you will need to be able to commit your time, to be inquisitive and be able to analyse and ask questions, to listen to others and to be able to arrive at a joint decision with your colleagues.

There are two types of Governor: if you have a son or daughter at the school then you can become a *Parent* Governor. We also need *Community* Governors who can come from any background. The Governing Body at both schools consists of;

The Headteacher

1 Parent Governor

1 Staff Governor

3 Community Governors

If you are interested in becoming a Governor then it would be worthwhile having an informal discussion with the Chair of Governors who is currently Mike Fargher. He can be contacted via the main school telephone number which is 01933 304950. The reception staff will pass on your message and he will return your call as soon as he can.

Becoming a Director

A Multi Academy Trust, or MAT, is a group of schools that have come together to work in partnership. There can be two or many more schools in a MAT. Friars MAT consists of Friars Academy and Chelveston Road School which is due to open in September 2021.

MATs have a Board of Directors who have responsibility to plan the strategy for the MAT and to manage its money for the benefit of the students' education and welfare. The MAT Board also oversees the leadership of the schools to ensure that there is always a focus on improving performance and managing risk appropriately. The current Friars MAT Board has 7 directors, one of which is the Executive Headteacher. This person is the only paid Board employee. The other 6 Directors are volunteers who have a varied background in education and business who have usually sat on Boards in other organisations.

Friars MAT currently has a vacancy for a Director of Corporate Affairs. The role description is included below. If you are interested in this role then please contact John Turnbull, Chair of Friars MAT Board via Friars Academy office on 01933 304950 for an informal chat and/or further details about the role.

Friars Multi Academy Trust

Director of Corporate Affairs: role outline and person specification

About the Trust

Friars Multi Academy Trust came into being in September 2017 and is currently comprised of one Academy, which is Friars Academy. Friars Academy is a special school for students aged 11 to 19 in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. It has been rated *outstanding* by Ofsted in two inspections in June 2015 and 2019.

In 2017 the Trust successfully bid to open a Free School in East Northamptonshire which will be a special school for children aged 11 to 19. This school will meet the significant demand for special education in the county. The school is scheduled to open in September 2021. The Trust is also part of local networks and partnerships for both mainstream and special education.

Plans for the future & key challenges

Like other Trusts, Friars MAT is operating in a challenging economic environment. We wish to grow our operation and influence but we recognise the need to do this organically. We have established a three year strategic plan and our three key challenges for the future are;

1. To maximise both strategic and operational value from our current and future partnerships
2. To continue to strengthen our governance structures as the Trust develops to ensure we have effective leadership at all levels in the Trust
3. To continue to attract and retain knowledgeable and skilled staff

Trust ethos & vision

The vision of our Trust is to become an acknowledged leader in the field of inclusive education and our mission is summed up by our strapline, *'Every child, every chance, every day'*. Our actions are underpinned by the following beliefs;

- Everyone should feel included in their local communities
- Staff and students are capable of constantly learning and developing
- Family members and carers play a vital role in the education of students
- Our schools and academies need to be part *of* and responsive *to* their local communities

The Trust's Academy enjoys a reputation for curriculum innovation and a positive ethos. Staff and students alike work hard to create a challenging and supportive environment that raises expectations and promotes mutual respect. Behaviour in the Academy was remarked upon by a recent Ofsted visit which commended the students' impeccable behaviour and praised them for being respectful, caring and polite.

Role and person specification

We are looking to recruit a Director of Corporate Affairs to join an established Board of six other Trustees. The person's role is twofold:

- To advise, support and hold to account the leadership team of the Trust as they seek to gain maximum value from partnerships with organisations.
- To develop the MAT's governance structures to ensure effective leadership at all levels

The person will also act with other directors to develop a clear vision and strategic direction for the MAT and to oversee the prudent use of resources in accordance with company and charity law.

The successful candidate will have a track record of working at a strategic level in organisations and preferably a background in governance. Like other directors, the applicant needs to have a passion for education and ambition for those with special educational needs.

Commitment of time

The applicant will need to commit to meeting as a Board 3 times a year, in a sub committee 3 times a year and also be available for an annual strategic planning and review day. There may also be ad hoc face-to-face meetings which consist of hearing appeals or complaints. Board and Committee meetings nearly always start at 4.15 on Tuesdays or Thursdays during term time.

Applications

For an informal conversation about the role please contact John Turnbull, Chair of Friars MAT via Friars Academy office on 01933 304950. Applications for the role should be made in writing to John Turnbull, Friars Multi Academy Trust, Friars Academy, Friars Close, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 2LA or via email and attachments to jturnbull@friars.northants.sch.uk You should enclose a CV and covering letter outlining why you believe you would, be suitable for the role. Closing date is 30th June 2021.