

Tame River Educational Trust Developments, January update: September 2021 Opening

These are very exciting times as we move closer to the launch of our Tame River Educational Trust and this is the first update of this calendar year on the planning taking place between Alder Community High School, Droylsden Academy, Hyde High School and Mossley Hollins High School to co-construct our Educational Trust. Our aim is now to launch in September 2021 and this ambition remains on track. Regular meetings involving the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors are taking place and many of these meetings include the DFE Project Lead, the Local Authority and our solicitor.

As you know, Hyde High School intends to transfer to a sponsored Multi-Academy Trust. We have long ago agreed our mission and core educational purposes and these sit perfectly with our current school values and priorities.

Let's remind ourselves of this mission and purpose:

In the Tame River Educational Trust our family of community-based schools will share the same mission and educational purposes, promoted and supported by our Sponsor:

Our Mission:

Our Trust will host a **family of great community-based schools** in which to **learn, teach and belong**;

Our Core Educational Purposes

1. Our Trust will become known for **imbuing** in our learners **positive character traits** and **enquiring minds** and for the **talent and professionalism** of our staff;
2. Through a cycle of creative self and peer improvement, any school with us for three years or more will be in **the top 25% of similar schools nationally for the academic progress** of its learners;
3. Students in our Trust will receive a distinctive **Trust-wide** Community and **Educational Dividend** (in the arts, sport and sciences, where significant additional opportunities will be made available to them in one or more of these disciplines).

These are ambitious. But they are not mere aspirations on a bit of paper. We aim to be there, together, with the support of all staff, students, parents and the community, in 3 years from the launch date, at the latest. Regardless of socio-economic context or history, each school will be committed to the above, as will be any new school joining us in the future. **We will be stronger together**. Each school will make its own distinctive, autonomous contribution to its community but we will align around best practice and school improvement strategies and actions wherever they bring the most benefit.

A number of Guilds (Trust-wide, cross-cutting teams) have formed to allow expertise from the four co-founding schools to drive key priorities. This is incredibly exciting work. We are represented at the already well-established Teaching Guild (purpose 1, part b) and staff are to join the new Student Character Development Guild (purpose 1, part a), with the first meeting scheduled to take place before half-term. It is testament to the strong character development work already taking place that this work will become a cornerstone of our ambition for our young learners in our new Trust

From April there will be Subject Guilds in English, mathematics and science (with more to follow later) all with clear Terms of Reference, where leaders in these subjects across the four schools share and improve together, for the sake of learners in those subjects. Work on governance and shared ambition continues at pace. The Heads and Chairs already meet from all 4 schools and have done so for over 18 months and there is a Tame River Heads' Guild and Business Managers' Guild in place. The designate Members Group and Board of Trustees are already in place, ready, and have met and shared their ambition as key, well-experienced and knowledgeable volunteers. Joint HR work is also underway, currently. There have been a number of presentations and discussions at SLT in all four schools on the new Educational Trust and on the Tame River Teacher Gold Standard. We can provide more information on this Standard and the impact it will have on the quality of teaching over time, in a future update.

As part of this work, processes are underway to allow a Business Manager from a different school to undertake due diligence of a range of finance, student level and staffing data on one of the four schools.

Stage 2, which will begin later this month with Drew Duncan (Executive Headteacher at Mossley Hollins High School and Droylsden Academy) visiting Hyde to look at leadership, education, legal, land and buildings and finance at our school.

Formal statutory consultation with staff, parents, students and key partners will begin shortly in each school. The statutory element of the consultation will cover 6 weeks from the 22nd February to the 2nd April (it would have happened sooner, but for lockdown) so that we can all understand the process and ask questions, and more details will be shared in due course. The consultation will allow all participants to ask questions and share views.

The Council Leader, Local Authority, Regional Schools' Commission, Department for Education, Governing Bodies and Headteachers have approved and are helping to finalise planning and preparations in our co-constructed Educational Trust.