**Multi Academy Trust**

The RSA Academy will become a part of the Central RSA Academies Trust (CRSAAT) in October 2017.

The Central Trust is currently made up of 4 schools, who are all in the RSA family of Academies, they are: Arrow Vale RSA Academy, Churchill and Abbeywood First and Middle schools and Ipsley First and Middle schools.

On joining the Trust, RSA Academy will continue to keep its own name, strong links with the RSA as sponsor and would retain much of its independence whilst gaining major benefits from being part of strong, formal collaboration of schools. As part of the RSA Family of Academies we already work closely with these schools.

**What is a Multi Academy Trust?**

A Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is where a number of schools join together and form a single Trust with a Board of Directors answerable to the Trust’s members. Members of the Trust are responsible for the strategic oversight of all academies within the Trust. They are the conscience of the Trust, ensuring that the objectives are upheld and monitor the effectiveness of individual academies, manage central services and report to the Secretary of State. They work to ensure that individual academies are performing to the best of their ability and that they get the support and challenge that they require. The MAT will have a board of directors including individuals from our current Governing Body. The Trust will delegate many powers to a Local Academy Governing Board (LAGB) which will have a role similar to that of the current School Governing Body.

**Why join a Multi Academy Trust?**

Schools have always operated within a changing educational landscape. The current financial pressures on schools, the belief that being a ‘stand-alone’ academy is now less effective in the delivery of excellence than being part of a MAT are key to our proposal. In addition, there is significant pressure from Government for ‘stand-alone’ Academies to be part of a MAT. The Governing Body believes that it is better for the RSA Academy, as a strong school, to be at the forefront of this process by joining a MAT in partnership with like-minded schools who share our core aims and values. This would allow us to be part of a MAT geared to our own values rather than, potentially, be pushed to joining an existing MAT that does not share our ethos.

We believe there will be a number of benefits to our school:

* Protect the school’s ethos and inclusive philosophy by maintaining control of our own destiny
* Better opportunities to share best practice and professional development programmes across the schools, adding real value to the education of all children;
* Recruit staff through opportunities to work across all schools
* More opportunities for staff retention, deployment and promotion, by keeping good staff within the Trust who might otherwise further their career elsewhere
* A broader base for developing leadership

We believe that joining the Central RSA Academies Trust is the best way to ensure our students get the best possible education going forward. Below are some frequently asked questions that may help to provide additional clarity.