



## **PRESS RELEASE**

RESIDENTS, businesses, faith groups and politicians are being invited to a meeting over proposals which would create the first Multi-Academy Trust of its kind in the country.

Ninestiles Academy Trust and The Sixth Form College Solihull plan to merge in a new pioneering partnership.

The College proposes to convert to an academy in order to merge with the Trust. Catering for students aged from three to 19, it would be the first Multi-Academy Trust of its kind to incorporate a sixth form college.

A six-week consultation on the proposals is underway and will include a community drop-in session on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm.

The session, taking place at The Shirley Centre in Stratford Road, Shirley, will give attendees the opportunity to find out more about the proposals, ask questions and take part in the consultation process.

Martyn Collin, Interim CEO at Ninestiles Academy Trust, said: "We would urge anyone who has any queries to come along to this meeting.

"This consultation process is vitally important in order for us to fully gauge people's views on what is one of the biggest developments the Trust has planned to date.

"Improving the quality of teaching and educational outcomes for the children and young people we serve in Birmingham and Solihull is the key motivation for this proposal and we want to hear the voices of the communities we serve."

Paul Ashdown, Principal at The Sixth Form College, Solihull, said: "I strongly believe that this proposed merger would create one of the very best educational Trusts in the country.

“The Trust and the College have been working towards this pioneering shared vision for two years and we are looking forward to talking to the community about the many benefits these proposals will generate.”

Ninestiles Academy Trust currently comprises of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull - Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

The Trust and College first began talks to merge in early 2015 and the Government later the same year recommended they join together following a review of Further Education in Birmingham and Solihull.

The College and Trust jointly submitted a formal application to the Department for Education after their Governing Bodies unanimously voted in support of the merger in December 2016.

The six-week consultation ends on March 20<sup>th</sup> and will include a number of drop-in sessions being held for parents, pupils, staff, stakeholders and the community. More information can be found at [www.ca-education.co.uk](http://www.ca-education.co.uk)

Anyone wishing to have their say can also complete an online survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/merger-consultation/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/merger-consultation/)

Views can also be shared by emailing [response@ca-education.co.uk](mailto:response@ca-education.co.uk) or calling 0330 9000 012.

The merger, if approved by the Secretary of State for Education, is expected to take place on August 1st 2017.

The proposed merger would see the Trust expanding to cater for more than 7,500 pupils and students and 800 staff, and would create an opportunity to expand its capacity further still to support other primary and secondary schools and colleges.

**Ends**

**For more information please contact Emma McKinney or Aneesa Malik at Clarke Associates on 0121 702 2525 or email [emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk](mailto:emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk)**

**Notes to Editors**

### **About The Sixth Form College Solihull:**

The Sixth Form College Solihull is located in Widney Manor Road, Solihull, B91 3WR, and has more than 2,300 students.

It is a specialist provider of A-level, BTEC and CACHE education to 16-19 year olds from Solihull and Birmingham.

The College is one of the largest centres of A-level study in the country with a long track record of securing overall pass rates above the national average.

Every year, more than 700 students progress from the College to university, including places at some of the most competitive and demanding courses and universities in the country.

In 2013, Ofsted rated the College as 'Good' overall with 'Outstanding' features. At its core are its three values: Aspire, Invest and Respect. These values create the capacity to transform life chances, enabling students to stretch their potential to the full.

### **About Ninestiles Academy Trust:**

Ninestiles Academy Trust is based at Ninestiles School An Academy in Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7QG, currently consists of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull serving 5,200 pupils.

The schools run by the Trust are Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

Ninestiles School became Birmingham's first converter academy in January 2011. Now called Ninestiles An Academy, it is the Trust's lead school and is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It has a long and proud history of providing school-to-school support, both locally and across the country. In 2012 it was designated as a National Support School, while the Trust has also developed The Ninestiles Teaching Alliance – a teaching school which has developed a strong alliance of more than 30 schools.



STRICTLY EMBARGOED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 09.00 HRS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

## **PRESS RELEASE**

A consultation gets under-way today (February 6<sup>th</sup>) over proposals which would create the first Multi-Academy Trust of its kind in the country.

Ninestiles Academy Trust and The Sixth Form College Solihull plan to merge in a new pioneering partnership.

The College proposes to convert to an academy in order to merge with the Trust. Catering for students aged from three to 19, it would be the first Multi-Academy Trust of its kind to incorporate a sixth form college.

Martyn Collin, Interim CEO at Ninestiles Academy Trust, said: "This consultation process is vitally important in order for us to fully gauge people's views on what is one of the biggest developments the Trust has planned to date.

"Improving the quality of teaching and educational outcomes for the children and young people we serve in Birmingham and Solihull is the key motivation for this proposal.

"The aim is to create a Trust which will boost both the aspirations and attainment of those living in our communities.

"We want to offer young people and their families access to the best possible education at each and every level, from pre-school to post-16.

"A new Trust would bring together the existing and complementary strengths of the Trust and College to create an 'all-through' expertise which would drive and sustain academic excellence.

“Together we would be able to accelerate progression, giving families confidence and continuity within an education experience that supports the development of their children at every crucial step.”

Paul Ashdown, Principal at The Sixth Form College, Solihull, said: “Over the past few years I have been working hard to secure the long-term future of the College.

“This is a bold step, with significant advantages which I strongly believe will help to secure the services, ethos and provision we all hold dear.

“I fully and whole-heartedly support the proposal and I am confident it will create a more financially sustainable and robust organisation, which will be able to offer both staff and students more security and improved quality.

“I believe Ninestiles Academy Trust is the perfect partner for the College, particularly with its strong inspection records, Teaching School and National Support School status.

“We have been working in close partnership with the Trust over the past two years and share a strong commitment to providing truly outstanding education for all parts of our community.

“Together, we have the opportunity to become one of the very best educational Trusts in the country.”

Ninestiles Academy Trust currently comprises of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull - Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

The Trust and College first began talks to merge in early 2015 and the Government later recommended they join together following a review of Further Education in Birmingham and Solihull.

The College and Trust jointly submitted a formal application to the Department for Education after their Governing Bodies unanimously voted in support of the merger in December 2016.

The six-week consultation ends on March 20<sup>th</sup> and will include a number of drop-in sessions being held for parents, pupils, staff, stakeholders and the community. More information can be found at [www.ca-education.co.uk](http://www.ca-education.co.uk)

Anyone wishing to have their say can also complete an online survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/merger-consultation/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/merger-consultation/)

Views can also be shared by emailing [response@ca-education.co.uk](mailto:response@ca-education.co.uk) or calling 0330 9000 012.

The merger, if approved by the Secretary of State for Education, is expected to take place on August 1st 2017.

The proposed merger would see the Trust expanding to cater for more than 7,500 pupils and students and 800 staff, and would create an opportunity to expand its capacity further still to support other primary and secondary schools and colleges.

## **Ends**

**For more information please contact Emma McKinney or Aneesa Malik at Clarke Associates on 0121 702 2525 or email [emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk](mailto:emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk)**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About The Sixth Form College Solihull:**

The Sixth Form College Solihull is located in Widney Manor Road, Solihull, B91 3WR, and has more than 2,300 students.

It is a specialist provider of A-level, BTEC and CACHE education to 16-19 year olds from Solihull and Birmingham.

The College is one of the largest centres of A-level study in the country with a long track record of securing overall pass rates above the national average.

Every year, more than 700 students progress from the College to university, including places at some of the most competitive and demanding courses and universities in the country.

In 2013, Ofsted rated the College as 'Good' overall with 'Outstanding' features. At its core are its three values: Aspire, Invest and Respect. These values create the capacity to transform life chances, enabling students to stretch their potential to the full.

### **About Ninestiles Academy Trust:**

Ninestiles Academy Trust is based at Ninestiles School An Academy in Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7QG, currently consists of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull serving 5,200 pupils.

The schools run by the Trust are Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

Ninestiles School became Birmingham's first converter academy in January 2011. Now called Ninestiles An Academy, it is the Trust's lead school and is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It has a long and proud history of providing school-to-school support, both locally

and across the country. In 2012 it was designated as a National Support School, while the Trust has also developed The Ninestiles Teaching Alliance – a teaching school which has developed a strong alliance of more than 30 schools.

**Drop-in Sessions for staff and parents/carers with children  
at schools within Ninestiles Academy Trust**

Erdington Hall Primary School

Ryland Road  
Birmingham  
B24 8JJ

PARENTS	STAFF
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
3.30pm – 7.00pm	4.00pm – 6.00pm

Ninestiles School An Academy

Hartfield Crescent  
Acocks Green  
B27 7QG

PARENTS	STAFF
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
3.30pm – 7.00pm	4.00pm – 6.30pm

**Drop-in sessions for staff, students and parents/carers at  
The Sixth Form College Solihull**

The Sixth Form College Solihull

Widney Manor Road  
Solihull  
B91 3WR

STAFF	STUDENTS	PARENTS
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
4.00pm – 5.30pm	12.35pm – 2.30pm	5.00pm – 7.30pm
Daily sessions between 8.30am and 9.30am from Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
	12.35pm – 2.30pm	5.00pm – 7.30pm

**Public Community Meeting**

Community
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
5.00pm – 7.00pm
Venue TBC



**DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 09.00 HRS ON  
DECEMBER 15TH**

**PRESS RELEASE**

NINESTILES Academy Trust and The Sixth Form College Solihull plan to merge in a new pioneering partnership.

The Trust and College first began talks to merge in early 2015 and in October last year the Government also recommended they join together following a review of Further Education in Birmingham and Solihull.

The review, led by departing Further Education Commissioner Dr David Collins, assessed the economic and educational needs of the region and resulted in 11 recommendations regarding the future of a number of colleges and sixth form centres.

At separate meetings held simultaneously on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, the Boards of both the The Sixth Form College Solihull and Ninestiles Academy Trust voted to continue with their planned merger and to move forward to the next stage.

They will now jointly submit a formal application to the Department for Education, requesting the College both converts to Academy status and also joins the Trust. This is subject to due process and consultation.

The merger, if approved by the Department for Education, is expected to take place on August 1st 2017.

Ninestiles Academy Trust currently comprises of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull - Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

The planned merger would see the Trust becoming an establishment which would cater for students aged from three to 19.

Martyn Collin, Interim CEO at Ninestiles Academy Trust, said: “This is an exciting development for our Trust, which has always been focussed on ensuring every pupil in our care can achieve their full potential.

“Collaborative working is integral to the Trust as we continue to grow, prosper and build a network providing an integrated and strong education offer to children and young people in South East Birmingham and Solihull.

“We have a long and proud history of offering school-to-school support, facilitated through our Ninestiles Teaching Alliance – a teaching school which has developed a strong network of more than 30 schools.

“By joining forces with The Sixth Form College Solihull, we would be able to offer children the unique opportunity of accessing a learning pathway which will lead them on a journey remaining within one network of educational establishments from the first day of their academic experience aged three right up until they are 19 years old.

“This means we would be able to truly develop each and every one of our children as they progress through each stage of their academic journey, allowing us the ability to nurture and develop their own individual brilliance.

“This new chapter in our Trust’s development also further enables us to continue to create opportunities to support social mobility, as well as academic and economic success in our communities.”

The proposed merger would see the Trust expanding to cater for more than 7,500 pupils and students and 800 staff, and would create an opportunity to expand its capacity further still to support other primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Paul Ashdown, Principal at The Sixth Form College, Solihull, said: “I believe strongly that this merger would bring together the existing and complementary strengths of The Sixth Form College Solihull and Ninestiles Academy Trust to create an all-through expertise which would drive and sustain a system of excellence.

“It will enable us to create an organisation with strong community, education and business links which will allow our students to prosper, flourish and achieve their aspirations.

“As part of a strong Trust we would also be able to secure and enhance the outstanding educational opportunities we provide to young people from schools all across Birmingham and Solihull.”

**Ends**

**For more information please contact Emma McKinney or Aneesa Malik at Clarke Associates on 0121 702 2525 or email [emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk](mailto:emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk)**

## **Notes to Editors**

**The Ninestiles Academy Trust** currently comprises of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull - Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

Ninestiles School became one of Birmingham's first converter academies in January 2011. Now called Ninestiles An Academy, it is the Trust's lead school and is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It has a long and proud history of providing school-to-school support, both locally and across the country. In 2012 it was designated as a National Support School, while the Trust has also developed The Ninestiles Teaching Alliance – a teaching school which has developed a strong alliance of more than 30 schools.

**The Sixth Form College Solihull** is a specialist provider of A-level, BTEC and CACHE education to 16-19 year olds from Solihull and Birmingham. With more than 40 subjects on offer, the College offers one of the widest range of courses in the region. In 2013, Ofsted rated the College as 'Good' overall with 'Outstanding' features. At its core are its three values: Aspire, Invest and Respect. These values create the capacity to transform life chances, enabling students to stretch their potential to the full.



**DATE: January 26th 2017**

**Ninestiles Academy Trust appoints new CEO**

NINESTILES Academy Trust has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer.

Catherine Anwar, currently a Senior Her Majesty's Inspector for education watchdog Ofsted, will take up the post on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

A former head teacher with a wealth of experience in the education sector, Catherine will play a pivotal role in steering the Trust and its seven schools situated across Birmingham and Solihull.

Bob Fear, Chair of Ninestiles Academy Trust, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have appointed Catherine and we look forward to working with her as the Trust continues to grow and develop.

"We are confident that her combined passion and extensive experience will ensure that we continue to raise standards across our Trust."

Catherine Anwar said: "I am thrilled to have been appointed as CEO of Ninestiles Academy Trust.

"The Trust is facing an exciting new chapter, with plans in place which will see it merge with The Sixth Form College Solihull, creating the first Multi-Academy Trust of its kind in the UK.

"I look forward to helping navigate the Trust on its journey and directing its ambitious plans to expand and prosper."

In her role at Ofsted, Catherine has led focused reviews of Multi-Academy Trusts, and inspections of complex academies, and free schools. Currently she has responsibility for quality assurance of Ofsted inspections in London.

Prior to joining Ofsted she worked in a wide range of schools, including serving for eight years as head teacher of Calthorpe Park School in Hampshire.

Catherine will take over from Martyn Collin, who was appointed as Interim CEO of Ninestiles Academy Trust in October last year following the departure of former CEO Christine Quinn after she became the Government's Regional Schools Commissioner for the West Midlands.

## **Ends**

**For more information please contact Emma McKinney or Aneesa Malik at Clarke Associates on 0121 702 2525 or email [emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk](mailto:emma-m@clarke-associates.co.uk)**

## **Notes to Editors**

**The Ninestiles Academy Trust** currently comprises of seven schools across Birmingham and Solihull - Ninestiles An Academy, Erdington Hall Primary School, Lyndon Secondary School, Pegasus Primary School, The Oaklands Primary School, Yarnfield Primary School and Cockshut Hill School.

Ninestiles School became one of Birmingham's first converter academies in January 2011. Now called Ninestiles An Academy, it is the Trust's lead school and is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. It has a long and proud history of providing school-to-school support, both locally and across the country. In 2012 it was designated as a National Support School, while the Trust has also developed The Ninestiles Teaching Alliance – a teaching school which has developed a strong alliance of more than 30 schools.

A consultation over the proposals to convert the Sixth Form College Solihull to an academy and to merge it with Ninestiles Academy Trust is due to begin in February 2017.

The merger, if approved by the Department for Education, is expected to take place on August 1st 2017.

The planned merger would see the Trust becoming an establishment which would cater for students aged from three to 19.