



# Glastonbury Thorn School

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Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Cursley  
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13 February 2026

Dear Stakeholders,

## **Consultation on Proposed Academy Conversion and Joining the Alliance Schools Trust**

As we shared in December, the Governing Board has been looking at ways to improve the financial stability of the school, in light of the pressures that all schools nationally are facing. Over recent months, the Governors and senior leaders have completed significant work around understanding Multi-Academy Trusts and what joining a MAT could mean for our school, as well as investigating several local, existing Trusts to find one that is most aligned with the vision and values of Glastonbury Thorn.

As we communicated in December, we are determined to protect what makes Glastonbury Thorn so special - an incredibly caring and nurturing school that is ambitious in supporting every child to achieve their best outcomes. The Alliance Schools Trust's reputation across Milton Keynes (and beyond) is well known. The Alliance Schools Trust 'brand' is synonymous with high quality education, innovative approaches and with children at the heart of what they do. This aligns beautifully with our own vision and values. Every school within the Alliance is either good or outstanding according to Ofsted (indeed- Watling Academy is the only secondary school in MK that has this highest grading) and it is clear to us that we will be welcomed into a strong, high performing and ambitious organisation that can certainly bring benefits to GTS.

The main priorities identified were:

- Enhance the outcome and experience of pupils by recruiting, retaining, and developing exceptional staff.
- Foster strong and meaningful collaboration and innovation with local schools.
- Position GTS as the 'school of choice' for local families, thus enhancing pupil numbers.

As part of the process Governors are seeking to consult with all key stakeholders of Glastonbury Thorn School regarding a proposal to convert from being a Local Authority Maintained School to an Academy. Becoming an Academy would see us join the highly successful Alliance Schools Trust who run Denbigh School, Watling Academy, Watling Primary, Brooksward School, Drayton Park School and Willen Primary.

As with all key decisions, our Governors are committed to putting the best interests of our children, our staff and the wider community at the centre. We are therefore keen to involve you, as a valued partner, in the consultation process.

The consultation will run from Friday 13th February 2026 until 4pm on Friday 6th March 2026 (3 weeks).



**'Every day getting better in every way'**

Email: [office@glastonburythorn.co.uk](mailto:office@glastonburythorn.co.uk) [www.glastonburythorn.co.uk](http://www.glastonburythorn.co.uk)



## **Why Join a MAT?**

Becoming an Academy and being part of a Trust is akin to being part of a wider, larger family. Not only does this bring potential financial benefits and economies of scale, it also presents incredible opportunities for enhancing learning and pupil outcomes, school improvement through collaboration, and both broadening and deepening the curriculum leveraging shared resources and innovation.

## **Who are the Alliance Schools Trust**

The Alliance Schools Trust was established in 2017 from its first school – Denbigh and is now an established Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) of six schools, serving nearly 5,000 students and their families.

On becoming part of the Alliance Schools Trust, GTS Governors are confident that this partnership will address all the main priorities identified, in addition to others, notably:

- Enhanced opportunities for staff development, promotion, and retention.
- A ‘family’ of schools to work and learn together thus enhancing outcomes for children in MK.
- Opportunities for curriculum development and enrichment through shared expertise and resources.
- Aligned core values: combining GTS’s motto “Every day getting better in every way!” with the Alliance Schools Trust’s mission of Education, Care and Opportunity.
- Longer term financial stability and opportunity.

Further information about the Alliance Schools Trust can be found here:

<https://www.tastrust.org.uk>

You will be aware that many schools have taken the decision to become an Academy and to join a Multi-Academy Trust. Clearly, this is a very significant step to take, and we recognise that stakeholders will have lots of questions. To support this dialogue and to ensure transparency, all stakeholders will be able to access a document of ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ on our website and this aims to pre-empt common questions that people may have around the process: [FAQs](#).

This will be updated as new questions come in.

There will also be an opportunity to attend an open evening event where members of staff from the Trust and School will be available to answer questions. This will take place on Monday 2 March at 5pm.

Should you wish to make a comment, share your view (either one of support or caution) or ask a direct question, please complete the following online Form. A member of the team will aim to respond to you directly in due course: [Consultation on Proposed Academy Conversion and Joining the Alliance Schools Trust – Fill in form](#)

May we take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your time and attention in this incredibly important and significant matter.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Cursley**

Head Teacher

**Sophie Sarginson**

Chair of Governors



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