

# ForumEducation

Consultancy and training for academy trusts

## Training and development for MAT trustees & trust boards: 2017/18

The success of multi-academy trusts fundamentally depends on strong, strategic and values-based trust boards. It is essential that trusts invest in the induction and ongoing development of their trustees – not least in a fast-changing education landscape that must adapt and respond to provide children and young people with the best possible start. Indeed, as the sector learns more about the characteristics and practices of successful MATs, it is essential that all trustees stay up to speed to ensure the success of their own organisations.

Forum Education is a consultancy and training organisation specialising in the development of academy trusts and their leaders. We run four regional networks for MAT CEOs and provide consultancy, training and development support to a large number of MATs. We pride ourselves on the fact that our work is based on extensive and high quality research and our ongoing relationship with the sector.

**This year's training and support includes the following training days and bespoke provision for MATs:**

### **Induction session for MAT trustees: the role and responsibilities of academy trustees and an introduction to the multi-academy trust landscape.**

**This session explores some of the fundamental aspects of the role of trustees and introduces new trustees to the MAT model. It covers:**

- The Nolan principles of public life.
- The principles of effective governance.
- Key provisions of the academies financial handbook & the governance handbook (including an introduction to the 'scheme of delegation').
- The core components of successful governance in MATs.
- The concept of multi-academy trusts, including the opportunities & challenges associated with their successful and sustainable development.
- Case studies on both effective and poor examples of trust governance.
- The role of the Chair & the board's relationship with the CEO.



**This engaging and highly informative session – which is based on our own extensive research and case studies - can be provided for individual academy trust boards on request by emailing us at [admin@forumeducation.org](mailto:admin@forumeducation.org)**

# Navigating a changing landscape: strategic reflection, and planning in response to an evolving context for education.

This is a half-day/evening session that is used by some MAT trust boards as an annual planning event. It is an opportunity to reflect on the key challenges and opportunities that their organisations currently face and to begin to plan ahead strategically for the next stage of their development. The sessions provide trust boards with key and relevant information and helps to facilitate important thinking and reflection time.

This year's '**Navigating a changing education landscape**' training session will encourage trustees to review and discuss the following areas:

- The latest research and understanding on sustainable and successful MAT development and growth, and the key implications for trust boards' planning going forward.
- Understanding the recruitment and retention challenge and strategies for establishing your MAT as an employer of choice in a competitive recruitment climate.
- Understanding the evolving financial climate for schools and reflecting on strategies for how MATs can achieve financial sustainability and efficiency in challenging times.

These sessions are informed by the latest research, our ongoing monitoring of government policy and the best practice case studies that we develop via our extensive networks of multi-academy trusts across the country. It is a half-day session which can also be run from 4.30pm –7.30pm to accommodate trustees' working patterns.

**COST: £895 plus VAT**

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## MAT governance review

This process is intended to support MAT trust boards to reflect on their effectiveness, areas for development, and training needs. The DfE has suggested that trust boards look to undertake a thorough, preferably external review of their own effectiveness and readiness for growth. This is to ensure that a trust has a clear view of the skills it will need in its next phase of growth and robust plans in place to fill any gaps through training or recruitment.

The review includes a series of workshops, meetings with Forum Education, questionnaires and a final report. The format is as follows:

- An introductory workshop providing an overview of the process and why it matters to the board's ongoing development (1 hour).
- A 360 degree review of the effectiveness of the trust board (including areas such as strategic planning, composition and delegation, committee structures, challenge & relationships, stakeholder relationships, training, understanding and use of data etc.)
- A skills-audit based on the DfE's competency framework and the 'experience and qualifications metrics' for governing boards.
- A succession planning audit and review of recruitment strategy for future appointments.
- A workshop session discussing key outcomes from the review and 'next step' planning (3 hours).
- A final report on the outcomes of the process and next steps.

Please contact us at [admin@forumeducation.org](mailto:admin@forumeducation.org) for more information on applying to access this review process for your trust.

[www.forumeducation.org](http://www.forumeducation.org)    [admin@forumeducation.org](mailto:admin@forumeducation.org)

#MATLeaders Networks – delivered by Forum Education

*"Forum Education enabled our trust to review its progress and inform future planning. The quality of the information and presentation provided was excellent and made things clear and easily able to be understood.*

*They provided exactly what was required as our MAT reached a critical time in its development. As a board of trustees, we have been able to make clear decisions for our future direction and Forum provided us with a positive starting point.*

*I would unreservedly recommend them to schools to facilitate accurate assessment of their present position and what is required for future planning."*

Pam Burton, Chair of Trustees, 2017