



Press release

The Rivermead Inclusive Trust merges with the Academy of Woodlands

1st September 2022

Rivermead Inclusive Trust (RIT) and The Academy of Woodlands (AOW) have today merged under the Rivermead Inclusive Trust name.

RIT had been approached to support AOW with leadership capacity, however it quickly became clear that the two organisations share an ethos of equality of opportunity for all learners, regardless of their abilities or behaviours and believe in giving children aspirations to create a passion for lifelong learning, making the merger between the two organisations a natural fit.

Both organisations have been working in harmony which has led towards a successful merger. The Regional Schools Commissioner agreed that RIT and AOW would work well together and sanctioned the merger.

The Trust believes that each school within the Trust should retain its uniqueness and therefore, parents and children will see no difference in the day-to-day activities other than improved processes that can be provided by being part of a larger organisation. The Trust also encourages all staff to reach their full potential by giving opportunities to lead and develop their skills through an extensive CPD offer.

Tina Lovey, The Rivermead Inclusive Trust's Chief Executive, said:

"We are very proud of the schools and provisions that are part of the Rivermead Inclusive Trust. We see the Academy of Woodlands as joining our family and we are excited to enter this new stage to our alignment and partnership. This will be a



'coming together' with solidification of ethos, values and vision for the greater good of the children that we serve and our local community. This effective partnership will further enhance the 'inclusive' approach which will now reach more children and young people across our family of schools emphasizing a therapeutic and holistic learning community. We look forward to embracing new colleagues and celebrating every success both for young people, their families and staff."

Liza Thompson, The Academy of Woodlands Chair of Governors, said:

"The Rivermead Inclusive Trust ethos of wrap around, holistic education and care for all of their children, along with their strong community presence aligns perfectly with the Academy of Woodlands way. The Governing Body are proud of all we have achieved and are excited for our next steps of future working together."

For further information please contact Rivermead Inclusive Trust on 01634 961080.

Notes:

Rivermead inclusive Trust was formed in early 2016 by Rivermead School, which was quickly joined by Hoo St Werburgh Primary School and Marlborough Centre and Walderslade Primary School in September 2016.

The Academy of Woodlands was formed as a Single Academy Trust in 2013.

