



Press release
03 June 2014

Three Staffordshire special schools applying to join Shaw Education Trust and become academies

Three Staffordshire special schools – the Blackfriars and Coppice Federation in Newcastle-under-Lyme and Walton Hall Community Special School in Eccleshall – are currently converting to become academies.

The three Staffordshire special schools are intending to be the first schools to join Shaw Education Trust – a multi-academy trust set up by employment, learning and skills charity, Shaw Trust. All three schools are planning to become academies with the sponsorship of the charity, with their academisation scheduled for 1 September 2014.

The Blackfriars and Coppice Federation and Walton Hall Community Special School have been in discussion with Shaw Trust about partnering with the charity to build on its 30 years' of experience of helping disabled and disadvantaged people to gain skills and find employment; with a view to becoming academies with Shaw Trust sponsorship. All three schools have been consulting with the parents of their students, as well as with staff and governing bodies to discuss this.

The education trust's board¹ has appointed Mr Jim Kane as chief executive. Mr Kane is currently executive head teacher at Blackfriars Coppice Federation of Schools based in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Shaw Trust is combining its expertise in the field of employability with some of the UK's leading educationalists to become an Approved Sponsor for Academies, and as a result, has formed Shaw Education Trust. The education trust aims to work with existing schools that are considering becoming academies, with a focus on special schools and mainstream schools that cater for young people who are disabled or at disadvantage.

Jim Kane, chief executive of Shaw Education Trust and executive head teacher at Blackfriars Coppice Federation of Schools, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for the Blackfriars and Coppice Federation and Walton Hall Community Special School. The Shaw Education Trust is dedicated to delivering best-in-class tailored learning to ensure every young person at one of our schools has the opportunity and support to achieve their full potential - whatever their abilities and whatever their background. Working with Shaw Trust will help all three schools to address the cliff edge where young people leave school and find there is little or no support to help them in the next stage of their life; supporting them to reach their full potential."



ENDS

Notes to editors

Blackfriars Newcastle is a special school catering for 95 pupils with a range of special needs. In addition, it has a special education college in Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent. The school is located on: Priory Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 2TF.

Coppice is a mixed special school for students (11-19) with moderate and severe learning difficulties and, increasingly, more complex needs that include rising numbers of students with an autistic spectrum disorder. It is located on: Abbots Way, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. ST5 2EY.

Walton Hall provides education to pupils with disabilities and learning difficulties aged between eleven and nineteen years. The school is located on: Stafford Road, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6JR.

1 The Shaw Education Trust board consists of:

- **Clive Richards** (Chairman) – Former Chief Executive of Rothschild Investment Trust and through his Clive Richards Charity, sponsors 10 special schools in Herefordshire.
- **David Bateson** – Currently the Executive Principal of Ash Field School and Assistive Technology Assessment Centre in Leicester.
- **Mike Hawker** – Trustee of Shaw Trust and a non-executive director with Findel and the National Offenders Management Service.
- **John Norman** – Trustee of Shaw Trust and former head of business continuity planning with BAA Airports Ltd.
- **Christine Quinn** – Executive principal of Ninestiles academy and has had three headships within the Ninestiles Federation in the last five years.
- **Roy O'Shaughnessy** – Chief Executive of Shaw Trust.

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For more on Shaw Trust, please visit the [Shaw Trust website: http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk](http://www.shaw-trust.org.uk)

For more on Shaw Education Trust, please visit the Shaw Education Trust website: www.shaweducationtrust.org.uk

Shaw Trust:



Shaw Trust is a national charity that helps people facing disadvantage into work, to gain skills and take control of their futures. Over the past thirty years, the Trust has striven to combine its charitable heart with its commercial brain to provide the very best support to the people it was set up to serve. .

Shaw Trust is the largest third sector contractor for Department for Work and Pensions. We deliver both mainstream (Work Programme) and specialist (Work Choice) employment support schemes across Britain and help over 50,000 people per year. We also help people gain skills and into work via a wide range of other activities including education, retail and volunteering as well as health and social enterprise projects.

Shaw Trust employs nearly 1,600 people across 200-plus locations. We are supported by over 600 volunteers and deliver contracts for eight major funding agencies including the European Social Fund, the Department of Work and Pensions and the Big Lottery Fund. We have international partners in Australia (Interwork), Poland (Intergracja Foundation) and Romania (Motivation Romania).

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