



Broadening Horizons to **Aspire, Believe, Succeed**

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21st September 2026

Dear our Local Residents, Community Partners and Neighbours,

RE: Proposed Academy Conversion & Partnership with Step Academy Trust - Public Community Consultation

We are writing to formally invite you, as valued members of our local community, neighbours, and regional partners, to participate in a public consultation regarding the future of The Phoenix Collegiate. The Governing Body has proposed that the school should convert to academy status and join STEP Academy Trust.

As a school that pride ourselves on our deep-rooted multicultural community of 1750 students in West Bromwich, our absolute priority remains delivering the highest standards of education and leadership opportunities for our young people. Our popular programmes, including our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, have helped us embed our core ethos: **Aspire, Believe, Succeed**.

Why We Are Proposing This Partnership

To secure our long-term future and accelerate our school's educational journey, we are seeking to align with a partner that matches our ambition. Joining STEP Academy Trust offers major strategic benefits, including access to a highly collaborative multi-academy model, outstanding professional development for our teaching staff, and a shared network of pupil enrichment opportunities.

About STEP Academy Trust

STEP Academy Trust is a highly respected, values-led multi-academy trust with a proven track record of regional transformation. Its operational philosophy is driven by a deep moral mission: **"Where we have the capacity to make a difference, we are morally bound to do so."** Today, 100% of STEP's 20 academies are rated Ofsted 'Good' or 'Better', and the trust has been nationally recognised with the SEND Excellence Award. They live by five key values: Passion, Urgency, Positivity, Aspiration, and a rigorous, public Commitment to Anti-Racism.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION KEY TIMELINES

- **Consultation Opens:** Monday 21st September 2026 at 09:00
- **Consultation Closes:** Friday 23rd October 2026 at 17:00

How to Share Your Views

As a central pillar of West Bromwich, we highly value our relationship with local residents, community groups and local businesses. We want to ensure that everyone in our community has a voice in shaping our school's future. You can submit your official response using any of the three following methods:

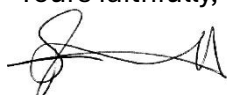
SUBMITTING YOUR CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

- **Online Response Form (Recommended):** Click or type the following address into your web browser to submit your feedback securely online:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/gQiJqfrRn5>
- **By Email:** Send your questions or feedback to the school via **stepconsultation@phoenix.sandwell.sch.uk** (please use the subject line 'Academy Consultation Query').
- **By Mail/In Person:** Drop off written comments at our school reception address (as above), clearly marked for the attention of the Governing Body.

Please rest assured that no final decision has been made. The Governing Body will review all submissions and feedback meticulously after the consultation closes on Saturday 31st October 2026. A comprehensive summary of responses and our subsequent determinations will be made public on the school website.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us shape the future of The Phoenix Collegiate.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Smith

Head teacher on behalf of The Governing Body

