



King's Group
Academies



Frequently asked questions following parent and carer information drop-ins during
November and December 2023

Question	Answer
How many schools will be in the MAT?	Currently, there are 9 schools in King's and 5 in the GFM and so there will be a total of 14 schools when we merge.
Why is bigger better? Will the Trust grow further after the merger?	The increased number of schools and sharing of that expertise will contribute significantly to rapid school improvement. After the merger of GFM and King's takes place, we do not, at this stage, have active plans to grow further. Any additional, single schools joining will be a result of relationships that we have built up over time, for example through our programme of MAT associate membership.
What is the expectation of timescales for the changes?	We, at King's, are very impatient about school improvement and there are many things that can be done in a very short space of time. Where our schools need support, we will support them and we have had success in getting schools to where they would like to be, or need to be. The sharing of good practice is happening now; it does not have to wait until April 2024.

Question	Answer
Is the building still happening at Bay House?	The Department for Education is running the project and has encountered some difficulties regarding the costs associated with a listed building. However, we have no reason to doubt that the work will be completed; it is only delayed, not cancelled.
Will parents receive regular updates on the progress of the merger?	Yes, we are aiming to keep all stakeholders well-informed through our newsletters, websites and social media. We are happy to receive questions at any time and parents should contact their child's school headteacher in the first instance.
Are the teaching staff onboard with the merger?	We are keeping our staff well-informed and feedback so far has been positive. Staff have seen the improvements first-hand and this impact has helped to build the relationship in preparation for the merger.
Gosport is quite a different area to some of the other King's schools. What is the strategy for Gosport?	There is much that we need to learn about Gosport, as we did when Prospect School joined the KGA. We will be doing our research and making sure that we speak with all the relevant people who hold the knowledge. We will establish how the principles fit; what is required and adapt accordingly.
How are you going to attract quality teachers to the area?	The recruitment, training and retention of early career teachers will make a significant impact regarding this. New teachers feeling confident and excited that their careers will flourish in KGA will be the key to this need.
Will the chosen logos/colour(s) and uniforms change?	KGA will be respectful of historical preferences and traditions for the individual schools. Any changes would come out of careful discussion, consultation and happen slowly; recognising any financial pressures a change in uniform would place upon families.

We are happy to receive further questions via your child's headteacher or to Vanessa Shorter, vshorter@gfmat.org