

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is an Academy**

An academy is a state school that is out of local authority control, being funded directly by central government. Rather than being accountable to the local authority, they are directly accountable to the Department for Education. This provides greater freedoms to innovate and lead to improve teaching and learning and standards at the school. This is a well-established process within Bradford and the country, with over 5500 primary academies in England at the end of 2019.

### **What is a Multi-Academy Trust? (MAT)**

A MAT is the legal framework to lead a group of academies/schools who share a common sense of ethos and vision. The trust helps to support each school in developing and sharing best practice, staffing and resources.

### **Which MAT will we be joining?**

The Carlton Academy Trust. This is a Bradford based MAT, which has grown out of the success of Carlton Bolling, an 'Outstanding' Ofsted-rated secondary school who were named 'Secondary School of the Year' in the 2019 BBC/Pearson National Teaching Awards.

### **When Will Thorpe become an Academy?**

The proposed conversion date is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### **Who has Proposed the move to Academy Status?**

This is a move that has been proposed by senior leaders at the school, backed by governors, and approved by the Department for Education in May.

### **Will I see Big Changes at the School when they Convert to Academy Status?**

No, the daily experience for your child will remain the same. There are no plans to change school uniforms, staff, classrooms, or similar with a move in to the trust. Most changes will be behind the scenes in the administration of the school, which serve to support improved teaching and learning.