



## Better Together Learning Trust

### Commercial Director: role outline and person specification

The Better Together Learning Trust is seeking a suitably committed and experienced individual to join an established Board of six other Trustees as its Commercial Director. The role is non-remunerated and carries the full responsibilities of a company Director in line with the Companies Act (2006).

#### **About the Trust**

Better Together Learning Trust came into being in September 2017 and is currently comprised of one Academy, Friars Academy, and a free school, Chelveston Road School. Both schools provide education for children and young people with special educational needs aged 11 to 19 in East Northamptonshire. Friars Academy has been rated *outstanding* by Ofsted in two inspections in June 2015 and 2019.

#### **Plans for the future & key challenges**

Like other Trusts, Better Together Learning Trust is operating in a challenging economic environment. We wish to grow our operation and influence, but we recognise the need to do this organically. We have established a three-year strategic plan and our three key challenges for the future are;

1. To grow the Trust to 5 schools over the next three to four years
2. To continue to strengthen our governance structures as the Trust develops to ensure we have effective leadership at all levels in the Trust
3. To continue to attract and retain knowledgeable and skilled staff

#### **Trust ethos & vision**

The vision of our Trust is to become an acknowledged leader in the field of inclusive education and our mission can be summed up by our strapline, *'Every child, every chance, every day'*. Our actions are underpinned by the following beliefs;

- Everyone should feel included in their local communities
- Staff and students are capable of constantly learning and developing
- Family members and carers play a vital role in the education of students
- Our schools and academies need to be part *of* and responsive *to* their local communities

Both schools enjoy a reputation for curriculum innovation and a positive ethos. Staff and students alike work hard to create a challenging and supportive environment that raise expectations and promote mutual respect. Behaviour in Friars Academy was remarked upon by a recent Ofsted visit which commended the students' impeccable behaviour and praised them for being respectful, caring and polite.



### **Role and person specification**

We are looking to recruit a Corporate Director to join an established Board of six other Trustees. The person's role is as follows:

- To advise, support and hold to account the leadership team of the Trust as it seeks to grow the Trust
- To utilise their commercial knowledge to advise the Trust Board in the development of its strategy
- To chair the Audit Committee

The person will also act with other directors to develop a clear vision and strategic direction for the MAT and to oversee the prudent use of resources in accordance with company and charity law.

The successful candidate will have a track record of working at a strategic level in organisations and preferably a background in leading and developing a business. Like other directors, the applicant needs to have a passion for education and ambition for those with special educational needs.

### **Commitment of time**

The applicant will need to commit to meeting as a Board 6 times a year, which may include an annual strategic review day, and in a sub-committee 3 times a year. There may also be ad hoc face-to-face meetings which consist of hearing appeals or complaints. On-line meetings Board and Committee meetings nearly always start at 4.15 on Tuesdays and face-to-face meetings commence at 6pm during term time. Sub-committee meetings commence at 4.15pm.

### **Applications**

For an informal conversation about the role please contact John Turnbull, Chair of Friars MAT on 07860 139424. Applications for the role should be made in writing to John Turnbull, Better Together Learning Trust, Friars Academy, Friars Close, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 2LA or via email and attachments to [jturnbull@friars.northants.sch.uk](mailto:jturnbull@friars.northants.sch.uk)

You should enclose a CV and covering letter outlining why you believe you would be suitable for the role. Closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, although the Trust reserves the right to shorten or extend this date dependent on the level of interest shown in the role.