**Friars Multi Academy Trust**

Director of Finance: role outline and person specification

**About the Trust**

Friars Multi Academy Trust is based in Wellingborough and came into being in September 2017. It is comprised of an established Academy, which is Friars Academy, and Chelveston Road School which opened in September 2021. Both schools are for students with Special Educational Needs aged 11 to 19. Friars Academy was rated *Outstanding* again in 2019 by Ofsted following an earlier inspection in June 2015.

**Plans for the future & key challenges**

Like other Trusts, Friars MAT is operating in a challenging economic environment. We wish to grow our operation and influence but we recognise the need to do this sustainably. MAT Trustees have identified the following key challenges for the MAT;

1. To maximise both strategic and operational value from our current and future partnerships
2. To grow the MAT in ways that are financially sustainable and consistent with our values and ethos.
3. To continue to attract, retain and develop 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 is summed up by our strapline, *‘Every child, every chance, every day’*. Our actions are underpinned by the following beliefs;

When staff and students feel included they are able to play a full role in society’

Staff and students are constantly learning and developing

Family members and carers are critical in supporting students to achieve their very best

Our schools and academies must be connected and responsive to the needs of their local communities

The Trust’s 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 raises expectations and promotes 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 of Trustees in the MAT**

The board of Trustees manages the business of the MAT and may exercise all the powers of the Academy Trust. The board focuses strongly on the three core functions of governance:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
* Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
* Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

**Remuneration**

All Trustee positions in the MAT are non-remunerated though any reasonable expenses may be reimbursed whilst on MAT business.

**Role and person specification**

The Director of Finance will join an established Board of six other Trustees. Details of the MAT’s governance structure can be found on our website. This person’s role would, be:

* To work closely with the MAT’s Chief Financial Officer to plan the financial strategy for the MAT
* To work closely with the MAT’s Chief Financial Officer to develop key financial performance indicators for the MAT Board
* To work closely with the MAT’s Chief Financial Officer to provide assurance to the Chair and MAT Board that the MAT is meeting its statutory financial obligations
* To Chair the MAT Board’s Finance Committee
* To prepare a Finance Report for the MAT Board at each of its meetings

In order to meet the above expectations, the successful candidate will need to demonstrate they have the following essential qualifications, skills and qualities;

* A recognised accountancy qualification
* A proven ability to think and to plan strategically
* An understanding of Key Performance Indicators required at Board level
* Knowledge of effective financial and resource management
* An ability to form positive working relationships quickly and to work collaboratively with colleagues
* A passion for inclusive education and knowledge of how the needs and ambitions of students with Special Educational Needs can be promoted

**Commitment of time**

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of four years and may seek re-appointment for a further period of four years. The applicant will need to commit to attending and preparing for the following;

* Meeting as a Board 4 times a year
* Finance sub committee at least 3 times a year
* One other sub-committees of the Board (depending on knowledge and experience)
* Strategic planning meeting which may take place twice a year
* Ad hoc meetings with MAT staff, auditors etc.
* Other meetings such as hearing appeals or complaints.

Board meetings alternate between face-to-face and online meetings which commence at 6.00pm or 4.15 respectively. Sub Committees typically meet at 4.15. Other meetings may take place during the school day but as much notice as possible will be given.

Closing date is 28th January and interviews will take place in the second week in February.

**For an informal discussion about the role please contact John Turnbull, Chair of the MAT, on 07860 139424 or email jturnbull@friars.northants.sch.uk**

**Additional information**

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We particularly welcome applications from under represented groups including ethnicity, gender, transgender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.