



Multi Academy Trust - Frequently Asked Questions

We know there will be questions regarding Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form opting to merge with HISP Multi Academy Trust and have tried to cover the most common questions below. They are in two sections, one more general Academy type questions, the other more related to the operation of the schools.

General questions

Who are HISP?

HISP Multi Academy Trust believe in building excellent educational environments that inspire and unlock potential in all their school communities. They currently have three schools within the Trust covering the age ranges from nursery to 16 with plans to expand and grow across the geographical location. The trust also contains a Research School Teaching School Hub, Maths Hub and more recently a Science Learning Partnership. HISP stands for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth and is the rough geographical area the Multi Academy Trust initially expected to operate in.

You can find out more about HISP and their present schools and extended network at:

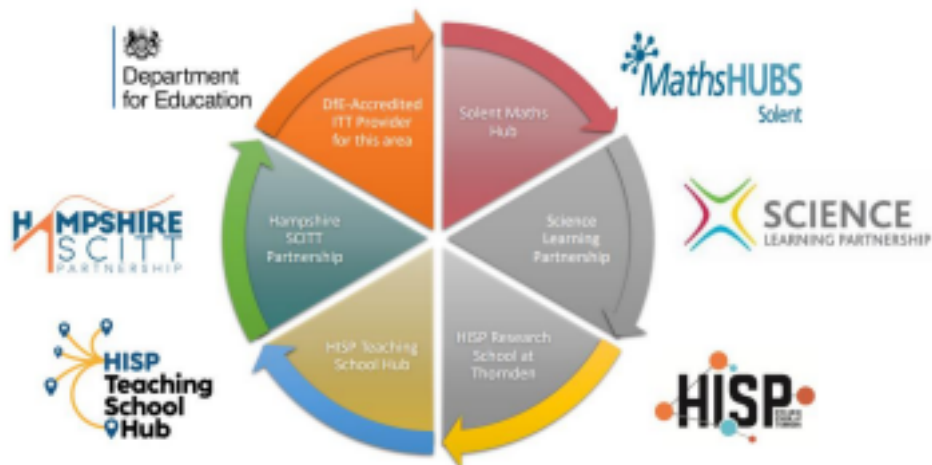
Multi Academy trust: <https://www.hispmat.org/>

Research School: <https://researchschool.org.uk/hisp>

Teaching School Hub: <https://www.hispteachingschoolhub.org/>

Maths Hub: <https://www.solentmathshub.org.uk/>

You can also find out about their Ofsted Outstanding secondary school at <https://www.thornden.hants.sch.uk/>



Have you had any experience with HISP?

We have been working with some HISP staff to support some of our individual subjects over the last couple of years. The working relationships that we have had have been engaging and productive.

Will we have to follow a centralised curriculum?

One of the key criteria when searching for a MAT was that the curriculum decisions should stay with the school. HISP does not run any centrally controlled curriculum design and schools are free to choose exam boards.

This means that we will continue to have control over our full curriculum and that work being undertaken regarding learning journeys and unit summaries remains at the forefront.

Academies have the autonomy to alter term dates, length of the school day or the academic year. Would this happen?

The Governing Board does currently have autonomy to deviate from the IW Council proposed calendar. Historically, however, we have adopted the IW dates in the best interest of family life and compatibility with other schools. There is the possibility we will have some aligned training with other member schools of the MAT but this would utilise the INSET days schools have.

What about policies and procedures?

Our school policies will remain, however over time it would make sense for some governance type policies to align over the MAT such as finance and complaints.

You can see how policies presently operate across HISP MAT [here](#)

What is the timescale for us to join if this goes ahead?

Due to the legal work that would be required it is unlikely we would formally join much before Nov/Dec 2022 however, if the Regional School Commissioners and leadership do agree then we could start to work together before the legal work is completed.

How many children are taught in academies?

Over 55% of students in state funded schools (over 80% of secondary) are now taught in academies a number that continues to increase. Strong families of schools in Multi Academy Trusts are increasing as schools come together with other like-minded schools.

Does this mean we will get lots of new equipment or buildings?

Being part of a Multi Academy Trust does not automatically mean more money in school. The school will still be funded the same way as before, however, we will be able to work in partnership with the trust to help develop our bids for replacement buildings.

Does OFSTED inspect MATs?

OFSTED does not inspect MATs but does inspect all individual schools within the MAT. The effectiveness of the MAT is measured by making a summary evaluation from the schools inspected.

Will the staff be dedicated to The Isle of Wight Education Federation or will they be expected to work elsewhere in the MAT?

Within the MAT, staff can be associated with one school at which they spend their time and so our staff will continue to spend their time at Isle of Wight Education schools. However, HISP has some staff who are not specifically allocated to one school and can be used flexibly to support schools for short periods of time or teach in a school that has a specific need for a given academic year.

Student day to day questions

My child is currently entitled to free school meals, will this change?

We are committed to supporting parents in the same way that we presently do. This is the same for those students that receive Free School Meals.

Will the length of the school day change?

The school day will remain the same as at present. We are aware the government are consulting on prescribed school hours, but we presently meet the required proposed statutory hours.

Will the school name change?

No, we will continue to be known as Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form, as Isle of Wight Education Federation schools.

Will the school uniform change?

No, we will continue to maintain the same school dress code.

Would Carisbrooke College or Medina College admissions policy change?

We are required to work within the national admissions framework and this would continue to be the case as a member of HISP. We have already consulted on our admission policy for next year (2023). The school will still be consulting on its own admission policy in the future.

Will The Isle of Wight Education Federation schools still be able to work with other schools?

Absolutely – one reason to join HISP is they work with many different schools via the Training Partnership, Teaching School Hub and Research School arm. Joining HISP would enable us to expand our networking considerably and learn from professional colleagues.

As HISP's secondary experience is 11 to 16 how will they support the VI form?

The key contribution that HISP will make to our VI Form is all the professional development, training and support for the quality of Teaching and Learning experienced by our students which obviously includes our VI Form students.

The Research School links and the Learning Partnership include other 11 to 18 schools and a number of VI Form colleges. These would be of benefit to all subjects in the VI Form, to leadership and management, the way we handle VI Form enrichment, transition to year 12, pastoral care and careers support.

For Maths and Science, the Maths Hub and Science Partnership will bring access to focussed training, development and student enrichment opportunities, specifically aimed at sixth formers (as well as those aimed at students in the main school).

One of the other two schools who are looking to join, also have a VI Form so will bring their own experiences.

My Year 9 child has just been through the Pathways process and selected subjects for their GCSEs Will these change?

No, we do not anticipate any changes to the courses on offer and are making progress in confirming options for September 2022.

Will I still be able to get help with school Transport?

We do not anticipate joining HISP will have any impact on our transport to school.

Will there be an opportunity to provide feedback?

We will group questions into themes as they come in and provide regular answers and updates.

How do I find out more?

You can find out more about HISP on [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Home \(hispmat.org\)](http://hispmat.org)

There is information about MAT academies on the DfE website:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>