



21 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Consultation: Proposal for Ullswater Community College to Join Cumbria Education Trust

I am writing to provide an update and to invite you to take part in our formal consultation. The Governing Body of Ullswater Community College has resolved in principle to convert to academy status and to join Cumbria Education Trust (CET). Before any final decision is made, we are required by law to consult with parents, carers, staff and the wider school community. Your views matter and they will be properly considered.

What is Cumbria Education Trust?

Cumbria Education Trust is Cumbria's largest and most established multi-academy trust. Founded in 2015 and led by Lorraine Hughes, CET is responsible for the education of more than 6,000 young people across twelve primary schools, five secondary schools and the West Coast Sixth Form throughout Cumbria. CET schools share the values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and the motto 'Be the best you can be.'

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is a charitable company that runs a group of schools under a shared governance structure and a single overarching funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. Each school in a MAT retains its own identity, name, uniform and character, but benefits from shared leadership, expertise and resources. Converting to academy status means UCC would leave local authority control and receive its funding directly from central government. Further information about Cumbria Education Trust can be found at:
www.cumbriaeducationtrust.org

Why is the Governing Body proposing this?

The Governing Body has considered this proposal carefully. UCC is already a Good school, rated Good by Ofsted in April 2023 and named Best Secondary School in Cumbria at the 2023 NewsQuest Educational Awards. Governors believe that joining CET will build on these achievements by providing:

- Access to a strong network of experienced school leaders, teachers and specialists across CET's 18 schools and the West Coast Sixth Form
- Enhanced professional development for all UCC staff — benefiting teaching quality for every student
- Greater long-term financial sustainability through shared services, resources and expertise
- Collaborative school improvement support tailored to UCC's specific context
- The collaboration will bring benefits to both UCC and to the wider trust



What would NOT change:

- The school's ethos, values and distinctive community character — these are central to everything UCC does
- Your child's day-to-day experience in classrooms and across the school
- Admissions arrangements — UCC will continue to serve the same large catchment area, the largest in England
- The school's sixth form provision

What might change:

We are committed to being honest about what could change:

- UCC's employer would become Cumbria Education Trust rather than the school's current governing body. All staff would transfer automatically with their employment terms and conditions fully protected by law.
- Local governance would operate through a Local Advisory Board (LAB) within CET's structure, responsible for local oversight of UCC.
- Some services currently procured locally may be provided centrally by CET or through trust-wide arrangements, potentially with cost savings.

The Consultation

The consultation will run from 12.00pm, Wednesday 21 October 2026 to 12.00pm, Wednesday 18 November — a period of 4 weeks.

We are asking:

Do you support the proposal for Ullswater Community College to convert to academy status and join Cumbria Education Trust?

Please give your reasons.

Are there any aspects of the proposal you would like the Governing Body to consider further?

You are invited to attend our **Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 4 November 2026 at 6.00pm in Westmorland Hall, Ullswater Community College** — an informal meeting where the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will explain the proposal and answer questions. Members of the Cumbria Education Trust will also be attending the evening.

You can respond to the consultation to share your views:

- Online: Complete the response form at <https://ullswatercc.co.uk/about/consultation/>
- In writing: Complete a response slip available from reception and return to the school by 12.00pm, Wednesday 18 November 2026



What happens next

Once the consultation closes on **18 November 2026 at 12.00pm**, the Governing Body will review all responses. A full summary will be produced and considered at a full Governing Body meeting before any final decision is made. We will write to you again to share the outcome and to explain how your views influenced the governors' decision. No final decision has been made.

A Frequently Asked Questions document will be available on the UCC website at <https://ullswatercc.co.uk/about/consultation/>

If you have any questions not answered there, please email sdenyer@ullswatercc.co.uk and we will respond as promptly as possible.

Yours sincerely

David Carter
Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body of Ullswater Community College

Enc. Response reply slip



Please return this slip to Reception by 12.00pm, Wednesday 18 November 2026

Student's name: _____

Form & Year Group: _____

Do you support the proposal for Ullswater Community College to join Cumbria Education Trust?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I am not sure

My comments / reasons:

Are there any aspects of the proposal you would like the Governing Body to consider further

Your name (optional): _____