

Buzzacott

Buzzacott  
multi academy  
trust services

# Advanced support for a forward-thinking sector

**Our detailed understanding of the challenges faced by multi academy trusts (MATs) and the various models adopted has come from working closely with MATs since the sector began.**

## Your environment

Establishing the optimal model for running a MAT can be a challenge. Factors such as educational focus, geographical spread and organisational culture can all make a difference within the overall context of efficiency and value for money. MATs are therefore constantly changing and have to keep up with the latest funding constraints and compliance requirements.

## The team

We have the breadth of experience and depth of expertise to support you through any range of challenges and compliance requirements that may emerge in the sector. We are able to give you the best quality service allowing you to hit your deadlines, with an established team that consistently delivers high quality work.

## Comprehensive approach

Looking beyond core financial controls and the day-to-day finance function is vital. A strategic look at risk, assurance and the central structures can create longer term added value for an academy trust, and is a key feature of our work with MATs.

Our services also encompass additional support, giving you access to the latest thinking through our academies seminars and our regular sector updates. Furthermore, we analyse MAT finances within an annual benchmarking report and provide additional insight on current issues.

## External audit

You will benefit from the understanding built within our team through our work with over 50 other MATs in London and the South East – from smaller MATs to large federations.

Having refined our audit services over many years of working with our MAT clients, we can offer a quality, tailored and efficient service that supports you, taking account of best practise from across the sector.

## Internal assurance

This has been developed in response to the range of financial and non-financial risks that MATs face, helping them to support the audit committee with the assurance they require.

Buzzacott has developed a unique suite of internal assurance options available for MATs. Financial assessments range from core controls or 'deep dive' reviews to evaluations of compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook. Non-financial reviews also include a variety of areas such as risk management and governance.

## Advisory

Our support available to you is extensive, developed through over 10 years of practical MAT experience.

Advisory support includes due diligence, bespoke assignments such as a review of central services, investigations, tax, VAT and HR consultancy advice.

Our team of experts specialise in working with academy trusts and our advice from a position of understanding sets us apart.

“The team at Buzzacott are professional and knowledgeable about academies, and they always go the extra mile to help us plan and anticipate issues.”

**Teresa Kelly**  
Director of Finance and Compliance  
– Chiltern Learning Trust

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“Having worked with Buzzacott since becoming a MAT, they have demonstrated excellent knowledge of the sector. The team always provide a consistent, high quality service to support us in meeting our compliance requirements and deadlines. Their people are both knowledgeable and helpful, a team of real MAT specialists.”

**Chris Sheasby**  
Chief Financial Officer  
– Ark

# Our team

Buzzacott has a team of gO academy specialist auditors supported by a range of other experts.

## Auditors

An extensive team of auditors that have worked with MATs for the past 10 years

## VAT specialists

Our VAT consultancy team includes academy VAT experts

## Accounts consultants

A team of dedicated accountants that can provide detailed support to those in the finance function

## Human resources

Obtain compliance advice or develop people, teams and culture with our HR consultancy team

## Tax specialists

A charity tax team led by a dedicated charity tax partner

## Other specialists

IT specialists, data analysts, specialist internal assurance staff and many more

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