



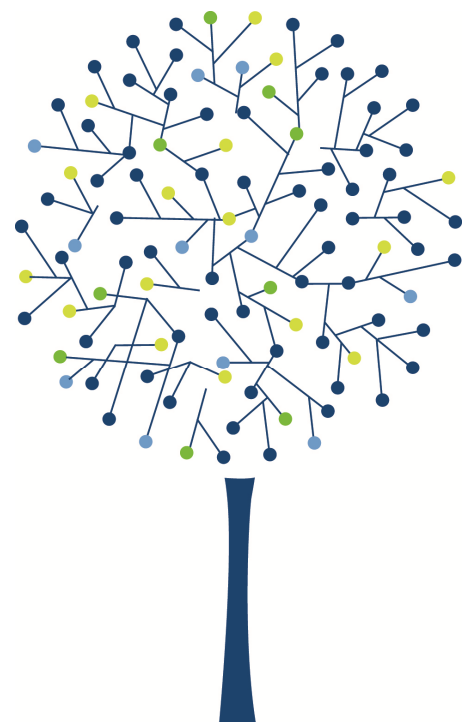
# Education

**Our experience of the education sector is very wide and ranges from primary through secondary and tertiary education. With over 20 years experience we have an in-depth understanding of the education landscape in the country, and as well as being advisors many of our team also have experience from within the sector as senior leaders, governors and committee members, providing us with a unique insight into the challenges facing our clients.**

**As many educational bodies have charitable status the extensive Not for Profit experience of MHA firms is highly beneficial.**

Our long term focus on the education sector has led to significant growth in our work over the years and collectively we now act for over 300 educational institutions nationally. Whilst we are not educationalists we have a good understanding of the needs and requirements of those involved in education delivery and pedagogy at all levels.

With this deep knowledge our team is adept at providing the practical assistance that our education clients seek. For the education sector MHA's country-wide coverage offers the ideal mix of local support, with the additional value of nationally recognised expertise, allowing us to deliver partner-led support alongside access to a dedicated team of specialists to meet all of your potential needs.



# Education



## Our Services

Our broad range of education sector specific services include:

- Internal and external audit plus other assurance services
- Accounting and financial reporting, including implementation of Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Further and Higher Education and Charities
- Risk management and internal control advice
- VAT advice on effective registration and property projects
- Restructuring, mergers and due diligence
- Financial difficulties and recovery
- Capital Projects – financing and planning
- Interim management and secondments
- Governor and audit committee training and reviews of governance effectiveness
- Company secretarial services
- Business planning, financial forecasting and financial management
- Advice on trading, tax and use of subsidiary companies
- Employment tax compliance and advice
- Advice on IT strategy and software selection
- Payroll services
- Financial services – pensions and investments planning
- Insurance broking services

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## Advice and Training

Our member firms support and empower our clients through the provision of:

- Regular free newsletters and briefings – for independent schools, academies and free schools, further and higher education institutions.
- Seminars and training



# Education

## Our Specific Education Experience

### Further and Higher Education and Skills

MHA member firms have been involved with the further and higher education sector for over 20 years. In that time we have advised a very wide range of institutions on all aspects of their financial, commercial and strategic operations. As well as providing a full range of audit, assurance, tax and advisory services to over 50 Further and Higher Education institutions, our experience, expertise and active involvement in the sector means we are close to sector changes, commercial opportunities and best practice to benefit and add value to our clients.

We also have a good understanding of the challenges being faced currently, including funding, regulation and demographics. Whether that is in sixth forms, adult education, sector skills councils or higher education.

Our team includes individuals that have worked as senior leaders so we can advise on many operational and strategic areas such as funding audits, income generation, integration of curriculum and business planning, management processes and effective governance.

We have good relationships with funding bodies and have also worked with key sector organisations such as the Association of Colleges and Landex, and in the past, bodies such as the Quality Improvement Agency and Centre for Excellence in Leadership. We participate in sector networks such as the auditors' forum with the Skills Funding Agency and Education Funding Agency.

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## Independent Schools

At MHA we have considerable experience of working with all types of independent schools including nursery, preparatory and senior schools, providing both day and boarding provision. We currently act for over 25 schools nationally and our team have advised many more over the years.

Our team members have supported sector bodies such as the Independent Schools' Bursars Association and the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools by providing training to their members.

We understand the many challenges independent schools face and work hard to provide innovative solutions. If you are concerned about raising funds in a tax efficient way, need advice on governance issues or require financial planning advice for new projects or to reflect changes in demand or demographics we are adept at assisting with your concerns.

# Education



## Academies, Free Schools, and University Technical Colleges

The academy sector has been the fastest growing part of the education sector in recent years and now includes a variety of schools established under the academies legislation. MHA acts for around 200 academies across England.

Members of our team have over 10 years experience of the sector and have worked with all types of academies – former City Technology Colleges, sponsored academies, converters and former maintained schools, newly established schools, federations and Multi-Academy Trusts.

We have a good relationship with the Education Funding Agency and have supported them through the secondment of staff. Our team has also contributed to the development of the Academies Financial Handbook and the Academies Accounts Direction.

Our academy specialists have worked with academies at all stages of their development, so whether you are just considering academy status or are long established we are very well-placed to help you.

## Services for Academies

In addition to our general education services we support our academy clients through:

- Information to be considered in the academy conversion process
- Setting-up systems, procedures and policies for the new academy, including advice on the Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment
- Review and advice on accounting systems and charts of accounts
- Review of the Financial Procedures, to ensure they are appropriate and in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- Preparation of returns to the EFA – Budget Forecast Return, March Accounts Return and Annual Accounts Return
- Assisting governing bodies with financial assurance, for example through support for the Responsible Officer role, and with new opportunities introduced in 2013 to provide wider internal audit services or supplemental external audit work.
- VAT reviews and advice on the best method for academies to reclaim VAT including the VAT 126 scheme
- Auditing of the School Fund or other school related bodies
- Assistance with Teachers' Pensions Scheme Returns

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## Contact

For further information, please contact your local MHA member firm, or email: [info@mha-uk.co.uk](mailto:info@mha-uk.co.uk).

[www.mha-uk.co.uk/](http://www.mha-uk.co.uk/)