



16 September 2022

Dear Maiden Erlegh Trust Community

As we come to the end of our second full week of the academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new CEO of Maiden Erlegh Trust. It is an immense privilege to lead our family of schools and to work with, and for, our bright and ambitious young people, supportive parents and carers and our dedicated staff and governors. I also want to recognise the outstanding contribution of my predecessor, Mary Davies and to wish her all the very best for her retirement.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new pupils and students joining our community of schools and to wish them every happiness as they progress their educational careers with us. Maiden Erlegh Trust schools are schools of 'Opportunity' and I would encourage all of our pupils and students to take full advantage of all the opportunities open to them, be they academic, vocational, or extra-curricular.

One of the unique strengths of our community of schools is their 'Diversity' – we offer a broad provision from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 13 and each of our schools is unique in its context and in the community it serves. Our schools each have their own identity and it is important to me that these unique qualities are protected. This is no doubt why you have chosen a Maiden Erlegh Trust school for your child.

I would also like to reflect on the 'Success For All' of our schools over the past year and to acknowledge the fantastic outcomes at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 across all our settings. These outcomes are a credit to the children and young people, who have had to endure a significant period of difficulty and disruption in their lives but have demonstrated the character and resilience to overcome these challenges to achieve well. I also want to acknowledge the skill, expertise, and commitment of our staff to support our children and young people during this period. Congratulations and thank you to you all.

Finally, I wanted to confront the recent media narrative regarding schools' funding and to reiterate the message I shared with our staff on the recent INSET days. All schools, right across the country, are grappling with acute funding pressures and our community is no different. The cost of living is a crisis that is affecting us all individually and collectively, and we as a family of schools are not immune from the challenges this crisis presents us with. Unfunded pay awards, spiralling energy costs and general inflation at levels not seen for 40 years do mean we are having to look very carefully at how we operate. We are, however, well prepared to meet these challenges. We are single-mindedly focussed on our children and young people and, ultimately, our mission remains to provide your children with a great education that opens doors to the next stage of their lives, to provide their education in buildings that are safe and well-resourced by brilliant staff who are experts in their field. This is what we will continue to do.

With best wishes

Jonathon Peck  
Chief Executive Officer