



18 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another school year, and as I prepare to hand over the reins, I couldn't bow out without reflecting on the year.

It seems a long time ago now, but for the first half of the year we were still managing significant COVID impacts. We are now moving to managing education in a very uncertain, and at times unkind, society.

Maiden Erlegh Trust keeps moving forwards, however. We stick like glue to our vision and moral purpose because we know that the children and young people in our care deserve it.

- Well done to all the pupils and students who have taken SATS and examinations and approached these with such maturity. My admiration goes particularly to Y13 who have had NO experience of external examinations since primary school!
- Year 6 pupils at Great Hollands outdid themselves with results above national averages in all areas – including writing and science. On top of the impressive Ofsted report, staff and pupils have had a great year and are rightly very proud.
- Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge received their Ofsted report and reflects the triumph of moving up two Ofsted grades.
- Ofsted reports themselves are never the goal, rather the characteristics and qualities of each school that we see lived by every member of staff and child that we see every day. For example, these reports reflect the Trust's vision of ambitious inclusion (which can be seen in all our settings) e.g.:



	GHPS	MECE
A rich, relevant and ambitious curriculum for all	"Pupils love learning 'new things' and work hard to meet teachers' high expectations, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)." "Senior leaders have designed a curriculum which is broad and meets the needs of the pupils. They have put reading at the centre and developed plans to build pupils' knowledge and skills in different subjects as they move through the school."	"Curriculum content matches, and often exceeds, the national curriculum. The curriculum intent is ambitious and challenging.... The school's reading programme is successful in raising aspirations and encouraging a love of reading. Ambitious reading books are well matched to the themes raised in the PSMSC programme." "Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), achieve well. This is because teachers know them well."
A safe, calm, respectful and happy place to work and learn	"Pupils now enjoy coming to school because their learning is not interrupted by poor behaviour. They know that any incidents of bullying are dealt with quickly and fairly."	"Pupils are responsible and respectful. Behaviour and attitudes are positive. Routines and expectations are clear. As a result, there is a calm and purposeful learning environment across the school."

- The Trust also had a hugely positive Peer Review through Challenge Partners. The team of five external reviewers validated the work we do across the organisation, as well as recognising our collective moral purpose and successes. Thank you to staff and governors across the Trust who were involved in this.
- Hamilton School has moved into its fantastic new building – never have you seen so many excited faces (and that was just the staff!).
- Maiden Erlegh School has been a leading light in the Behaviour Hubs programme and also Challenge Partners.
- Maiden Erlegh Trust has been approved as a local cluster for The Ogden Trust Schools Partnership Programme to support Physics education and engagement for all young people.
- Cranbury College continues to support some of Reading's most vulnerable youngsters, including those in hospital, many of whom return successfully to mainstream school and/or go on to exciting opportunities at college or apprenticeships at 16 or 18.
- Oak Tree School and River Academy are gaining momentum and next year that will increase further as we near the opening date for Oak Tree (September 2023) and continue to work towards a September 2024 opening for River Academy.
- We are very clear that while results are vital to open doors for young people, education is more than following an exam specification. Our staff have been working exceptionally hard to review the curriculum for depth and diversity beyond the minimum. They have also been determined to reinstate as many trips and events as possible. It has been tremendous to see pupils and students heading off on DofE expeditions, ski trips, museum and theatre trips, sporting fixtures, university visits, geography, and science field trips ... I could go on. Every extra-curricular activity is organised and led on a voluntary basis, and I thank my colleagues for their determination and resilience in this area.



Rest assured that we remember that what we give the children and young people in our care is significant. Every colleague and governor is determined that each child will get great results, develop the character and be offered opportunities to help them seize the day – wherever life leads them. We also hope to play our small part in giving them resilience, respect, and open mindedness, so they can navigate the complexities of the world today.

I have been privileged to work with wonderful and dedicated colleagues and governors, and to work for your children for nearly fifteen years. I unreservedly thank them (staff and children alike) for their talent, support, energy, advice, and humour. I thank you also for supporting our schools so that we can educate and support your children to the best of our ability. Please go on doing that – we are better with your support and alliance.

Have a wonderful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mary Davies
Chief Executive Officer