

News Hub

Oak Tree School News Update



OAK TREE
SCHOOL

WELCOME TO OAK TREE SCHOOL



Maiden Erlegh Trust is delighted to be leading the Oak Tree School project in partnership between Brighter Futures for Children, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council. As a local education provider, Maiden Erlegh Trust, recognises the need for this extra specialist provision and what it will mean

to children, families and other schools.

Our vision for Oak Tree School is clear. It will first and foremost be a high-quality school community. The ethos will be one of relevance, optimism, care and joy for all, and relationships will be built on a foundation of respect and kindness and therapeutic approaches. Fundamental is that we will not operate a “deficit” approach, rather one of supporting difference and adapting to need, and most importantly celebrating what the children and young people can achieve.

We believe that pupils and students thrive in environments where “opportunity, diversity and success” are seen as positive and achievable for each and everyone, and where they are nurtured as individuals. Oak Tree School will have skilled, dedicated and empathetic staff who will work with families and partner organisations to ensure that every child in our care:

- Becomes confident and independent young adults
- Follows an ambitious and inspiring curriculum and gains the best possible qualifications
- Has the best learning experiences possible
- Takes their rightful place in their local communities, on-going education and the world of work

From its planned opening in September 2022, Oak Tree School will welcome (in a phased way), 150 children and young people, from Year 1 to Year 13.

OUR
SCHOOL
WILL BE
LOCATED
HERE



The provision will be designed for pupils and students with multiple and complex needs, including ASC (Autistic spectrum condition) and/or SEMH (Social, emotional and mental health) but also specific learning needs such as dyslexia and dyscalculia. In addition, they will largely be cognitively able to access a mainstream curriculum but have needs such that a mainstream environment is not appropriate. These features of the pupil and student body have carefully been incorporated into the design of the school, its curriculum and its support and therapeutic approaches.

We are very much looking forward to working with the children, young people and their families.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Mary Davies
Chief Executive Officer

PROJECT TEAM



Establishing a new school is a team effort and the project team responsible for establishing Oak Tree School draws on a wide range of skills and expertise that exists within Maiden Erlegh Trust. Overseeing this project is a Steering Group made up of three Trustees plus myself, Mary Davies (CEO) and Alison Walker (Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding.)

Whilst I have the pleasure to be leading the establishment of Oak Tree School it truly is a team effort, requiring us to draw on a wide range of skills and experience both from within Maiden Erlegh Trust but also from our professional advisers.

I must acknowledge the sterling contribution of our team who have been working hard behind the scenes, leading on various workstreams including curriculum design, building design, ICT procurement, marketing and much more, to ensure that the school is ready to open from September 2022. I am also particularly thankful for the support we have received from AMR Consult, Reds10 and the DfE who have expertly interpreted our requirements and turned them into a superb design concept for what will undoubtedly be a delightful place to learn and work.

Please do keep an eye out for the public consultation which is starting soon as we would value your feedback, and if you would like to contribute to the work we are doing at Oak Tree School we would be delighted to hear from you.



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Jonathon Peck
Chief Financial and Operations Officer



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WHO WILL LEAD OAK TREE SCHOOL?



Mandy Wilton is Executive Headteacher (Special/AP) at Maiden Erlegh Trust and will lead the development of Oak Tree School with the support of a wider Maiden Erlegh Trust team.

Mandy is currently the substantive Headteacher of Cranbury College (an Alternative Provision college) in Reading and is Executive Headteacher of Hamilton School (a SEMH Special school) also located in Reading.

With over 25 years' experience in the education sector (20 of which have been in Specialist and Alternative Provision), Mandy brings a wealth of experience in a range of contexts including Headship, Deputy Headship, SENCO and Assistant Headteacher. As a senior leader in education, Mandy has supported schools (including those in special measures) through her work as a senior officer in several local authorities including as SEN Consultant in the London Borough of Redbridge and Head of SEN and Inclusion in Bracknell Forest. In the latter role particularly, Mandy was involved in School Improvement and led on the opening of a new 52 place Specialist Autism resource and worked as part of the project team for the application and development of a new Secondary Free School in the borough.



Mandy Wilton
Executive Headteacher



BUILDING AND DESIGN



Designing and building Oak Tree School in conjunction with the architects has allowed us to carefully consider every aspect of the physical environment in order to make the best use of the available space.

We want our school to be a place of learning, where children thrive and make progress and we know that the layout and organisation of the building will be an important contributory factor.

We have given very careful consideration to the likely needs of our children at every stage in the planning and with every decision taken – from how and where our children will enter the building, to the organisation of the dining facilities; from how they will access outside areas, to the configuration of therapeutic spaces.

We want a school where our Key Stage 1 children are as at home as our Key Stage 5, where children are able to learn in their own designated and age-appropriate areas but where the facilities are available and accessible to all age groups.

Alongside the layout and internal planning is the infrastructure planning for ICT, heating, lighting and other facilities which will make this a 21st century school fit for purpose now and well into the future.



Alison Walker
Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding

RECRUITMENT MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

It's never too soon to start looking for great people to work at our school.

Historically, schools run by Maiden Erlegh Trust have attracted the highest calibre of staff and governors and we will be looking for the brightest and best to work for the benefit of the students at Oak Tree School.

CLICK HERE
FOR OUR
SCHOOLS'
VACANCIES

Roles at the school will be advertised in national, local and specialist media as appropriate.

If you think you can offer something special, whether on a paid or voluntary basis, please get in touch by sending an expression of interest to:

recruitment@maidenerleghtrust.org

We are always pleased to hear from people who want to join our team.

Vacancies within the Trust can be found on the Maiden Erlegh Trust website [HERE](#) or on the TES website [HERE](#).



ABOUT MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

Our Trust motto is "schools for the community, schools as a community" as our aim is that every school in our Trust, whilst espousing our values and ethos, and having a core of common policies and procedures, will serve its own community's needs in a bespoke way and also create a feeling of community within its own school. In that way all the potential and talents of every child and every member of staff will be nurtured.

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THE TRUST
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