

# News Hub

Oak Tree School News Update



**OAK TREE**  
SCHOOL

## PROJECT UPDATE FROM WBC



Wokingham Borough Council is delighted to be working in partnership with colleagues from Reading and with the Maiden Erlegh Trust to make plans for the new Oak Tree School in Winnersh.

My involvement with the project started a few months ago while I was covering the maternity leave of Wokingham's Children's Commissioning lead. I was asked to work with colleagues in Reading to jointly develop a way of working together and with the Trust to develop the arrangements relating to the new school. This has since led to me coordinating our joint work on issues such as admissions to the school and the associated financial implications for all parties while ensuring that colleagues working with the Trust and the DfE on the building processes are linking with colleagues responsible for the operational issues. This is to ensure that we are all adopting the same approach to the wide ranging set of issues involved in the opening of a new special school.

Since April, my role has been to work on Wokingham's SEND Sufficiency project which is about outlining the type of provision and support we need for Wokingham's children in coming years and which the new school will be making a significant contribution to addressing. This work fits within Wokingham's SEND Innovation and Improvement Programme and I am very pleased to have been asked to be part of this Programme which is responsible for implementing Wokingham's recently agreed SEND strategy.

We are working in genuine partnership to try to address all of the related issues involved in the opening of the new school. While the planned opening of the school is over a year away, it is important that we address all the relevant issues in good time to enable the opening to be as smooth as possible. Colleagues in the Maiden Erlegh Trust, Wokingham Borough Council and the Brighter Futures for Children Trust have been working collaboratively on the building phase for some considerable time. We have agreed a set of

meetings across the next few months to address all of the operational issues to complement the building work.



It is great to be working with colleagues who are demonstrating their huge enthusiasm for the delivery of this new resource. It is clear that we are all working towards the same aim of being better able to meet the special educational needs of our children and young people which we all anticipate will make a significant contribution to meeting the needs of Wokingham and Reading children more locally than is currently possible in what will be a brand-new school, and finding shared solutions to the issues that will arise as we progress through our planning.



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Richard Tipping**  
Category Manager – SEND Sufficiency  
Wokingham Borough Council

## CONSULTATION

Maiden Erlegh Trust is consulting on its proposals to open Oak Tree School (a new special free school) for Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council in September 2022.

You are welcome to attend our **virtual consultation event** on:

**Thursday 15 July 2021**  
between  
**5:30pm and 6:30pm**

To book a place, please visit our booking form **HERE** or to find out more visit **our website**.

# PROJECT UPDATE FROM RBC

It is excellent that plans for the establishment of Oak Tree School are moving forward so positively.



We are delighted to be working with the Maiden Erlegh Trust, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council on this project which will deliver much

needed school places for local children with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

We are now at an important point of the project where the local community and other stakeholders are invited to give their comments about plans for the school. I am sure there will be a lot of interest.

In Reading, we have seen a steady increase in demand for school places for children with SEND in recent years. Oak Tree School will play an important part in future provision, with 75

places becoming available for Reading children with autistic spectrum and social, emotional and mental health conditions.

Brighter Futures for Children's is working with RBC on a programme to create additional SEND school places over the coming years. This will include major projects, such as Oak Tree School, and smaller schemes which involve establishing resource bases in our mainstream primary and secondary schools.

As a well-established and respected education provider in the area, the Maiden Erlegh Trust will be one of the key partners in this programme.

I look forward to continuing to work with the trust and RBC to make sure we can provide the local, quality SEND school places the children and young people of Reading deserve.



**Prof Dr Kate Reynolds**  
Director of Education  
Brighter Futures for Children

## RECRUITMENT

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

CLICK HERE FOR OUR SCHOOLS' VACANCIES

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. 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](mailto: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.

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE TRUST WEBSITE