



To Parents at BST

14 January 2021

**Proposal to merge Berkshire Schools Trust and Maiden Erlegh Trust**

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to you to share our exciting plans to merge Berkshire Schools Trust with Maiden Erlegh Trust.

These plans are in the early stages and this decision is a very important one for both parties as it means Berkshire School Trust schools becoming part of Maiden Erlegh Trust. We are clear that the merger must be the right one for everyone involved, especially the pupils, students and staff. We understand that it is a huge responsibility and we do not take it lightly.

Following a series of very positive exploratory discussions between the two Trusts, we believe that there is a great amount of common ground between the two organisations, both in terms of values and ethos, and our ambitions for our pupils, students and staff. It is clear that we both place community at the heart of what we both do, and that we have a strong moral purpose towards high quality inclusive education. We are of the firm opinion that by St John’s Primary School, New Town Primary School and New Christ Church Primary School coming into Maiden Erlegh Trust, this will have a very positive impact on both communities.

We are pleased to move towards the next phase of the merger process: a formal consultation. This consultation will open at 9am on 18 January 2021 and close at 12pm on Monday 22 February 2021.

We would welcome your views on our proposal and we are offering three methods of giving your feedback:

1. By using the online form by following [https://bit.ly/BST\\_METConsultation](https://bit.ly/BST_METConsultation)
2. By registering to attend one of our online consultation webinars (see below).
3. By writing to Angharad Brackstone (CEO of Berkshire Schools Trust) at [BSTConsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:BSTConsultation@maidenerleghtrust.org).

The consultation meetings are an opportunity for you to join us virtually and find out more about what this merger means for you and your child, and you can ask any questions you may have and meet some of the key people involved.

Webinar Date	Webinar Registration Link
Wednesday 20 January 6pm – 7pm	<a href="https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m0ELXyg5TUypawjFBxPjlw">https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m0ELXyg5TUypawjFBxPjlw</a>
Tuesday 26 January 6pm – 7pm	<a href="https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LCJSWwzISViQUuhjAV43Gg">https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LCJSWwzISViQUuhjAV43Gg</a>

Once you have registered to attend one of the two webinar sessions, you will receive an email providing the webinar link and passcode. If you would prefer to attend without registering online, please contact your child’s school.



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
TRUST



**BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS**  
TRUST

Please find attached to this letter a Frequently Asked Questions document which, based on our experience, should answer many of the questions you may have. We hope you find them useful. We also urge you to look at our respective websites which will give you more information about our Trusts and schools: [Maiden Erlegh Trust](#), [Berkshire Schools Trust](#).

We very much look forward to hearing your views and/or seeing you at one of the meetings.

Yours faithfully

Angie Morrish  
Chair  
Berkshire Schools Trust

Nick Jones  
Chair  
Maiden Erlegh Trust