



Great schools at the heart  
of our community

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and had an enjoyable half-term break. As we get closer to Easter, I would like to share some important news about our Trust's leadership.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Matthew Laban has been appointed as our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and will start his role after Easter.

Dr Laban is an experienced school leader with a strong background in education. He has been the headteacher of both primary and secondary schools, leading two outstanding primary schools in London and his secondary school - Barclay Academy in Stevenage - was judged by Ofsted as outstanding for leadership and management.

He also holds a PhD in History from the University of London and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He also works with The Historical Association to support history education in schools.

We are excited to welcome Dr Laban to the Trust, and he is looking forward to meeting our school communities. His experience and passion for education will help us continue to provide the best opportunities for our pupils.

As I return to my role as Chief Operating Officer after Easter, I look forward to working with Dr Laban to ensure a smooth transition. It has been a privilege to be Interim CEO, and I have enjoyed visiting our schools and seeing the fantastic work happening every day.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming Dr Laban after Easter and to an exciting future for our schools.

Best wishes,

**Rachel Mason**  
Interim CEO