Castle Phoenix Trust

16 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some personal news and to thank you for the support you have given to schools within our Trust during my time as Chief Executive Officer.

At the end of August, I will retire from my role as CEO. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve our schools, our staff and, most importantly, the wonderful children and young people in our care. Throughout my time with the Trust, I have been continually inspired by the dedication of our colleagues, the ambition of our pupils, and the commitment shown by families and communities across all our schools.

Together, we have achieved much. We have strengthened our schools, expanded opportunities for our pupils, and remained steadfast in our mission to provide the very best education and support for every child. None of this would have been possible without the trust, encouragement and partnership of parents and carers, for which I am deeply grateful.

One area of particular pride for me has been our Trust's unwavering commitment to student leadership. We firmly believe that young people should have meaningful opportunities to shape their schools and communities, develop their confidence, and find their voice. Through initiatives such as our annual Student Leadership Awards and our Student Leadership Conference, we celebrate and nurture the remarkable contributions of our pupils, recognising the positive difference they make both within their schools and beyond. Seeing so many young leaders grow, inspire others and embrace opportunities to make a difference has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my time with the Trust.

I am also delighted to let you know that Alison Gallagher will become Chief Executive Officer from September. As our former Deputy CEO she brings a wealth of experience, a deep commitment to educational excellence, and a strong belief in the values that underpin our Trust. I know that the Trust will continue to flourish under her leadership, and I am confident that our schools will go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

While it is never easy to say goodbye, I do so with immense pride in all that has been achieved and with great optimism for the future. Thank you once again for your support, your partnership and the trust you place in our schools every day.

I wish all our pupils, families and staff every success and happiness for the future.

Best Wishes

Michele Marr

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