02 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive of Castle Phoenix Trust.

My name is Alison Gallagher, and whilst this role is new to me, Castle Phoenix Trust is not. I have worked within two of our Trust schools since 2008 and have had the privilege of serving as Deputy CEO for the last two years. Through these roles, I have developed a deep understanding of our schools, our families and the communities we serve. I know first hand what makes Castle Phoenix Trust such a special place to learn and work.

As I begin this new chapter, I want to reassure you that I remain committed to the values that have always been at the heart of our Trust. I am passionate about ensuring that every child in our schools is supported to achieve their very best, not only academically but also socially, personally and aspirationally. Success is about much more than examination results. It is about helping children develop confidence, resilience, strong relationships and the belief that they can achieve their ambitions.

Over the next few weeks, I will be spending time visiting all of our schools and meeting as many pupils, staff and families as possible. One of my priorities is to listen to our children. I will be talking with them about what they enjoy most about school, what helps them to learn and thrive, and what they think could be even better. Their voices are incredibly important, and their views will help shape our future work across the Trust.

At Castle Phoenix Trust, we are united by six key ambitions that sit at the centre of everything we do:

Oracy
We want every child to be able to communicate confidently and effectively. Strong speaking and listening skills help children express their ideas, build relationships and prepare for life beyond school. Whether explaining their thinking in a lesson, performing on a stage or debating an issue, oracy gives children a powerful voice.

Reading
Reading opens doors to knowledge, imagination and opportunity. We are committed to developing a lifelong love of reading that helps children succeed across the curriculum and beyond.

Digital Creativity
Technology plays an increasingly important role in our lives. We want our pupils not just to use digital tools but to become creative, innovative and responsible digital citizens who are well prepared for the future.

Castle Phoenix Trust, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5BD
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Aspirations
We encourage children to dream big and believe in their potential. Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities, we help pupils develop ambitious goals for their futures.

Achievement
We strive for excellence in all areas of school life. Every child should feel proud of their achievements and understand that success comes through effort, determination and support.

Impactful Teaching
The quality of teaching has the greatest influence on children's learning. We are committed to ensuring that our teachers receive the very best professional development and access to the most up-to-date research and training, enabling every child to achieve their full potential.

These ambitions were developed by our Headteachers more than three years ago and continue to guide our work today. They are not simply words on a page; they underpin the experiences we want every child in Castle Phoenix Trust to enjoy each day. We remain as committed to them now as when they were first created.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing examples of how our schools have embedded these ambitions over the last eighteen months. We are incredibly proud of the work taking place across the Trust and look forward to celebrating these successes with you.

Castle Phoenix Trust is made up of eight schools, each with its own unique character and strengths, but all united by a shared commitment to providing the very best education and opportunities for our children. Together, these schools form one Trust family, working collaboratively to improve outcomes and enrich experiences for every pupil.

We are also keen to create more opportunities for families to engage with the wider Trust community. Throughout the year, we will be inviting you, as parents and carers to attend Trust wide events, including pupil performances, celebration and awards ceremonies, sporting events, showcases of learning, art exhibitions and other opportunities to see the incredible talents and achievements of children from across all eight schools.

Alongside my professional experience, I also bring the perspective of a parent. I have experienced the journey through education from many angles: watching my own child begin in Early Years, supporting them through primary school, celebrating the completion of SATs, guiding them through the transition to secondary school and helping them make choices about their GCSE subjects. In two years' time, I will experience GCSE Results Day as a parent for the first time and, after that, who knows where the next stage of their journey will lead. Those experiences have given me a real understanding of the excitement, pride, worries and questions that families can face at different stages of their child's education. It is why listening to parents and carers is so important to me. We want every family to feel valued, respected and heard, and I want to assure you that our schools will always seek to work in partnership with you.

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Thank you for the warm support I have already received. I am incredibly proud to lead Castle Phoenix Trust and excited about what we can achieve together. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months and to continuing our shared mission of ensuring every child thrives, succeeds and leaves our schools ready to make a positive difference in the world.

With best wishes

A. Gallagher

Alison Gallagher
CEO

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