



February 2021

Dear Applicant,

On behalf of the Acer Trust, I would like to thank you for your interest in becoming the Headteacher of Matthew Arnold School and to introduce you to the Trust; in particular, to the role that Headteachers play within our Trust.

The Acer Trust was formed in 2017 by a group of school leaders who saw the value of working collaboratively to build on the strengths of each school and to support further development. Within our partnership of schools, we have a common desire to share experiences, to learn from each other and to be mutually supportive, as well as mutually accountable. The Acer Trust Charter (below) describes our shared values and the core principles of collaborative partnership which define our ways of working.

We are currently a family of seven academies (four primary schools and three secondary schools) educating more than 4,000 pupils and students supported by nearly 500 staff. Our current strategic aim is to develop the effectiveness and efficiency of the Trust by putting in place the infrastructure to enable the schools' leaders to focus their energy and expertise on improving the quality of education for pupils and students in our schools.

The Acer Trust works on the principle that each individual Trust School Headteacher is responsible for their school's strategic development and the day-to-day leadership and management of the school, held to account by their School Governing Body, within the overall framework and authority of the Trust.

All key executive decisions about the Acer Trust are made by the Trust Executive Group (TEG), which is chaired by the CEO, meets weekly and consists of all seven Headteachers from the Trust's schools, along with the Chief Financial and Operating Officers (CFO and COO).

As CEO, I hold the specific responsibility to ensure we maintain a culture of collaboration throughout the Trust, enabling us to fulfil our ambitious vision to secure the well-being and success of every child educated in the Trust's schools. To support each Headteacher to lead the improvements in their school, I act as leadership coach and school improvement partner.

If appointed, you will be supported by me, as CEO, your colleagues on the Trust Executive Group and by the Board of Trustees in what will be an exciting and rewarding career opportunity to lead Matthew Arnold School in its next phase of development.

If you would like to learn more about the Trust through an informal conversation with me, please contact our Administrator, Nicky Hills (nhills@maschool.org.uk) to arrange a time.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Ryan MBE



Acer Trust Charter

Working together to create great places to learn and work

Our Charter is a statement of our vision, principles and values, ensuring that the Trust remains true to the founding principles of our collaborative partnership as it grows over time. By working together with a common purpose of improving learning for all, we can ensure an excellent education for all the learners in our Trust. We believe that the best schools broaden horizons and open doors for children into the futures and opportunities of their dreams.

We hold children at the centre of our thinking

- The Trust's overriding purpose is to focus on securing the well-being and success of all pupils and students in its Trust schools by providing an excellent education with a focus on the development of the individual as well as on improving educational outcomes for every child, preparing them for a successful progression for the next step in their life, ultimately becoming active, engaged citizens.

We base our Trust on trust

- The Acer Trust is based on trust with open, honest relationships between each of our partners supporting a developmental culture which complements individual school self-evaluation to enable rapid improvements in all the partner schools.
- We work together to strengthen already high quality teaching and learning by creating opportunities to share practice; to improve progress and outcomes for all children in our schools; and to support other schools within and beyond the Trust in the spirit of partnership.

We look outwards as well as inwards

- We actively seek to work with external organisations to share and further improve our practice and the opportunities we offer to our children.
- We work with local and national networks or organisations in order to ensure that we are informed by best practice and are continually improving. Working with other professional partners encourages innovation; challenges our thinking; enables practitioners to develop by learning with and from the best; and ensures that we are providing the best possible education for every student.

Our values

The values of the Acer Trust underpin everything we do. We are a learning organisation and the values are for all learners in the Trust: pupils and students; staff; governors and trustees; parents and carers.

- **Trust:** schools and individuals collaborate in an open and honest manner, and act in the best interests of all children educated in the partner schools;
- **Collaboration:** all partners have a contribution to make to the Trust, as well as a collective responsibility for the success of the Trust. All partners play an active role in ensuring the success of all learners in the Trust;
- **Opportunity:** all learners, both students and adults, benefit from the range of opportunities provided by being a part of the Acer Trust.