



4 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Cyber-attack affecting all Maiden Erlegh Trust schools

I am writing to inform you that Maiden Erlegh Trust was recently the victim of a sophisticated cyber-attack.

The Trust's IT systems were accessed by an unauthorised third-party using ransomware and resulted in us being temporarily unable to access our network. Immediately following the attack, our business continuity plans (including cyber security procedures) were initiated.

Our systems had the necessary preventative security protocols in place at the time of the incident but unfortunately, as a number of public sector organisations have recently experienced, the criminal attack was sophisticated, and access was achieved.

The incident has been reported to various organisations including the Thames Valley Police Cyber Unit, the Department for Education, our Data Protection Officer, and the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

As soon as we became aware of the attack, measures were put in place to contain and remove the malicious software and to begin the restoration of our systems. A forensic analysis of our network is being conducted by third-party cyber security specialists to fully investigate the circumstances and impact of the incident. This team will also determine the degree to which personal data has been put at risk.

Maiden Erlegh Trust uses a number of cloud-based systems, which includes our Management Information System (Bromcom), where the vast majority of the personal data we hold, and process, is stored. These systems were unaffected by the cyber-attack.

The security and protection of personal data is a priority for our organisation, and I assure you that we have been doing, and will continue to do, everything we can to ensure the ongoing resilience of our systems and to prevent a reoccurrence of this type of incident.

As a result of this attack, and the meticulous forensic analysis and restoration work that is being undertaken, our organisation continues to face challenges in terms of IT access which is affecting each of our schools in different ways. You will be contacted directly by your child's Headteacher with relevant updates if necessary.

As soon as there is further information to share, I will write again. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this incident, please email METAdmin@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Yours sincerely



Jonathon Peck
Chief Executive Officer
Maiden Erlegh Trust