MAGDALEN
COLLEGE SCHOOL

FOUNDED IN 1480
BY WILLIAM OF WAYNFLETE

From the Master, Helen Pike MA (Oxon) MA (Michigan) MA (London)

9 November 2026

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in becoming the next Director of the Waynflete Office at Magdalen College School. Founded in 1480, MCS is one of the country's leading independent schools, with an exceptional academic tradition, a distinctive place in the life of Oxford, and a deep commitment to helping young people learn, flourish and serve. As we look towards our 550th anniversary, the School is entering an exciting new chapter.

My own time as Master is drawing to a close, and I am delighted that Alan Bird will be the School's next Master. He will inherit a school with ambitious plans for its future. We have announced our move to full co-education, are advancing plans for a new Science, Library and Partnerships Building, and remain determined to extend access to an MCS education through bursaries. Together, these ambitions reflect our commitment to preserving what makes MCS distinctive while ensuring that it continues to flourish for generations to come.

Our current Director of the Waynflete Office, Susie Baker, has announced her intention to step away from this role, creating this vacancy. Over the past decade and more, Susie and her team have worked very closely with me, the senior leadership team and Governors to build a highly successful development operation. The Office has secured significant support from a small number of major donors while also engaging much wider numbers of Old Waynfletes, parents and friends through initiatives such as Giving Days, creating a strong sense of shared participation in the School's ambitions. The impact has been felt across the growing endowment, the School's partnerships and outreach across Oxford, and major capital projects.

I am proud of what Susie and the team have achieved, and of the way philanthropy has become embedded in the life of the School. We are now looking to appoint someone who can build on that success as MCS enters its next chapter. Working closely with Alan, the senior leadership team and Governors, the next Director will lead the School's philanthropic and engagement work and help shape its future priorities.

The successful candidate will be more than an accomplished fundraiser. They will bring strategic judgement, warmth, imagination, and the ability to understand and engage with MCS's distinctive place in Oxford, the MCS community and the wider educational landscape.

I very much hope you will consider joining us.

Best wishes

H. C. Pike

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