



Appointment of Group CFO
March 2025

Project code: FAFASC



Saxton Bampfylde

Welcome

A very warm welcome to MIST. Methodist independent schools have been providing education for children and young people from Cornwall to Yorkshire for more than 200 years. Each one is different, yet each one is underpinned by our fierce belief in the education and welfare of the whole child and by our ethos of social justice, inclusivity, outreach and diversity. A central team works on behalf of the single charity providing service to and stewardship of the schools. You join us at a pivotal time for the whole independent sector and there is a real opportunity to make a difference and to step into a role that you can make your own.

Judith Fenn
CEO





About MIST

Methodist schools are inclusive, welcoming communities, valuing excellence in academic, cultural and sporting activities and providing outstanding pastoral care. There are 9 schools within the group and we are part of a wider network of other Methodist Schools across England and Wales, both independent and state. Methodist Education comes together in the Methodist Schools Committee to pursue the Transforming Lives agenda adopted by the Methodist Church in 2021.

The Trust has an annual turnover of over £100m and is constituted as an incorporated charity. In servicing the needs of the school it facilitates varied networks of support including Heads, Chairs of Governors, Bursars and Chaplains enabling the schools to work more closely together. Its head office is based within Methodist Church House in central London.

The Trustees of the charity – all volunteers - are drawn from a variety of professions and offer considerable experience and time in their commitment to the charity.

MIST Structure & Responsibilities





Schools

MIST Group Schools

Culford School – www.culford.co.uk

Farringtons School – www.farringtons.org.uk

Kent College, Canterbury – www.kentcollege.com

Kent College, Pembury – www.kent-college.co.uk

Queen's College, Taunton – www.queenscollege.org.uk

Truro School – www.truroschoool.com

Woodhouse Grove School – www.woodhousegrove.co.uk

Lorenden Preparatory School – www.lorenden.org.uk

Moorlands School – www.moorlands-school.co.uk

We also work in partnership with other Methodist and affiliated schools that sit outside of the Group:

Ashville College – www.ashville.co.uk

Kingswood School – www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk

Rydal Penrhos School – www.rydalpenrhos.com

The Leys School – www.theleys.net

St Faith's School – www.stfaiths.co.uk

Queenswood School – www.queenswood.org

Kent College Dubai – www.kentcollege.ae

Kent College Cairo – www.kentcollegeegypt.com





Role Description

This is a new role that will report into the CEO with responsibility to develop efficient, effective and strategic financial thinking across the group and manage change. At a time of challenge and opportunity for the independent schools sector, MIST is transforming its strategy and ways of working to better support and steward the schools. This role will not only provide the expert input into the financial thinking but will be a part of the shaping of wider strategy for the group.

Key Responsibilities

- Oversight of group financial strategy and planning - analysis, review, commentary, forecasting & communication management
- Financial management of MIST's activities and operations with trustee, management and statutory reporting
- Oversight of each school's financial strategy and planning; bringing value add to schools
- Management & Mitigation of Group Financial Sustainability Risk
- Management of Bank, Auditor, Insurance & Advisor Relationships

Key Relationships

MIST HQ & Trustees: Chief Executive, Director of Governance, Chief Operating Officer, Finance Team, Chair of Finance Committee, Chair of Audit & Risk Committee

Schools: Heads, Bursars, Chairs of Finance Committees

External: Bank (HSBC), External Auditor (Crowe), Internal Auditor (HaysMac), tax advisers etc

Meetings: Executive Leadership Team, Trustee Board, Finance and Audit & Risk Committees

Schools facing meeting: Finance and Governor meetings, relationship building with key personnel



Person Specification

Candidates should demonstrate all or most of the following:

Essential

- Qualified Accountant (ACA, ACCA, CIPFA, CIMA etc)
- Degree level education
- Outstanding leadership, people, influencing and stakeholder relations skills and experience, with great personal integrity
- Proven strategic thinker and problem solver
- Financial strategy and modelling skills and experience
- Established experience and understanding of finance, banking relationships, regulatory issues & tax planning
- Experience in mergers, acquisitions and business change
- Proven experience in executive leadership roles
- In sympathy with Methodist faith, ethos and values
- Exceptional verbal, written, and visual communication skills

Desirable

- Prior education, charity, and not for profit sector experience



Terms of Appointment

A competitive salary will be offered, dependent upon the skills and experience of the candidate.

The package includes:

- Pension
- Private healthcare
- 30 days annual leave and public holidays
- Day school fee remission at a MIST school

Fully hybrid working, with base in London head office and regular travel to MIST schools.

How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to MIST on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code FAFASC. Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 28th March 2025.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.
GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.



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