



August 28, 2025

Dear Exeter community,

Since our last update on the search for Exeter's 17th principal, the Principal Search Committee has made significant progress. We are pleased with the strength and breadth of the candidate field, and the search committee is looking forward to upcoming opportunities to engage deeply with these prospective leaders of the Academy.

With the assistance of our search consultant, Perrett Laver, we reached out this past spring to over 400 potential candidates and education leaders and broadly disseminated the [Principal Position Profile](#), resulting in applications from more than 80 candidates. The deep field is a testament to the high regard in which Exeter is held and to the opportunity that many candidates see to lead the school from strength to greater strength, building on its excellence.

In June the Search Committee selected more than a dozen candidates for initial meetings with Perrett Laver this summer. This impressive group includes:

- many current heads, and a few assistant heads, of leading boarding and day schools
- a handful of candidates with higher education or other educational leadership experiences
- candidates with a rich blend of lived experiences, identities and backgrounds

The committee is in the process of narrowing our field to a shortlist of candidates, with whom we will meet in a variety of settings over the coming weeks. We are grateful for the interest the candidates have shown in the principal position at Exeter, and we look forward to getting to know them and their aspirations and experiences better over the course of our upcoming conversations. Ultimately, we aim to recommend an outstanding candidate to the Trustees to serve as our next principal.

I want to take this opportunity to underscore the importance that confidentiality plays in our process. We would not have achieved our strong field of candidates without it. As we approach the final stages of our search, we will continue to uphold our commitment to confidentiality to our candidates, as we believe it best serves the interests of the Academy.

Thank you for your continued support of the search effort. We are encouraged by our accomplished candidates and their enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve as Exeter's 17th principal. As we head toward our 250th anniversary, it is exciting to envision the possibilities that lie ahead for the Academy.

Additional information about the process to identify our next principal can be found [here](#). And at any time during the search, we welcome your thoughts or questions by email at exeter@perrettlaver.com.

Sincerely,

Janney Wilson '83
Trustee and Chair of the Principal Search Committee