



MERGER OF RADLEY COLLEGE AND PREP SCHOOLS TRUST

We are delighted to announce the merger of our two charities.

Our schools – Radley, Barfield, Beeston Hall, Chandlings, Cothill, Kitebrook, Mowden Hall and West Hill Park – will join in one of the most significant mergers in the charitable independent education sector to date. From September, all eight schools will come together to form Radley Schools Group.

At a time when it is all too easy to be downbeat about the future of the sector, we want to state loudly, positively and clearly our belief in the timeless and authentic values of high quality charitable independent education. Through the strength and stability of a wider group, we are committed to providing exceptional educational opportunities for all our pupils throughout their childhood and, by blending the very best of tradition and innovation, to developing young people of outstanding character and purpose for generations to come.

Building on the success of each school and the existing strength of the group, this merger gives Prep Schools Trust schools greater security and wider access to resource and expertise. For Radley, the merger allows the College to have a louder voice in the independent sector at large and a wider influence in helping to shape the future of education for children at all levels. Most importantly, we will together be a significant force for good: meeting the societal, economic and political challenges we face; providing the very best environment for our children and staff to enjoy and developing real thought-leadership on issues of pastoral care, pedagogy and character education.

Our schools already have closely aligned values. Over the coming months, we will work together to develop a strong, distinctive and shared philosophy which builds on these. Nevertheless, the schools will retain their independent identities and continue to provide different contexts and offerings in which that philosophy can thrive. We want the Group to be known for innovative and successful educational practice in each setting, recognisably driven and supported from the centre but with a sensitivity to local context and need.

The Warden of Radley, John Moule, will chair the strategic development of the group while retaining his day-to-day responsibilities at Radley. The Chief Executive of Prep Schools Trust, Tom Beardmore-Gray, who had already announced his decision to retire this Summer after serving PST with distinction for the last seven years, will be succeeded as Chief Executive by Andrew Ashton, currently Radley's Bursar. Radley College Council will assume governance for all Prep Schools Trust schools, with two PST trustees (Emma McKendrick and Peta Darnley) joining Council. With two other Council members, they will also be part of a new Prep Schools Committee, chaired by another PST trustee, Francis Burkitt, alongside Chairs of the PST Local Advisory Groups and other existing Trustees.

John and Andrew are already in discussion with each of the Heads and look forward, with them and their staff, to developing further the vision and strategy for the new group. As well as hosting the Heads at Radley, they will both be visiting each school over the Summer Term to share their ideas, and to listen and learn.

There will be lots of questions, of course. Please [watch the video](#) we have prepared and do read the [FAQs on our websites](#) to find out more. We are sure, however, that you will agree with us: this venture is full of exciting, ground-breaking possibilities as we seek to develop a premium, powerful and influential group together to ensure the very best education for all our children: now and in the future.

David Smellie
Chair, Radley College

Emma McKendrick
Chair, Prep Schools Trust