



## WELLESLEY HOUSE

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### **GENERAL QUESTIONS**

#### **What is the vision for the merged school?**

To make Wellesley House and Haddon Dene the outstanding day and boarding prep school in East Kent, maximising the use of our premium site, combining both schools and providing a sustainable, broad and inspiring offering that meets the needs of all aspirational fee paying parents.

#### **Will the ethos remain the same?**

Yes. We take great pride in our ethos and the environment that we create for our pupils and families. Our educational offering is deliberately broad and diverse, which promotes the development of mental and physical health of all pupils. This will not change.

#### **Does this have an impact on the termly fees that I pay?**

For the remainder of this year, and whilst year groups continue to operate from their own sites, there will be no change to the current fees for pupils. Alpha will be exploring the fee structure moving forwards and will communicate this with all stakeholders in a timely manner.

#### **Does this affect the school's Leadership?**

The current Wellesley House leadership team of the Headmaster (Mr Franklin), the Deputy Head (Mr Spencer), the Head of Pre-prep (Mrs Brown) and the Bursar (Mrs Parsons), will be joined by the existing leadership team at Haddon Dene, thus ensuring continuity for all pupils and parents.

#### **Will specialist teachers be used?**

Specialist teachers will continue to be employed and deployed as is currently the case.

#### **Will the games, activities, fixtures and extra-curricular programme remain?**

Yes. Along with academic rigour, this remains at the heart of our School and all opportunities will remain for our pupils, with the aim of providing more opportunities as a result of increased pupil numbers and staff.

### **How is boarding affected?**

Boarding will continue to remain very much at the heart of our school. From Year 4 upwards, we will continue to actively recruit and welcome full and weekly boarders and we expect a growing interest in flexi and occasional boarders as our day numbers naturally increase. Mrs Spencer and her team will continue to run the boarding in the main school building under the same structure and ethos.

### **What support will there be for my child's exit strategy from prep to senior school?**

We will continue to pride ourselves on the individualised and tailored support that we offer to pupils in preparation for their exit from our School. The Headmaster and Mrs Sabin-Dawson will continue to guide families through the independent senior school process (which begins at the start of Year 5) and there will be additional support for those families considering the grammar school (Kent Test) route. Preparing our pupils for some of the top local and national independent schools remains a key priority for our team.

### **What will be the impact on Year 7 and 8?**

Haddon Dene goes up to Year 6. Other than the usual injection of new pupils joining our school both locally and internationally at these age groups, as far as parents and pupils of next year's 7 & 8 year groups are concerned, it will be business as usual, with a real focus on Common Entrance and scholarship preparation (in academics, art, music, drama and sport).

### **What about the bus runs and transport to and from school?**

Depending on parental needs, we will look to increase our bus transport to and from school to suit parents and it is likely that an enhanced number of bus routes will be provided by the school.

### **Where should future enquiries regarding admissions be directed?**

All prospective admissions enquiries should be directed to Geraldine in the office, as is currently the case.

### **What does this mean for the Wellesley House and St Peter's Court Trust?**

The Wellesley House and St Peter's Court Trust will continue to own the estate and will lease the site to Alpha. The Trust will continue to invest in and support educational initiatives.

### **What about the Old Welleslian society?**

The vibrant Old Welleslian society will continue and all pupils will be able to benefit from these connections and specific events as they move on to life after Wellesley. The OW society will be overseen by the Wellesley House and St Peter's Court Trust.

## **PRE-PREP SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

### **What will the impact on class sizes be?**

Whilst class sizes in the Pre-prep will be inevitably larger as a result of the merger, there will be excellent ratios of adult:children and significant opportunities for pupils to build relationships throughout their year group and with other year groups within the Pre-prep. Both schools pride themselves on a “family feel” with the highest levels of pastoral care and academic rigour.

### **Who will teach in the Pre-prep?**

All current teaching staff will continue, with experienced, passionate and highly qualified teachers from both Wellesley House and Haddon Dene coming together to teach the children. Some year groups will become two form entry (i.e. have two classes in each year), with the teachers and teaching assistants from both Wellesley House and Haddon Dene involved.

### **What are the timings of the joining of the two Schools?**

The timing of the joining of the two schools will be confirmed in the coming weeks and will be planned to ensure the smoothest possible transition.

### **Will my child still be able to take part in the sport and activities programme?**

Yes, if your child currently takes part in games and activities, this will continue. Indeed, with increased pupils and staff, there may well be more opportunities to enhance our already fantastic and wide reaching activities and games programme.

### **How will the Pre-prep connect to the school and local community?**

Pre-prep pupils will benefit from the multitude of learning opportunities available on our doorstep, by way of regular opportunities for visits, trips and events that link with the local community. Wellesley House and Haddon Dene also have very strong school communities that the Pre-prep children will become part of for example with regards to participation in Chapel services both for assemblies and services at key moments of the year (Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day). Pre-prep pupils and families will also be invited to engage with fundraising initiatives run by the school throughout the year, for example to support local and national charities.

### **Will children continue to learn in their current way?**

Pre-prep pupils will continue to benefit from a broad, fun and challenging curriculum, delivered within a nurturing environment. The school's grounds and proximity to the beach will enable Beach School and outdoor learning to be integral to the curriculum and life of the school. In addition, Reception classes will have direct access to outdoor learning spaces from their classrooms where they can investigate, reflect and experiment and Years 1, 2 and 3 will have easy access to our outdoor fields and grounds.

### **Which subjects will be taught by specialist teachers?**

For every child, the Pre-prep will be the beginning of a learning journey that will benefit them throughout their academic lives and beyond. Core subjects (Maths, English, Phonics) will be taught by class teachers in a programmed, tailored manner, that will be accessible to all learning styles and abilities. There will be daily phonics and reading with an adult, handwriting, numeracy and problem-solving, supplemented with a wide variety of other learning experiences to provide excellent foundations for future learning. Modern Languages, Music and Physical Education will continue to be taught by specialist staff from the outset.

### **Will Beach School continue?**

Yes. Beach School gives children the opportunity to develop holistically. Holistic development combines an individual's mental, physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth. Beach School is learner centered with an emphasis on reflection and review and the opportunity for safe risk taking.

### **What is the process for transition to the Prep School?**

There is an expectation that children attending the Pre-prep will wish to transfer to the prep school at Year 4 (8+) and that most, if not all, will do so. The curriculum in the Pre-prep school will ensure that the transition to the prep school will be smooth and efficient, with no academic lag: children will be ready to take full advantage of all that the prep school has to offer from their very first day in Year 4. There will always be an opportunity to discuss the next steps (for life beyond Wellesley) with the Headmaster, your child's form tutor and Mrs Sabin-Dawson, who remains heavily involved in the senior school application process.