



BRIDEWELL ROYAL HOSPITAL

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL WITLEY & BARROW HILLS SCHOOL

Monday 7th October 2024

Longacre School, Surrey to merge with the Bridewell Royal Hospital Foundation

The Court of the Bridewell Royal Hospital Foundation ('Bridewell') and the Governors of Longacre School, Shamley Green, Surrey ('Longacre') have announced their agreement to merge, with the legal transaction underpinning the merger being intended to be completed by January 2025.

This announcement follows nine months of joint work by the Governors and Executives of Longacre and the current schools of Bridewell (King Edward's, Witley and Barrow Hills School) to examine the opportunities a partnership might provide for all parties, and to consider and confirm the alignment of the child-centred ethos and vision of the three schools.

Justine Voisin, Treasurer (Chair of Governors) of Bridewell explained:

'Central to this partnership will be the maintenance of the unique individual character of each school, whilst providing opportunities to share resources and educational expertise, and for all three schools to benefit from the collaborative leadership, increased economies of scale and significant investment opportunities Bridewell offers. Having successfully welcomed Barrow Hills School into our Foundation and the City of London family of schools in 2015, we look forward to the pupils, staff and parents of Longacre taking advantage of being a core constituent of the Bridewell community'.

Andrew Blurton, Chair of Governors, Longacre school noted:

'We have welcomed our discussions with colleagues within Bridewell. These have highlighted the increased resilience and many benefits our school community will enjoy in joining with a foundation with over 500 years of experience of providing a very high quality of education and support to pupils. We look forward to a bright future for our school, and to working with our community to realise the key benefits of this merger. These will include the addition of an assisted admissions route to the families of our children moving to King Edward's, in addition to our long-established provision of independent advice in these matters which will continue'.

Bridewell will welcome Governors from Longacre, including the Chair of Governors who will remain as Chair of Longacre, onto its Court. The Head of Longacre will join the Principal of Bridewell and Head of King Edward's, and Head of Barrow Hills within the Bridewell Executive Group. They will collectively lead further development work to ensure pupils at each school thrive within their distinctive learning environments. It is not planned to move any of the three schools from their current sites in their complementary school catchment areas.

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