

School merger

Bryanston and Knighton House pre-prep and prep school have confirmed arrangements to complete a formal merger of the two Dorset schools with effect from this month (September).

The move follows Bryanston's acquisition of the land and buildings of the neighbouring Knighton House campus last year.

The merger will help to ensure both schools are well placed to rise to the new challenges and constantly evolving priorities within the world of education with confidence. In advance of the new academic year, a new headmaster has been appointed at Knighton House and arrangements are being made for an experienced figure from the prep school sector to join the governing body of Bryanston.

"This is an exciting and significant development for both schools," says Julian Greenhill, Chair of Bryanston Governors. "As next

door neighbours, Bryanston and Knighton House have enjoyed a close and productive relationship over many decades. The decision to proceed with a merger is a logical and forward-looking step that will enrich the experience and deliver significant benefits for all pupils. It will also enable both schools to build on their respective strengths and to capitalise fully on shared resources, facilities and expertise to provide a complete, distinctive and compelling educational offering for children from 3 to 18 years old."

From September, Knighton House will be renamed Bryanston Knighton House, and all existing teaching and support staff at the school will be TUPE-transferred to Bryanston. Will Lockett, a former housemaster at Bryanston, has returned to Dorset and been appointed as the new Headmaster of Bryanston Knighton House. For the past six years he was



Headmaster of Abberley Hall co-educational prep school in Worcestershire where he played an instrumental role in forging a new strategic relationship with Malvern College.

Knighton House has recently celebrated its 70th anniversary and its 30-acre site in Durweston lies directly adjacent to Bryanston's 400-acre campus. The school's unique 'Knowledge, Enlightenment and Discovery'

curriculum has been developed to prepare pupils for learning at all stages of their lives with a clear focus on personal fulfilment and key qualities such as optimism, curiosity, creativity, independence and self-awareness. Such an approach closely reflects the key values embodied within Bryanston's education model and the merger between the two schools will extend the opportunities available to pupils.

Pictured (left to right): Mark Mortimer, Headmaster of Bryanston, with Will Lockett, the new Headmaster of Bryanston Knighton House

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