

23 February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

I do hope that you and your families are keeping well in these difficult times, and that you managed to have a restful half-term. In the midst of these challenging times, I am pleased to be writing to you with some positive news about a development in the Foundation that will bring lasting benefits to the school community.

One of the trends in education in recent years has been the growth of school groups, in both the state and independent sectors. Such groups find that being larger allows them to provide a better education, through shared experience and expertise, and financial economies of scale. At the Foundation we have a recent example of this, in the 2015 charity merger with The Mount School to create MMHI, Mount Mill Hill International. MMHI has grown over the past five years, has repaid our early investment and now makes a significant contribution to the long-term financial success of the Foundation.

The Court of Governors has continued to be alert to opportunities that could be of benefit to the education our schools provide, and has recently decided to bring Cobham Hall School into the Foundation. Cobham Hall was established in the 1960s as an independent boarding and day school for girls, situated in 150 acres of grounds in Cobham, Kent. The physical capacity of the school is around 300 pupils, and the main building is a Grade 1 Listed Tudor mansion. Like the Foundation, Cobham Hall is an educational charity, so the net assets of around £4.5 Million will transfer at no cost to the Foundation.

Adding Cobham Hall to the Foundation brings a number of benefits. Using the expertise that has seen the demand for places at the Foundation increase to unprecedented levels, we plan to gradually grow pupil numbers at Cobham Hall to the point that it becomes a significant contributor to the funds available for investment in the wider Foundation. Despite the temporary disruption caused by the pandemic, the success of our current schools means we are reaching the limits of space on our current site, even allowing for the investment plans we recently announced and the investments that will flow from our forthcoming Foundation Masterplan. The growth in the number of GCSE pupils at MMHI who wish to transfer to MHS for A Levels has put particular pressure on space for Sixth Form boarders. Cobham Hall will therefore provide extra boarding capacity for pupils who wish to remain within the Foundation, especially if the Sixth Form there becomes co-educational.

Both the Foundation and Cobham Hall have significant commercial operations that provide additional income to the schools, taking pressure off school fees as the main source of income. Merging these operations together will also bring additional commercial opportunities, for example through summer school activities.

Cobham Hall has an experienced and settled executive team, who will be supported by the CEO of the Foundation, utilising the structure we have put in place whereby Heads can dedicate all their time to their individual schools. The Cobham Hall merger will therefore not become a distraction to the existing schools, their Heads or their staff.

We have produced a FAQ to answer the main questions we anticipate, but if you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CEO, Antony Spencer, via ceo@millhill.org.uk.

Best wishes



Elliot Lipton
Chair of the Court of Governors

Mill Hill School The Ridgeway, Mill Hill Village, London NW7 1QS
+44 (0)20 8959 1176 | office@millhill.org.uk | millhill.org.uk