



From the Headmaster, Mark Ronan BA

23 November 2009

To: Pocklington School and Lyndhurst School
Parents and Guardians

Information: Governors, Teaching and
Support Staff

Dear Parents and Guardians

The Pocklington School Foundation is fully committed to the provision of the best possible learning and boarding facilities for our pupils. Consequently the education and boarding environment of both schools is constantly under evaluation and review. The recent completion of the changing rooms and the Sixth Form Centre means that we are now in a position to start on the next phase of our planned improvements: the **future structure of boarding** and the broadening of our educational provision with the **introduction of a pre-prep department** (entry at ages 5 - 7) for Lyndhurst. I would like to outline these developments and explain how they will be phased in concurrently over the next two years.

The Future Structure of Boarding

Our boarding reputation is enormously strong in regard to pastoral care but we are aware of the need to improve consistency in some areas. The Foundation's objective in developing boarding is to work towards a model of boarding that involves four single-sex houses of high quality that carefully support the developmental and social needs of the pupils. The junior houses will be homely and specifically designed to care for the needs of younger pupils. Dolman House is currently the focus of considerable investment that will allow it to fulfil its new role. The two senior houses will retain a home-from-home atmosphere whilst offering a more adult environment, better able to support preparation for final public examinations and the transition to university. To minimise disruption and ensure continuity, we plan to implement the boarding changes gradually over the next few years.

Girls' Boarding

The model of boarding introduced in September 2009 has proved successful and will continue with girls from Lyndhurst and up to 3rd Year in Pocklington School in Orchard House, and 4th Year to Upper 6th Form in Faircote House.

Boys' Boarding

Planned arrangements for boys' houses will be as follows:

September 2010 to July 2011

St. John's House	All boys in Lyndhurst and up to 2 nd Year in Pocklington School
Dolman House	All 3 rd Year boys Dolman 4 th , 5 th and Upper 6 th Form boys
Fenwick-Smith House	Fenwick-Smith 4 th , 5 th and Upper 6 th Form boys All Lower 6 th Form boys

September 2011 to July 2012

Dolman House	All boys in Lyndhurst and up to 4 th Year in Pocklington School
Fenwick-Smith House	All 5 th Year to Upper 6 th Form boys

From September 2012

The arrangements are likely to be the same as that for September 2011 but there may be the opportunity for 4th Year boys to move up to Fenwick-Smith House.

We continue to have a strong demand for boarding places so parents of day pupils who may be looking for a boarding place in September 2010 should make early contact with Mr Tom Taylor (Director of Boarding). To avoid disappointment, we would obviously like to accommodate the wishes of existing parents in advance of offering places to external candidates. Last year this conversion from day to boarding was a particularly popular option for pupils taking external exams who wished to minimise travel time. Mr Taylor should also be contacted by those looking for the afternoon and early evening care of a day boarding place.

A New Pre-Prep Department at Lyndhurst for 5 to 7 year olds

Parental enquiries in recent years have shown that there is a continuing request for the Foundation to open a pre-prep department at Lyndhurst for 5 to 7 year olds. We are therefore delighted to announce the opening of a new pre-prep department and this will be located in St John's House. As part of the structural changes to boarding mentioned above, some of the accommodation in St John's House will gradually become available and will provide us with space for this pre-prep department.

In September 2010 we will begin with one class for children entering Reception and Year 1 for a maximum class of 16 pupils. It is planned to gradually expand provision by introducing additional classes as this first intake moves up through the school: Year 1 pupils would move to a Year 2 class, with their own class teacher, in September 2011.

The pre-prep class will be accommodated in its own purpose-designed classroom with a direct internal link to Lyndhurst School and with access to its own dedicated outdoor classroom area. In addition, access to all Foundation facilities relevant to children of this age will be made available to them, for example, they will join current Lyndhurst School pupils for some assemblies and will make use of the sports facilities.

The particular needs of these younger children are central to the planning of this major new development at Lyndhurst School. The curriculum will include a good balance of 'adult-led' and 'child-initiated' opportunities and the pre-prep department will have the same values and aims as other sections of the Foundation.

Miss Joanne Denison, a current Year 5 teacher, has relevant pre-prep experience and will lead this new department and be the class teacher of the first cohort. Miss Denison will retain her role as Director of Learning across all of Lyndhurst. She is highly respected by pupils and current Lyndhurst parents and is very much looking forward to her new role and to meeting prospective parents and children over the next few months.

Parents who would be interested in their children joining the new pre-prep department are encouraged to visit the school to discuss plans with either Mr Ian Wright, Head of Lyndhurst, or Miss Denison. Appointments can be made by contacting Mrs Emily Frankish, school secretary, on 01759 321228.

We hope that you will be pleased and excited by these attractive proposals for both the future structure of boarding and the introduction of a pre-prep department. However if you have questions or are concerned about any aspect of what is being planned please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ronan