



## **Windlesham House School joining the Charterhouse family of schools**

**May 2025**

### **Why is Windlesham House School joining the Charterhouse family?**

Both Governing Bodies believe that there are multiple benefits from this move:

It will further enrich the experience for pupils of all ages. Pupils at Windlesham House will enjoy extra depth and breadth in both academic and co-curricular life.

Charterhouse's merger with Edgeborough School in 2021 has been extremely successful and Windlesham House, with its well-established boarding co-education offer for UK and international families, will play a distinctive and complementary role alongside Edgeborough within the family.

Windlesham House will offer an additional way for children leaving another prep school at 11, but destined for Charterhouse at 13, to join the family immediately. It is already the case that a steady stream of Windlesham House pupils progress onto Charterhouse each year at age 13 and thrive there.

It will bring significant business and operational benefits. Increased size means increased specialist support skills and greater purchasing power, important for today's cost efficiency and tomorrow's plans. Whilst all three schools are financially secure and enjoying strong momentum, including record pupil numbers, they will be even stronger together.

Overall, Windlesham House joining the Charterhouse family provides further opportunity to shape an exciting and dynamic educational offer. Collectively, we will be part of the creation of the country's stand-out family of co-educational schools, providing the very best in boarding and day education from 3 to 18, to both UK and international families.

Windlesham House School will join the Charterhouse family of schools on 1 August 2025, subject to the normal regulatory and final approvals.

### **Why has each school chosen the other?**

Windlesham House and Charterhouse enjoy a longstanding and close relationship and, in many ways, share a very similar ethos which blends tradition with innovation, and providing an exceptional academic, yet all-round, curriculum to prepare our pupils for life.

Each year, a number of Windlesham pupils continue their studies at Charterhouse. As such, both schools have witnessed first-hand the quality of education that is provided. During this

time, the rapport and respect between the two schools, their senior leadership teams and Governors has become clear. This step brings the schools much closer together and builds on the shared commitment to an outstanding academic and all-round education. Windlesham's well established boarding co-educational offer – for UK and international families - fits well with Charterhouse's own fully co-educational offer.

### **Are the reasons financial?**

No. There are clearly business and operational benefits, but each school within the Charterhouse family is financially secure and enjoying strong forward momentum.

The main reasons are the direct long-term benefits that support the collective pupil experience. In turn, the merger provides the opportunity for all organisations within the group to continue their growth, from a renewed position of strength, at a time when significant challenges face the sector at large.

It is important to note that the decision has not been driven by the Government's decision to impose VAT on school fees. Information on how this matter is being dealt with has already been distributed and this will not change. The rationale for Windlesham House joining with Charterhouse is far reaching as outlined above.

### **Will there be a commitment to capital investment at Windlesham House?**

Windlesham House is in a secure financial position and is well invested but, like any school, it will wish to undertake further capital priorities for the coming years. Charterhouse will of course be supportive of any future capital investment that is required to deliver on our joint ambitions, within sensible budgetary criteria. One of the benefits of being part of a larger group is that it provides greater scope for a long-term approach to planning and investment.

### **Are the schools planning to grow?**

The primary focus for all the schools within the Charterhouse family is to, first and foremost, provide an outstanding all-round education in an environment where pastoral care is at the centre of all that is done. We are not pursuing growth for the sake of growth. However, under their current leadership teams, each organisation is currently enjoying strong and increasing demand. This is expected to continue.

### **Will Windlesham House pupils be expected to move to Charterhouse?**

No. Windlesham House's existing commitment to helping parents to choose whichever senior school best suits their children will be unchanged. Equally, those wishing to apply to Charterhouse will continue to participate in the usual admissions process, just like any other applicant.

### **Why will Windlesham House pupils still be required to go through the Charterhouse admissions process, if they wish to go to Charterhouse?**

It is important to both schools that pupils from Windlesham House attend the senior school that best suits their individual needs and parental preferences. The Charterhouse admissions process is valuable for assessing pupils to ensure that they will thrive at the school, and for parents to feel comfortable with this decision.

### **Will Windlesham House still welcome pupils who wish to go on to other senior schools?**

Yes, absolutely. Windlesham House will continue to welcome and prepare pupils for a wide range of senior schools – aiming to ensure that the choice best suits each pupil's individual needs. The school will continue to hold strong relationships with other senior schools, and all involved are committed to each child going to the best fit school for them.

### **As a parent or pupil, what will stay the same?**

On a day-to-day basis it will be business as usual, from a parent and pupil perspective. Windlesham House will retain its current leadership team, identity, name, ethos, values, badge and uniform policy, as well as day-to-day operational autonomy. It will retain its own DfE registration and ISI inspection regime along with the membership of the Independent Association of Prep schools (IAPS).

The focus on an all-round education is one of the great strengths of both schools, and this common philosophy is one of the key factors behind the move. Pupils will continue to enjoy a full, rounded education at both schools, will develop their interests in sport, music, art, drama and in many other ways, and will move onto the next stage in their education superbly equipped for the future, just as they do now.

### **Will Windlesham House's fees rise (or fall) as a result of becoming part of the Charterhouse family?**

Fees will continue to be set based on the same budgetary principles that currently apply, which seek to ensure that Windlesham House remains accessible for as many families as possible, whilst taking account of the short and longer terms financial needs of the School and the costs of delivering an outstanding educational experience.

### **Who will lead the schools?**

The Windlesham House Headmaster, Ben Evans, will remain responsible for the running of the School along with his senior leadership team. Charterhouse's Head, Alex Peterken, will have overall executive responsibility for the group, and so for Charterhouse, Edgeborough and Windlesham House. All three schools will continue to benefit from the significant expertise that has been developed via the growth that has taken place within the Charterhouse family, both nationally and internationally, during the last five years.

### **What will the new Governance structure look like?**

A single Governing Body will have responsibility for all three schools within the group and, from within that body, a new committee will be created to oversee the governance of Windlesham House specifically, comprising a mix of Charterhouse, Windlesham House and newly appointed governors. This will ensure both continuity of oversight for Windlesham House and the most appropriate level of focus and support.