

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**25 April 2023**

### **ELTHAM COLLEGE AND BLACKHEATH PREP TO MERGE**

#### ***New family of schools in South-East London***

Eltham College and Blackheath Prep are to merge to become one family of schools from September 2023, it was announced today.

The merger provides an exciting opportunity to cement the schools' already close ties through a more formal partnership, bringing new opportunities for pupils to share facilities and expertise, and for staff to develop their careers within a wider pool of professionals.

The new Eltham College family of schools will enjoy excellent leadership under Guy Sanderson, who will also continue in his role of Headmaster of Eltham College. He will be supported by Alex Matthews who will continue as Head of Blackheath Prep and Vikki Meier, who will remain as Head of Eltham College Junior School. James Martin will become Senior Deputy of Eltham College.

With both schools in good financial health, planned capital investment projects - including the refurbishment and expansion of Eltham College's science and technology building; new library and Year 5 and 6 classrooms for Eltham Junior School; and the rebuilding of the Jubilee block and sports pavilion at Blackheath Prep - will go ahead, subject to the usual planning consents. These investments will enable each school to maximise their existing sites, but there are no plans to expand further and the focus of the new group is on providing an excellent education to existing communities in south-east London.

Alex Matthews, Head, Blackheath Prep, said: "*Pupils are at the heart of our decision to merge and they will continue to enjoy exceptional teaching, outstanding pastoral care and fantastic facilities. Now, we have an opportunity to enhance these further within a larger family of schools, and we have already begun to look for opportunities to share our facilities and expertise for their benefit.*"

Guy Sanderson, Headmaster, Eltham College and of the Eltham family of schools, said: "*This is a wonderful opportunity for two already success schools to build on a shared educational vision, ethos and values to the benefit of both communities. From our existing positions of strength, our larger family will be in an excellent position to prepare for the future and to ensure our schools continue to thrive.*"

**Ends**

*For further information, please contact:*

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## Notes to Editors

### About Eltham College

Founded in 1842, Eltham College is a leading independent and co-educational day school located in south-east London. It is a thriving school, built upon Christian principles, that provides an outstanding, well-rounded education for more than 1,000 boys and girls aged between 8 to 18. Set in almost 70 acres of playing fields, the College has recently celebrated its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Eltham College is committed to the high academic achievement of its students and inspiring a love of learning in them, but also to providing a broad co-curricular programme including sport, music, drama and art. The school also offers students strong pastoral support and a rich Wellbeing curriculum. [www.eltham-college.org.uk](http://www.eltham-college.org.uk)

### About Blackheath Prep

Blackheath Prep is a thriving, co-educational independent Nursery and Prep school in Blackheath, London SE3. It has 390 pupils aged 3 – 11 years and is a popular choice for local families. Each year it achieves outstanding results in senior school offers and scholarships from the leading schools in London and Kent. The Head, Alex Matthews, joined the school in 2020, having previously held Deputy Head positions at St Paul's Junior and Alleyns schools. In 2023, Blackheath Prep celebrates its 200th anniversary with a year-long programme of events to mark the foundation of a school on the current site in 1823. [www.blackheathprep.co.uk](http://www.blackheathprep.co.uk)

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