

# THE MILL HILL SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Mill Hill School  
Belmont, Mill Hill Preparatory School  
Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre-Preparatory School



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wanted to let you know at the first opportunity the important news that the governing bodies of the Mill Hill School Foundation (MHSF) and The Mount School have decided to join forces in a move that will further strengthen our position as a first-class, internationally-respected Foundation for boys and girls from the ages of 3 to 18.

From September 2014, we shall be welcoming girls from The Mount School into the Foundation, which will continue to consist of the three core parts with which parents are familiar:

- Grimsdell Mill Hill Pre-Preparatory School will continue to provide a first-rate education for boys and girls from Nursery to Year 2. Combined with The Mount Nursery and Pre-prep, the School will continue to occupy the current Grimsdell site, where all pupils will be accommodated. The Head will be Mrs Kate Simon, who succeeds Mrs Pauline Bennett-Mills in September 2014.
- Belmont Mill Hill Preparatory School, led by the Head, Mrs Lynn Duncan, will continue to provide an outstanding education for pupils from Year 3 to Year 8. Given there are a number of children of international parents, the School will also have a unit for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL Unit) for those pupils who require this support.
- The senior school, Mill Hill School, will continue as a first-class day and boarding school for pupils from Year 9 to Year 13. Dr Dominic Luckett will continue as Headmaster and as the Chief Executive of the Mill Hill School Foundation.

The Governing Body – the Court of Governors of the Mill Hill School Foundation – will continue to be chaired by Dr Roger Chapman. It will be joined from September next year by two Governors from The Mount School.

There will be a further, exciting development from September 2015 which we believe has considerable potential to contribute to the continuing strength and development of the Foundation. We shall be creating an International Study Centre (ISC) as the fourth and newest school of the Foundation. The ISC will be a co-educational school for boys and girls up to Year 11 for whom English is not their first language. To be called The Mount Mill Hill International Study Centre, it will offer a strong academic curriculum up to GCSE/IGCSE, with specialist English as an Additional Language (EAL) teaching to support pupils' educational development. The ISC will be located on the current Mount School site and will have both boarding and day pupils.

### **Why are we doing this?**

The Mill Hill School Foundation and The Mount are academically successful, highly-regarded schools. While MHSF enjoys strong demand for places across the age range, The Mount School, as some of you will know, has been facing growing pressures for some years now, in common with a number of single-sex girls' schools up and down the country, and the school recently closed its Sixth Form. The Mount School's Governors have been tireless in examining all possible avenues that would enable them to continue to provide an excellent education and supportive school environment for their girls. That is why our schools, which are close neighbours, began to explore the possibility of a merger. The more we looked at it, the more we realised the considerable benefits and advantages it would bring to both The Foundation and The Mount School.

The MHSF Governors have a responsibility to plan for the long term. The Foundation operates in a highly-competitive educational environment. As a result of this merger, we shall be a stronger, better-resourced Foundation with outstanding facilities and first class teachers, backed up by financial assets that will put us on a strong footing for many years to come. Whilst academic standards are important to all of us, so too is our conviction – shared very much by The Mount School – that school years are precious ones, and that children learn best and flourish in an atmosphere that is happy, personal and caring. This merger will help us reinforce and nurture this atmosphere.

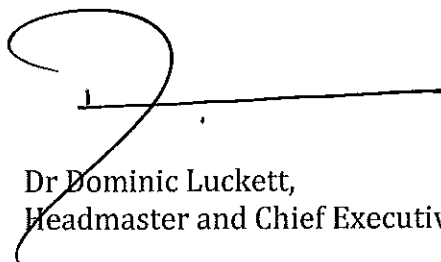
For these reasons, the Court of Governors was unanimous in taking this decision. The changes in the everyday school life of pupils at Grimsdell, Belmont and Mill Hill will be minor, but the benefits will be significant. We are very ambitious for our girls and boys, and we believe that this development will help us realise those ambitions and strengthen the foundations on which we are building for the future.

Any change of this nature inevitably raises lots of questions. So, you will find attached to this letter a sheet of Questions and Answers that, we hope, will give you much of the more detailed information you may feel you need. Of course, there may well still be issues you would like to discuss, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with one or both of us.

With best wishes,



Dr Roger Chapman  
Chairman of the Court of Governors



Dr Dominic Lockett,  
Headmaster and Chief Executive