

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

Press release

Exciting merger for Abbotsford and Crackley Hall School

THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT of Abbotsford School and the trustees of Crackley Hall made an exciting announcement on Monday that the two schools will be brought together from September 2010 to provide the very best in primary education in Kenilworth. The school, which will welcome boys and girls from 2 to 11, will continue to be known as Crackley Hall and will operate from the existing Coventry Road campus.

Warwickshire Catholic Independent Schools Foundation's Chair of Trustees, Mrs Mary O' Farrell, said "The decision to create a new school from Abbotsford and Crackley Hall has not been taken without careful thought and governors prize what they believe has made each school special. As we separately considered the best way of moving our schools forward, we came with growing certainty to the view that we would be stronger together than apart. This merger will strengthen the Foundation and allow considerable development at Crackley.

Paul Ryan, who took up office in September 2008, will continue to lead Crackley Hall and Abbotsford's head, Dominic Cook, will play a key role as Integration Head overseeing a smooth transition.

Chair of Abbotsford's Council of Management, Peter Rush, added "Abbotsford and Crackley Hall share a very similar ethos and are both well known for their high standards of teaching and outstanding pastoral care. By combining the values of the two schools, we believe that we can build something stronger than the sum of the parts: a new, broader and enriched school which cares for and challenges its pupils, offering a wider range of opportunities and preparing them even better for the future."

Parents of children of both schools have been invited to meetings this evening to hear about the benefits of the merger, which include major upgrading of facilities in science & technology and an increase in the range of competitive sports offered. Children from both schools will also have the opportunity to spend time together between now and September. Head, Paul Ryan said "We are committed to make the transition as smooth as possible and have lots of fun events planned for the children over the course of the next few weeks."

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Additional information

ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL, which recently celebrated its centenary, has provided a challenging academic programme in Kenilworth for boys and girls aged 3 to 11 years, from its Busy Bears Nursery through to Secondary School entrance. It is a non-selective Christian day school and welcomes pupils of all religious beliefs. The school is exceptional in delivering both academic excellence and ensuring that all its children develop into confident, well-rounded individuals, achieving their first choice of secondary school.

CRACKLEY HALL SCHOOL, which is the junior school to Princethorpe College, opened in 2001 when the former St Joseph's School merged with Princethorpe College to form Warwickshire Catholic Independent Schools Foundation. Crackley welcomes pupils from 2 to 11 and has a thriving nursery called Little Crackers. The school, which has 140 pupils, has a Catholic foundation and welcomes children of all faiths. In addition to priding itself on academic rigour, Crackley Hall aims to encourage a lifelong love of learning, an understanding of moral values and to put children on the road to happy and fulfilled lives.

PHOTOGRAPH

Abbotsford-Crackley Hall

Left to right Mary O'Farrell, Chair of Trustees WCISF; Dominic Cook, Head of Abbotsford; Peter Rush, Chair of Council of Management Abbotsford and Paul Ryan, Head of Crackley Hall.