

Updated Questions & Answers

General

Why are we doing this?

The Schools share many values and have a similar culture and ethos making them a natural fit.

The Schools have a shared heritage and Christian foundation.

They are ambitious for their pupils both academically and across all other aspects of School life.

They celebrate the unique talents of each individual child, nurturing and bringing out the best in them.

This presents a fantastic opportunity to create a new School, taking the best from Durham School and The Chorister School to create an even stronger and more successful School.

The Schools have much in common and can grow and succeed from this collaboration.

The new Foundation will offer all pupils continuity of education from 3-18.

Why were parents not consulted prior to this announcement?

Governors of both schools were in a difficult position. There was huge desire to engage parents as early as possible, but the legalities and the sensitivities of the process would not allow for this. It would be deeply unfair on staff to publicly debate merger ideas as well as being extremely unsettling for the recruitment processes for both schools, and could have financially harmed both.

The governing bodies of both schools do have representation from former and current parents of both schools and so the perspective of parents has been taken into account. However now that the proposed merger has been announced we are keen to involve current and former parents and respond to questions and allay concerns.

What new opportunities will the planned merger provide?

A larger Foundation will provide greater opportunities for all its pupils academically, socially, in sport and in extra-curricular activities.

We will be stronger financially as one Foundation at a time of increasing pressure for independent schools with the added benefits of economies of scale and collective experience.

When is this expected to go ahead?

It is envisaged that the new Foundation will be fully operative in September 2021 with extensive familiarisation activities taking place for parents and pupils during the preceding months.

Will entry requirements change?

No - there will be no change to entry requirements. In common with other years, Bow pupils in Year 6 will progress to Year 7 at Durham School. The Chorister School Year 6, 7 & 8 will have automatic entry to Year 7, 8 & 9 respectively within the new Foundation if they wish to do so.

Who will be the Head of the new school?

Kieran McLaughlin will be Principal of the Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation and continue as Headmaster of Durham School. The Headmistress of the Prep school will be Sally Harrod, the current Headmistress of Bow School. Ian Wicks, the current Headmaster of The Chorister School has announced his intention to fully support the process until September 2021, when he will step down. There will also be members of the senior leadership team based at each site.

Is this a takeover rather than a merger?

It is understandable that there could be a sense of takeover rather than merger on the basis of leadership roles. This is genuinely not the case. Ian Wicks, the headmaster of The Chorister School made his decision to step down and has stated that he is emphatically behind this merger. It is natural, therefore, that Sally Harrod will take the leadership role of the Prep and Pre-prep phases. The larger school in terms of size in this merger is Durham School and it is logical that Kieran McLaughlin will be both Principal of the Foundation and Headmaster of the senior school. Rob Ribchester's role as Chairman of Governors is equally logical as he is current Chair of the legal entity which The Chorister School will join. Andrew Tremlett will become Vice-Chair and Durham Cathedral and the Chapter will have a number of representatives on the overall governing body.

This is a merger of equal parties that will form a new Foundation which combines the strengths of both schools in a way that safeguards the future and makes the new Foundation more financially resilient.

Who are the Governors going to be?

The Chair of Governors will be Rob Ribchester and the Vice-Chair will be the Dean of Durham, Andrew Tremlett. There will be a balance of Governors from both the Foundation and the Cathedral on the Governing body.

What will the new School be called?

It is proposed that the two schools will merge under one single Foundation to be known as the Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation. As a recognition of the history of all three schools, the pre-prep will be known as "Bow School", the Prep as "The Chorister School" and the Senior school as "Durham School" within the overall Foundation.

What about the history and traditions of both schools – will they still be celebrated?

We recognise that the history of each School is extremely important, and we share nearly 600 years of history. This history and the traditions of each School will be celebrated and cherished as we establish the new Foundation. We will continue to work with the Alumni of each School.

What will be the timings for the new school day?

At Bow School and The Chorister School, morning supervision will be available from 8am. The timings of the school day are anticipated to reflect a similar pattern to existing arrangements, with the Choristers' Choir schedule in this structure.

Durham School's academic standards and pastoral care

Durham School is now in the Top 3% of schools nationally for value added which means, in effect, children make more progress at Durham School than children do at nearly all other schools the length and breadth of England.

Some other headlines to highlight from this summer include:

80.5% of A Level results were graded A*-B

50.3% were A*-A

55% of leavers went to Russell Group universities

It is worth noting that Durham School has an elite programme of academic support, headed by Oxbridge educated academic staff, who support the most academically gifted pupils progressing to Oxbridge and the medical, legal and veterinary course candidates.

However, Durham School does not judge itself purely on academic outcomes. They believe the quality of an education is in its all-round development of a child's character, values and talent, whether that be in the classroom, on stage, in the choir, in the orchestra or on the sporting field.

ISI Inspection- The Choristers School

The Chorister School is able to confirm that an action plan in line with the ISI Commentary (September 2020) and drawn up under expert educational legal advice has been submitted to the Department for Education and that all of the actions in the plan are now in place and being actively carried out. The Single Central Register is now complete in respect of all school staff, governors, supply staff and regular contractors. Cathedral employees who, where the School is concerned, fall into the category of 'supply staff' (e.g., musicians) are included in the Central Register. The Cathedral recruits these employees according to its own safer recruitment policy but, because the methodology is different from the School's, the ISI required a matched approach to recruitment for these persons. The Cathedral's HR Department has confirmed that the matched approach will be followed from now on. Three musicians currently being appointed are being checked in line with the ISI requirements for safer recruitment and will have complete entries on the Central Register. There is also a plan in place to complete this process for existing cathedral employees in the relevant categories by the end of this term. The School now awaits re-inspection confidently.

Finance

Is this proposed merger because of the impact of Coronavirus?

Discussions were on-going before the Coronavirus pandemic as we believe that this merger is in the best interests of both Schools. The pandemic has given added impetus to decision

making as the financial pressures on the sector will grow so this decision will help secure the future of both Schools.

Are one, or both Schools in financial trouble?

The Coronavirus has had an impact on all independent schools; there is a lot of competition in the independent sector particularly in the Durham area, so a consolidation and strengthening is a sensible way forward.

What will happen to fees?

There has been close financial analysis of the new Foundation and a comprehensive business plan drawn up. Where there was an overlap on fees before, the lower of the two figures has been used as a base for setting next year's fees. Therefore, the fees up to Year 6 are matched to the current Bow fee and the fees in Years 7 and 8 are matched to the current Chorister School fee. This means that parents will not experience a fee rise in September 2021 other than a small inflationary increase and some indeed may benefit from a reduction in fees. More details on fees for next year will be available next term.

How will this affect scholarships and bursaries?

Any pupil in receipt of a scholarship or bursary will continue to receive that support, subject to the usual annual review.

What scholarships/bursaries are likely to be available at the end of Year 8 to enable children to remain at Durham School?

All scholarships at year 9 are open to both internal and external applicants.

Will Durham School honour the same discounts (former pupils, clergy, armed forces and university staff) that the Chorister School is offering?

All existing discounts will be honoured in the new Foundation.

How will the merger fit with Durham School in Kenya and Qatar?

Durham School has not invested financially in either of the overseas institutions; our input is educational only. However, we do receive a revenue from overseas schools. Durham School for Girls Doha has been open for over a year and we have received a financial return from that school; our nursery in Kenya opens next year. The revenue coming into the School is reinvested in education, again to improve still further our provision. Our overseas activities are overseen by a Director of International Operations whose responsibility is to manage our end of the institutions.

The Chorister Experience

Will the place of Choristers continue in the planned new Foundation?

Yes, it is proposed Choristers will be educated at the new Foundation – Years 4 to 6 Choristers on the Cathedral site and Years 7 and 8 Choristers on the Durham School site.

How will Choristers be recruited to the Cathedral Choir under the new arrangements?

Choristers will be recruited jointly by the Cathedral and the new Foundation – the Organist and Master of the Choristers will identify suitable candidates in consultation with the leadership of the new Foundation and in line with the new Foundation’s admissions policy.

How many Choristers will be recruited to the Cathedral Choir and the planned new school?

The current optimum number of 48 Choristers (approximately 24 boys and 24 girls) will be maintained under the new arrangements.

How will a sense of unity for the Choristers be maintained across two sites?

The Choristers will continue to rehearse together as at present and there will be a new role of Chorister Supervisor assisted by two resident tutors who will chaperone the Choristers moving between the two sites. Maintaining a sense of cohesion for the Choristers will be a priority.

Will Years 7 and 8 Choristers be able to maintain their commitment to the Cathedral Choir while also integrating fully in Durham School?

Yes, arrangements will be put in place to ensure that older Choristers are at home in the upper school while maintaining their commitment to the Cathedral Choir. A ‘chorister champion’ will be appointed within the leadership team at Durham School and all staff will be fully versed in the Chorister Experience themselves. When the Choir is full, Choristers will comprise about 20% of Years 7 and 8.

Will practice and services times be affected by the movement of Choristers between the two sites?

The schedule of Choir commitments has been negotiated with Durham School to ensure that Year 7 and 8 Choristers do not miss any teaching time. The same will continue to be the case at the Chorister School. Durham School’s day starts slightly earlier than that at the Chorister School which is why we are planning to hold morning choir practice on the Durham School site – so that Year 7 and 8 Choristers can go straight to their first commitments while other Choristers walk to the Chorister School in time for a 9.00 a.m. start. Choristers will be dropped off at Durham School for the morning practice.

Will Choristers still be able to board at the planned new school?

Yes, we will honour the current boarding places but boarding will be optional and therefore most likely taken up by Choristers who live too far away from the Cathedral to be able to join the Choir if they do not board. This will be kept under review. Boarding for Choristers through to and including Year 8 will be located in Barrington House on The Chorister School site.

With the merger of the Chorister School and Durham School, are there any plans to extend the age range of Choristers so that children can carry on being a Chorister beyond Year 8? Furthermore, given that girls’ voices do not break like boys do, could girls continue as Choristers for longer?

Choristers will leave the Cathedral Choir at the end of Year 8. This creates a level playing field for boys and girls. However, the presence of former Choristers in Durham School eventually all the way through to sixth form means that the Cathedral's Organist and the School's Director of Music can work together on the concept of a youth choir which continues to serve the Cathedral while also contributing to the musical excellence of the School itself. This is an exciting concept and facilitates an enduring sense of connection to the Cathedral long after a Chorister has left the Cathedral Choir.

What will happen during chorister periods? Where will the children be based? Will we have to drop them off/pick them up at multiple times?

We will make sure that the chorister period is preserved and/or adapted as necessary so that the same objectives are served as currently.

What will happen when Choristers leave the Choir?

Choristers will leave the Choir at the end of Year 8. Durham School educates pupils to the end of Year 13 and former Choristers will be encouraged to stay at the new Foundation until then. Our vision is that financial assistance to stay at Durham School after Year 8 will be there. It's just that it can't be guaranteed in the same way as it is for Choristers. The legal documentation for the merger commits Durham Cathedral and the DCSF to work together to provide as much assistance as it can for former Choristers and we plan to enlarge the work of our new Choir fund-raising initiative 'Raising a Voice' so that it can help with this. The youth choir described above will help too because it will provide a meaningful object for fund-raising in this respect.

How will the Cathedral and the planned new Foundation liaise with each other over the well-being of the Choristers?

The new role of Chorister Supervisor assisted by two resident tutors is key to the success of the new arrangements. He or she will be a big part of the 'glue' that enables the presence of Choristers on two sites to cohere. He or she will be familiar on both sites and will get to know all of the Choristers and all of the staff at both sites. He or she will be the 'Chorister presence' at staff meetings and planning sessions and the Choristers will have his or her ear at all times. He or she will ensure daily liaison between Cathedral and school and Chorister parents.

How will Choristers (rather than the Cathedral) be represented within the Foundation's Governance structures? Will there be a Trustee appointed from the Chorister Parents/guardians?

We recognise that our interaction with Chorister parents is not as good as it should be. We had already planned to make improvements in this respect before the Coronavirus pandemic interrupted us. The gear change occasioned by the merger provides us with an opportunity to get this right and we anticipate at least termly 'parents' evenings' and social events to enable parents to ask questions, contribute to our planning and thinking, and get to know each other better. We think that we need to include all of the Chorister's parents in this process rather than single one or two parents for representation on committees, but parents will have noted the openness of the Chair of Durham School Governors, Rob Ribchester, to parent governors.

Can you outline the practical provisions for the Choristers' daily travel between sites?

The walk across the river in either direction will be carefully supervised with the requisite number of chaperones in line with the School's safeguarding and health and safety policies – especially when crossing the road. In the event of extreme weather, we will look at the possibility of using the School's minibuses to convey children back and forth. Cloaks and mortar boards will not be used in the morning. They will be used for the movement between the Chorister School and the Cathedral in the afternoon. We will also look at the possibility of using high visibility jackets for the walk over the river at the dark time of the year. These manoeuvres will be equally carefully managed when pupils need to make the journey on non-Choir days.

We anticipate at least one vehicle making the journey in both directions each morning to convey music for the practice and this vehicle will also be able to carry heavy musical instruments or other necessary materials as relevant. The role of Chorister Supervisor, and the resident tutors who will assist this person, will also be able to intervene where things are left behind at the wrong location.

INTEGRATION & TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

What opportunities will there be for the children to inspect their new environment, meet potential new classmates (whom, so far, they will only have met as the opposition on the sports field) and learn more about the new curriculum, extracurricular activities and daily routines before September 2021?

There will be a full programme of transition activities to ensure that all pupils are familiar with their new environments and their new classmates.

Would I be able to view the school and engage with the teachers as this would be a big change for my youngest son? I think for myself that would be a great way to understand whether both my sons continue on this journey.

There will be a taster for pupils with the virtual tours in December and there will be more extensive tours and opportunities to meet teachers in the summer term.

Please confirm that all possible measures will be taken to avoid disrupting the Year 1 learners. We are concerned about a move to Bow in September, only to return after one year to the Chorister School, potentially with all new teachers.

We plan for children to move to Bow for Year 2 and return to The Chorister School from Year 3 onwards. Everyone understands that this will need the greatest care and Mrs Harrod and Mr Wicks are already talking about familiarisation and transition events that will be organised so that both parents and children can see the Bow site and that the Chorister School Year 1 children meet the Bow Year 1 children and get to know one another. The staff are entering a legal process and therefore we cannot comment on the details of any staffing decisions beyond saying that both Mrs Harrod and Mr Wicks are very proud of their staff and the work that they do with your children.

How will the transition to Durham School after year 6 work? Will there be an entrance exam and will preparation for this form part of the curriculum?

Bow currently works hard to help its Year 6 pupils make the transition to “big school” smooth and enjoyable through special transition activities and a carefully thought through integration programme, and the new Foundation will work just as hard to do exactly the same. Parents will receive a letter in the next few days regarding plans for year 6.

Will the house system remain the same and will it be the Chorister house names that are used?

The House system is important to all three schools and we are currently discussing how this will work.

Could you please outline what measures will be taken to ensure that relationships between "ex-Chorister" and "ex-Durham" pupils be facilitated so as to create an environment that is conducive to learning and development?

We will do all we can to ensure a seamless transition for the children through an integration programme. We have experienced staff who will manage the process and we will introduce pupils to new setting and new friends and will arrange social and academic activities to ensure that the transition works for everyone.

What will the transition look like for year 7 moving over to Durham?

Current Year 7 pupils at the Chorister School will be in a unique position because they will make the transition into a year group that has already formed and developed. As a result, we will roll out a transition and integration programme specifically for this year group and we will activate the ‘buddy’ system sooner rather than later so that children in this year group can start making friends across the river even before they make the move.

Curriculum

Curriculum and Ethos Statement

The Curriculum and Ethos sub-committee, comprising representatives from both schools has engaged in discussion from an early stage of the merger planning process.

Quickly identifying common ground, the group found that the curriculum and delivery across both schools presented very similar content and coverage. Both schools enjoy a broad and varied range of subjects which promote an excitement for learning. Content is delivered thorough enthusiastic teaching staff who have a desire to present learning opportunities through practical and engaging experiences. Creative/thematic curriculum content runs through the schools as common themes with core skills at the foundation of all learning.

Subject specialist teaching is a strength of both schools and the models currently used will be translated through to the new Foundation. Classes up to and including Year 4 will remain largely class based but with aspects of specialist subject teaching present from EYFS onwards. A clearer outline of these specialisms will be provided as planning evolves further. Specialist teachers for subjects such as Music and PE teaching will commence in the EYFS and will be enhanced throughout the Preparatory age range with the addition of subjects such as French, Art, DT, Science, Computing and Latin.

In Years 5 and 6, it is envisaged that the timetable will be a subject based approach with cross-curricular links where relevant to encourage a relevant and purposeful curriculum. This approach, which both schools currently use, enables children to become increasingly independent in preparation for transition to Senior School. In these upper years, setting is an important approach to ensure learning is tailored more specifically. As planning develops, further information will detail our approach.

Differentiated learning is a key feature of both schools and the coming together of two strong SEN departments will result in an enhanced provision. The school's curriculum will be tailored to ensure the very best learning opportunities for all children. For those requiring additional support, small group intervention, paired and individual learning plans will help to consolidate and support. For more able children, stretch and challenge curriculum is implemented to ensure that there are learning extension opportunities. Both The Chorister School and Durham School (including Bow) have excellent provision for pupils who require additional support to access their studies. This will continue across all sites.

Well-being sits at the heart of both schools and this will transfer through to the new Foundation framework. Resilience and positive thinking are fundamental to successful learning and both schools place a high importance on emotional and social development as the foundation for academic success.

What about class sizes?

The commitment of both Schools to small class sizes will remain the same, with maximum class sizes of 20. We anticipate year groups will be in the region of 20-40 pupils and each year group will have a minimum of two classes. We are currently planning to have three classes in Year 6.

Will there be a teaching assistant in the classes of 20?

Both schools have teaching assistants within classrooms. The number and distribution of assistants will depend upon where they are needed. Further details will be shared when decisions are made in this area.

Will there be new mixed classes taking pupils from both schools?

With regards to mixing classes, this is essential to ensure we become one Foundation across three sites. Our expectation is that this will mean greater opportunity for all of our pupils to meet and make new friends. We will ensure that we factor the friendship groups in when we

determine the new classes. We would also stress that all pupils will still mix in their year groups at breaktimes and lunch, as well as in communal activities such as sports.

Will children be able to stay in friendship groups?

We will take account of friendship groups in the same way each school always does but we are also keen that children mix and integrate. This will be sensitively handled across the School.

Where will year groups be based/who will be on which site?

It is intended that the locations will be as follows:

Pre-Prep up to Year 2 – Bow

Year 3-6 – The Chorister School

Year 7 onwards – Durham School site

Will the same subjects be available?

The curriculum will broadly remain the same, but we hope that even more opportunities are available for pupils in the new Foundation. We will ensure the timetable works for everyone and that music and the choral tradition can continue to be facilitated and to flourish.

Will my child still be able to learn French & Latin?

French and Latin will remain as the language choices at The Chorister School. There is also an exceptional languages department in the senior school. Recent A Level results saw 100% of Latin students achieve A*-A, as did our French students. In fact, one of the current Year 13 students is a former Chorister and is currently helping the Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Mr Hope, to write a book on Latin teaching. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will be set for Latin.

What about Drama?

Drama is another forte and one of our non-academic scholarship awards categories on entry to the senior school. There is a considerable amount of drama teaching covered in our English curriculum currently in the preparatory school. We are also considering offering additional drama teaching as a co-curricular activity on the Chorister School site.

Common Entrance

What commitment is there to support Y7/8 pupils wanting to take Common Entrance?

We recognise some parents already have plans for their children to look at alternative destinations after Year 8. For those pupils and parents, we are committed to supporting individual pupils as appropriate in achieving their ambition.

Many Schools now have their own scholarship and entrance exams and so Common Entrance examinations will not be taken. Work which is carried out in Year 7 and 8 is relevant to these exams and we will support individual pupils as appropriate in achieving their ambition if they do not wish to progress through the School beyond Year 8.

Year 7 pupils have already started preparing for their Common Entrance Exams and many are expected to sit the highest levels exams in subjects like Maths, Latin and History. My understanding is that, for example, the CEE highest level Maths is almost on a par with GCSE Maths. How does Durham School propose to cater for the Chorister School students that are very likely much further ahead academically than their Durham School counterparts?

Our experience of the most able Chorister School pupils over recent years is that they are on a par with the most able Durham School pupils when they arrive. We would not say there was a difference in standard in Maths achievement at that level nor indeed at all levels across the school. CE assessments are not used at Durham School so we cannot give you any figures on that. What we can say is pupils in top set Maths in Year 9 and beyond go on to an accelerated GCSE course and Further Maths course which allows them to take two GCSEs in Maths at Year 11.

Staff

What is the background of teaching staff?

The staff across all three sites – Durham School, The Chorister School and Bow are all highly qualified. We will be holding a number of events with parents over the course of this academic year which will include an introduction to teaching staff in each phase of the school. Further details will be sent in due course.

How will the school manage staff to mitigate any anxiety caused by the merger?

We are acutely conscious of the impact that this merger may have on the wellbeing of staff, pupils and leaders. Management and wellbeing leaders in both schools will be supporting staff and pupils during the preparation phase and post transition. We have committed to be fair and transparent with all staff throughout the merger process and we will do our utmost to limit the anxiety this process causes.

Will there be staff redundancies?

The Governors on both sides have acknowledged that there will a restructuring of the school which, regrettably, will lead to a reduction in overall staffing numbers compared with current staffing levels across the two schools. All staff have been informed of this and there is a defined procedure that is laid down in law for bringing staff from two different organisations together. This will be carried out in an equitable, transparent and humane way. This will be a difficult period for all involved and we will do all we can to support colleagues.

Will children at the Chorister School be able to continue to have the same instrumental teachers throughout the school?

This is certainly the case for the remainder of this academic year. The Visiting Music Teachers are self-employed, and parents will be able to continue these arrangements as appropriate.

Does Durham School employ the same Visiting Music teachers?

Instrumental music is a core feature of both The Chorister School and Bow. In fact, a number of the teachers teach at both schools already. They are self-employed and will continue to offer their services beyond the merger.

When will you tell us which staff will be teaching our children?

We understand parents will be keen to know which teachers are taking classes from September 2021. There is a legal process that we have to follow to complete the merger. Information on teaching staff will be shared with parents as soon as they are finalised for the next academic year. At this time, we will ensure both parents and pupils have a chance to meet any new staff.

How many of the Bow site staff will have appropriate first aid training?

An appropriate number of staff will be trained in first aid with a number in excess of statutory minimum numbers.

First aiders will accompany pupils on trips; as a minimum, there will always be at least one such member of staff; however, in practice, there will often be many more.

In the EYFS, the majority of staff will be trained in paediatric first aid and a minimum of one member of staff, trained in paediatric first aid, is on site when pupils are present.

A number of staff will also be trained to administer medicines.

The First Aid and Healthcare Policy will provide further detail.

Transport

How will drop-off and pick-up times work for parents with children on both sites?

We understand the logistical difficulties for parents with pupils in both the Chorister and the Bow sites. We will put a series of solutions in place in line with a sustainable transport plan which will include the existing and very popular escorted walking bus.

Will parents have to pay a congestion charge to drop off children at the Chorister School sites

No there will be no need to pay the congestion charge.

What about transport between sites?

We will put a series of solutions in place in line with a sustainable transport plan.: We are discussing options for the walking bus that currently meets at the White Gates. This is an effective and valuable resource which we anticipate will be very popular.

Childcare/Wrap around care

What will the arrangements be for wrap around childcare? I see that at The Chorister School there is a charge after 4 pm, but at Bow there is not.

We are committed to supporting wrap around care where it is needed. There will be no charge within our designated wrap around care times and these will be shared once confirmed.

Property

What is likely to happen to the Bow site which we understand is owned by the University?

Durham School has another 11 years left on its Bow site lease and the University has not made an approach to ask for the site to be returned sooner. Even if it had made an approach, it would have no legal right to requisition the land before then without reaching agreement with the school.

Rites of Passage

Children have been looking forward to the traditional rites of passage in Years 7 and 8 at The Chorister School?

The rites of passage which pupils enjoy as they near the end of their time at The Chorister School has to be the most magical of experiences. It is our intention to offer these in this final academic year before merger not only to Year 8 but also to Years 6 and 7 to mark the time pupils have had with us and to ensure they go on to the next chapter on a positive note.

Religion

Will the merger affect how religion is viewed/discussed within the school day?

The heritage of both Durham School and The Chorister School lies in our founding father, Bishop Langley. Both schools have always had a strong belief in the Christian faith at their core and it will remain the foundations on which both schools are built.

Durham School continues to worship at the cathedral twice a term. The Chorister School holds its assembly there once a week (in normal times). All of this will continue but there will also be an added impetus to encourage the new School to make even greater use of the Cathedral as relevant and as the diary allows – for services and other events. However, there is no intention on the part of the Foundation or the Cathedral to proselytise children or staff. Those who wish to make a deeper commitment to the Christian faith as a result of their exposure to Christian values do so entirely at their own choice

Uniform

Will there be a new school uniform?

We will have a new uniform however we fully understand the financial issues this could cause. We have taken the decision to phase in the change and allow two uniforms for some time. We appreciate parents will want to buy new uniform when children have outgrown the old uniform. A new badge and tie will be available and used from Day one in September 2021.

As with both Schools currently, the new Foundation will recognise the many different contributions to school life with ties and badges.

Will there be any help with buying new uniform?

The new uniform will be phased in as we appreciate that parents will want to buy new uniform when children have outgrown the existing uniform.