

PACKWOOD HAUGH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why has Packwood decided to merge with Shrewsbury School?

Packwood Haugh's governors are committed to securing the long-term future of the school by building on the school's many strengths to become the outstanding prep school in the West Midlands and beyond. The merger with Shrewsbury will enable Packwood to achieve this goal ensuring the school flourishes for future generations of Packwood pupils. This announcement comes at the end of over 12 months of talks and due diligence involving both boards of Governors, Headmasters and Bursars.

Why Shrewsbury School?

Shrewsbury and Packwood share a similar ethos and have a strong commitment to boarding and day co-education, which made this move a natural progression of the relationship between our two schools.

Shrewsbury is in a strong position to help advance Packwood's ambitions for teaching and learning, extra-curricular provision and improvements to facilities. Shrewsbury already has a family of schools, with two international schools, into which Packwood Haugh will be welcomed.

In recent years Shrewsbury has successfully introduced co-education and implemented an ambitious capital investment programme - these bold initiatives have been extremely successful and Shrewsbury pupil numbers are at an all-time high.

The Headmaster of Shrewsbury School has 14 years' experience of senior leadership in 3-18 co-educational schools and recognises the need for Packwood to have independence and autonomy. The Headmaster of Packwood, who has experience of working with partner senior schools, will be in regular communication with the Headmaster of Shrewsbury.

What are the benefits of the merger?

The merger will bring opportunities to share best practice in teaching, pastoral and extra-curricular activities. Furthermore, Packwood will be able to draw upon Shrewsbury's in-house expertise and capability which will enable Packwood to improve management systems, processes and communications. We believe the merger will ensure that Packwood continues to attract and retain teachers of the highest calibre.

Are the reasons for this merger financial?

Packwood is on a sound financial footing and unencumbered by debt but, like all successful schools, in a challenging and changing market we regularly review our strategic options to ensure the long-term success of the school.

Will Packwood receive any new investment as a result of this merger?

This merger will facilitate a significant investment programme, including the refurbishment of the school's science block, which will ensure Packwood pupils have access to modern spaces in which to live, learn and play.

Why was this news not shared sooner?

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team have taken this decision together following a lengthy period of consultation, reflection and due diligence.

Who will lead the School?

The Packwood Headmaster will be in full charge of the day-to-day running of the School.

There will be a single Shrewsbury governing body with Packwood Governors and dedicated committees including members of the current Packwood board.

Will the School's aims, ethos and values change?

Whilst Packwood Haugh and Shrewsbury have a very similar ethos, both schools believe it is important for Packwood to retain its own identity and feel.

Will the uniform change?

Packwood will retain its own uniform.

Will Packwood Haugh pupils still have to sit Shrewsbury's entrance exams?

Yes. The Shrewsbury School entrance exams are valuable for assessing pupils to ensure that they thrive at Shrewsbury School.

Will you still welcome pupils who wish to go on to other senior schools?

Packwood will continue to welcome and prepare pupils for the wide range of senior schools that best suit each pupil's needs and parental preferences.

Those pupils going to senior schools other than Shrewsbury will continue to receive excellent preparation for scholarships, pre-tests and Common Entrance. We will maintain the strong relationships that Packwood enjoys with senior schools throughout the country.

Will the curriculum change?

Packwood is already delivering an exciting curriculum, but the merger will enable teachers in both schools to work together to review, revise and develop curriculum plans. We believe that the combination of expertise from both schools will ensure that pupils leaving Packwood are even better equipped for senior school and life afterwards.

Will these changes affect Packwood's academic standards?

Excellence in teaching and learning is an important feature of the school and this will remain the case. Packwood will continue to welcome pupils with a wide range of abilities and every pupil will be supported to ensure they are able to achieve the very best results of which they are capable.

Will these changes affect the school's pastoral standards?

Pastoral care has always been a great strength of Packwood, as evidenced in the recent ISI inspection. Maintaining our happy, caring, family feel is very important to us.

Will these changes affect the school's focus on an all-round education?

The all-round education that children receive at Packwood is one of Packwood Haugh's greatest strengths and one of the main reasons why Packwood pupils leave the school so well prepared to thrive at senior school and in life beyond. Packwood will continue to offer a broad extra-curricular programme and encourage children to discover and develop their talents and interests in sport and the creative arts.

What about boarding at Packwood?

Boarding will continue to remain at the heart of Packwood as is the case for Shrewsbury School.

How many pupils will there be in the school in the future?

Packwood's aim of gradually increasing pupil numbers remains unchanged; so too does our commitment to maintaining the strong sense of community and excellent teacher-pupil ratios.

How will Shrewsbury School benefit from the change?

Packwood pupils are consistently among the pupils best prepared to contribute to and make the most of life at Shrewsbury. With nearly one hundred Old Packwoodians at Shrewsbury, most of whom are boarders, Packwood Haugh is by far the biggest contributor of boarders to Shrewsbury School. A successful Packwood Haugh will help ensure a successful Shrewsbury School.