

THE ROCHE SCHOOL MOVING ON BLOG – FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to the Roche School “11+ Express” blog - designed to keep you up-to-date with all things related to the senior schools to which we send our pupils. In normal circumstances, there is a great deal of intermingling and communication between these schools and us (a “feeder” school) thus enabling us to keep you in the loop about new developments. The pandemic has slightly squashed all that but things are beginning to lighten up and we Heads (and our 11+ teams) are looking forward to the glasses of fizz and hors d’oeuvres (which we once took so much for granted) at a range of amazing senior schools.

I recently had a productive Zoom chat with Mark Hoskins who has been Head at Reeds School for boys in Cobham for over seven years. I have seen Reeds in the past and it has a reputation for excellence in Sport (they used to be the Tennis supremos) as well as DT (nice block dedicated to it). They are also very IT savvy, with iPads abounding making it easier to stay organised and log homework. Results are excellent and their values are good. They do NOT – as so many schools do – refuse entry to boys into the sixth form if their GCSE results are less than stellar. Once they take them, they see them through. Girls arrive in the Sixth Form. Anyway, Mark will speak at one of our Thursday Talk sessions before the Easter Break and all Upper School parents are cordially invited to hear him talk about the school and his own educational philosophy. A Q&A will follow. Please do attend if you can and check out their website here: <https://www.reeds.surrey.sch.uk/>

I also spoke to Ben Evans, the new Head at Windlesham Prep which takes both day and boarding pupils. This prep school, founded in 1837, is the oldest in the country and set in 65 acres of the stupendously beautiful rolling hills of the South Downs. In the past we have sent pupils here at 11 for a couple of joy-filled years before they sit the 13+. The range of exits here remains impressive – Eton, Harrow, Marlborough, Brighton College all on the list.

There has always been a substantial Putney contingent heading for Windlesham and there is a school bus that runs from Putney on a weekly basis. As of September 2021, they intend to become even more flexible. At the moment, pupils can board from Monday to Thursday coming home on Friday to spend the weekends with the families. It’s well worth a look if you are inclined to explore weekly boarding. Check out the website here: The outdoor life is a world away from London, the values are compatible with the Roche School and the outcomes are great.

That’s all for now.

Vania Adams
Headmistress

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