

## **Announcement by the Cothill Trust**

**Ashdown House Preparatory School has announced that it will be closing its doors as a prep school for the last time at the end of this academic year.**

Tom Beardmore-Gray, Chief Executive of the Trust of which Ashdown is part, said: "It is with an incredibly heavy heart that the Trustees have come to the decision.

"When the Trust first welcomed Ashdown into our family of schools over a decade ago, Trustees did so knowing that there were some very significant challenges that needed to be addressed. They were united, however, in the belief that everything that could be done to keep the school open, should be done.

"The harsh reality is that the impact of the Coronavirus has changed everything. In recent years the Trust has invested heavily in the school, and there has been a relentless drive to keep the school moving forward. Given the challenges the sector as a whole is now facing, it is not possible to maintain this support."

The school's existing pupils have been informed, and a comprehensive programme of support, guidance and consultation is being put in place to help Ashdown's community.

Mr Beardmore-Gray added: "Ashdown is a prestigious school, rich with heritage and tradition. There is no doubt that it will be sorely missed by many. We take some solace from the fact that, while the school is unable to continue, Ashdown's impact will be felt for generations to come. The legacy of the school will live on through the talent and skills of our current and former pupils, who are having a significant impact on so many areas of life."