

# The merger of St Lawrence College and Dover College

## St Lawrence College Parent Questions – 1 March 2026

Further to the initial Frequently Asked Questions document that was circulated on Tuesday, 24 February, the Questions and Answers below have been formulated based on questions received from St Lawrence parents, pupils and staff, over recent days.

### GENERAL

#### **1. What does the merger actually mean for current pupils?**

*Pupils have been our primary consideration in this process. The merger will ensure that pupils can continue their education without the enormous disruption that would have come from a sudden closure.*

*Pupils will be able to finish the current academic year on the St Lawrence College site before they move seamlessly to the Dover site in September. Our pupils and wider school community will also benefit from significant future investment into the Dover site. An initial investment of £1m will be made before September, and further proceeds from the current Ramsgate site will remain within the St Lawrence Dover College charity for future investment.*

*This will simply not be the case for many schools in our sector who will continue to face the complex and uncertain times we have found ourselves in, with limited resources.*

#### **2. Do we need to reapply for a place at St Lawrence Dover College?**

**No** - *pupils will automatically transfer to the new school, St Lawrence Dover College, in line with their current arrangements from September 2026. Before September, pupils will continue to be educated at St Lawrence College on the current site.*

#### **3. Will the new school have the capacity for our pupils?**

**Yes** - *all pupils are guaranteed a place at the new school. There are no concerns due to the Dover site capacity, as well as current pupil numbers across all ages at both schools.*

## ACADEMIC

**4. How will the school ensure pupils can continue learning without disruption?**

*College life for all our pupils will continue uninterrupted for the remainder of the academic year, and there will be no interruption to pupils' academic, pastoral or extra-curricular provision in September as the school moves to the Dover site. Many St Lawrence College staff will be retained, further supporting continuity and stability for our pupils.*

**5. How will continuity and stability be ensured over the next academic year and beyond?**

*Current courses, subjects, coursework and exam boards will continue to be offered in September on the Dover site.*

**6. Will exam boards and option choices for current Year 10 and Year 12 pupils be negatively impacted?**

***No** – current Year 10 and Year 12 pupils will have continuity of tuition in their current exam subjects next year. Where necessary, dual exam board provision will run to accommodate pupils from both schools to ensure this continuity through Year 11 and 13.*

**7. Will the school support pupils with additional needs during this transition?**

***Yes** - all pupils with additional learning needs will continue to be provided for in the new school in a similar way to now, ensuring continuity, care and support, with relevant specialist staff and SENDCo. Special attention will be paid to these arrangements during the period of transition, with staff on hand to support your child.*

**8. Who can my child talk to if they are unsettled or have questions about the merger?**

*Your child can talk to all of their normal points of contact, any member of staff or tutors. They are also able to speak with members of the Senior Leadership Team.*

## SPORT AND THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

### 9. Will our children have the same access to sports facilities at the Dover site?

**Yes** - sports participation will not be compromised by the merger – pupils will have access to outstanding facilities locally as well as those on the Dover site, which cover all our major sports.

*The Dover site currently has provision for a multitude of sports and activities, including the Maxton cricket ground, high-level tennis, and access to top-flight hockey facilities locally, as well as football and rugby pitches at its Farthingloe grounds. Concurrently, plans for additional facilities on the Dover site are well underway.*

### 10. Will the sports excellence programme still exist?

**Yes** - we will be continuing to offer a programme of bespoke training opportunities with top-quality coaching and additional opportunities for training for high-performance sports pupils. Specialist coaches will continue to lead this, and sports graduates will continue to assist.

*Repton is also sector-leading in sport and will share best practice, including hands-on partnership work, which will give our pupils the opportunity to compete and train with the wider Repton community (including pre-seasons, Group tournaments and sports tours).*

### 11. Will there be as much sport on the timetable?

**Yes** - the shape of the day is going to be very similar to that currently, with the same time allocated to sport, and with a larger pupil body, we will be able to field more competitive teams, both now and into the future.

### 12. How will wider co-curricular opportunities be provided?

Pupils will continue to benefit from a rich and diverse range of co-curricular opportunities. These will include:

- **Arts and Performance:** Music ensembles, singing, drama productions, visual arts sessions, and public speaking opportunities. This provision will be centred in the new Performing Arts Centre (currently under construction).
- **Clubs and Societies:** From debating opportunities and Law Society to environment groups and business projects.
- **Service and Leadership:** Volunteering projects and community engagement as part of the ongoing Duke of Edinburgh Award and Combined Cadet Force provision.

- **Academic Enrichment:** Including supported entry into Olympiads and coding challenges, as well as STEM projects and creative writing programmes.

**Trips and Experiences:** Making the most of the rich local history and culture, as well as the proximity of London (1hour by train). France can be seen from the school, offering excellent opportunities for travel and *learning about European languages and cultures*.

## **BOARDING**

### **13. Will there be boarding?**

*Yes - boarding will be available for pupils from ages 11 to 18. The new school will offer pupils weekly boarding, flexi-boarding and full boarding, and increased numbers will create a vibrant boarding community with a full weekend programme. Our existing boarders will join the new school automatically - boarding places are guaranteed - and there will be an exciting boarding offer, including a thriving weekend provision.*

### **14. Will the military Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) continue to be accepted?**

*Yes - Both current schools are accredited for CEA and will continue to be into the future – military families remain extremely welcome as full boarders at the school, the care and activity provision for which will only grow.*

*Any formal CEA administrative steps required as part of the merger process will be managed appropriately and communicated to families.*

## **FEES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

### **15. What will the fees be?**

*Fees for the 2026/27 academic year will be set by the new Governing Body by the end of the Lent Term 2025. It has been agreed that the day fees will closely mirror the current Dover College fees, and the boarding fees will closely mirror the St Lawrence fees, which are respectively the lower of the two schools' current fees.*

### **16. Will existing scholarships and bursaries be honoured?**

*Yes, existing scholarships and bursaries will be honoured for the duration for which they were awarded.*

## OTHER

### **17. Will there be a new uniform?**

*Yes - We will be aiming for the introduction of a uniform and sports kit for new joiners from September 2026. Thereafter, the existing uniforms of each school will be allowed for a 24-month transition period. It will be important to create a common identity, and a key vehicle for this will be a common uniform*

### **18. Will there be a new school crest/motto?**

*Yes - there will be, and it will incorporate elements of each of the existing schools.*

### **19. What will the new school values be?**

*The values of the new school will reflect those of the existing schools.*

### **20. Will there be transport options?**

*Yes - We will be putting on subsidised minibuses from all main villages/towns into Dover to ensure logistics are kept as stress-free as possible for families. Dover Priory station is also situated 100m from the school.*

### **21. What part will Repton play in this?**

*Repton School, which is also a charity, will become the parent charity of St Lawrence Dover College and will provide significant financial and wider middle back-office support to the new school. Alongside this, there will be significant collaboration opportunities for pupils and staff within the UK and internationally across the Repton Family of Schools, which has over 10,000 pupils worldwide. We are looking forward to sharing much more information on this soon.*