

## **NEWLY MERGED PREP SCHOOL APPOINTS HEADMASTER**

### **Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School announce appointment following successful merger**

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Following the announcement of their merger with Thorpe House School, Langley School is delighted to announce the appointment of Simon Marfleet as Headmaster of the newly created Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School.

Simon will take up the role when the two schools complete the merger in September 2010, by which time Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will be located in the outstanding facilities currently occupied by Thorpe House School. The merger of these two iconic independent Norfolk schools, each steeped in over 100 years' history, was formally announced in November 2009.

A Norfolk boy born and bred, Simon attended Wymondham College before heading out of the region to Cardiff to study zoology and psychology and after graduating joined the Royal Navy. Quickly realizing a life on the seas was not the career for him, Simon returned to university, this time to Liverpool, to obtain his PGCE. Following a distinguished career which took him around the country from Rydal School in Colwyn Bay to Reading School in Berkshire, during which time he also earned his MSc in School Management, Simon returned to Norfolk in 1996 to take up the position of Deputy Head at Langley Senior School in Loddon. He was appointed Headmaster of Langley Preparatory School in September 2002.

Dominic Findlay, Headmaster of Langley School and Chief Executive of Langley 1960 Limited, which owns Langley school, said:

“Simon brings with him stability for all parents and students, as well as a great determination to move the new prep school forward. He has a good understanding of what the job requires and I believe he will be very successful in his new role.”.

On top of his packed schedule running Langley Prep, Simon is already heavily involved in preparing for the merger; attending meetings with uniform suppliers and graphic designers, introducing himself to the parents of Thorpe House pupils, liaising with the PTA's for both schools, preparing for the move due to take place over the summer holidays and planning a school Open Day for 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Simon Marfleet, said:

“There's definitely a lot to keep us all busy! The Open Day is extremely important as it is our opportunity to demonstrate the wonderful facilities the Thorpe House premises have to offer, so prospective parents will be able to see a normal working day, with the children using a range of facilities.”.

For those unable to attend the February Open Day, Simon is planning a second Open Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010, where pupils will be giving up their Saturday to give guided tours of their school. This will be another opportunity for parents to view the facilities to be offered at Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School, which is set within 10 acres of the beautiful listed woodland of Thorpe Ridge and with unrivalled views across Whitlingham Broad. As well as its location, less than 2 miles from the city centre and just a short drive from the railway station and all major Norwich access roads, the school boasts outstanding facilities, including a 15m heated indoor swimming pool, 3 newly resurfaced tennis courts, 4 badminton courts, a purpose-built dance and drama studio, a large sports hall, dedicated library, a state-of-the-art science laboratory, a D&T workshop and a dedicated ICT block.

Despite being already employed by the school, Simon had to compete for the new post. He underwent a rigorous interview process, including interviews with four groups of governors, where he was quizzed on curriculum, finance and staffing, and he was required to deliver a presentation on his vision for the new school.

Current Head of Thorpe House School, Anne-Marie Sutcliffe, was not one of the candidates as she is looking forward to her retirement at the end of the Summer Term. Educated in Norfolk and with a first class honours degree from Cambridge, Anne-Marie has had an illustrious career in the field of education, eventually moving back to Norfolk in 2004 from Emanuel School where she was Head, to work part-time as an inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Anne-Marie became Head of Thorpe House School in 2008, which was originally planned for one year, but she has kindly stayed on to see the merger through. She now very much looks forward to a different lifestyle, spending time in her house in Greece, travelling, writing, painting, getting fit again and devoting more time to her roles as governor of Hampton School (in London) and running the Rudham History Society.

Simon is delighted to have been successful in his application to this exciting new role and looks forward to, and indeed relishes, the many challenges ahead of him.

Simon Marfleet said :

"I am thrilled to have been appointed as the first Headmaster of Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School. Both schools have a long and distinguished history, and we want to maintain their traditional values but in a school that is dynamic and forward thinking .We have great expectations for the new school and the impressive facilities will allow us to offer outstanding opportunities to our children. I am excited about the prospects for the future, both for those of us who are involved with the two schools at present, and for the children who will join us in the future."



Simon is confident that Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will soon be recognised as a distinctive, progressive school and the only real choice for parents wishing to give their children a private education in Norfolk.

**ENDS**

For further information about Simon Marfleet or Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School or any enquiries in relation to the merger, please contact:-

Anna Stevenson

Stevenson Consulting

The Old Rectory, Rectory Road, Weston Longville, Norwich, NR9 5LF

t. 01603 881574

e. [anna@stevensonconsulting.co.uk](mailto:anna@stevensonconsulting.co.uk)

**Notes for Editors :-**

- Simon Marfleet was born and educated in Norfolk, at Wymondham College.
- Simon Marfleet has been Headmaster of Langley Preparatory School for 8 years. He was previously at Langley Senior School in Loddon from 1996.
- Once Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School & Nursery has opened its doors in September 2010, Langley School will be the only co-educational day school for children aged 2 to 18.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will offer Specialist teaching in most subject areas at KS2.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will offer the best sports facilities in the country, including 3 newly resurfaced tennis courts, 4 badminton courts, a 15m indoor swimming pool, a purpose built dance and drama studio, a large sports hall and dedicated playing fields.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will offer provision for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will have optimum class sizes of 16 students.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will offer parents all-day care for their children, with a breakfast club and after school activities until 5.30pm.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School will offer a minibus service from Gorleston, Bungay and Loddon. Thorpe House School offers a mini bus service from North Walsham.
- Thorpe House Langley Preparatory School offers on-site parking, allowing parents to safely drop off and collect their children from school.