

Frequently Asked Questions

'What happened to the funds from the Knoll sale?'

Investment has taken place in technology, sport, drama and Early Years. Our financial forecast had to be moderated down as a result of lower numbers of Knoll pupils transferring to HKS and the need to clear inherited debt. KSI wishes to invest in the school with immediate effect; there are no conditions.

'Why is there a need for a sale if the school is making a comfortable 6 figure surplus?'

The finances of the school are well managed and in good order; however, any significant development of the school, including on staffing, curriculum and buildings, is not possible without a loan.

'Why not borrow money from the bank to fund development?'

Relationships with the bank are very positive and a loan has been offered to the school on many occasions. Nevertheless, this would not be without some risk and the current economic and political climate is uncertain.

'If the school is only making a moderate surplus, why would a third party purchase the school? The site will be sold for property development?'

12 months of due diligence has taken place on potential buyers of the school, including significant time developing a strong relationship with KSI and their Director of Education. KSI is an emerging school group and they have high aspirations to develop into a strong and leading presence in the independent school market. HKS is seen as offering value to this group above and beyond any income stream, specifically it is the sharing of expertise and skills of our staff that are valued. There is a close alignment of the vision and ethos of HKS and KSI.

'What does HKS benefit from in being part of a group. Surely the local and 'family' feel of the school will be lost?'

'Groupness' will allow HKS to benefit from a range of head office functionality and expertise - such as links with Oxford University and world leaders in education. This is already happening. Much work was done to find the 'right buyer'; part of our conditions of sale are that the school retains its unique and much valued 'family feel' where individuality is celebrated.

'What happens to HKS if the KSI group get into financial difficulties linked with their other school?'

HKS will be constituted as a separate legal entity and will therefore not be directly affected by the failure of any part or all of the group.