

## ROEDEAN EXPANDS AS IT TAKES ON ST. MARY'S HALL, BRIGHTON

Roedean School is pleased to announce an agreement with St Mary's Hall, Brighton under which it will take on the St Mary's Hall Junior School and welcome St Mary's Hall Senior School pupils from September 2009. This follows the decision St Mary's Hall has taken to close its Senior School at the end of the Summer Term, 2009.

Commenting on the announcement, Mrs Frances King, Headmistress of Roedean, said:

'We are delighted that St Mary's Hall, with whom we have had a long association, will be joining us.'

Under the terms of the agreement:

- Roedean will take on the Junior School at St Mary's Hall. The Junior School will remain unchanged on its current site in East Brighton.
- Roedean will welcome any girls currently at the St Mary's Hall Senior School who wish to transfer to Roedean.
- Roedean will take on ownership of the buildings and land at the St Mary's Hall Senior School.
- Mrs Frances King will continue as the Headmistress of Roedean and Mr Huw May will be Headmaster of Roedean Junior School. There will be no changes to the name, ethos, uniforms or curriculum at Roedean.

Mrs King commented:

'By bringing the two schools together we will be able to build an even bigger, better resourced school. This will mean we can strengthen our curriculum, attract the best possible teachers, offer more specialist teaching and better facilities, and provide even more opportunities for sport, drama and music.'

Mr Andrew Russell, Chairman of St Mary's Hall, said:

'While it is extremely sad that our 173 years of independence are coming to an end, the extent of the competition locally and the current economic circumstances mean that we have no choice but to close our Senior School. In taking that step, we have however been able to help create one bigger, better-resourced school at Roedean, and by doing so, to strengthen senior girls-only education in Brighton.'

**For further information, contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Roedean is one of the UK's leading girls' schools with 300 boarders and 100 day girls aged between 11-18 years old
- Founded in 1885 by the Lawrence sisters, it moved to its current site on the cliffs overlooking the sea just outside Brighton in 1898
- It achieves high academic results and engages in a broad extracurricular programme
  - Top of the DCSF A level league table for all of Sussex based schools on A level results for August 2008
  - 10 Oxbridge places gained for September 2009
  - 22 girls to a combination of Oxbridge, Imperial, UCL and LSE, all top world class universities, in September 2008
  - Strengths in Maths and Science: 43 grade As for Maths A level out of a cohort of 59 and 20 grade As out of a cohort of 28 students at Physics A level in August 2008
- Famous Old Girls include Rebecca Hall, currently feted as one of the UK's rising stars in film, Honeysuckle Weeks, Baroness Chalker, Verity Lambert, Sally Oppenheimer, Tanya Streeter, Philippa Tattersall
- Headmistress, Frances King, has been in post since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. Previously she was Headmistress of Heathfield St Mary's
- St Mary's Hall is an independent day and boarding school for girls aged 3 - 18 and boys aged 3 - 11. Established in 1836 by the Reverend Henry Venn Elliott to educate the daughters of Church of

England clergy, St Mary's Hall is one of the oldest schools in the country

- the School has 300 students, a quarter of whom are boarders. St Mary's Hall has a long tradition of educating and caring for students of many nationalities.