



# HOWARD OF EFFINGHAM SCHOOL

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📱 @Howard\_news

BKJ/BAR/Update 26-3-26

26 March 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

We are writing to you this afternoon with an important update on the future of our school site.

For many years, Berkeley Homes has been committed to building a new school as part of a wider residential development.

This week, Berkeley Homes has confirmed that they no longer intend to invest in a new school and are pursuing a residential-only scheme. We believe this is so that they can take advantage of a change in planning law. We are shocked and disappointed by this decision.

Because there may be media coverage of this decision in the local news later today and / or tomorrow, we wanted to communicate with you as soon as possible.

As a community, we have been excited about the possibilities a new school would bring, and have been waiting for an extended period for certainty around the build. We understand the significant frustration and disappointment that this decision will therefore bring.

Whilst a new site would have brought new opportunities and facilities for our young people, we must remember that even in our current building, our school has continued to thrive. Our GCSE and A Level results are consistently above both the national and Surrey averages. The Sunday Times Parent Power guide recently placed the school in the top 6% of state secondaries in England. Ofsted's 2025 inspection described a culture where 'pupils treat each other with kindness and respect.' We are also fortunate to have beautiful playing fields, and an established school site with real history, character, and potential.

We are now pursuing alternative plans to make our school buildings and wider site the best they can be. THPT, the Trust responsible for our school, has already agreed to plan refurbishment of our buildings which will likely begin over the summer. The Trust will also seek to secure alternative funding for more extensive works on the school site, and put in place a comprehensive plan for redevelopment, refurbishment, and upgrades over an extended period of time. You will also notice things happening over Easter – for example, new flooring going into the main building.

If nothing else, this does at least provide us with clarity after such a long period of uncertainty. It means that we can start planning for our future here on our current site of the Howard, where we will continue to 'Bring out the Best' in all of our students through Ambition, Opportunity, and Inclusion.

If you have any further questions, please e-mail [contact@thpt.org.uk](mailto:contact@thpt.org.uk), and we will endeavour to answer these if we can in advance of the Easter break.

With thanks for your continued support, patience, and understanding.

Yours sincerely

**Louise Lee**  
CEO

**Mr J Baker**  
Principal

**Principal** Mr James Baker, BMus (Hons), AKC, Dip ABRSM, Ma (Ed), NPQH



**The Howard  
Partnership Trust**  
Bringing out the best

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