



26 May 2026

Dear Parents,

### **Update on closure planning**

I am writing with a heavy heart on behalf of the Board of Governors to provide a short update about the closure of the School.

Work is ongoing to finalise plans for the closure of the School at the end of this summer term. Staff are working quickly and diligently to prepare pupils' academic information, with the aim of supporting a smooth transition to your daughter's new school for September 2026.

Our focus continues to be on supporting our pupils, families and staff through to an orderly and well-managed conclusion to the year, with various opportunities for pupils to celebrate their time at AESG and the School's community.

### **The sale of the School site**

Alongside these preparations, the Board has also been progressing plans for the future of the School site. The site has been placed on the market with Savills and we hope to complete the sale process by the end of 2026. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the School site will go towards repaying the funding that has been taken out to allow operations to continue this term, and towards operational and staffing costs. As AESG is a registered charity, the surplus proceeds from the sale will be directed towards AESG's charitable purposes as set out in its Articles of Association. It is hoped that this will make a positive impact on education moving forward and further information will be provided over the coming months as things progress.

### **PRG proposal**

In addition to the closure planning, we have also continued to explore options for the future of the School with the PRG. The Board would like to thank the PRG for the time, energy and commitment they have shown in trying to find an alternative path forward. The PRG recently submitted a proposal which the Board has carefully reviewed. Following this review, the Board has regrettably concluded that the proposal is not viable and we have communicated the full reasons to the PRG.

*Headmistress: Mrs Caroline Wood BA (Hons) PGCE*

Wilmslow Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7QE

T. 01625 583028 E. schoolmail@aesg.co.uk

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The decision is not in any way intended as a criticism of the PRG's efforts. They have worked enormously hard and share a passion for AESG. This is simply the reality of the challenges facing the School stemming from its financial difficulties.

Throughout the process we have endeavoured not to openly discuss details of the negotiations with the PRG as we felt that was appropriate and in the spirit of good faith. However considering the importance of these discussions to our community and the commentary around the School, we have set out below some of the core reasons that underline our decision.

The proposal is not viable for two critical reasons. It does not have confirmed funding and does not have a credible business plan. This is in addition to a number of underlying major operational, educational and governance issues and assumptions.

The funding presented by the PRG is subject to a number of conditions, such as legal due diligence, full credit approval, and the funder's satisfaction with the proposed business plan and cash flow forecast. The terms sheet provided also expressly states that it is not a loan agreement or an offer to lend. It is our opinion, based on various further factors and assumptions within the business plan and cash flow, that there is a very significant risk that this proposed funding will not be secured. Additionally, we believe that even if it were, it would not be sufficient to operate the School.

The business plan that supports the proposal is not in line with the financial challenges facing the School, the reality of current finances, the costs required to operate the School, and the key local market factors. The PRG proposal focuses on additional borrowing of millions of pounds and the selling off of School assets to fund trading losses for what they believe could be a period of at least three years. The proposal is also based on ambitious pupil growth, which is not supported by the reality of the local and national financial climate in the independent school market. The cash flow also relies heavily on fund raising assumptions and donations rather than a stand-alone viable business model.

In addition to these two critical factors, there are a number of other educational, operational and governance concerns. Delivery of the PRG's strategy would require the appointment of a new board of governors and educational leadership team, as well as finalisation of a staffing structure, safeguarding model, coverage of SEND, DSL and EYFS requirements, formal engagement with all staff, employment law advice, redundancy and consultation timelines, parent engagement and retention, and the re-opening of admissions.

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There is no evidence that any of this is deliverable by the PRG within the next 2 - 3 months in order to run a safe, stable school that could deliver a premium education offering. At the same time, requests from the PRG to pause the current marketing of the site or to give exclusivity for a period risks seriously undermining the regrettable but necessary orderly closure plan and causing continued uncertainty for staff and for parents and pupils.

Of course, the Board would love nothing more than for AESG to continue and to thrive. The Board is however concerned about the proposal and the risk of further uncertainty for pupils, parents and staff. Asking families and staff to make decisions and commitments where there is such uncertainty would not be appropriate.

The Board recognises the considerable time, effort and commitment which the PRG has devoted to seeking an alternative outcome for the School. It is with absolute sadness that this situation has been reached.

### **Looking ahead**

Our priority now is to ensure that the remaining weeks of term are as positive as possible for every pupil. The dedication and care shown by staff throughout this period has been exceptional, and we are immensely grateful to them.

We are also deeply thankful to our parents and wider community for the support and understanding that has been shown over recent months.

In the weeks ahead, the School will be holding various events to celebrate the life of AESG, its achievements and the generations of pupils who have been part of it. We hope these moments will allow our community to come together and celebrate what we cherish about AESG.

Thank you again for your continued support. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at [cog@aesg.co.uk](mailto:cog@aesg.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Lowe

Chair of Governors

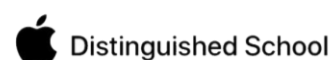
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