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SCHOOL REPORT

Autumn Term 2017

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LITTLE LEADER

Tony Lewis reflects on taking over at The White House Prep School, currently riding high in top schools lists

Words JOHN DABELL



Imagine becoming the Headmaster of an inspirational, happy and close-knit school that also happens to be one of the country's top Prep Schools and one of London's finest. It's the dream job of many a school leader, and for Tony Lewis this becomes a reality in September when he takes over the reins of leadership at The White House Prep School in Clapham

with as he says 'a huge amount of excitement'.

The White House Prep School is flying high. The Sunday Times Top 100 UK Prep Schools lists it as number ten in London and number 54 for the UK. Early in 2017 the Independent Schools Inspectorate visited and described its educational quality as 'excellent'.

Stepping into an outstanding school might be daunting for even the most experienced, but Lewis is looking forward to developing strengths and promoting new opportunities. He was previously Headmaster at St Nicholas Preparatory School in South Kensington and so brings with him plenty of know-how, spirit and energy to help White House Preparatory prosper and ultimately 'evolve further'.

What particularly attracted Lewis to the school ecosystem of The White House Prep School was the interaction between its 'vision, values and ethos' and being part of a child-centred school characterised by high quality relationships and support. He

describes these as being 'fundamental, strong features that they live and breathe' and ones that dovetail his own philosophy, saying 'I totally buy into that synergy'.

Lewis also appreciates the inclusive, broad and balanced creative curriculum offered by The White House Prep School. He recognises that ensuring children receive a well-rounded education is

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far from easy, but one that the school provides with flair as they connect a rich and varied diet of educational experiences that are relevant, enriching, motivating and accessible to all children.

'One of the great things about working in a Prep School is the opportunity to develop children in all sorts of different ways that can prepare them to flourish,' he says. 'The absolute core to that is that





children can operate with independence and as part of a team, think critically and have an awareness of the world around them.'

Lewis sees his new school as 'a really warm environment, a creative and adventurous place' that cultivates and promotes academic excellence, personal development and wellbeing in equal measure. He is also looking forward to working

with a new team and what they have to offer. 'The staff are superb, they are absolutely fantastic,' he enthuses. 'They have a wonderful curiosity, commitment, ambition and willingness to embrace new ideas and give to each other. It's exciting walking into that situation as staff have a lot to contribute.'

The White House Prep School is a popular school because it has a real family feel to it and Lewis is



keen to 'retain this intimacy' so that children feel valued and cared for, and fully benefit from staff that really know them and who can bring out their best. Mixing traditional values and platinum pedagogy along with plenty of challenge and stimulation, The White House Prep School is an exciting learning community fit for the 21st century that Tony Lewis is proud to lead. After all, it is 'a very special place'. 

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