



Mr Graham Bone | Acting Head

Telephone: 01392 307080 Email: head@exeterschool.org.uk

8 January 2026

Dear parents,

You may have heard the deeply sad news that Exeter Cathedral School (ECS) will cease to exist in its current format at the end of the summer term 2026. ECS has been a much-loved part of Exeter's rich educational heritage for generations and we understand that this news will have come as a shock for some families, pupils, and staff. Some of you, or your children, may be ECS alumni, and we know how difficult it will be to see such a change to a school that has played an important role in your own lives and in the life of our city.

We would like to update you on the implications of this change; on how we will be working closely with current ECS families and Exeter Cathedral moving forward.

We understand that this dramatic change will impact numerous ECS families, as many pupils will unexpectedly need to find a new school for September. We are working closely with the ECS team, as are other local schools, to support parents in exploring appropriate options and Exeter School would be pleased to speak with families whose children would thrive within our community.

Key to our thinking throughout this process is making sure pupils' best interests, both our existing pupils and those considering joining us from ECS, are at the heart of our decision making. You may be wondering how this change could affect your own child's friendships, wellbeing, or academic journey. Please be assured that our strong academic and pastoral culture will not change. We will continue to be a school focused on pupils and built on kindness, stability, academic excellence and individual teacher-pupil relationships.

As many of you will know, ECS currently works in partnership with Exeter Cathedral to maintain an exceptional and prestigious chorister programme. From September 2026, we are delighted to announce that Exeter School will take on this responsibility. Working closely in a new partnership with the Cathedral, Exeter School will become the new educational home for the chorister body, with the musical training and commitments continuing to be led by the Cathedral, with the same care, expertise, and pastoral support they receive now.

Despite the sadness of the changes at ECS, we are really pleased to be able to play our part in preserving the outstanding choral tradition in the city. We are confident that the wider school community will benefit from us working more closely with Exeter Cathedral too, with new experiences, fresh opportunities to make new friends, try new activities, and, for some of our younger pupils, the opportunity to explore auditioning to become a chorister themselves (more information on this will follow in the next few days).

If you know anyone with children currently at ECS, choristers or not, please let them know that we are holding a special open morning for them on Tuesday 13 January at 9.00am and encourage them to attend. They can email admissions@exeterschool.org.uk for more information.

Amid the challenges and sadness of this news, we hope that the future of the choristers in Exeter will continue to flourish with the same dedication and excellence it has always known, and that all those pupils in year groups no longer offered by ECS will continue to flourish and be happy in their new schools, whichever they may be.

Yours sincerely



Mr Graham Bone
Acting Head, Exeter School

Mrs Gillian Hodgetts
Chair of Governors