



ST JOHN'S

SCHOOL
LEATHERHEAD

Moving Forward to Co-education

Reasons for Change

The Strategic Review by the Governing Council revealed a number of key issues which needed to be addressed and were not being effectively grasped within the context of our current structure and organisation, namely:

- Given our experience of running a very successful co-educational Sixth Form, it is clear that there are significant benefits of boys and girls being educated together and that these should be extended to all years.
- There is strong demand from parents with sons and daughters who wish them to be educated within the same school.
- We are wedded to the provision of a full education which develops the whole person, but recognise that Saturday mornings are not the most propitious environment for high quality learning in academic lessons. 80% of the School are day pupils and parents are increasingly expressing a preference for the taught curriculum to be focused on five days, not six as at present.
- We have an obligation to respond to the demands of our parents in relation to co-education and the structure of our week.
- We face a continuing decline in full-time boarders which is a reflection of the limited options for parents in the context of boarding and day. The introduction of more flexible boarding options will allow us to respond to the increasing demand for weekly or part-time boarding.

Our recent parental questionnaire, careful analysis of the independent school market and wider consultation indicate strong support for these changes among current and prospective parents.

Future Structure of the School

The School will increase its numbers gradually from the current 480 pupils to around 600 by 2013. This will include a 6-stream entry (20 per class/form) supported by 6 boys' and 3 girls' Houses (65 – 70 per House) offering day and boarding facilities.

Ethos

Current parents, pupils and staff strongly endorse the ethos and values of St John's School and these will be preserved, so that the opportunities, sense of community and pastoral support remain unchanged and continue to be outstanding as emphasised in the recent Independent Schools Inspectorate Inspection report.

Academic

There will be no change to class sizes in the Lower School of 15 – 20 pupils and in the Upper School 8 – 15 pupils. We will continue to promote a broad based academic curriculum, which is structured upon GCSE and GCE syllabuses and public examinations leading to entry to courses at the best universities.

The structure of the week will be redefined to provide a taught curriculum from Monday to Friday, removing the current teaching from Saturday morning. The focus will be upon the quality of teaching and learning and will allow the better deployment of resources to support all areas of School life. Furthermore, the aim will be to introduce a wider menu of subjects, for example GCSE Drama and A level Politics.

Pastoral

The outstanding pastoral support within the School will continue to be founded upon a "house" system. The School will introduce a weekly boarding option, in addition to boarding and day options which are currently available. We will continue to develop the pastoral environment in order that the boys and girls are properly supported.

Co-curricular

The co-curricular programme will build upon what we have currently and will continue to develop a wide range of opportunities in which pupils can develop other skills and interests individually and collectively, whilst increasing their own self-esteem and confidence. Furthermore, the aim is to readjust the programme to provide more opportunities for the boys and girls throughout the week and at the weekend both in and away from the School.

Admissions

Revised Process for Admissions:

A revised process for admissions will allow us to work more closely with our feeder schools and therefore from 2010 there will be no pre-assessment and admissions will be refined as follows:

- For entry at Year 9, each boy and girl applying to St John's will be required to register (from Year 6 onwards), following which a report and recommendation from the respective feeder school is required in order to offer confirmation for a boarding place (weekly or full) or day place. The offer of a confirmed place is subject to achieving 55% at Common Entrance (or the equivalent) and a continued positive recommendation from the respective feeder school.
- As now there will be a number of places available for boys and girls who wish to enter the School in the Lower Sixth (Year 12). They will be required to satisfy the School's minimum academic entry requirement; from 2010 this will be raised to six B grades at GCSE, which must include B grades or above in the subjects they wish to study at AS Level. Please note that this same requirement will also apply to pupils already at St John's.

Interim Process for Admissions for entry in 2010:

- For boys registered for entry in 2010, they will continue to sit a pre-assessment test in January 2009 and providing they achieve the required standard will be offered a confirmed place subject to the achievement of 55% at Common Entrance.
- For girls who register for entry in 2010, they will be subject to the revised process for admissions as outlined above.
- For entry to the Sixth Form, the revised arrangements will apply.

Scholarship and Bursaries:

Under the Charity Commission's requirements to demonstrate public benefit, from the academic year 2009/2010 Scholarship and Bursarial Awards will continue to be offered, but the balance of awards will be in favour of means-tested bursaries.

Real Estate

The decision to move to full co-education will allow us to continue to develop modern buildings and resources for the benefit of all pupils. A package of capital investments will be implemented, the first of these being a new classroom block behind the Chapel closely followed by the creation of the second and third girls' houses, as below.

- The construction of a new classroom block.
- The establishment of two new girls' day houses.
- The conversion of the old library into a performance space.
- The continued modernisation and refurbishment of pastoral facilities.
- The further development of our sports facilities including our aim to build a modern sports complex.

Timescale

The outline timetable for development is as follows:

2008 – 2009

- To plan for a restructured curriculum and structure of the week to coincide with a Monday - Friday taught curriculum.
- To plan for a restructured system of pastoral support i.e. full boarding, weekly or day.
- To begin construction of the new Classroom Block.

2009 – 2010

- To complete the new Classroom Block, which will provide 10 additional classrooms, a new Library and a Creative Arts Centre (to include the Art and Design and Technology Departments).
- To refurbish the Old Library as a performance space.
- To redefine the House structure to accommodate girls.
- To introduce any additional resources to support co-education.

2010 – 2011

- To admit the first girls as part of a 6-stream (form/class) entry to St John's in the Fourth Form (Year 9 to comprise a year group of 120).
- To introduce a restructured curriculum and modified structure of the week.

2011 – 2012

- To continue to develop plans for the improvement of the estate including sports facilities.

2012 – 2013

- To achieve co-education in every year group at St John's.