



St Edmund's
Girls' School



Wyvern
College

Questions raised at the Wyvern & St Edmund's Collaboration

Year 6 Parents' Information Evening: Tuesday, 8th May 2018

You say that you aim to be in the top 5% for progress nationally; where are St Edmund's and Wyvern currently?

St Edmund's is above the national average for Progress 8 and Wyvern currently sits just below. We believe this ambition is possible and use Glenmoor and Winton Academies as our example because they have achieved this having a similar cohort of students. They are now four years on from the starting point of their collaboration.

How do the teachers feel about working across sites?

They are positive. Most of our teachers have experience of working in mixed schools. There is challenge through working at most comprehensives but we have the expertise from all of our staff. We are currently at 900 girls and 300 boys.

What is the long term intention for single sex teaching?

This is undecided, we will always do what is best for our students. The philosophy of the curriculum may mean that it is quite possible that there will be mixed teaching over time but this will be done in consultation with parents. It may make sense for subject settings to mix to benefit the students. We are at the very beginning of the process and whatever we do will be right for the students and aim to get the best results possible. Collaboration in GCSE classes has taken place for some years and parents will have been made aware of this.

What will be the capacity of boys and girls on campus for your admissions?

There will still be separate admission numbers, the only way this will change is through consultation around the admissions policies. St Edmund's is currently oversubscribed but this collaboration will ensure a larger space for all students.

What is your 5 year plan for estimated full capacity?

There is space for 475 students to use the Wyvern building with room for building extension. St Edmund's has no real physical room for growth. We probably have space for 1500 students across the campus.



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Will the personality and feel of the individual schools change?

The Behaviour and Code of Conduct will be aligned and the schools currently have the same philosophy. Both schools live by Christian principles and have very similar key characteristics. There are different stated values, at St Edmund's they are 'respect, responsibility and resilience' and at Wyvern they are 'courage, compassion and commitment'.

What happens when it comes to Ofsted?

The Ofsted inspections will remain separate, St Edmund's are now out of the inspection window with another good judgement, with the next inspection due in approximately three to four years. Wyvern is likely to have an inspection within a year.

Will siblings at either schools have priority for admissions?

The admission policies are held by the schools. We will look at the admissions policies now as a family based admission rather than a same sex sibling admission.

What is the key drive for this change? Is it financial or are there benefits of learning? What are the risks that you will need to mitigate?

Our primary objective is to improve the quality of education for all students. There is a financial implication and through collaboration we will be able to make the best of our resources going forward. We have a very detailed risk register and project plan and many work streams bringing everything together.

There will no doubt be some unique challenges in this project, how closely are you working with Winton and Glenmoor Academies which you are using as a model?

We have known the team there for quite some time. The Head is well known to us and the Deputy Head has previously worked with us in school improvement. We ask them for advice, even down to the running of information evenings such as this one. We will continue to take advice when we need it.

I am confused at the numbers, will you be doubling the intake at Wyvern?

1200 students over the campus is just slightly bigger than an average secondary school. By doubling the intake at Wyvern College over a period of years we would bring the overall number to 1500.

What do you expect the class numbers to be?

30 is the ideal size. We won't make them bigger, if anything there will be more classes.



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Will the boys be outnumbered?

Initially girls will outnumber boys by 3 to 1. In classes, although there are obviously fewer boys than girls, we wouldn't like to see a mixed class with only one boy in it.

Could students opt in or out of single sex?

We would not make it the student's decision, we would use our experience to determine any outcomes.

Do you see a closer collaboration with the other Magna Learning Partnership schools?

We do but we are geographically challenged. There is potential for the future but no current plans. We could potentially use school transport to get across to other sites but this is not planned.

Do you see a sixth form in the future?

This was explored some years ago and it was decided that there is no capacity on site. In 2012 we wrote a bid to open a free school which is now Salisbury 6th Form College. The ambition is that it will join Magna Learning Partnership in the autumn. Due to the ethos and culture being similar it is a natural receiver for many of our students.

When my child eventually joins in year 7 will there be mixed sex classes?

There will be some feedback taken at the year 6 days on this.