



St Edmund's
Girls' School



Wyvern
College

Questions raised at the Wyvern College & St Edmund's Girls' School Collaboration

Parents' Information Evening: Thursday, 26th April 2018

Progress 8 measures differently between the two schools. If budgets merge how will progress 8 stay the same? Will my daughter be affected?

Budgets are allocated in the same way as they were before we became an academy. The schools with surpluses will not have to bail out schools with a deficit.

Will Progress 8 maintain the high standards at St Edmund's?

Wyvern's Progress 8 score is improving steadily. Sharing best practice in Teaching & Learning will benefit schools. Progress 8 scores are very different for boys and girls. One school will not suffer from the progress 8 scores of another school as the two schools are measured separately.

Wyvern boys have a high turnover of teaching staff. Will collaboration solve that?

We believe we have the capacity to make a difference through the collaboration. Staff are aware that both Wyvern and St Edmund's can find recruitment in some subjects difficult. Some teachers prefer to teach both boys and girls, so by working together we can improve recruitment. Teachers are also looking for opportunities in bigger schools so we now have the benefit of offering them the opportunity to teach across both sites.

Will there be 2 separate Governing bodies or 1 overall Governing body?

The plan is to bring both governing bodies together – this is still being discussed.

St Edmund's is a girls' school and I want to see single sex teaching in GCSE lessons

Glenmoor & Winton has remained single sex teaching for the last 5 years and have made astonishing progress. We need to make the decision on what is right for our students. It is quite possible that there will be mixed teaching over time but this will be done in consultation with parents. Collaboration in GCSE classes has taken place for some years and parents will have been made aware of this.

My daughter is in a collaboration class and says boys are disruptive and noisy.

Both boys and girls behave badly but in different ways. There are elements of bad behaviour in classes and these are dealt with. Please come and see a member of the senior team if your child wishes to report issues in any particular class. Parents are welcome to book a tour during the school day where you will be able to see that students in both schools behave and work well. Please telephone the school for an appointment.



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Will the leadership team be stripped down now that there is only one Headteacher?

Secondary schools have a larger senior team due to their size. It is an exciting time for the Headteacher and Senior Team who look forward to working together. In the first year of closer collaboration we intend to expand the team by appointing another Deputy Headteacher on a 1 year temporary contract.

It sounds like this collaboration is a done deal? Can we go back?

We need to evaluate the success of the partnership and are not aiming for a merger of the schools currently. Initially we intend to collocate the 3 core departments. Changes can be undone but it is very unlikely – this is an exciting time and is the way forward. Parents will be informed as move forward and we will ask for feedback and parents' views.

We are passionate about St Edmund's and my daughter enjoys learning in a girl's school – I am worried that this will change and my daughter is upset about losing the identity of her school. Many parents feel that this will become a mixed school and not separate boys and girls – this is not what we chose

Historically girls have done better than boys at GCSE but recent statistics show that this is changing. Girls have outperformed boys because GCSE work has involved course work which boys tend not to enjoy; boys like the end of year of exams. We are returning to times when all work happens at the end of the year and last year, for the first time in 20 years, boys edged forward. Boys and girls have equal opportunities and single sex teaching will remain. The day to day change for students will be very little.

Parents are upset that they have not been consulted before these changes have been made. Why were we not asked our opinion?

The bringing together of the two schools is not really much different from how we operate currently. The two schools will remain separate with their own identity. What will happen is that we get to share first class staff across the two schools. We will understand what parents are looking for by conducting detailed research. The Trafalgar School at Downton, another MLP school, is significantly oversubscribed and that, in part, is because parents want mixed education.

I have a son at Wyvern and a daughter at St Edmunds – single sex education is unusual. This collaboration will bring together the best of both worlds and is great. I am not worried about the schools working together.

It is unusual to have single sex secondary schools. Further research is to be done and results will give us ideas about the way forward. If we remain as we are most classes will continue as single sex groups.



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The students do not know anything about what is going on and are nervous – they need more clarity.

Both boys and girls will be spoken to but we wanted to share this with parents before we spoke to students.

My daughter thinks that in Year 10 & Year 11 she will be taught in mixed classes?

There may be some set changes or staff changes but the intention is to retain single sex teaching in most subjects, as is the case now. We need to look at what will work best for the students. Staff have not spoken to students so this is only hearsay.

The Pastoral Care for boys and girls will be different – how are you preparing for this?

We are beginning to think about this and how we can ensure a smooth transition. For this September the Pastoral teams will be organised in a similar way but over time we hope to bring them together.

You refer to 'most' subjects and talk about collaboration subjects, what are they as I was not aware that collaboration lessons were already in place

Collaboration subjects have always been discussed openly at parents evenings and options evening; currently they are French, Art, Photography, Film Studies and Dance. There are no collaborative lessons in core subjects. The groups change depending on options chosen; sometimes all single sex sometimes mixed groups. It has always been made clear at options evening which subjects are collaboration subjects. We hope that we may have a broader range of collaboration subjects in the future. We are also using the excellent specialist staff that we already have in Drama, Psychology and Music.

My son is in Year 7 at Wyvern and is very happy. I am positive about the change and people need to learn to adapt.

Will enrichment be mixed – my daughter loves football

St Edmund's already have a very successful football team but is hoped that further enrichment will be mixed and not gender specific although sporting teams will remain single-sex in line with competition rules.

I have a son and daughter at both schools and they have already experienced collaboration lessons which they enjoy.

The two schools have always worked closely together and have the same ethos. Boys and girls are friendly towards each other.



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