



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

WINCHESTER COLLEGE
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

FAQs

1. WHAT IS BEING ANNOUNCED?

- ‘Winchester College in the 21st Century’ launches a significant programme of change at the College. The Governing Body is confident that this will enable the school to continue its unique approach to education, based on values which have endured for centuries.

CHANGES INCLUDE:

Increasing access

- The admission of girls and day pupils into the Sixth Form.
- A significant growth in the school’s bursary provision, with the initial objective of a 25% increase, to 150 pupils by 2024.
- Expansion of the school’s online learning provision to provide greater opportunities for collaboration with the maintained sector.

Modernising what we teach

A new emphasis on the global context and the forces which have shaped the modern world, and an increased emphasis on creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

Developing the school site

Improvements to our built and natural spaces with a focus on imaginative and sustainable design, pupil wellbeing and enhancing the individual character of each house.

2. WHEN WILL THESE CHANGES TAKE PLACE?

- Some are already underway: the new Director of Entrepreneurship has already conducted his first (virtual) session and the new Head of Partnerships arrives shortly. Work on a more global approach to Div is well advanced. We intend to welcome day pupils, both girls and boys, into the Sixth Form no later than September 2022. We hope the first girl boarders will join us in 2024.

3. HOW BIG WILL THE SCHOOL EVENTUALLY BECOME?

- We currently have 700 pupils. Over time we plan to admit each year a minimum of 30 day pupils into the Sixth Form (of whom roughly half will be girls) and up to 50 girl boarders. The school will be some 850 pupils, roughly the same as Rugby and Harrow, but smaller than Sevenoaks, Oundle, Wellington and Eton. The number of boys boarding at the school will remain the same.

4. HOW WILL THESE CHANGES BE PAID FOR?

- The increase in size will bring the benefits of economies of scale, and a new campaign on bursaries will extend our provision. The chief capital expenditure will be on new boarding accommodation. This will be financed from our own resources or through additional borrowings.

5. WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR THESE CHANGES?

- We are determined that Winchester should continue to be a global educational leader. We believe that all organisations need to adapt if they are to achieve their aims in a changing world.
- There have been small numbers of day pupils at Winchester for decades, including daughters of dons, some of whom have been educated here since 1979. The Governing Body actively considered a move to co-education in 1985. It debated the matter again in 2005, deciding to review the situation every 10 years. The most recent review began in 2019 with a decision made in December 2020.
- As has been the experience at William of Wykeham’s other educational foundation (New College, Oxford), opening the school to girls will bring new intellectual challenge and diversity of thought. Importantly, we want the school to welcome all who are capable of benefiting from the exceptional education Wykehamists enjoy.

6. WILL WE BE CONSULTED ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHANGES?

- There will be a process of consultation on how best to implement these changes. The Warden and Headmaster will chair a number of committees considering ideas raised by staff, pupils, parents and alumni. Details will follow after Leave-out.

7. WHAT WILL CHANGE ABOUT DIV?

- We will not dilute our commitment to intellectual rigour, which is a hallmark of a Winchester education. Nor will we lose our unique focus on non-examined subjects (above all Div). But we will give new weight to the global context and the forces shaping the modern world. Those leaving Winchester should be equipped with the skills, the knowledge, and the values to allow them both to thrive and to contribute to society.

8. HOW WILL THE SCHOOL MAKE SURE IT EDUCATES GIRLS JUST AS WELL AS IT EDUCATES BOYS?

- The Governing Body and leadership team have extensive experience of education for both sexes: the Headmaster, Second Master and Director of Studies have all taught in co-educational schools, and the Headmaster interviewed and taught the first women to attend Oriel College Oxford. Extensive training will be offered to ensure that the school creates a truly co-educational Sixth Form, with an education as excellent for girls as it has been for centuries, for boys.

9. DO YOU SEE THE ADMISSION OF GIRLS AS CHANGING THE ETHOS OF WINCHESTER COLLEGE?

- The College will remain in spirit and learning entirely the same, while the extra-curricular life and facilities will be enhanced. [The values](#) fostered by the school will remain unaltered.

10. WILL THE DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP OF THE COMMON ROOM CHANGE TO REFLECT THE INTRODUCTION OF GIRLS?

- Yes. We look forward to recruiting a higher number of female colleagues into the school.

11. WILL MY SON'S BOARDING HOUSE BE USED FOR GIRL BOARDERS?

- No existing houses will be converted, and all houses will embark on a programme of further upgrades.

12. WILL GIRLS BE ADMITTED TO 'COLLEGE'?

- Girls will be eligible for academic awards at 16+ on exactly the same basis as boys. However, as no boarding house will be co-educational, girls will not be able to reside in College.

13. HOW WILL SPORT BE IMPACTED IN A MIXED SIXTH FORM?

- Experience in other schools suggests that co-education raises sporting standards rather than diminishes them. Recent investment in sports development will continue, most notably the Sports Scholarship programme and the new Sports Centre. The sports available are likely to be decided by the interests of the girls, but will also be discussed as part of the consultation process.

14. WILL THE NEW SPORTS CENTRE NEED TO BE ADAPTED?

- No, the new Sports Centre has been designed for both sexes, so that it will generate revenue from those outside the school who use it when not needed by pupils.

15. WILL THERE BE BURSARIES SPECIFICALLY AVAILABLE FOR GIRLS?

- Girls will be eligible for bursaries in the normal way. More [here](#).

16. WHERE WILL GIRL BOARDERS LIVE?

- Three sites have been identified. The most likely is adjacent to the new Sports Centre, where we already have outline planning permission for a new boarding house.

17. CAN MY SON OR DAUGHTER BE A DAY PUPIL?

- Yes. The option of being a day pupil is open to both boys and girls in the Sixth Form from 2022.

18. HOW/WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR A PLACE FOR MY DAUGHTER?

- Please contact the [Registrar](#) who will send further information when it is available.



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