



# MOULSFORD

## MOULSFORD PREP SCHOOL CO-EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Questions & Answers

#### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

##### **What is the timeline for Moulsford going co-educational?**

From September 2026 girls will be able to join Year 3 and progress through the school, year on year.

Our Pre-Prep (Pre-School to Year 2) has already successfully transitioned to co-education and by September 2031 (when girls currently in Reception will naturally progress into Year 8), the school will have girls in every year group. For children currently in Year 1 and above there will be very little noticeable change. We have outlined the planned progression for each year group in [this table](#).

Year 3 becoming co-educational in September 2026 gives the school plenty of time to finalise preparations for this transition, including any necessary adjustments to the curriculum, pastoral care, sports provision, facilities and infrastructure. Ben Beardmore-Gray will be sharing the plans with you in detail over the coming months, and will be inviting input from Moulsford parents.

##### **What will a co-educational Moulsford Prep School 'look like'?**

The key distinguishing feature of a Moulsford education has always been the quality of our offering in all areas: academic, pastoral and extra-curricular, and as a co-educational school we look forward to continuing to provide an outstanding education for both boys and girls, preparing them for a wide range of the top day and boarding senior schools in the country. Our goal remains the happiness and fulfilment of every child, and Moulsford's values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity will be key in supporting this aim. In time, we anticipate Moulsford having equal numbers of boys and girls in the school.

##### **How long have you been considering this decision?**

As part of our regular reviews of the school's Development Plan, Governors have been discussing Moulsford's all boys' structure for at least ten years. Immediately prior to Covid, the Governors conducted extensive research on the school's model and while the findings concluded that there was a clear shift in the sector towards co-education, the Governors decided to continue the very successful strategy as an all boys' school. Following Covid, co-educational trends in the sector accelerated and the Governors took the decision in December 2022 to welcome girls into Reception in September 2023. At this point there was no agenda for girls to follow through to the Prep School. However, since December 2022, the desire for parents to educate their children together has continued to grow, and the foreseeable political and economic changes are expected to accelerate this direction of travel faster still. The Governing body is taking this decision now, from a position of strength, in order to secure Moulsford's position as the leading Prep School in the area for the next generation of pupils and their parents.



## **Has Abingdon's recent co-educational announcement influenced Moulsford's strategy?**

Moulsford's Governing body had unanimously agreed on the school's co-educational strategy prior to Abingdon's announcement, and had already agreed and was working towards Friday 24th May for Moulsford's announcement. While we have very close relations with Abingdon on many levels, we were not (and would not expect to be) made aware of their co-educational plans prior to their announcement on 13th May 2024. By some distance, Moulsford sends more boys to Abingdon (roughly twenty a year) than any other school, and therefore we pay very close attention to any strategic changes Abingdon enacts. Abingdon's decision is illustrative of the direction of travel in the sector, and their future model confirms our belief that a co-educational Moulsford will be an outstanding model for our future pupils, many of whom may seek an Abingdon education.

## **What research have you undertaken to inform your decision-making?**

Moulsford has partnered with various consultants over recent years to inform its strategy, including undertaking research projects with RSAcademics, MTM Consulting and most recently Mungo Dunnett Associates. While none of our recent research projects have been solely or specifically about a potential move to co-education, enough information and statistics have emerged for us to be confident in taking this decision, both in terms of general trends within the independent sector, as well as societal shifts, expectations and requirements from within our own parent body.

## **What are the 'foreseeable political and economic changes that are expected to accelerate this direction of travel' that the Chairman of Governors referred to in his letter?**

Parents will be aware of the Labour Party's plans to impose VAT on school fees should they gain power at the next general election on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. We still know relatively little about the detail of how Labour might implement this policy and the timescale, and until we see their election manifesto many questions remain unanswered – but their intention to push through this change seems clear. Labour has also said that the 80% charitable relief on business rates, which independent schools that are registered charities (such as Moulsford) benefit from, will be removed. The latter in itself would represent a material additional cost to most schools.

The school is undertaking work, including financial modelling, to plan for the introduction of VAT on school fees and the removal of business rates relief. This work also includes an assessment of options to mitigate the impact for both parents and the school of the possible changes. Specifically, we are continuing to review our operating costs, explore alternative income streams and identifying how we might be able to recover a portion of the VAT.

As ever, the school will aim to keep future fee rises as low as possible for parents, without compromising the quality of the education which your children receive. However, if VAT is introduced on school fees then unfortunately it is inevitable that there will be increased costs for parents as the net VAT liability payable to the Government does not benefit Moulsford, and we simply do not have the resources to absorb the increases.



Sector analysis strongly indicates that the market for the independent schools sector will contract if VAT is introduced.

## **Will there be any further consultation/referendum on co-education in the Prep School at Moulsford?**

Our most recent research project provided plenty of evidence of a general shift in parental perceptions towards co-education amongst our current parent body. This backs up broader national research and the wider trend towards co-education. While there will never be 100% parental consensus in any decision taken by the school, the governing body is satisfied that the timing is right to proceed without further consultation. However, plans will be shared with you in detail over the coming months, and parents will be invited to provide input.

## **When you announced co-education in the Pre-Prep in December 2022, you stated that there were no current plans for the Prep School to follow suit. Why has this changed?**

When the decision was taken to go co-educational in the Pre-Prep, the Governing body considered what was best for the Prep School too. At that time, it was felt that there was no long term need for the Prep School to change course from remaining all boys. In the intervening years, the trend towards co-education has gathered significant pace, and has been accelerated by political and economic developments. The Governing body has chosen to take the decision from a position of strength, with a strong leadership team in place to effect and manage a smooth transition to co-education in the Prep School.

## **Will the School become larger?**

Historically Moulsford's year groups have grown as they have progressed through the school. We anticipate that, in time, year groups will be at capacity in the Pre-Prep, with opportunities for children also to join in Year 3. We expect the Pre-Prep pupil numbers to grow, with Prep School numbers remaining largely as they currently are.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGE**

### **What effect will this decision have on my son's education at Moulsford?**

We will continue to deliver an outstanding education to all children in the school. If your son is in the current Year 1 or above, this decision will have very little impact on your son's education at Moulsford, and their journey will continue as all boys throughout their time at Moulsford. Boys who are currently in Year 6 and above will notice no changes as they will have left the school by September 2026 when co-education is implemented in the Prep School.

For the boys currently in Pre-School and Reception who are already experiencing co-educational learning, they will continue into the Prep School with the girls who are already in their cohort. We

anticipate that, following this announcement, more girls may join that particular cohort in Year 1 and 2, now that they will have certainty of continuity into the Prep School.

### **Will this change impact the name of the school?**

There is no need to change the name or branding of the school at this stage, as any necessary changes were made when the Pre-Prep became co-educational.

### **We chose Moultsford because it is a single sex school and you are now effectively imposing co-education on us. How can you justify and explain this decision?**

We recognise that for children in the lower half of the Pre-Prep (Pre-School and Reception classes), this announcement does mean that their sons will not experience an all boys' education in the Prep School, as they may have been expecting. As explained in the points above, the Governing body has made what it believes to be the right decision in the best interests of securing the future of the school for generations of pupils to come. By planning ahead and taking this strategic decision from a position of strength, and with significant lead time, we believe that the school will achieve a very smooth transition to Prep School co-education for pupils and their parents.

### **How will pupils be affected on a day-to-day basis?**

From now until September 2026, pupils will not be affected at all ([please refer to table](#)). Various aspects of the school's infrastructure will be worked on during this period, and much of this work will be organic and to the general benefit of all Moultsford families, whether that is improvements made to parking, or planning for broader sport provision.

From September 2026, when girls join the Prep site into Year 3, some obvious changes will take place. Year 3 girls will generally be present around the school site, in the dining room, in assemblies, fully participating in school activities and events. These Year 3 girls will then progress through the school organically year on year, with younger cohorts to follow.

### **Will this change the school's aims, ethos and values?**

There are no anticipated changes to Moultsford's aims and ethos, which remain as before and can be found on [our website](#), although we regularly review both these and the school's values. Our recently updated values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity apply just as appropriately and importantly to a co-educational school as they do to an all boys' environment.

### **Will boarding continue to be offered, and will it be available to girls?**

Moultsford has a very successful Boarding House which currently offers 35 beds to boys in Years 5 to 8 on a flexi and weekly boarding basis. For a significant proportion of senior pupils, boarding majorly enhances their Moultsford experience, especially in relation to preparation for senior school if they are progressing to a boarding school, but children going onto day schools also greatly enjoy and benefit from experiencing boarding at Moultsford. Girls will be offered the same experience to



ensure equal opportunities for all pupils, and plans are currently being progressed to ensure facilities are in place to enable us to offer this. Given that pupils can board from Year 5 at the earliest, this means having girls' dormitories in place from September 2028 for girls in Year 5.

## **How will Moulsford be differentiated from other schools in the area?**

The key feature of a Moulsford education is the quality of our offering in all areas - academic, pastoral and extra-curricular and as a co-educational school we look forward to providing this outstanding education for both boys and girls, preparing them for the top day and boarding senior schools in the country. Our most important goal remains the happiness and fulfilment of every child, and we will continue to develop Moulsford's values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity in support of this aim. Moulsford's enviable position on the banks of the Thames also means pupils can take part in watersports within the extended school day, just a few steps away from their classrooms, an experience which is hard to find anywhere else.

## **How will the Moulsford School community be kept updated on the progress of the change?**

All information regarding the move towards co-education will be held on a specific page on our website, and will be updated as plans progress. Please [click here](#) for more information.

## **ACADEMIC**

### **Will moving to co-education affect the academic standards?**

Introducing girls into the Prep School will bring diverse perspectives and approaches to learning, and this diversity can stimulate academic discussions, broaden viewpoints, and encourage critical thinking, all of which, we believe, will develop the life skills that Moulsford children will need to flourish in the modern world. Co-educational environments can also foster collaborative learning experiences, deepening understanding, promoting teamwork and skills, and encouraging empathy and mutual respect, which contribute positively to academic achievement. With the introduction of girls, there will be an expansion of curriculum offerings to accommodate diverse interests and talents, with this enrichment giving Moulsford pupils more opportunities for intellectual exploration and personal growth, ultimately enhancing academic standards.

### **How will you prepare teachers to move from all boys to co-educational teaching?**

The significant majority of Moulsford's teachers already have experience teaching in co-educational environments, and have the skills that will ensure a very smooth co-educational transition in the Prep School. However, as a school we are never complacent and our professional development programme over the next two years will specifically focus on adapting our teaching methods to co-education and promoting inclusivity to achieve outstanding results for your children.



## **How will co-education affect Special Educational Needs support?**

Moulsford's Learning Support department gives extremely strong support to many pupils and their parents. Exactly the same level of support will be offered to Moulsford girls as to boys, and their parents.

## **How will you prepare the girls for senior schools?**

We currently give Moulsford boys outstanding preparation for a wide range of senior schools at 13+, and deliver tailored advice for their parents during the process. Exactly the same opportunities will be given to girls and their parents.

Preparation for the children includes a broad and exciting academic curriculum coupled with an extensive and diverse extra-curricular programme which allows them to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build confidence. Whether it's sport, art, music, drama, design technology or community service, these activities provide wonderful opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, and ensure Moulsford children are ready to make a successful transition to their senior schools. Specific exam preparation classes and mock interview practice are also core parts of the process.

## **What are the target senior schools for girls, and how good are your relations with those schools?**

Moulsford has excellent relationships with a number of co-educational day and boarding senior schools such as:

Abingdon (Oxfordshire) Co-ed from 2026  
Bloxham (Oxfordshire)  
Bradfield College (Berkshire)  
Cokethorpe (Oxfordshire)  
Cranford School (Oxfordshire)  
Cheltenham College (Gloucestershire)  
Marlborough College (Wiltshire)  
Millfield (Somerset)  
Oundle (Northamptonshire)  
Pangbourne College (Berkshire)  
Reading Blue Coat (Berkshire)  
Rugby (Warwickshire)  
Shiplake College (Oxfordshire)  
St. Edward's School, Oxford (Oxfordshire)  
Stowe School (Buckinghamshire)  
The Oratory School (Oxfordshire)  
Uppingham (Rutland)  
Wellington College (Berkshire)



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In addition we will be creating stronger links with the following girls' day schools:

Headington Rye (Oxfordshire) - also a boarding school  
Queen Anne's (Berkshire) - also a boarding school  
St Helen & St Katharine (Oxfordshire)  
The Abbey (Berkshire)

In the south of England, there are a number of prestigious senior girls' boarding schools (some of which also have a strong day element) which parents may also wish to consider for their daughters, such as:

Benenden (Kent)  
Cheltenham Ladies' College (Gloucestershire)  
Downe House (Berkshire)  
Heathfield (Berkshire)  
St Mary's School, Ascot (Berkshire)  
St Mary's Calne (Wiltshire)  
St Swithun's School (Hampshire)  
Tudor Hall (Oxfordshire)  
Wycombe Abbey (Buckinghamshire)

We also have strong links with the following boys' schools:

Eton (Berkshire)  
Harrow (Middlesex)  
Magdalen College School (co-ed in 6th Form) (Oxfordshire)  
Radley (Oxfordshire)  
Winchester (co-ed in 6th Form) (Hampshire)

## **How will you develop close links with the all girls' schools listed above?**

We already have links with many of the all girls' schools listed above, and over the next two years we will be visiting these schools, to meet their key staff and fully understand their values and ethos, and likewise inviting their staff to Moulsford to do the same.

## **THE EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME**

### **How will Moulsford's activities programme be affected by the arrival of girls?**

The Moulsford Award, launched in September 2018, encourages children in the Prep School to choose a breadth of activities from each area of Healthy Living, Performance and the Arts, Community Service, Self-Development and Adventure. The Moulsford Award is designed to help in our aim to provide a rounded education, whilst developing and celebrating the success of each child as an individual. To aim for the Award, all children must participate in one activity from each section.



At the end of each activity pupils are given a grade by staff, and a 'Pass' is sufficient to gain a piece of the Activities' 'pie.' However, in order to gain the overall Award a child must gain Merits in at least two areas. This enables children to play to their strengths whilst ensuring commitment in all of the other areas.

While we will continue to regularly review our programme, all of our existing activity options will not only cater well for girls, but will also be further developed by girls' participation.

### **What will you add to the extra-curricular programme to cater for girls?**

There will be a variety of existing extra-curricular activities that will naturally appeal to girls. Not only will we provide Moulsford girls with these opportunities, we will also use it as an opportunity to broaden the existing offering for our boys. Avoiding any sort of gender stereotyping will be a continued key aim, as will ensuring that children of both genders are actively encouraged to try any activity. Jaimie Noble, Moulsford's Director of Activities, devises and manages the overall programme, working very closely with Frances English who oversees Pre-Prep activities. Both Jaimie and Frances are very excited at the prospect of developing and enhancing Moulsford's activities as the school moves towards full co-education.

### **How will sports provision be affected? Will you add more girls' sports?**

Lee Chaffey, Moulsford's Director of Sport, has extensive experience of leading a successful co-educational sports and Physical Education programme in his previous role as Director of Sport at the Oratory Prep School. Moulsford and Lee are committed to delivering the highest quality sports education to all our pupils across all disciplines. Nationally we are witnessing a growing interest and participation in sports such as cricket and football, which are increasingly becoming co-educational activities. Moulsford is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all boys and girls can actively engage in sports regardless of gender.

We are still working on the details of the Prep School's sporting provision in a co-educational Moulsford, but we will be leveraging the qualifications and experience of many current staff who have expertise in coaching sports such as cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis and rugby to a high level, as well as employing new staff where necessary.

### **How will you field sports teams in a co-educational Moulsford?**

We will ensure outstanding sporting opportunities for both girls and boys at Moulsford with fixtures starting in Year 3, and there may also be some matches for the Year 2 children. Lee Chaffey, Moulsford's Director of Sport, held the same post at the Oratory Prep School for many years and has excellent experience of running an exciting co-educational games programme. We are still working on the detail of the Year 3 sports programme for 2026 and will communicate this to parents in due course.





## **How will Moulsford enhance its sports facilities?**

We have taken proactive steps to ensure excellent facilities for our girls' teams, as well as enhancing the boys' experience. Over the summer of 2024, the school will be refurbishing its existing astroturf, incorporating lines for hockey, tennis, and netball courts. The school will also shortly be submitting a planning application for a full-sized astroturf on the back fields. Together, these exciting developments will support and enhance the development of sport for all Moulsford pupils. We are committed to providing outstanding facilities and resources to support the growth and success of all our pupils, and these initiatives underscore that commitment.

## **What will Art, Drama, DT and Music look like in a co-educational Moulsford?**

We believe that Art, Drama, DT and Music will be enhanced at a co-educational Moulsford. With girls joining the Prep School, we will be reviewing our curricula in all these disciplines to integrate exciting new opportunities and ideas into the existing programme.

## **PASTORAL**

### **How will you manage the pastoral provision in the co-educational school?**

Exceptional pastoral care is the most important aspect of a Moulsford education and links into every area of school life. Vicki Rae, Moulsford's new Assistant Head - Pastoral from September 2024, has extensive pastoral and co-educational experience from Bradfield College, having run the Year 9 girls boarding house, and as Director of Wellbeing. The form tutors play a central role in delivering outstanding pastoral care and they will work extremely closely with Vicki Rae.

### **Will there be strong staff role models for all the children?**

Strong male and female role models are so important for both boys and girls. We have an excellent balance of male to female staff at roughly 50:50, and with both genders in important leadership/management positions in the School. For example, the Deputy Head (Tiffany Squire), Assistant Head - Pastoral (Vicki Rae), Assistant Head - Academic (Caroline Scriven), Head of Pre-Prep from January 2025 (Amy Gemmell) and Designated Safeguarding lead (Sabrina McMann) are all female. The Head (Ben Beardmore-Gray), the Bursar (John Wilder/James Phillipott from August), Director of Activities (Jaimie Noble), Head of Boarding (Jake Albon) and the Director of Sport (Lee Chaffey) are all male. When appointing new staff at Moulsford, a key consideration is alignment with Moulsford's values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity.

### **How will the boys be supported in this transition?**

Boys will continue to be supported in all areas of school life through their Form Heads, the Heads of Year and the Assistant Heads, as will the girls. Boys will have the opportunity to express their thoughts in the run up to co-education and support will be given to reflect any concerns they have in the lead up to, during and following the move to co-education in the Prep School in 2026.



## **How will break time arrangements be managed to ensure that girls feel comfortable with older boys around?**

Break times are heavily staffed at all times in order to ensure the pastoral wellbeing and safety of all the children, but also to help with social interaction and inclusion. There are numerous areas for the children to use, whether they wish to be actively running around or choosing to be in a quieter and calmer space, either inside or outside. The 'garden area' adjacent to the Prep School's playground is being re-landscaped this summer and will provide a wonderful space for children to relax outdoors. Similarly, our newly relocated library is the perfect place to enjoy some quiet time.

## **How will the children's wellbeing and safeguarding be managed?**

Safeguarding will continue to be managed by our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sabrina McMann from September 2024) in conjunction with our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. They will work very closely with Vicki Rae (Assistant Head - Pastoral) and the Form Heads to oversee the safety and wellbeing of all the children. All pupils are aware that they can speak to any member of staff they wish to, at any time, if they would like to. The school matrons' door is always open for pupils to visit during times of difficulty, as is that of the school's counsellor. We believe that strong communication between the school and parents is also vital in order to support pupils through their time at Moulsford. The school has very strong pastoral systems in place which are regularly reviewed by the Governors' Safeguarding and Welfare Committee, which meets every term and reports to the main Board.

## **Will the PSHE curriculum be reviewed?**

PSHE lessons, also known as Learning for Life ('LFL'), run throughout each year group, at an age-appropriate level. Up until Year 5 they are taught by their Form Heads, and from Years 6-8 our Head of PSHE (Katie Beardall) teaches all the classes in order to build further continuity and consistency as they move to the top end of the school. Katie will work very closely with Vicki Rae, the new Assistant Head-Pastoral. The PSHE curriculum will be reviewed between now and 2026 to reflect a co-educational Prep School.

## **What changes will there be to the House system?**

Girls will join the House system in exactly the same way as the boys, becoming a member of one of our four Houses (Amundsen, Bering, Cabot or Drake), as the girls in Pre-Prep have already done. In time we will be reviewing the house names (which are all male explorers) and the house symbols to ensure they reflect a co-educational Moulsford.

## **How will a Head Boy/Head Girl Team be chosen?**

Moulsford has previously appointed a Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy, for each of the three academic terms. Moving forward the intention is to appoint a Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl to work in conjunction with the Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy from September 2031.



## **What will happen to the uniform, will it change for girls?**

Ahead of the Pre-Prep going co-educational in September 2023, a new uniform for the girls was designed and is currently being worn and enjoyed by girls in their Reception year, and our intention is that this uniform will be worn by girls in Years 3 and 4. It is likely that slightly more 'grown up' items (eg a skirt instead of a pinafore) will be appropriate for Year 5 and above, and this will be developed in consultation with girls' parents. There is plenty of time to consider this, as additional items will not be required until Year 5 in 2028. The sports kit will be reviewed and additional sports items (e.g. a skirt) added as necessary by September 2026.

## **STAFF**

### **Do your staff have experience of teaching in co-educational schools?**

Moulsford is able to draw upon significant co-educational expertise. Prior to leading Moulsford, Ben and Sarah Beardmore-Gray jointly ran a very successful co-educational school for seven years. Similarly, Tiffany Squire (Deputy Head), Vicki Rae (Assistant Head - Pastoral from September 2024), Caroline Scriven (Assistant Head - Academic from September 2024) and Lee Chaffey (Director of Sport) have many years of co-educational leadership and teaching experience between them. Amy Gemmell, who joins Moulsford as Head of Pre-Prep in January 2025, has led a very successful co-educational Pre-Prep of 180 children at Hornsby House for the past six years. In addition, the great majority of Moulsford's teachers have previously taught in co-educational schools.

## **STRUCTURE & ORGANISATION**

### **How many classes will there be per year group?**

In the Pre-Prep, there are likely to be two classes per year group, and in the Prep School there may be two, three or four classes per year group. The number of pupils and the dynamic in each year group is considered carefully when deciding on the number of classes and class sizes for the next academic year. This is fluid for each year group depending on demand for places, and can fluctuate throughout the course of a particular cohort's journey through the school. This is perfectly normal, and reflects the fact that we are happy to welcome children at all entry points, to accommodate families who may be relocating, or those families who may wish to move their children from another school.

### **How long will my daughter be able to attend Moulsford for?**

The natural end of a Moulsford education is in July of Year 8. For girls currently in Pre-School or Reception, or those joining Year 1 in September 2024, they will be able to attend Moulsford all the way through to Year 8. For girls who join the Prep School in September 2026 in Year 3, they too can attend Moulsford through to Year 8. Subject to spaces being available, this cohort could be joined by additional girls in Year 4 (2027), Year 5 (2028), Year 6 (2029) and Year 7 (2030). Any girl

starting in Year 1 or below in September 2024 will automatically be able to continue through the school to Year 8.

**If I want my daughter to leave at the end of Year 6, will she be prepared for senior school 11+ entry?**

As for boys who may leave Moulsford before the natural end of the school in Year 8, girls will be prepared in the same way for any entrance exams they may have at an earlier stage. In some circumstances, we recognise that a departure from Moulsford prior to Year 8 may be the right decision for the child and their family.

**SITE**

**What changes will be made to adapt the current facilities to co-educational facilities?**

Moulsford will shortly be submitting a planning application for a full size astroturf which will hopefully be constructed on the 'back' field. We anticipate this being ready for September 2026 and all children will benefit from this facility, which will be used primarily for hockey, netball and tennis. We have plans for dedicated WCs, showers and changing rooms for the girls. We are currently exploring the options for girls' boarding, with our first girl boarders likely to start boarding in September 2028 (in Year 5).

**Will there be any changes to the bus routes? Will there be additional bus routes?**

At present, the school offers five bus routes, [click here](#) for details. The Bursar is always open to suggestions for more or different routes according to demand. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the school transport provision, please contact the Bursar on [bursar@moulsford.com](mailto:bursar@moulsford.com) or via the School Office on 01491 651438.

**LOCAL RESIDENTS**

**How will the change affect local residents in terms of traffic flow?**

The opening of the new Pre-Prep building and car park/drop off zone has greatly helped traffic flow to both departments of Moulsford School. Any increase in pupil numbers at Moulsford will be offset by improved parking and access arrangements (see above).



## HISTORY & HERITAGE

### **How will you protect the history and heritage of Moulsford as a boys' only school?**

Our Old Moles, current and past parents, staff and the school are all extremely proud of Moulsford's heritage. We look forward to girls and their parents joining the Old Moles community in years to come.

## FINANCES

### **What impact will the change have on fees?**

We do not anticipate the co-educational announcement having any direct impact on fees. The Chair of Governors will be writing to parents shortly regarding fees for the 2024/25 academic year, as he always does at this time of year.

### **What impact will the change have on bursaries?**

Bursaries are means tested via a third party company and all parents are welcome to apply. The process will be the same for the parents of both boys and girls.

### **Is there a sibling policy/a sibling discount for bringing a sister into the Prep School?**

Moulsford does not currently offer a sibling discount and there are no plans to change this policy. However, as mentioned above, bursaries are means tested and all parents are welcome to apply. The process will be the same for the parents of both boys and girls.

### **Some schools offer an incentive for girls/boys to join when a school goes co-educational. Will Moulsford be doing this?**

While very mindful of the trust that parents place in the school, Moulsford has not offered such incentives previously, and we currently have no plans to do so. However, as mentioned above, bursaries are means tested via a third party company and all parents are welcome to apply. The process will be the same for the parents of both boys and girls.

## ADMISSIONS

### **As a current parent, how can I find out more and to whom can I talk about the changes?**

Parents are very welcome to contact the Head, Ben Beardmore-Gray [bbeardmoregray@moulsford.com](mailto:bbeardmoregray@moulsford.com). Please email [heads.pa@moulsford.com](mailto:heads.pa@moulsford.com) if you would like to arrange an appointment to meet in person.



**When I visited recently as a prospective parent, I was told there were no plans for the Prep School to go co-educational. You must have known about these plans when we visited, and this sudden switch seems rather disingenuous, how can you justify it?**

We hope that parents will understand that an announcement of this nature cannot be 'trailed' in advance. It has been very important to us to make this decision and announcement in a measured way, so that all our stakeholders were informed simultaneously. There is never a 'right time' for everyone, and we apologise to those parents who may have previously asked co-educational questions directly that we were not able to be more open about it at the time.

**As a prospective parent, who can I talk to and when can I visit?**

Prospective parents are very welcome to talk to the Head, Ben Beardmore-Gray. To arrange a visit, please contact the Registrar, Jill Morrin [admissions@moulsford.com](mailto:admissions@moulsford.com). Our next Open Days will be on 20th and 21st September 2024.

**Is it possible for my daughter to join Year 3 before September 2026?**

The timetable of September 2026 for girls to join Year 3 gives the School plenty of time to prepare on all fronts, including any necessary adjustments to the curriculum, pastoral care, sports provision, facilities and infrastructure. As the co-ed decision has been made from a position of strength, we feel it is better to be fully prepared for the changes and manage the admission of girls in a steady and organic way.

**Why are you not taking girls throughout the school from September 2026?**

The Governors are taking this long-term strategic decision to go co-educational from a position of strength, and so there is no rush to introduce girls in every year group from the outset. The slower pace of change allows for all stakeholders to adjust both practically and culturally. It also allows current families in Year 1 and above, who may have chosen Moulsford because it is an all boys' school, the chance to progress through the all boys' environment as expected. Both the Board and Senior Management Team will continue to monitor the impact of societal and sector changes on Moulsford and will respond as necessary.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2024