



ELIZABETH COLLEGE



Co-Education at Elizabeth College

Introduction from the Principal

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Elizabeth College has been providing an outstanding education since 1563. We are delighted to announce that Elizabeth College will become a co-educational school, welcoming girls alongside boys from September 2021. This means that girls and boys will be able to enjoy an Elizabeth College education from the age of 2 all the way through to 18.



Elizabeth College Junior School's pupils have been benefitting from a co-educational environment since 2008 and those at the Upper School have enjoyed the positive impact of our twenty-year partnership at Sixth Form with The Ladies' College. We want to extend these social, cultural and academic advantages to all ages. The educational approach of Elizabeth College continues

to evolve and has therefore stood the test of time for over 450 years. We believe that the quality of a child's education is more important than the sex of the child. It is our commitment to academic and pastoral excellence, independent learning, development of life-long learning skills, academic and extra-curricular challenge and enrichment through opportunity that is the blueprint of an Elizabeth College education.

Many of our current and prospective parents are seeking a family school that can serve both their sons and their daughters. Indeed, for some time many parents have been telling us that they wish their daughters could join Elizabeth College. Across

the UK, there is a growing tendency for senior school children and their families to seek a co-educational experience.

The ethos and values of the College will remain unchanged. Our sense of community where every individual is valued and nurtured will be enhanced by the inclusion of girls at Elizabeth College.

Introducing a co-educational experience throughout, enables Elizabeth College to extend and expand the vibrant academic and extra-curricular life of the school and to provide outstanding preparation for what lies beyond school by better reflecting the modern world. Pupils from Elizabeth College have always succeeded in a large variety of professions, motivated by a passion to follow what they love, to achieve great things for the benefit of themselves and the community and to lead happy lives. An Elizabeth College education encourages all pupils to explore and to find their passion, whatever that may be and the school will continue to provide a place where children grow as rounded individuals, appreciating their differences and their similarities.

We recognise and embrace the changing world around us and look forward to welcoming future generations of girls and boys to join us in creating this exciting next chapter in our history.

Jenny Palmer – Principal

Co-Education at Elizabeth College

Co-education at Elizabeth College is not new. The Pre-School has always had a co-educational intake, ECJS Acorn House welcomed girls in September 2000 and ECJS Beechwood saw girls joining the boys in 2008. Girls have studied at Elizabeth College over many years to take subjects which were not available to them at other schools.

September 1992 marked the first group of girls to join the Elizabeth College community as full-time pupils in the Sixth Form, following the closure of Blanchelande College on the St Martin's site, and this continued for three successive years. Established in 1999, our Partnership with The Ladies' College has been successful in enabling a co-educational experience at Sixth Form.

What are the benefits of moving to co-education?

There are many benefits of co-education which already impact positively on Elizabeth College Junior School pupils. In extending the co-educational provision to the Upper School, the academic, social and developmental benefits which ensure that children are well prepared for their futures will become more firmly embedded.

Co-education will bring benefits in music, drama, debating, sport and cultural trips and will allow us to offer an even wider range of clubs and activities, enriching these experiences for all.

At which entry points will girls join the school in September 2021?

Girls will be welcome to join at Year 7 (age 11) or Year 12 (age 16) in September 2021 and onwards.



Academic

3 Elizabeth College pupils achieve excellent results and we remain committed to delivering strong outcomes for each and every one of our pupils.

Elizabeth College is a selective school, however, we cater for students with a broad range of abilities and skills. We have high academic standards and work with our pupils to encourage and nurture their curiosity and a love of learning. The breadth of the Elizabeth College curriculum, combined with all the opportunities for enrichment, promotes strong academic development.

A wide range of courses is open to all, preparing our pupils for success in higher education and the world of work. This academic offer, combined with our extra-curricular programme, provides a fantastic breadth and depth of learning. The school works hard to provide choice for our pupils ensuring that different interests and abilities are catered for and we recognise the need to offer a programme which engages and enthuses all.



Pastoral Care

The happiness, wellbeing and success of every individual is central to all we do at College.

All pupils should enjoy and make the very most of their learning in the classroom and be actively encouraged to find their niche beyond the curriculum. A good education will encourage children to take risks, to participate in new activities and to be open to new ideas. Boys and girls should leave College with the confidence and skills to play leading roles in society.

We aim to:

- Create a caring environment where pupils are valued for who they are, not just for what they currently contribute.
- Ensure every pupil has the self-confidence to tackle both academic and personal challenges.
- Provide pupils with opportunities for involvement, leadership and service.
- Encourage pupils to exercise individual and social responsibility.
- Ensure that each pupil has access to personal, vocational and academic guidance and support.
- Establish and maintain excellent communication with every parent, so that together we can appropriately support pupils as they prepare for adult life.

We devote curriculum time in every year group throughout the Upper School to Wellbeing lessons which prepare all pupils to meet the demands of 21st Century life and we are fortunate

that the delivery of this course is supported by many outside agencies as well as the expertise of our own staff.

The strength of our pastoral system was recognised in the last ISI inspection which found:

“The quality of pastoral care, and the welfare, health and safety of pupils throughout the college is outstanding. It meets well the aim to create a safe and happy environment for learning, where pupils respect themselves, each other and all members of the community... Both teaching and non-teaching staff provide the highest standards of care and support for all the pupils.”



Extra-Curricular

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We are committed to delivering an exceptional curriculum both inside and outside the classroom.

From the start of their time at Elizabeth College we encourage all pupils to try everything so that they can discover their talents and passions, wherever they may lie. Extra-curricular activities play a vital role in creating a sense of community and building friendships.

Through Years 7, 8 and 9, pupils pursue the Elizabethan Award which encourages them to try out a range of activities, to commit to new ideas and experiences and to aim for excellence in those areas for which they develop a passion.

Friday afternoon activities complement the Elizabethan Award providing an opportunity for pupils from different year groups to learn together, developing friendships and a sense of community in a different atmosphere from their usual classroom environment. Bell ringing, podcasting, photography, vinyl appreciation, jewellery making and roving reporters are just some of the huge variety of activities on offer. Pupils choose three activities each year.

There are more than 50 lunch time and after-school clubs and activities available for pupils including: drama clubs and productions, choirs, bands, orchestras; pottery, art, science and design clubs; The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). We also have a wide choice of sporting activities which will expand to include new options for all pupils. Please see our Activities Booklet for more detailed information.



Sports

A long and very proud tradition of excellence is the central pillar of our sporting offer, and the ongoing development of our recreational programme will continue to ensure that it is inclusive, responsive to change and enables every pupil to be active.

Being co-educational through the Upper School will enhance sport at College and we have a new and exciting sports curriculum in development. With traditional team games, mixed team sports, individual sports and the inclusion of dance and gymnastics into our games programme, Elizabeth College not only makes the most of our outstanding facilities and excellent coaching staff but works hard to maintain a close working relationship with some of Guernsey's leading coaches to ensure we can continue to access some of the best sporting facilities on-island.

Girls will have the opportunity to take part in netball, football, hockey, touch rugby and cricket, as well as squash, badminton, fencing, tennis, gymnastics, dance, swimming and outdoor pursuits.

On-island sports fixtures are facilitated through the local schools' competitions and importantly through our close relationships with schools in Jersey, the UK and Australia who visit us on tour. There is also a comprehensive off-island sports touring programme which will be developed as part of the new co-educational sports curriculum.



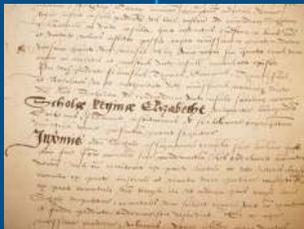
Elizabeth College Timeline

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25 May 1563

Elizabeth I signed the Royal Charter instructing the founding of a school to educate the youth of the island (Juventus).

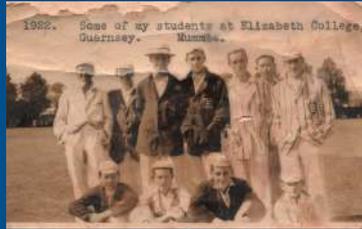


27 Sept 1563

The Elizabeth College Statutes were signed establishing the school with Adrian Saravia as the first Master.

1824

The enquiry into Elizabeth College resulted in a re-chartering of the College and the building of the iconic main building.



1922

Elizabeth College employed its first female teacher, Mrs Barrow, to teach Commerce.



1949

Younger children were educated separately at the newly formed Elizabeth College Junior School at Beechwood in Queen's Road.



1950s and 60s

Elizabeth College welcomed girls from other schools to study specific subjects and courses not available elsewhere.





1992

Elizabeth College opened its doors to three successive cohorts of girls from Blanchelande College which had closed its Sixth Form.



1996

The co-educational Acorn House Pre-school opened.

1999

A partnership was established with The Ladies' College to provide a co-educational Sixth Form for all students.



2000

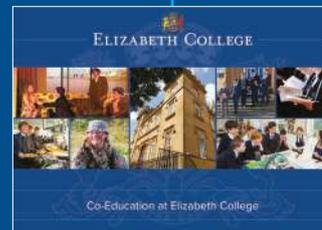
Girls were welcomed into Reception at Elizabeth College Junior School at Acorn House.

2008

The first girls started at Elizabeth College Junior School at Beechwood.

2021

Elizabeth College becomes co-educational throughout, welcoming girls alongside boys into Years 7 and 12.



Frequently Asked Questions

9 Moving to Co-Education

When will girls arrive?

Girls will be able to join Year 7 and Year 12 in September 2021. From September 2025 we anticipate that there will be girls in every year group.

How will the changes affect existing pupils?

Our Co-ed Committee are developing detailed plans for a smooth evolution to full co-education. Pupils' daily life at school will continue uninterrupted during the gradual transition.

Pupils currently in Year 10 will be joined by girls as they move into our already co-educational Sixth Form in September 2021 and boys and girls will enter Elizabeth College together in Year 7.

Upper School pupils and those registered to start in September 2020 will see no change to their education; those year groups will remain single sex up until they join the Sixth Form.

What will Elizabeth College girls wear?

The uniform list will be extended to include options for girls.

How will this affect pupils who have registered for places?

There are no changes to the registration process.

Is this move to co-education a financially driven decision?

No – this is about the educational experience of our pupils. Our registration numbers are strong and there is a healthy demand for the quality and style of education that we deliver.

Where is the research that suggests co-education is better?

The world is not single-sex and mixing boys and girls together at school allows them to develop an understanding of different perspectives and to break down stereotypes. There are also multiple academic benefits to be had for both sexes working together in a unified environment. National and international trends favour co-education; since 1990, the number of UK single sex Independent Schools

has roughly halved with boys' schools now making up only 8%.

The meta-analysis undertaken for HMC by Smithers and Robinson (Carmichael Press, 2006) on the 'Academic Impact of Co-educational and Single Sex Schools' notes that '*separating the sexes is not a recipe for raising educational performance*'. This report is not alone, with many educational thinkers recognising the benefits of the co-educational classroom: the opportunities for collaboration, the confidence and empathy pupils develop through more diverse interactions and the rich atmosphere of supportive challenge which enables all learners to achieve greater success. The Smithers and Robinson report also recognises that the most important ingredients for academic success in any school are the School's '*ethos, leadership, teacher quality, spend per pupil, class size and the curriculum*'. We believe that the ethos of Elizabeth College will be enhanced by the introduction of girls.

How will the facilities be developed and adapted for girls?

All teaching facilities and resources will be reviewed to ensure they cater as well for girls as they do for boys. College already has female toilets and female changing rooms with additional facilities planned into the development of Perrot Court.

How many girls will there be in September 2021

We are aiming for a cohort that is large enough to create a healthy social mix and extra-curricular opportunities for the girls. Early indications are that there will be a cohort of at least 10 girls in a Year 7 group of 88 pupils.

Will there be fewer places available for boys?

Elizabeth College is not full; our numbers are healthy and consistent with historic averages but we do have spaces in all years except one. There is no immediate plan to increase the capacity of the school. Over time we expect that the proportion of girls will increase and if a higher demand is seen as likely to continue over time, then College will consider increasing capacity to keep pace with that demand.

School Life and Curriculum

What will set your co-educational offer apart?

The same thing that sets an Elizabeth College education apart – a focus on equipping all of our pupils to make a positive and purposeful contribution to society, with the creativity and independence to forge their own paths and pursue their goals and dreams. Our pupils thrive through our commitment to care, independent learning, pupil leadership, and both academic and extra-curricular challenge and breadth.

What will co-education mean for academic learning?

We are proud of the consistently high standards of academic achievement that boys and girls demonstrate across the College and particularly at (I)GCSE and A Level. This environment will be strengthened further by the inclusion of girls in all year groups. It will enable an even better balance of discussion in lessons and help to break down barriers of gender stereotypes.

The aim has always been, and will continue to be, to enable pupils to achieve their academic potential, to secure places at their first-choice universities and to be well prepared for the world of work. We shall continue to carefully control the size of classes, which varies by subject and year group.

Which subjects and activities will be offered to girls?

All subjects and activities will be offered to boys and girls equally and take up of each subject will be a matter of guided choice, where appropriate. Boys and girls will be taught together. Our curriculum evolves to offer new subjects as they become valuable and relevant in the changing world, but there will not be subjects that are only open to boys or girls.

We regularly review our curriculum provision to ensure that it is appropriately engaging and stimulating for all our pupils.

Extra-Curricular and Pastoral Care

What will co-education mean for pastoral care?

Successive inspections have recognised pastoral care as a strength of the College. Every individual pupil is valued and supported as a member of the Elizabeth College community. Many members of staff have experience of working in co-educational schools across the age-range and all staff are passionate about providing the necessary levels of support and care to ensure that boys and girls flourish.

Our staff have the expertise to support the mental health and wellbeing of all pupils including an experienced Head of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, School Counsellor, School Chaplain, Heads of Year and Tutor teams and Head of Learning Support. We have also developed strong links with outside agencies. We take great care over our pupils as they transition from primary into secondary education and this will be further enhanced to support our girls joining Years 7 and 12.

What will co-education mean for extra-curricular activities?

We are proud of the breadth of our extra-curricular offer and aim to provide an equality of experience for girls joining the College. We currently offer over 90 activities and sports, twenty of which have been introduced this year as part of our Friday afternoon activities. We run over 60 off-island trips per year which encompass sports tours, cultural visits, CCF annual camps, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, choral trip to St Malo and many others.

Who can I contact for more information?

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