

15 January 2024

Dear Parents

Co-educational Sixth Form from September 2025

I am writing to let you know that the Board of Governors have, supported by the Senior Team, decided to go to a formal consultation, required by the Admissions Code, to admit girls to the Sixth Form of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, as day pupils in September 2025.

We believe this would be an exciting development for RGS which will further enhance the quality of education for the Sixth Form and the school.

Sixth Formers will benefit from the different approaches that boys and girls bring to the classroom as they study together, and we believe a co-educational Sixth Form will provide the best preparation for life beyond school. The wider school will benefit from the leadership and role models that a mixed Sixth Form brings and will be a new opportunity for girls in the area.

It will also allow us to enter a phase of modest growth in Sixth Form numbers, as we seek to maintain our curriculum breadth. Whilst our new Sixth Form Centre will serve as a great environment for a larger Sixth Form, and a co-ed one, there will be further work needed around the estate, hence the decision to wait until September 2025.

The change applies to Sixth Form day girls only. There are no plans to admit Sixth Form girls as boarders. RGS will remain an all-boys school from Years 7 to 11: there is no intention to change this. As is currently the case, all boys who meet the entrance requirements for our Sixth Form will be entitled to a place and will continue to be offered their subject choices before external candidates.

Many grammar schools have developed co-educational Sixth Forms with great success, including our Royal Grammar School counterpart in Lancaster, also a state grammar school.

If you have any comments or questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact my PA on heads.pa@rgshw.com and one of the team will get back to you. If necessary, we can provide some FAQs at a later date.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Wayne