



Announcing the decision by School Council on July 27 2022, President Jon North said there is broad community support for co-education at Cranbrook: "Many see the transition as being a necessary and inevitable step forward in the context of a modern society." After a period of consultation and preparation, the first cohort of girls will commence in Years 7 and 11 in 2026, although female students will begin to play an active role in the School's after-school learning Academy from next year.

Momentum

CRANBROOK HEADMASTER Nicholas Sampson believes that great schools don't stay still, stressing that momentum is vital. "You can sense a school with momentum – momentum builds, it doubles in on itself and becomes more powerful. The idea is that you create a sense of energy and contribute to a sense of collective achievement," he says.

"We want to ensure Cranbrook is aligned with the past, to make sure the present is fulfilling, and that the future is mapped out to be exciting and developmental. Transitioning from a single sex school to a coeducational school ensures Cranbrook continues this powerful momentum to keep pace with societal and technological change, to foster positive relationships and to help prepare students for life beyond the School gates."

Research

CRANBROOK HAS EXTENSIVELY investigated the age-old debate that boys study better without girls, and vice versa. Overwhelmingly, research does not back up this opinion. Research on issues such as academic achievement, pedagogy and teaching, student characteristics and the experience of the school in transition has been looked at meticulously when investigating Cranbrook's transition to coeducation.

Nicholas Sampson says the overwhelming conclusion evident in the research is that neither coeducation nor single sex education has any substantive basis upon which to claim educational superiority. "This is not to say that there is not strong opinion on the matter," he say, "but rather that the academic research has not found evidence that differences in performance between coeducational and single sex settings can be attributed to the separation or bringing together of the sexes."

The announcement that the Senior School is set to become fully coeducational by 2029 is an exciting and significant change for Cranbrook.