



The Benefits of a Co-educational Environment

“St Andrew’s is in a unique position – the only co-educational, Independent School in the South Island – and co-education is exciting and supportive and inspiring and natural and real.”

Christine Leighton, Rector

- Co-educational schools better reflect the diversity of our society;
- They better prepare students to succeed in post-Secondary education and to eventually enter the workforce;
- Students at Independent co-educational schools feel comfortable about who they are and have a healthy and positive attitude and self-image;
- Most students in co-educational schools indicate, “It is easy for students at my school to find a group that they fit in with”;
- Students in co-educational schools are more likely to feel safe in their school environment;
- Research shows students in co-educational schools grow to be confident expressing their views in the presence of members of the opposite sex;
- Collaboration between the sexes in the classroom helps develop confidence in students and they excel at university and beyond as leaders;
- Girls at single-sex schools are no more likely than those at co-educational schools to participate in class discussion;
- Girls’ perceptions of their abilities in maths and science are nearly identical, whether they attend single-sex or co-educational schools;
- Working together in the classroom and on homework assignments provides boys and girls the opportunity to learn from each other intellectually, as well as socially;
- Teachers in co-educational schools recognise that some gender differences in learning do exist and are skilled in catering for diverse learning needs in the classroom;
- In a co-educational learning environment, students are exposed to both male and female role models in staff and senior students;
- The ancient Greek philosopher, Plato, said that co-education creates a feeling of comradeship – he advocated teaching of both the male and female sexes in the same institution without showing any discrimination in imparting education;
- “There are no overriding advantages for single-sex schools on educational grounds. Studies all over the world have failed to detect any major differences.” – Professor Alan Smithers, director of education and employment research at the University of Buckingham;
- For both girls and boys co-education provides a more realistic way of training young people to take their places naturally in the wider community of men and women: it helps to break down the misconceptions of each sex about the other and provides an excellent foundation for the development of realistic, meaningful and lasting relationships in later life.