



Monday 16 September 2024

Dear Parents, Students, and Members of the School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to share an important and exciting development at St. Joseph's, Stanhope Secondary School. After careful consideration, consultation, and extensive discussions with various stakeholders, the Board of Management has decided to transition from an all-girls school to a coeducational institution. This decision will take effect on a slow and gradual basis from the 2025-2026 School year. The initial enrolment of both boys and girls will be for 1st year only in 2025-2026, with 1st and 2nd year enrolment available for both boys and girls in 2026-2027 etc. Our school will only become fully Co-educational in all year groups in the 2029-2030 school year. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with details about this significant change and what it means for our school community.

Why Coeducation?

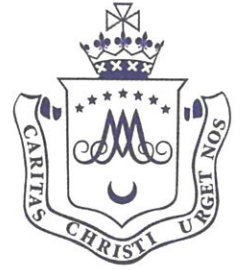
The shift to coeducation is a strategic move aimed at enriching the educational experience for all our students. Our goal is to foster an inclusive and diverse learning environment that better reflects the society in which we live. Research has consistently shown that coeducational settings can offer a range of benefits, including improved social development and a more comprehensive preparation for future academic and professional environments.

What This Means for Our School

1. **Curriculum and Learning Environment:** We are committed to maintaining the high standards of academic excellence that have always been a hallmark of Stanhope Secondary. Our curriculum will continue to be robust and challenging, with additional opportunities designed to cater to a diverse student body. We believe that the new coeducational setting will enhance our ability to deliver a well-rounded education.
2. **Facilities and Resources:** We are making adjustments to ensure our facilities and resources are suitable for all students. This includes updating our learning spaces and ensuring that extracurricular activities are inclusive and supportive of diverse interests.
3. **Admissions and Enrolment:** As we transition to coeducation, our admissions process will be updated to reflect our new status. We will continue to prioritize fairness and transparency in our enrolment procedures.
4. **Support and Communication:** We understand that change can bring questions and concerns. Our team is committed to providing support and clear communication throughout this process. We will hold information sessions and Q&A opportunities for parents, students, and staff to address any queries and to facilitate a smooth transition.
5. **Preserving Our Values:** While our school is evolving, our core values and commitment to student well-being remain unchanged. We will continue to uphold a respectful, supportive, and enriching environment where every student can thrive.

STANHOPE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Manor Street, Dublin 7
D07 YP03



Next Steps

We will host a series of meetings and information sessions to provide further details and answer any questions you may have. We encourage you to participate in these discussions and to reach out to us with any feedback or concerns.

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|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Information Session | 4.45p.m. - 5.15p.m. | 26 th September 2024 |
| 2. Information Session | 6.00p.m. - 6.30p.m. | 14 th November 2024 |
| 3. Information Session | 6.00p.m. - 6.30p.m. | 23 rd January 2025 |
| 4. Information Session | 6.00p.m. - 6.30p.m. | 20 th March 2025 |

We are excited about this new chapter for Stanhope Secondary and believe that this transition to coeducation will open up new opportunities for all our students. Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. O'Brien
Principal
Stanhope Secondary School