

Coeducational Sixth Form FAQs



1. Why should I come to LRGS?

The Sixth Form at LRGS is unique in our region: a coeducational Sixth Form with outstanding academic standards and exceptional all-round opportunities; a very welcoming community which is large enough to offer a broad curriculum but small enough to know you personally. We have a strong ethos of *high trust – high challenge*: get involved and take responsibility!

It's not about girls or boys. It is about the right school for you.

2. Why has the school decided to create a coeducational Sixth Form?

A mixed Sixth Form will provide students with the best preparation for life beyond school, and further enhance the quality of education at LRGS.

Sixth Formers will benefit from the different approaches and viewpoints that boys and girls bring to the classroom as they study together. The wider school will also benefit from the leadership and role models that a coeducational Sixth Form brings. Many other grammar schools have developed coeducational Sixth Forms with great success.

3. How have you planned for these changes?

A steering group of staff and governors has led planning for coeducation since 2017. Staff have visited schools across the country which have introduced a similar change in their Sixth Form, identifying key lessons for pastoral care, teaching, curriculum and facilities. These are being incorporated into training for staff. Teachers and the senior prefect team have also led current pupils in discussions about the Sixth Form plans, so that pupils are also involved in planning and ready for the change. We are also interested in your comments.

4. How will you decide who to offer places to?

The minimum requirement is six Grade 6s at GCSE, with English & Maths at Grade 5 or above. We will offer places on the basis of GCSE predicted grades.

5. How do I apply?

Fill in an online application form on the Sixth Form page of our website, including your provisional choice of A-level subjects and a short personal statement about your interests and goals.

6. What happens once I've applied?

We will reply to acknowledge your application and to make a provisional offer of a Sixth Form place where appropriate. We will also invite you to our

welcome and transition events at LRGS over the coming months. We will confirm offers of Sixth Form places in writing by 15th March 2019.

7. Will a mixed Sixth Form make it harder for Year 11 LRGS boys to get in? No.

The number of places and entry requirements for them are unchanged.

8. What is the Sixth Form dress code for girls?

All Sixth Form students are expected to dress in a smart, business-like manner. For boys, this means suits and Sixth Form ties. For girls, this means a jacket, top and school crest pin badge; a formal dress or smart skirt or trousers; with only natural make-up and small stud earrings. Full details are on the Sixth Form pages of our website.

9. What about games kit?

Samples of the Sixth Form girls' sports kit will be on display at Open Evening and are shown on the Sixth Form pages of the website.

10. What experience do LRGS staff have of teaching girls?

Staff have a wide variety of relevant experience. The majority of our staff have taught girls in other schools, and a third of our teachers are women.

11. What is the pastoral support for girls?

The Form Tutor is the first point of contact for routine academic and pastoral issues, whether for girls or boys: every Sixth Former sees their Tutor every morning and has a timetabled Values lesson with them every week. The Head of Sixth Form (Miss Haigh) and Deputy Heads of Sixth Form (Mr Reynolds and Mrs Marshall) oversee the pastoral and academic support of both year groups. Wider pastoral provision includes our School Nurse, the school counsellor, the Learning Support department and staff trained as listeners and in mental health first aid. Experts are providing training on girls' well-being, health and pastoral support for all staff at inset sessions.

12. What is the preparation for university applications and careers?

This is a major focus in the LRGS Sixth Form. We have frequent visits from universities, former pupils, professions and apprenticeship providers. Students are encouraged to attend university Open Days and seek work experience; we hold a biennial careers fair; our independent careers advisor works closely with us. The EPQ is a key part of some Sixth Formers' preparation for university. Lancaster University visit regularly to advise students and parents –from course choice to student finance. We run an annual Oxbridge visit. Form tutors and the Sixth Form team support students through their applications, with formal interview practice for competitive courses and apprenticeships.

13. What is happening to the Sixth Form centre?

The building work in Old School House is the final phase of major renovation which has included replacing the windows, roof and heating. We are now transforming former boarding accommodation into four new classrooms as well as expanding the Sixth Form centre by providing extra study space, pastoral offices, toilets and a new top floor Sixth Form café.

14. What about toilets and changing rooms?

We are converting an existing area into female changing rooms, and there will be toilets for female students in all areas of the school, including as part of the new Sixth Form developments.

15. Will girls be able to take full part in school trips?

Yes, of course.

16. What extracurricular activities are offered in the Sixth Form?

Enrichment and extracurricular activities are a central part of LRGS Sixth Form experience. For some, this means commitment to Sport, Music and Drama; or our thriving CCF contingent and Duke of Edinburgh's Award; academic clubs such as the History Society, Literary Society and Medical Society; or many others including Debating, Chess Club, Christian Union, Parliament Ambassadors and Amnesty. There is a full list on the *Parents* section of the school website. LRGS has a very active culture of Sixth Form students organising and leading whole school clubs and societies. If the club you want does not exist yet, we will help you to set it up.

17. What leadership opportunities will there be for Sixth Form girls?

Sixth Formers are our most important role models. Many are subject mentors for younger pupils; lead clubs and societies; help with InspirUS (primary masterclasses); hold leadership positions in sport, music, drama, CCF, and more. At the end of the Lower Sixth you can apply to become a prefect or senior prefect, perhaps taking responsibility for a younger form, for Lenten Charity fundraising events, or in whole school leadership.

Our school motto *Praesis ut Prosis* means "Lead in order to serve," and we have recently launched the *Praesis ut Prosis Award* to recognise and reward Sixth Form leadership and employability.

18. What sports are on offer for girls?

Sport at LRGS is for all abilities and both sexes. We are passionate about sport and exercise and hope to give opportunities to all our Sixth Formers in an

array of sports. Choose your level: from competing at the highest level (representing Lancashire or beyond) to participating for leisure to keep a healthy body and mind. Fun and enjoyment are at the centre of our sporting offer.

We intend to offer the following sports next year: Rugby, Hockey, Rowing, Football, Netball, Handball, Cricket, Cross-country running (with some orienteering and fell running), Badminton, Swimming, Table tennis, Fitness, Athletics, Tennis (summer), Climbing (summer), Spinning and Crossfit. Sport takes place for Sixth Formers on a Wednesday afternoon as part of our curriculum and there are also many extra-curricular opportunities for all the above through the week.

19. What are the healthy food options?

Chartwells run our school catering, and the standard of food is excellent. Current menus can be seen on the school website. Chartwells are caterers for many single-sex and mixed schools and will provide a full range of healthy and attractive options for both girls and boys in the new Sixth Form café as well as in our dining hall and other food outlets. Chartwells meet regularly with LRGS pupils and staff to review their provision.

20. Are you considering girls' admissions in Years 7 to 11?

No. We see lots of benefits in the well-established "diamond model": pupils learning together at primary school; benefiting from single sex teaching from 11 to 16; and studying together in the Sixth Form as they look ahead to university and the world of work.

21. Are you considering boarding for girls?

Yes. We are not offering girls' boarding for 2019, but we are discussing this as a future possibility.

20Oct18