



Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share some exciting news regarding the future of our sports programme at Crosfields School. As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and the holistic development of our pupils, we have decided to make a significant change in our approach to team sports for Years 2-4. Starting in September 2024, all games in these year groups will be fully co-educational.

In the Summer of 2023, we embarked on a pioneering initiative by instituting a co-educational cricket fixtures programme. This inclusive approach was implemented in Years 3 and 4, where mixed softball cricket teams were formed. This move has led to significant advancements in the skill development of all pupils and to successful cricket seasons.

Building on the success of this co-educational cricket programme, I extended an invitation in January 2024 to representatives from 21 local independent schools. The purpose of this conference was to discuss a proposal to deviate from tradition and expand the co-educational model to encompass all team sports for Years 2 to 4, thereby granting both girls and boys equitable access to the complete range of team sports.

At Crosfields School, we hold the conviction that gender should not serve as a barrier that limits the sporting options available to pupils based on traditional gender roles. Looking ahead to September 2024, we are set to take a lead role in the local community by launching this venture, further demonstrating our commitment to inclusivity and the holistic development of our pupils through sports.

When arranging fixtures, we have been very transparent with the opposition and explained that we will be fully co-ed. Therefore, there will be instances where we will play all boys, all girls, or co-ed teams. We believe that this approach not only promotes fairness but also prepares our pupils for real-world scenarios where they will interact and collaborate with individuals of all genders.

The benefits of this change are manifold:

- **Enhanced Skill Development:** By playing in mixed-gender teams, pupils will be exposed to a wider range of playing styles and strategies, which will enhance their overall skill development.
- **Promoting Inclusivity:** This initiative reinforces our commitment to creating an inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued and have equal opportunities to participate and excel.



CROSFIELDS SCHOOL

- Breaking Down Gender Stereotypes: By allowing boys and girls to play together, we challenge traditional gender roles and encourage our pupils to see each other as equals, both on and off the field.
- Building Teamwork and Collaboration: Mixed-gender teams foster a sense of unity and collaboration, as pupils learn to work together towards common goals, regardless of gender.

Teams will be picked based on ability with no minimum gender quota, and year groups will train co-ed, as they did during the cricket season. It is an exciting change, and one that I believe will greatly benefit our pupils. Here is an outline of our sporting seasons for these age groups as detailed in the transition booklets.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer Term
Football	Hockey	Tag Rugby	Netball	Cricket

Due to space constraints, we are unable to offer co-ed sports in every term for Year 5 and Year 6 as we do for Year 3 and Year 4. The pitch sizes required for Year 5 and upwards are significantly larger, and we do not have sufficient space to accommodate both boys and girls playing some sports simultaneously. We can manage this for the younger years due to their smaller pitch requirements. However, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will experience co-ed sport during the summer term for cricket. Additionally, from Year 7 through to Year 11, the multisport option is co-ed.

We are confident that this initiative will set a positive example for other schools to follow and will contribute to a more inclusive and equitable sporting environment for all. I look forward to your continued support as we embark on this exciting journey.

Yours sincerely,

Edwina Westacott

Director of Sport

Crosfields School