



## Aspire & Achieve Together

Holcombe, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6JB | [www.holcombegrammar.org.uk](http://www.holcombegrammar.org.uk)

**Tel:** 01634 830 083 | **Fax:** 01634 826 230 | **Email:** [office@holcombegrammar.org.uk](mailto:office@holcombegrammar.org.uk)

**Principal:** Mrs J. Diaz BSc (Hons) NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer

7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

I am sure you will remember that last year we entered into a consultation with you and other stakeholders regarding the possibility of the school becoming co-educational from September 2017. Even if your child was not a student of the school at that time, I am sure you will have known about it. You will also be aware that the application was turned down.

This was a disappointing result for the school directors, governors and staff as we sincerely believed we were doing the right thing to support the interests of both students and the local community. For that reason, the governors have decided to enter into another public consultation this year regarding the possibility of becoming co-educational from **September 2018**.

The reasons for doing this are:

1. At the moment, parents of children deemed selective who live in this part of Medway can only 'choose' a single sex grammar school as there is currently no co-educational option. That is unfair and does not provide full parental choice, particularly as this school has substantially improved its results for three consecutive years whilst not losing its "traditional" warm community feel. Therefore, why should Holcombe's good and improving provision be reserved solely for the boys of Medway?
2. We have the capacity to provide enough places for every boy and girl who wants one.
3. There is substantial research which shows that students who are educated in a co-educational school achieve well academically.
4. There is substantial research which shows that students who attend a co-educational school go on to experience happier and better balanced lives.
5. An increasing number of schools nationally are seeing the advantages of the Thinking School strategies we employ here and are implementing them. This includes a number of Medway primary schools. By opening our doors to girls we provide female students at those primary schools with another Thinking School secondary option. (Please note that the two best grammar schools for GCSE 2016, according to DFE performance tables October 2016, were the two 'Thinking Schools', namely the Rochester Grammar School and Holcombe.)

The proposal therefore is that

- **There is a change of gender composition and consequential changes to admission arrangements from September 2018**

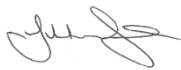
Please note that governors have done no more than decide to enter into consultation with you to gather your views and opinions, and their decision on whether or not to proceed with the application will depend on your feedback.

I therefore strongly urge you to read the attached Proposal document and then return the Response Form with your comments, concerns, questions etc. You are also warmly invited to attend the consultation/drop-in events which are taking place as follows:

10/11/16	Parental/public consultation meeting	18:30 – 20:00 Holcombe Grammar School Hall
17/11/16	Parental 'drop-in' session	14:00 – 16:00 Principal's office
01/12/16	Parental/public consultation meeting	18:30 – 19:30 Holcombe Grammar School Hall

We look forward to engaging with you in this consultation process. I urge you to please send in your response whether you agree or disagree.

Yours sincerely



**Ms J Diaz**  
Principal



**Mr M Bailey**  
Chair of Governors



**Mr S Gardner**  
CEO



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend the following public/parent consultation event:

Date	Event	Please tick
10/11/16	Parental/public consultation meeting – 6:30pm-8:00pm Holcombe Grammar School Hall	
17/11/16	Parental drop-in session – 2:00pm-4:00pm Principal's office	
1/12/16	Parental/Public consultation meeting – 6:30pm-7:30pm Holcombe Grammar School Hall	

**Please return to the School Office**

