

Co-Ed

A guide to change



**Small School
Big Opportunities**

Our ethos and values

Inspiring tomorrow's generation to live and lead with integrity, ambition and innovation

Integrity

Integrity is the foundation of **character**. Tomorrow's generation need young people marked by integrity, who can be trusted to act on principle and are guided by a strong moral compass. At Heathfield, we celebrate and promote the development of integrity in every context, recognising that character matters in all situations. We know that young women and men with these qualities will flourish as a result, becoming better neighbours and members of society, ready to make their mark on the world.

Ambition

Ambition drives purposeful **growth**. We encourage every student to aim high for themselves, for our community and for the wider world; to pursue clear goals in their academic aspirations and all areas of life. This means striving to improve, embracing challenge and setting meaningful objectives. It is our conviction that fostering a sense of purpose and healthy drive will benefit each and every young person, regardless of their starting point or areas of passion and excellence. We are proud to support our students to be the very best they can be.

Innovation

Innovation begins with curiosity and the confidence to **think differently**. If a comprehensive education is to serve its students well, it must evolve and prepare them for a future in an ever-changing world. At Heathfield we are committed to developing attitudes and skills of dynamic thinking, recognising that the rise of AI and changing norms will require tomorrow's generation to do things differently. We take seriously our duty to equip all our students for lifelong success, enabling each one to fulfil their potential in their education and beyond.

Underpinning our aspirations for all students is a strong emphasis on **leadership**, beginning with learning to lead themselves and not simply following the crowd. Heathfield students flourish due to our philosophy and pedagogy of being a greenhouse, not a hothouse; they grow as their horizons are broadened and as they are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones. Our students are proud to be Heathfield for life, connected to a wonderful past and looking to a very bright future.

Small school, big opportunities

Heathfield School takes great pride in its 'small school, big opportunities' identity. For more than 125 years generations of students have thrived in a community and culture built on the strongest of foundations, ethos and values. As we look to the future we are grateful for this rich heritage, which provides the platform for Heathfield to evolve in line with these aspirations and values.

We are therefore delighted to announce our next evolution, that will see Heathfield School open its doors to boys for the first time and begin the transition to become fully co-educational. This is a significant moment in our history, a decision that has been made after careful consideration and consultation with the Heathfield community.

Visitors to Heathfield regularly feed back that our students are the school's best adverts and advocates. As they have engaged with the move to co-education, their pride in the school (not least its various traditions) has been abundantly clear; it has been a joy to hear about the strengths of our culture and provision that they are most keen should form the bedrock for our future.

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Over the years Heathfield has earned a reputation for an outstanding offering that enables every student to fulfil their potential. I am delighted that our next chapter paves the way for girls and boys to be inspired alongside one another, to make the most of the many opportunities afforded by a Heathfield education.”

Jonathan Williams
Headmaster

The move to co-education

Why is Heathfield becoming co-educational?

Heathfield's move to co-education has been prompted by two key factors: firstly, this change is in the best of interests of our current and future students, a progression which will greatly benefit our cohorts in the years ahead. Secondly, there is clear demand for a co-educational provision with Heathfield's 'small school, big opportunities' offering.

Prospective and current parents have already made clear the appeal of a Heathfield education for their sons, while we have also heard from delighted parents of daughters who would prefer a co-educational environment. Additionally, for parents of daughters and sons we are mindful that it is a great advantage to have their children at the same school.

What is the timeline for the transition to co-education?

Boys will be joining the Sixth Form from September 2026 and joining Form I (Year 7) from September 2027. Therefore, by 2031 Heathfield will be fully co-educational.



How will this affect the school's ethos and values?

There is no change to Heathfield's aspirations to inspire tomorrow's generation to live and lead with integrity, ambition and innovation. We look forward to this mandate continuing to serve generations of Heathfield boys as well as girls, as will the commitment to our 'small school, big opportunities' identity.

Parents know that their child will never fly under the radar at Heathfield, that our ethos and values mean every single student will flourish as a result of the outstanding provision and culture. While there will be some evolution as boys join Heathfield, we are confident families will continue to be attracted by the reputation and offering that have been developed through years of excellence.

How will this impact academics at Heathfield?

We are unashamedly academically ambitious for each Heathfield student, regardless of their starting point.

Our academic outcomes speak for themselves, built on clear KPIs including the aim to ensure all cohorts continue to achieve at least a full grade per subject per student above their target grades. These will continue to be enabled by our small class sizes and a learning environment which allows every single student to thrive.

Will co-education affect broader standards?

Heathfield is proud to have the highest of standards, knowing that these are the foundation for student progress; it is for their benefit that we will continue to be uncompromising in having high expectations of all students.

Our pastoral care and co-curricular provision are a significant draw for many families. The high quality provision stems from a breadth and depth of expertise and opportunities and will continue to be the cornerstone of Heathfield's offering.



Everything we do at Heathfield reflects our aspirations for each of our students. We are excited to support tomorrow's generation of young women and men as they grow; enabling them to flourish academically and in all areas of life as they make the most of every opportunity."

Claire Huyton
Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

What will be the ratio of girls to boys?

Heathfield will eventually become fully co-educational, working towards an even balance of girls and boys. We know there is strong demand from families who value our quality and breadth of provision, and would like to see them delivered within a co-educational setting. However, the transition to co-education will be gradual, ensuring each new cohort is carefully considered at application.

Will student opportunities be impacted?

Heathfield is proud of its reputation for an outstanding array of opportunities and is committed to ensuring this goes from strength to strength in its transition to co-education. Families familiar with Heathfield's achievements and events will know it is a school that 'punches above its weight', and we look forward to Heathfield boys as well as girls benefitting from and contributing to school successes.

Will class sizes increase as the school grows?

As we become fully co-educational, we will grow to reach closer to our Department for Education maximum capacity of three hundred students. This will allow us to remain committed to our 'small school, big opportunities' identity, which will continue to apply to one of our key USPs of class sizes. With a cap of 18 students per class, Forms I – III (Years 7 – 9) benefit from an average of between 12 and 14 students per class, with exam classes averaging half of that.

How will the school prepare for this transition?

Heathfield has already demonstrated preparation and suitability for co-education through an ISI material change inspection in February 2026. Inspectors were impressed at the plans in place and the careful thought that had gone in to ensuring that both girls and boys would be well catered for during and after the move to co-education.

Central to this preparation was a detailed review of our curriculum and facilities, with plans now complete for adaptations where needed, such as in our PE, PSHE and boarding provision.

Over 80% of our staff have previously worked in co-educational schools, with further training and shared best practice scheduled for inset days. Alongside the many other details and planning being done by the school, we have also engaged with students and parents to help shape the transition, with their feedback contributing to the material in this brochure.

How will Heathfield's partnerships impact students?

At Heathfield collaboration is practised as well as preached; it is in the best interests of our students to make the most of our many partnerships. As part of the Mill Hill Education Group we can connect with and utilise the expertise and resources of other co-educational schools, including those who have recently made the transition.

Our recently announced partnership with the International School of Creative Arts, a smaller bespoke school that will join us on site from September, will provide fantastic opportunities for Heathfield girls and boys alike. Our long-term partnership with St Andrew's School, Turi, featuring annual trips to the highlands of Kenya, will allow all of our students opportunities for growth and enrichment.

More locally, we will continue to work closely with Prep and Senior schools, ensuring that our students benefit from close collaboration from their very first day at Heathfield.



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High quality inspirational learning and partnerships are at the heart of our strategy and mission. We know that we must lead by example with our school values, as we seek to prepare generations of Heathfield students for exciting opportunities and life in an ever-changing world.”

Judith de Villiers
Assistant Head Learning and Partnerships

What will sporting and co-curricular provision look like?

Heathfield's sporting provision is an integral element of the 'big opportunities' we offer students, whether that be at a participation or elite level. Our excellent facilities include multiple pitches, six outdoor hard courts, two gym studios, a large Sports Hall and a 25-metre indoor, heated pool. Girls and boys will benefit from competitive sport and fixtures, in both single sex and co-educational contexts.

The wider co-curricular provision will be largely co-educational, with the vast array of clubs, productions, musical groups and more open to boys and girls. Depending on student passions and interests, these take place in the mornings, lunchtimes and particularly after school, with all students encouraged to have a minimum of three involvements per week to broaden their development.

Will boys also board?

Heathfield students will all have access to the same opportunities, which includes boarding. Many families choose Heathfield because of this offering, whether to take advantage of full, weekly or part-time boarding. This will continue to be available to all students, who can make the most of the fantastic site and facilities as a 'home away from home'.

An important element of our ISI material change inspection was the planning around clearly distinct and segregated boarding areas for girls and boys. Alongside our extensive facilities and large site we have the expertise and capacity from formerly being a full boarding school to execute co-educational boarding successfully.

How will current students benefit from co-education?

Current students are impacted in different ways depending on their year group and their involvement in the transition. As the move to co-education is gradual, current students will only have boys joining their year group in the Sixth Form. Aside from benefitting from a healthy co-educational experience prior to tertiary education, research points to the benefits and stimulus particularly at A Level of having mixed and more diverse classes.

All students have been included in the process of Heathfield's transition, with some taking a leading role in contributing to and shaping various elements. This has already been an invaluable experience for the community, reflecting both on wider societal norms and the special Heathfield culture which will be preserved through this evolution. Our students are very proud of their school and will continue to be its best advocates for future Heathfield girls and boys.

How will new students be supported?

New students, both boys and girls keen for a co-educational secondary education, will be joining a school that is well established and experienced in supporting new joiners. Families are welcomed into the Heathfield community by our excellent Admissions Team and are then provided a bespoke support structure.

Students have daily interaction with their Tutor and are also under the oversight of their Head of Year and the Deputy Head. New students are assigned a 'buddy' and in the lower years, are also assigned a Sixth Form student as a 'big sister' or 'big brother' to help them settle into school life.

Will the entry requirements change?

Heathfield's entry requirements will not change. Heathfield aims to make a holistic evaluation of candidates; all components of the assessment together with a reference from the candidate's current school, and an interview with the Headmaster are taken into consideration in order to identify those who will benefit from the many opportunities that the school offers. The aim of the process is to identify potential and to get to know each candidate on an individual basis.



Dates for your diary

Next steps for September 2027 entry

To discuss entry to Heathfield in September 2027 and beyond, please contact Admissions

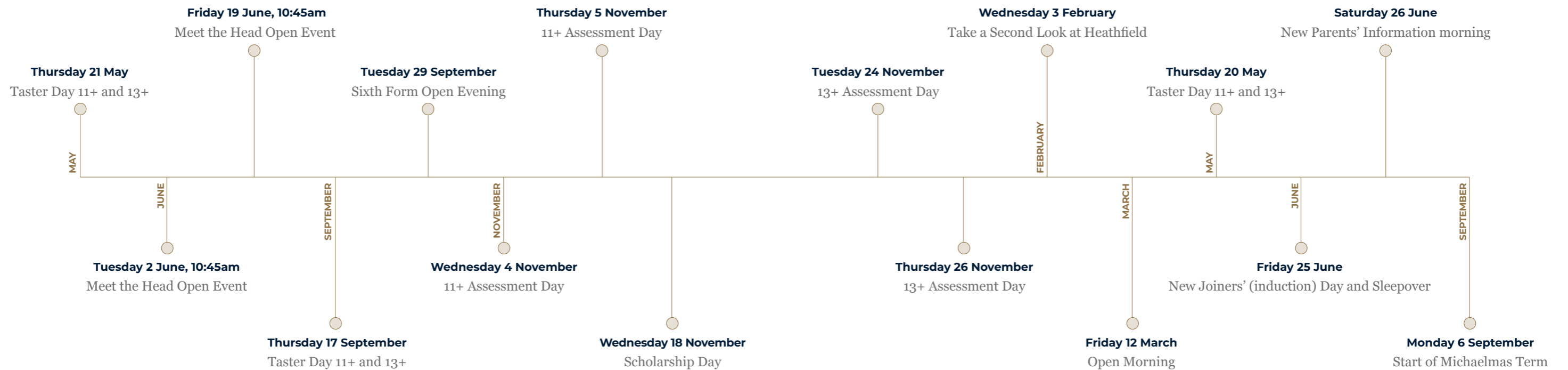
01344 898342
admissions@heathfieldschool.net

You can also arrange your next visit to Heathfield via our website

heathfieldschool.net/admissions/open-events/

2026

2027



Small School Big Opportunities



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