



FULHAM CROSS ACADEMY TRUST

January 2020

Statement from Fulham Cross Academy Trust

After a public consultation and a review by Regional Schools Commissioner, Fulham College Boys' School was granted permission to change its gender intake to admit girls as well as boys to better meet the needs of the local community.

A number of new schools have opened in the local area over recent years, providing increased choice for parents. This has impacted on pre-existing local schools and led to a surplus of places for boys representing a challenge to schools with available spaces. At the same time, the Trust's girls' only school, which is full, has become increasingly popular with three applications for every place; Fulham Cross Girls' School has a planned admissions number of 135 students and has a waiting list.

Fulham Cross Girls' School is an outstanding school with progress and attainment well above the national average. The Trust schools have similar policies and practice and the Trustees believe that they can meet the needs of more local parents by providing a mixed provision rather than a single sex provision on the Fulham College Boys' School site.

Furthermore, with the amended intake, Fulham College Boys' School will become a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths specialist school. This fits in with the local and national agenda to recruit more young people into STEM careers. With the growth of STEM businesses predicted to rise dramatically the shortfall of skilled workers is expected to reach 500,000 by 2030.

Admitting girls into a STEM Specialist School would support the need for more women to be part of the STEM workforce. Women in STEM currently make up only 23% of the workshop and a number of Russell Group Universities are focussing their recruitment on the Widening Participation agenda (females, disadvantaged backgrounds and targeted ethnic groups).

Our Fulham Enterprise Studio will also evolve to include STEM-focused A-Levels on their curriculum, to support the new direction of the school.

From 1st March 2020 **Fulham College Boys' School** will become known as **Fulham Cross Academy**, the Trust as **Fulham Cross Academy Trust** (formally ^t registered at Companies House on 7th January 2020) and **Fulham Enterprise Studio** will change its name to **Fulham Cross Sixth Form** with Fulham Cross Academy accepting girls as well as boys, for the first time from 1st September 2020. These changes are in light of the change of intake and the STEM agenda. They will assist in strengthening the ties of the Trust and increasing cohesion between the two sites.