



## **Govs Conference 2024 – ideas**

### Strategic Plan for the development of our Sixth Form

#### **Context**

- Capitalise on the building of very healthy numbers in our SF since 2020, meaning we now have a SF of 315 students (Yr12, 151; Yr13, 164).
- Our SF is an important element of our reputation – it is our statement of intent regarding academic excellence in girls' education and empowerment, including the UCAS dimension, Oxbridge, Russell Group, highly-competitive courses, etc.
- The ever-present draw of our near neighbour and north Essex brethren, the increasing success of the selective SF providers in east London<sup>1</sup> and the emerging presence of the all-through Beaulieu Park School, mean we have to protect and progress our place in the post-16 marketplace, both locally and regionally.
- The SF is, of course, a very significant aspect of our school finances, with all that goes with that, in terms of maintaining and developing our people, practice and premises.

#### **Objective**

Secure from Governors, given their range of professional backgrounds, specialisms and experiences, feedback to support the production of a Sixth Form Development Strategy, covering Y11-12 retention and the recruitment of students from other schools.

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<sup>1</sup> State school beats private schools with most Oxbridge offers

A state school in Newham, east London, Brampton Manor Academy, has received the highest number of Oxbridge offers, surpassing private schools such as Westminster School and Eton College. The academy received 89 offers from the universities, knocking Westminster off the top spot. Melanie Sanderson, managing editor of The Good Schools Guide, stated that it is the first time a state school has secured more Oxbridge offers than any private school. Despite Brampton Manor's success, some private schools had higher offer rates due to their smaller number of pupils. St Paul's Girls' School had the highest offer rate, with 59% of applicants receiving an offer. The Telegraph analysis of the latest Oxbridge figures show that among the top 20 independent schools, offer rates have fallen from 40.2% in 2016 to 29.5% in 2022.

The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Possible SLT input and other activities

Initial brief (x20 mins each) presentations to provide the context:

- SLA – the educational landscape, retention-recruitment trends and post-16 competitors.
- MMU – the financial landscape, budgetary imperatives and funding streams.
- JCR – our current SF Admissions practice, including the new approaches being taken across the 2023-24 academic year.

Governors then to work in subgroups, each one chaired by a member of the Management Committee, with a member of SLT assigned to provide information and advice, akin to our roles in usual Govs Committees:

- Richard Brown (Chair of the Facilities and Finance Committee), supported by Melissa – *how else can we develop and improve our campus and facilities for our Sixth Form students?*
- Sarah de Souza-Ingle (Chair of the Staff and Student Matters Committee), supported by Fiona and Michael – *what else can we do with our pastoral provision, student enrichment and advancement opportunities (including UCAS) to retain current students and recruit new students?*
- Andrew Bonwick (Chair of the Curriculum Committee), supported by Jo and Adam – *what more can we do with our academic provision (curriculum offer and teaching & learning practice) to retain current students and recruit new students?*

We then reconvene as a whole group, with each subgroup reporting back, taking new ideas from others, allowing the contours of a strategy document to emerge.

SLA, Nov 2023