

## 2025-26 Admissions Policy Consultation

### Ermysted's Grammar School

#### *What is changing?*

The main proposals relate to (a) an adjustment to how the required standard is calculated for admissions to Year 7, and (b) an increase to the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for Year 12 entry from 20 to 35 students to accommodate a move to admit male *and female* external applicants to the Sixth Form.

#### *When are you proposing the changes take place?*

This consultation is for admissions in September 2025, for which testing for entry into Year 7 will take place in September 2024. It is proposed that the first female students would enter Year 12 in September 2025, alongside male external applicants.

#### *Are you changing the number of Year 7 places that are available?*

No. The Year 7 PAN is currently 128 pupils, and we are not proposing to change this number.

#### *Why are you proposing the changes to the required standard for Year 7 entry?*

Since the Admissions Policy was first developed, the Year 7 PAN has increased from 120 to 128 pupils. We propose to move the required standard from the performance of the 140<sup>th</sup> ranked candidate to that of the 150<sup>th</sup> ranked candidate in response.

#### *Why are you proposing the changes to Year 12 admissions?*

The decision to offer a limited number of places to male and female Year 11 pupils in other schools is intended to increase choice and broaden access to Ermysted's excellent post-16 provision. Our Sixth Form offers a unique curriculum and provides subjects and opportunities not found elsewhere. We see many benefits for our existing pupils in the proposal and feel the change would protect the breadth of our existing curriculum offer and strengthen the Sixth Form experience for all our pupils, new and old.

#### *If you admit female students to the Sixth Form, does that mean that Ermysted's loses its single-sex status?*

No. A boys' school which admits some girls to the Sixth Form is still regarded as a single-sex school.

#### *My son is already at Ermysted's, will the proposed changes make it harder for him to get into the Sixth Form?*

No. The Year 12 entrance criteria are not being changed. All internal pupils will progress automatically from Year 11 to Year 12 if they meet the published criteria. This will remain true for all future pupils in Years 7 to 11.

#### *Is there sufficient room at the school to accommodate the additional students?*

Yes. It is proposed to increase the Year 12 PAN by only a small amount, from the existing level of 20 external students to 35 external students. Such an increase can be easily absorbed by the existing capacity, in terms of both the space available within the school buildings and the capacity within existing A Level classes.

#### *My son attends another local school. He was hoping to join Ermysted's in Year 12. Will these changes disadvantage male applicants?*

No. The school has increased the Year 12 PAN by a small amount to provide additional places to accommodate an anticipated increase in applications. Importantly, it should be made clear that the school has no preference for either male or female external applicants. All are welcome and all applications will be considered equally. If the school is oversubscribed for the 35 external places available in Year 12, it will apply the same oversubscription criteria<sup>1</sup> as apply to other entry points at the school. That is, after statutory admissions, it will first preference applicants in the school's *catchment area*, then those living elsewhere. In both categories, preference will be applied to applicants in receipt of the *Pupil Premium*, then to *siblings*, then to those who *live closest to the school*.

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<sup>1</sup> Details and full definitions of the highlighted terms can be found in the Draft Admissions Policy.