

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the new schools single sex or co-educational?

Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' will continue to offer quality single sex education. This new campus will be a first for New Zealand. Students will spend most of their day in a single sex learning environment but will have the added educational and social advantages of being able to work alongside and interact with the students of their partner school.

Why not just merge?

Because we want to continue delivering single sex education as it benefits both boys and girls. Research shows that girls achieve greater academic success, are more confident and assertive in single-sex environments and participate more. Boys perform better academically. Analysis by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research shows that 42% of those leaving state boys schools attained University Entrance in 2012 – compared with 23% of male students leaving co-educational schools.

Why co-locate?

There are several advantages. Together the schools can build bigger and better facilities than they could on their own. Co-location also enables us to share expertise; combine small classes and offer new subjects in the senior school; offer new co-curricular activities such as homework clubs, field trips, sports and cultural exchanges; work together on school productions and establish a strong interschool culture through competitions and activities, for example, debating or sports challenges. We can also work together to meet the needs of individual students, for example, Shirley has an Automotive Workshop which could be used by Avonside students keen to undertake such a course and Shirley students may want to study Textile Design at Avonside.

How else will the schools work together?

We are working to align various structures and events. For example, the length of the school day, period and break times, the start and end of the school year and teacher-only days.

How big will the new schools be?

Shirley Boys' will be built for 1200 boys. Avonside Girls' will be built for 1000 girls with the potential to grow to 1200.

Will the schools have an enrolment zone?

Yes, but at this stage it is still being worked through with the Ministry of Education.

When will the new schools open?

In time for Term Two of 2019, so students who join us for Year 9 in 2018 will only spend one year and one term on our current sites.

Will the schools change their names?

While we won't be in Shirley or Avonside any more, our communities want to retain the names as they reflect each school's long history in Christchurch.



The ultimate campus

The design for the rebuild of our schools at QEII Park is state of the art.

Being able to start from scratch, has enabled the architects to create the ultimate campus for providing high quality single sex education for both Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High School. Facilities have been thoughtfully placed where they work best for students, teachers and the community.

The new campus will feature bigger and better facilities than either school has ever had before.

- A Performing Arts Centre with two theatres
- A Cultural Space
- Four full-sized sportsfields with a 400-metre running track
- Three full-sized indoor Gymnasiums
- A large Library and Learning Centre

Each of our schools will also have a long list of specialist learning spaces – a 2D and 3D Printing Studio, six Science Labs, an Electronics Lab and Indoor Fitness Centre among them.

We'll still be offering all the benefits of a single-sex education but our students will have the advantage of being able to learn and grow alongside students from our partner school. It's the best of both worlds.

With the brand new QEII Recreation and Sport Centre beside us and the Travis Wetlands Heritage Park nearby, it's hard to imagine a better place for education.

Sue Hume
Principal
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Opening for Term Two of 2019
www.newcampus.nz

An Overview

The schools will be housed in a two-storied, 20,000 square metre building set back from Travis Road. Shirley Boys' High School sits on the western side of the building and Avonside Girls' on the eastern.

On the ground floor of each school will be the Science, Technology, Visual Art and Design, Maths and Physical Education departments.

Upstairs will be English, Social Sciences, Performing Arts, Student Support Services including Counsellors, Careers, Learning Support and Student Health.

With more than 300 new trees and landscaped areas, along with four full-sized sports fields. These will be very green schools.

Specialist Learning Facilities

In addition to the shared facilities, flexible learning spaces and multiple breakout rooms, each school will have the following:

- 6 x Science Labs
- Electronics Lab
- 2D and 3D Printing Studio
- Design and Art Studios
- Media Studio including an editing suite and recording studio
- Hard Materials Workshops with wood and metal machine bays, a large machinery area, welding bay, paint bay and outdoor area for large projects
- Automotive Workshop (Shirley Boys')
- Textiles Studio (Avonside Girls')
- Food Technology Kitchen
- Performing Arts Practice Rooms (with a control room to record activities)
- 4x Music Practice Rooms
- Dance Studios
- Drama Rooms

Future Hockey Turf

400m Running Track

Shirley Fields

Avonside Fields

QEII Sport & Rec Centre

- Shirley Boys'
- Avonside Girls'
- Shared Facilities

Shirley Courts

Hard Technology Outdoor Building Area

Avonside Courts

Shirley Courtyard

Avonside Courtyard

Shared Courtyard

Library

Outdoor Space

All of the outdoor spaces and courtyards are landscaped so they can be used for learning.



Cultural Space



Entry

The main entry to the schools



Gyms

Two of the three gyms can join together for major events and feature a climbing wall. Each school also has its own exercise room, fitness centre (with rowing machines, treadmills and other equipment), showers and changing rooms.



Atrium

To the east of reception will sit the café, a commercial teaching kitchen and barista area and a student kitchen. To the west sits our shared library and learning centre.



Performing Arts Centre

The shared Performing Arts Centre features two theatres (1x 750 seats, 1x 100 seats) with sound and lighting control rooms. As well as this centre, each school has its own Performing Arts spaces.

