



Wednesday, 6 February 2019, The West Australian, Choosing a School Lift out, page 2

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019
2 CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Learning environment enriched by diversity

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family will ever make. No school will ever be perfect, but parents cannot go too far wrong if they focus on choosing a school they believe suits their child, not themselves. This special guide will help you find the right fit.

■ Sharon Szczecinski

If schools are said to be mirrors of current society then reflecting the diversity of gender that exists within society and celebrating difference is critical for schools according to Belinda Provis, principal of co-educational All Saints' College in Bull Creek.

Ms Provis said the inclusive culture of the co-educational college reflected the society in which students "will be collaborating, creating and problem-solving alongside other global citizens and members of the opposite sex" and it is important for them to learn from one another.

Guildford Grammar School, which has recently become co-educational, encouraged boys and girls to work together reflecting the

real-world environment and providing the chance for intellectual and social learning.

Guildford headmaster Stephen Webber said having both genders added a richness and diversity of thinking to the school.

Although the majority of students at All Saints' are aiming for ATAR pathways, having both genders also enabled a more diverse range of curriculum options in general, enterprise or hybrid learning areas, Ms Provis said. "Girls and boys are supported in their enterprises through Propeller Industries (our Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship), and Runway, our pop-up shop which features the goods and services of our current students."

Both schools argue that, despite extensive research,



All Saints' College senior school students pitch a business idea to industry professionals.

there is little substantive evidence to suggest that gender of students' classmates are key to academic performance or attitudes to learning.

"Those who propose that gender is a determining factor tend to point to selective pieces of research rather than key meta studies

...the quality of the teacher in the classroom is the central factor in achievement," Mr Webber said.

"Quality teaching matters most, and this is what we are focused on at Guildford Grammar School... there is as much variation in learning styles within a gender as there is between genders."

'The quality of the teacher in the classroom is the central factor in achievement.'

Guildford Grammar School head Stephen Webber

CONTENTS

Drones raising the bar	6
Sport for life	8
Playing to aid conflict	14
Boutique boarding	16

ONLINE
choosingschool.thewest.com.au

THE TEAM

Assistant Editor, Features Jenni Storey
features@wanews.com.au
Advertising Blake Seth
+61 9482 3037
blake.seth@wanews.com.au



COVER
Guildford Grammar School science students Niamh and Rohan.