Questions and Answers – about the amalgamation of MBC and MBBC
Twin schools, stronger together through a shared vision, mutual resources and an absolute commitment to single-sex education

Q: Is consideration being given to renaming the Colleges?
While the amalgamation will provide an opportunity for MBBC and MBC to come together, both schools will retain their own individual personalities and attributes including their respective names.

Q: Will the boys be using the girls facilities more?
Current arrangements for use of facilities between the boys' and girls' school will continue to be negotiated on a needs basis as is currently the case.

Q: Will MBC and MBBC be running inter-house competitions together?
MBC and MBBC inter-house competitions will continue to run separately. However there may be more opportunities in the future for mixed co-curricular activities.

Q: Will the Year 12 cohort be considered as one school as far as QCS is concerned?
The Year 12 groups at MBC and MBBC will remain separate, as will their academic results.

Q: Is there a chance that additional OP subjects will be introduced next year?
The senior school curriculum will be examined over time, and when we look at the strengths of both schools, there are many exciting opportunities in this space.

Q: Why are the two Colleges being amalgamated?
Moreton Bay Boys' College (MBBC) and Moreton Bay College (MBC) have decided to take the opportunity to forge a formal relationship that will deliver numerous benefits while maintaining a joint commitment to single sex education. This follows on from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed by the two Colleges in May 2008.

Q: Why is the amalgamation happening now?
This formal alliance has been a long term vision for the Colleges, however the timing has been fast tracked as a result of Dr Roderick Crouch's unexpected resignation as principal of MBBC. This event provided an opportunity for MBBC and MBC to come together, while retaining their own individual personalities and attributes.

Q: Why is Dr Crouch leaving MBBC?
At the end of 2010, Dr Crouch accepted a new position at a prestigious school in the United Arab Emirates. He will remain at MBBC until June 30 before flying out to take up his new post. We would like to thank him for his immense and invaluable contribution in establishing Brisbane first independent boys' school in more than 50 years.

Q: Why can't things just stay as they are?
The joining together of both Colleges is an exciting step in our evolution and an investment in our future as well as the future of our students. Together MBBC and MBC can offer a unique, market leading proposition in independent education. The overwhelming benefits of the new structure will propel the Moreton Bay brand forward in a more competitive and consolidated way.

Q: When are the changes taking place?

The joining together of MBBC and MBC will happen gradually over the next three years. Initially we will be looking to streamline the business functions across both Colleges including marketing, enrolments and accounting. For the most part it will simply be business as usual over the next 12 months.

Q: Who is the new Principal?
The current MBC and MBBC boards have together appointed current Principal at MBC, Jennifer Haynes, to the position of Principal of both Colleges from July 1, 2011

Q: What happens next?
The first steps in the amalgamation will be to reorganise the current board structure. This means there will still be a board for each school but it will be made up of the same members. The members will be drawn from the existing MBBC and MBC boards and the change will take effect from July 1, 2011. We will also immediately advertise for two new senior positions, Head of College, who will oversee the day-today operations at MBBC and MBC. These newly created positions will report to the Principal of both Colleges, Jennifer Haynes.

Q: Who will appoint the Head of Colleges?
The board's recruitment campaign will start immediately and be wide-ranging and rigorous to ensure we find the very best people for the job. We hope to appoint the new Heads of College in time for the commencement of Term 3.

Q: Where will the new Principal be located as of July 1st 2011?
As the Principal of both MBBC and MBC, Jennifer Haynes will spend her time equally at both Colleges.

Q: Is this a takeover of MBBC by MBC?
The move has been considered in detail over a long period of time. We believe MBBC and MBC are stronger together and both schools have significant strengths to offer the other. The timing has come about sooner than expected simply as a result of Dr Crouch's resignation as Principal of MBBC.

Q: Dr Crouch has been great for MBBC. Will the new Head of College at MBBC be as good?
MBBC has gained an excellent reputation in the educational community during Dr Crouch's eight year tenure as Principal. Newly appointed Principal of both Colleges, Jennifer Haynes, has had a stellar 35-year career as a professional educator and has been a valuable asset to MBC since her appointment as Principal five years ago. Her knowledge and commitment to the Moreton Bay brand will bolster the reputations of both MBBC and MBC into the future. We are very confident we will attract exceptional candidates to fill the newly created role of Head of College of both schools.

Q: What sort of candidates are we looking to fill the Heads of College roles?
The heads of College at MBBC and MBC will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and running of their school. They will be the highest caliber of educator and specialists in single sex education. They will have considerable experience in independent school education and currently hold a deputy or head of school position.

Q: Is this a move to eventually combine both schools into one co-educational school?
We are absolutely committed to excellence in single-sex education. Boys and girls learn differently and we are interested in sharing our knowledge and expertise in this space. There may be more opportunities in the future for co-curricular activities together but that will be a conversation for another time. What we can tell you is that Moreton Bay College and Moreton Bay Boys' College will retain their single sex education status as well as their individual personalities and attributes.

Q: The two schools are quite different in many ways including their educational philosophy. Is that going to be preserved?
The pastoral care approaches which led you to send your sons and daughters to MBBC and MBC will not change. Each school will retain its own individuality while remaining part of an overarching Moreton Bay brand, making decision-making and processes across both schools smoother and more inclusive.

Q: What benefit is there to MBC in working closer with MBBC and vice versa?
Both schools have significant strengths to offer the other. The joining together of both schools will be built upon the proud tradition of the girls' school while absorbing the learnings and success of the boys' school. The girls' school is well known for its high quality senior curriculum and has achieved outstanding academic results. Therefore one of the immediate benefits to MBBC will be the coordination and sharing of senior curriculum expertise across both Colleges so that MBBC can benefit from MBC's impressive success. Equally MBC will also benefit from a closer working relationship with the boys' school including the integration of MBBC's dynamism, innovation and strong global outlook as well as the development of the girls' middle school program based on MBBC's achievements in this area.

Q: What will this change mean for my son's/daughter's education?
Our students' education has always been the Colleges' highest priority and that will not change.

Q: Will any of the current College staff lose their jobs?
There will be no planned job losses as a result of the amalgamation of the Colleges. In fact it is intended that there will be new career progression opportunities across both Colleges.

Q: Will my child still have the same teacher?
Yes, there will not be any changes to the curriculum or class teachers at either College in the next 12 months. In the future there may be exciting opportunities for students to take different subjects with different teachers across both Colleges.

Q: What will be the impact on fees?
It is business as usual at both Colleges for the next 12 months. You will not notice anything different in your day to day interaction with the schools. Changes will happen gradually over the next three years. In the mean time there will be plenty of opportunities to learn more about the amalgamation of the Colleges – including briefing sessions, Q&As, newsletters and emails. We will keep you informed every step of the way.

Q: Will there be changes to the curriculum and who delivers it?
Everything will stay the same for the next 12 months – these are conversations that will evolve over time. When we look at strengths of both schools, there are many exciting opportunities to learn from each other.

Q: Will there be opportunities for co-curricular activities across both schools?
There may be more opportunities in the future for mixed co-curricular activities. These are all things we are going to be thinking about and talking about in full consultation with the school community in the next 12 months.

Q: Will the Old Girls and MBC Alumni be combined with the MBBC Alumni?
Both schools will retain their own individual personalities and attributes including all past and present student groups.
If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us on feedback@mbbc.qld.edu.au