

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **QMS TO EXPAND PROGRAMMING IN 2019**

*Looking forward to the next 100 years*

**April 16, 2018 - Duncan, BC, Canada** – Queen Margaret’s School was established in 1921 by the tenacious duo of Miss Norah Denny and Miss Dorothy Geoghegan, who built the school on the foundations of self-reliance, loyalty, honesty, and service to the community. A century later, generations of young people have gone out into the world “with the stamp of the school upon them and its ideals in their hearts.” It is with this history in mind that Queen Margaret’s School is proud to announce the designed future of the school moving into its next 100 years of existence in the Cowichan Valley.

In keeping with global social shifts and the mandate of the redesigned BC Curriculum, moving forward, Queen Margaret’s School’s academic program will be anchored around the educational pillars of academic rigor and personal excellence, gender equity and fairness, and character and service. Three signature programming strategies—experiential learning, equine facilitated leadership, and sustainable innovative and entrepreneurial thinking—will guide our faculty in the delivery of the curriculum. QMS intends to use its campus, local, and global communities as living laboratories where the focus will be on learning by doing.

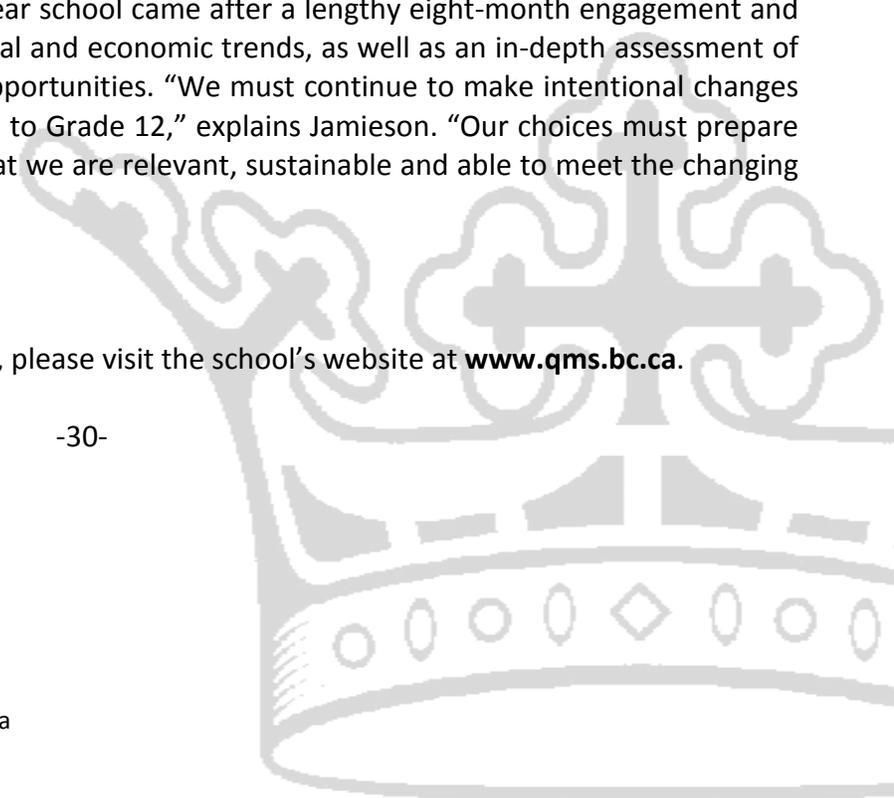
In support of this strategic direction, Queen Margaret’s School will be implementing co-educational instruction from Early Childhood Education (ECE) through Grade 12 commencing with the 2019 school year. “Beginning September 2019, all genders will be welcomed throughout the entirety of our school programming,” shares an excited Head of School, Wilma Jamieson. “With this decision formalized, we are moving forward with the construction of an addition to The Learning Centre. This will provide much needed instructional space for growth of our Junior School and academic program needs, further helping our staff provide the learning needed in the a world of new challenges.”

This exciting new direction for the almost 100-year school came after a lengthy eight-month engagement and design analysis that considered future educational and economic trends, as well as an in-depth assessment of the School’s own programming strengths and opportunities. “We must continue to make intentional changes that strengthen our School community from ECE to Grade 12,” explains Jamieson. “Our choices must prepare students for an ‘unknown’ future by ensuring that we are relevant, sustainable and able to meet the changing needs of our community.”

**New world. New challenges. New learning.**

For more details about Queen Margaret’s School, please visit the school’s website at [www.qms.bc.ca](http://www.qms.bc.ca).

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Photo: Beginning in September 2019, Queen Margaret's School will welcome boys *and* girls to learn in Preschool through Grade 12.



Photo: Officially opened on January 24, 2014, The Learning Centre at QMS will be expanded to increase learning space opportunities for the growing student population.

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