

# FROM THE DEAN OF BOYS' EDUCATION

## MASCULINITY OR MASCULINITIES?

**Jason Cheers** | Dean of Boys' Education

Traditions of masculinity can play an important role in the lives of boys. However, when we consider the nature of masculinity, there are different ways that boys enact manhood, different ways of learning to be a man, different conceptions of the self and different ways of using the male body. Narrow and stereotypical versions of masculinity can affect how boys engage with their schooling and how they imagine lives as boys and men outside of school.

Too often schools fall into the trap of implementing "boys' education" programmes which promote so-called "boy-friendly" approaches. In reality, many of these fail to account for the full diversity that exists among boys as learners and human beings.

Boys' education must be about "what boys?" rather than "all boys". It also needs to support a variety of educationally and socially constructive positions and positive experiences, and to endorse these as acceptable ways of being male. A safe and nurturing environment where boys are influenced by positive role models helps to promote self-expression and a respect for the many different paths to manhood.

At Trinity, we aim to expand rather than constrain the possibilities for boys to engage with different masculinities. Our emphasis on academic rigour, sports, the arts, co-curricular interests, social and emotional development and a Christian education uniquely positions them for the multiple challenges of a changing world. Rather than emphasising singular ways of being masculine, our focus is on diverse ways of being human.



**Trinity Grammar School**

SENIOR & MIDDLE SCHOOLS | 119 PROSPECT ROAD, SUMMER HILL NSW 2130  
PHONE +61 2 9581-6000 | FAX: +61 2 9799-9449