


The only thing toxic about boys' schools is woke parents

Behind the scenes of the Cranbrook School drama is a lesson in how axing single-sex education for boys promotes bad politics and inequality.

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The Cranbrook School council saga is the quintessential Sydney eastern suburbs story. Billionaires, corporate titans, directors, and investment bankers aplenty, coupled with election dramas at school council, alleged disputes between the headmaster and the school council, pissed-off parents paying \$40k school fees and threats that funds from donors will dry up. And this week, mass resignations by all but one person on the school council.

Other platforms will cover the dizzying personality clashes among Sydney's most arrogant and most woke, and Netflix might one day squeeze some further vicarious viewing pleasure out of this tangled elite web. But for all the sexy discord, a serious issue has been pushed aside, one that allegedly triggered the ructions at the private school in Sydney's Bellevue Hill. Namely, the future of single-sex boys' schools.

The first point to note is that single-sex reformers, whether at Cranbrook or elsewhere, have little to say about girls' schools. There is no move that I know of to pressure eastern suburbs girls' schools to go co-ed. This is only about boys' schools. For example, Cranbrook will go co-educational in years 7 to 12 within less than a decade. Though the plan has been delayed from the original timeline of admitting girls in years 11 and 12 in 2023, there remains a deeper question of the reasons behind such a move. And not just at Cranbrook, given other boys' schools are feeling the same pressure.

Apparently, the argument is that single-sex boys' schools promote something called "toxic masculinity" (however that is defined) and this can only be rectified by the leavening influence of schoolgirls entering the classroom.

The full article can be accessed at the link above.