

Dr Barsham's Welcome to Parents Prizegiving 2023

Dear Hollygirt community

Let me extend a warm welcome to you all this evening as we celebrate both academic and pastoral effort and achievement.

Firstly, a thank you to our wonderful musicians who have shown such talent and courage in their performances this evening.

Two years ago, I stood here and told you how I had fallen in love with Hollygirt School and last year I extended the metaphor by explaining that I felt married to the school. This year we have had a baby and that is our new Sixth Form.

We are thriving as a small school because we treat everyone as an individual and we know that one size does not fit all. It takes a lot of work to tailor an education (academic and pastoral care) and my thanks to the whole staff for working together to support our young people in achieving the best outcomes.

Last Saturday, we welcomed over 50 families to one of our busiest Open Days and the positive feedback was overwhelming. Current and prospective families delighted in the warm family feel of the school and our evident commitment to young peoples' wellbeing - the extra mile that we will always go.

Our tour guides were excellent ambassadors as were our parents who helped out on the day. Tuck shop vouchers are on their way!

So many of our current families have said - please put prospective families in touch – we will readily talk to them about the individual care Hollygirt gives our child. The fact that you will happily get behind the school and sing our praises is wonderful! Thank you!

There is a buzz about the school as we celebrate one of the best ECA offers we've ever had and we incorporated more PE opportunities, more Music and a focus on the justice system and the work of the UN.

You will hear first-hand tonight from Senior and Prep students about how they feel about the school and from our Vice Chair of Trustees about some of the changes over the last couple of years.

Finally, I'd like to thank the whole school community for their hard work and support in making Hollygirt simply the best small independent school in the land!