



## MALVERN ST JAMES

Old Girls' Association

Summer Term 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Chair of the MSJ Old Girls' Association, and to welcome your daughter to the Senior School of Malvern St James. As an Old Girl of the School myself (Head Girl, 2002 Leaver), I know that she will have a wonderful and valuable experience at MSJ and will enjoy the benefits of an exceptional education for the rest of her life.

The Old Girls' Association (OGA) comprises over 4,500 members, and as well as providing social opportunities to bring old friends back together, we are very firmly committed to providing a tangible benefit to our Old Girl community and current pupils at MSJ. We do this by providing a network of contacts with experience and expertise across a wealth of careers sectors; Old Girls who are just starting out, to those who have made it to the very top of their professions, and every stage in between.

Old Girls come back to School to give Careers lectures and workshops; to contribute to the Careers Fair; to offer internship opportunities; to conduct mock interviews for Oxbridge entrance; to talk about their own University experiences; and to talk about the tools for success in today's highly competitive global marketplace. We want to show MSJ students how to stand out, how to demonstrate valuable skills, and how to engage potential employers.

Recently, we have had lectures, workshops and online mentoring offered by Old Girls from various backgrounds and points in their careers: a Wealth Manager at Coutts Bank, an Actor who has performed in the West End and on Broadway, a Midwife Researcher who has founded a charity in Sierra Leone to help mentor pregnant teenagers, a Theatre Director, and the Chief Financial Officer of McLaren. There are many practical ways in which the OGA helps its community. We have a professional networking website for all Old Girls which offers mentoring, work experience and advice across a vast range of career sectors. We can issue Travel Awards to girls undertaking projects abroad as part of their university degree courses, or in a voluntary capacity. We also have Old Girls dotted around the world, many of whom are happy to be a friendly face and offer advice for girls travelling or relocating to other countries. The OGA also makes a significant contribution to the School's Bursary Fund to enable talented girls to attend MSJ, who couldn't do so without financial assistance.

And, of course, the OGA is also about continuing and rekindling friendships. We host several events a year, in Malvern, London and elsewhere, to bring people together. There is an annual magazine with news from the Association and its members plus regular digital newsletters.

Life membership of the OGA is £309, payable in three equal instalments in your daughter's first year in MSJ's Senior School. This will be added to your bill in three terms following entry in Year 7. The Finance Department will automatically do this on behalf of the OGA.

We look forward to welcoming your daughter to MSJ and the OGA and hope that she will take full advantage of all that is on offer and enjoy the benefits of the wisdom and expertise of the girls who have gone before her.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Thomas

Chair, MSJ Old Girls' Association