



YOUR STORY BEGINS AT MAYFIELD





WELCOME TO MAYFIELD

I hope that this Prospectus will give you a flavour of life at Mayfield; not least the expectations and aspirations we have for the girls who make this School such a vibrant, happy and successful place.

Mayfield offers amazing opportunities, helping girls to challenge stereotypical views of what they can and should achieve.

The key to success is to encourage and nurture creativity in everything we do, inside and outside the classroom. This leads to girls choosing an eclectic range of option choices: Chemistry and Ceramics, or Physics and History of Art are not unusual A Level/Pre-U combinations. Most go on to Russell Group, Oxbridge or, increasingly, American and overseas Universities: to study all manner of subjects from Architecture to Zoology, with a regular stream of Engineers, Medics and Vets, Lawyers and Economists.

At Mayfield, we accept every girl for who she is and help instil in her the confidence to find her strengths – wherever they may lie – and build on them. A Mayfield girl is challenged to set herself demanding targets and helped to find strategies to achieve them. We expect girls to think independently, to question their own and other people's ideas, and to learn to make informed decisions.

Mayfield is a vibrant community. In joining us you will be welcomed into a community which dates back to 1846, when Cornelia Connelly founded her Society of the Holy Child Jesus and which reaches as far afield as our sister schools in Africa, America and Europe. Such a cosmopolitan ethos helps the girls to understand and appreciate different cultures and perspectives, and to value diversity.

Friendships and loyalties forged here continue not only through school, but into the future and we are proud to welcome successive generations back to Mayfield.

The following pages will give you an insight into the variety and diversity of school life, but I encourage you to come and experience it for yourself.

We all look forward to welcoming you.

Miss Antonia Beary MA MPhil (Cantab) PGCE



**we are committed to helping each
girl discover her unique talents**



F

REE TO BE UNIQUE

Mayfield is a community of individuals and we aim to make every girl feel at home: free to be herself and make that self the best she can be. Our girls come from many different backgrounds and bring with them a range of experiences and aspirations. We build in them the confidence to express and appreciate a variety of perspectives within a safe environment.

Our dedicated staff are specialists in their fields, passionate about their academic subjects, but also committed to helping each girl discover her unique talents and realise her full potential. This spirit of challenge, balanced with encouragement and support, is evident throughout the School.

We are proud of our Catholic heritage, which remains fundamental to the life of the School and provides a moral and spiritual framework for daily life. Girls of all faiths, and none, are welcomed and encouraged to pursue their own journey. We want them to learn, challenge and engage, and for this to make a difference to the way in which they treat themselves and others.

H

APPINESS BUILDS SUCCESS

We want girls to be able to fulfil their potential. However, the stresses and strains of modern society can take their toll. Our aim is to give girls the tools to respond confidently to pressure and cultivate healthy minds as well as bodies. Encouraging girls to look beyond themselves; to support their friends and those in the wider community, helps give them a sense of perspective and results in happier and more successful individuals.

room to grow...
space to think





C REATIVE THINKING

Mayfield has high academic standards and a tradition of outstanding results, but education is more than just examination success. A Holy Child education has traditionally laid great emphasis on creativity: discovering and nurturing the skills, gifts and passion of each individual.

Our teaching staff are keen to inspire girls to pursue their learning independently and creatively. Girls are encouraged to ask questions, challenge their preconceptions, and use their own initiative. We expect Mayfield girls to be ambitious and ready to work hard to achieve their potential. Academic success is predicated on strong pastoral care and each girl is mentored and supported by a team which includes her Tutor, Heads of Year and School, and Housemistress.



inspiring girls to
think independently
& creatively





lifelong friendships
develop between
our girls as they live
& study together



F

EEL AT HOME

Our girls thrive within the comfortable and friendly community of Mayfield, both as day pupils and boarders. Boarding is integral to the educational opportunities the School provides and it is as vibrant at the weekend as it is during the week. Day girls are welcomed into Boarding Houses and are involved in weekend activities; there are also opportunities for flexi-boarding during the week.

Lifelong friendships develop between our girls as they live and study together. The familiarity of home life is interwoven with a work and activity schedule designed to encourage the girls' confidence, resilience and independence. Most importantly, they have fun!

Girls live in Boarding Houses with others of a similar age. The Lower School girls (Years 7 and 8) live in Leeds, and then move to one of the Middle School Houses (Years 9 to 11): Connelly or Gresham. The Sixth Formers are based in St Dunstan's. Each House has a strong pastoral team, led by the Housemistress and resident Academic Tutors, who provide a vital link between the pastoral and academic sides of school life. All Houses are supported by the Chaplaincy and Health Centre.

E

XPLORING POTENTIAL

Girls who join Mayfield in Years 7 and 8 come from a wide range of schools; local and further afield. The Head of Lower School and Tutors work with the Leeds Housemistress to help girls settle in and make new friends.

These first years allow the girls to establish themselves and develop good work ethics, while involving themselves wholeheartedly in a wide range of activities and enjoy themselves. Girls are stretched and challenged but have the freedom to develop their talents and pursue new interests. There is space to make mistakes and, more importantly, to learn from them. Girls begin to develop a disciplined approach to study and the skills that will prepare them for success throughout their time at Mayfield and beyond.



A male teacher with glasses and a blue sweater is smiling and looking at a female student. The student is wearing a dark school uniform and is focused on writing in a notebook. They are sitting at a desk in a classroom with framed pictures on the wall in the background.

**Lower School:
preparation for success**

Middle School: growing in confidence





A

MBITIOUS CHOICES

Those joining us in Year 9 are helped to find their feet and hit the ground running. Throughout the Middle School (Years 9 to 11) our girls grow in confidence, each gradually developing her own particular skills. GCSEs might be looming but Mayfield is not a hot house and achieves such consistently impressive results because all girls are encouraged to have a sense of perspective and balance their academic studies with a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Girls are given advice and direction to choose the right GCSEs and option blocks are built around these choices. We expect all girls to study three Sciences, English, Maths, a language and RE, with a further three options from a wide range of subjects from Greek to Geography; Ceramics to Sport.



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XCELLENCE FOR THE FUTURE

The Sixth Form provides a rigorous working environment, but also offers opportunities for leadership throughout the School and beyond. Our girls relish the greater flexibility and freedom they are given to pursue their studies and wider interests more independently.

Our state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre provides seminar and study areas, lecture rooms and social space to give a practical taste of the university life that the majority go on to enjoy. Staff work individually with girls to ensure that they make the best possible choices for their future. Approximately 30 subjects are available which helps ensure that girls can specialise or continue to keep their options open. We want them to be able, and sufficiently flexible, to respond to innovative ideas and new opportunities.

While many attend Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities, some will choose more practical Art or Drama routes and increasingly consider American and European Universities. Qualified staff, who know the girls well, are on hand to offer and support all Sixth Formers through this process.





Sixth Form:
inspiring leadership



uncovering & nurturing
new talents



D

ISCOVER MORE TO LIFE:
ACTIONS NOT WORDS

While academic study is important, education is not restricted to the classroom. Our location, in such a beautiful environment, allows us to offer a wide and varied range of extra-curricular activities to suit everyone. We encourage girls to uncover new talents, nurture them and use them constructively.

Everyone has the opportunity to pursue interests including sport, creative and performing arts, community service and academic enrichment during the three activity periods each day. On the weekends the girls have more extensive activities to enjoy, including workshops, cultural trips, sports competitions and tournaments. We do not have fixed exeat for boarders, so there is always something happening in term time!

S PORT

Sport is an integral part of school life helping our girls to develop discipline, perseverance, good health and teamwork, at school and beyond. Mayfield has superb facilities including an All-weather Pitch, six Netball Courts, eight Tennis Courts, a modern Dance Studio, an indoor heated twenty-five metre Swimming Pool, Equestrian Centre and a fully equipped Fitness Room and Gymnasium.

We are fortunate to count among our community a number of extremely talented girls competing at County, National and International level in a variety of sports, such as hockey, netball, rounders, water polo, skiing, dance and riding.

One of the few schools to offer top class equestrian facilities, our purpose-built Equestrian Centre is situated within the grounds. Regular masterclasses are arranged by professionals, teams compete successfully across the country in all three disciplines. Some might compete at Badminton, while others choose simply to enjoy a quiet, stress-relieving hack around the grounds and surrounding area.





superb facilities in a
beautiful setting

C

REATIVE ARTS

ART & CERAMICS

Girls are encouraged to use their imagination to interpret the world around them through a wide range of artistic media. Art can be pursued to examination level or purely for personal enjoyment.

Our internationally-acclaimed Ceramics Department is extremely popular and equipped with world class facilities. Experienced ceramicists share expertise in a variety of techniques and encourage experimentation, which results in outstanding individual pieces, continued high achievements and numerous awards.





TEXTILES

Textiles skills are taught as part of the Lower School curriculum and girls continue to be inspired creatively throughout their time at Mayfield. This culminates in the sophisticated pieces created as part of the Pre-U course. The annual Fashion Show provides a stage for everything from haute couture to fun outfits, all designed and created by the girls over the course of the year.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Cooking and eating are an important part of Mayfield life and all girls have Food and Nutrition on their timetables in Lower School and Year 9. Thereafter Cookery Clubs are some of the most popular for senior girls. Sixth Formers enjoy a bespoke course to ensure that they are prepared for university life and beyond.

P

PERFORMING ARTS


MUSIC

The musical tradition at Mayfield is legendary. Music forms a fundamental part of our curriculum; girls also enjoy instrumental lessons and choral tuition alongside participation in orchestras, ensembles and choirs. Our musicians participate in the highly acclaimed Mayfield Festival, and Schola Cantorum regularly performs in venues across Britain and further afield, from Westminster Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral and, of course, St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Hosting the Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition, means that Mayfield girls have access to world class musicians to inspire them.

DRAMA

Drama at Mayfield is known for its originality. Productions range from a classical repertoire to modern, commissioned works and promenade performances. Girls also take productions to the Edinburgh Festival. A highlight of the year is the Inter-House Performing Arts Competition, inspired and organised by the girls themselves: their ingenuity is impressive.

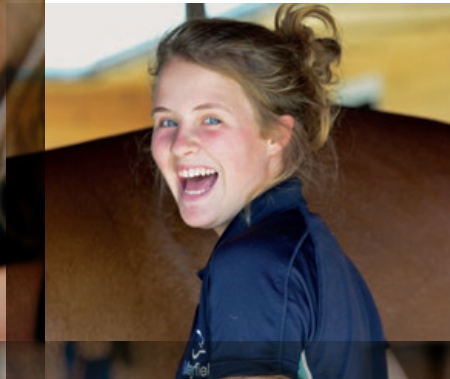


A young woman with long, dark, wavy hair is playing a violin. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark-colored sweater. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with patterned curtains. The lighting is soft and focused on her face and the instrument.

performance
is central to
our teaching



equipped to
succeed in life



S STEP CONFIDENTLY INTO LIFE

Our foundress, Cornelia Connelly, wanted to educate young women to “Respond to the needs of the Age.”

Those words ring as true today as ever and we know that the values, attitudes and resilience we instil in our girls stands them in good stead for the future. We do not simply prepare them to succeed in their exams: we equip them to succeed in life. Girls emerge at the end of their school career with the confidence to be the best that they can be, ready to take on the challenges of University and make a positive difference to the society in which they live.

Just as important as academic success, girls leave Mayfield with enduring friendships, open minds, strength of character, and with the prayers of a community to support them.



OUR ALUMNAE

The spirit and loyalty of Mayfield girls continues long after their school days are over, and alumnae are connected by an international network. The diversity of our alumnae careers' profile is testament to the education we offer: it is difficult to find an area - home or abroad - where an Old Cornelian is not making a difference. Whether academic, sporting, creative or philanthropic, our alumnae stand out from the crowd, although few like to draw attention to themselves and their achievements.

Old Cornelians continue to help shape the Mayfield of today and tomorrow, not least in supporting and mentoring current girls in their future career choices. Our girls gain great inspiration from being part of a global community of successful, courageous, like-minded women.

Sophia Bennett

AUTHOR
CLASS OF 1984



Jennifer Graham

ENGINEER
CLASS OF 1999



Polly Paulusma

LECTURER AT CAMBRIDGE & MUSICIAN
CLASS OF 1993

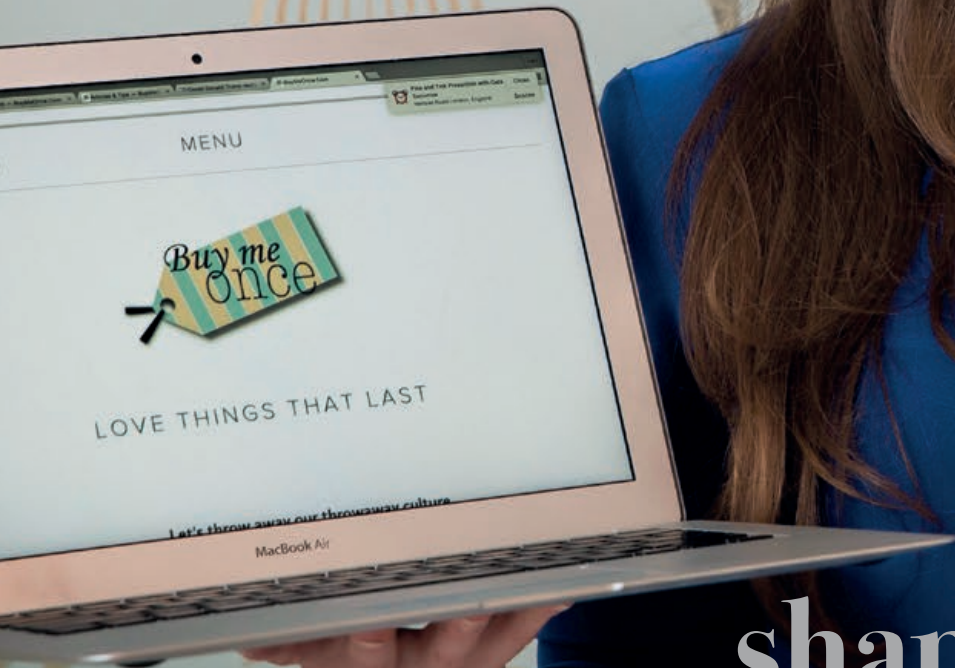


Maeve Haran

AUTHOR
CLASS OF 1968

Tara Button

WRITER AND NOW FOUNDER
OF BUY ME ONCE
CLASS OF 2000



shaping the Mayfield of
today and tomorrow

A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue school sweater over a white collared shirt. She is looking slightly to her left with a gentle smile. The background is blurred, showing other people in school uniforms and green foliage.

visit us to appreciate
the warmth and
beauty of the School



B

ECOME PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

To appreciate the warmth of the School environment and the beauty of our location, you really need to visit. We have a variety of opportunities throughout the year; attending one of our Open Mornings or Saturday Workshops to give your daughter a practical and fun insight into school life; or a personalised tour.

Every girl applying for a place at Mayfield is considered on her own merits. We are looking to discern potential and what each individual girl brings to the school community is important. We want to find out what she does well and ensure that she is able to build on her strengths and perform at the highest level. We draw on a wide range of information to confirm that Mayfield is the right choice for the right girl. Scholarships and Bursaries are available to help those who might not otherwise be able to access a Mayfield education.

We welcome applications from candidates throughout the academic year. After registering, girls will sit our own tests, with options to join us for taster days and nights.

To enquire about visiting Mayfield please contact our Registrar, **Shirley Coppard**, via email registrar@mayfieldgirls.org or call **+44 (0)1435 874642** and we will be delighted to help.



Mayfield

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