



# FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL

39 Graham Terrace, London SW1W 8JF

Headmistress: Miss S J Pattenden BSc

18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Dear FHS Old Girl,

## **Carmel Hall**

It hardly seems like a year since I last wrote to you all saying how exciting it was that we had taken over the Grosvenor Club premises (Carmel Hall) and work was well underway turning the building into a new area for music and drama. The official opening of the totally refurbished and redesigned Carmel Hall took place in October and we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of London and the Duke of Westminster. Both of our special guests remembered a previous occasion when they both celebrated the opening of the Grosvenor Building in 1998. The formal event was followed by a short performance of music and drama which was of an exceptionally high standard and enjoyed by all.

## **Old Girls Lunch**

As usual there are several enclosures with this letter. Of particular importance is the invitation to Lunch on Saturday 5th March. For the first time we have decided to change the routine of evening gatherings on the day of the birthday, to a lunch on a Saturday, in order to encourage those who have to travel long distances or for whom an evening event is not convenient. There will also be an opportunity to see around Carmel Hall and the new extensions for the main hall and the dining room.

## **New Honours Boards**

Many of you will remember the competitions held at school each year and the winners of them having their names recorded on special boards. This year we have had the boards for the Lauda Sion Classics Competition and the Fanny Davies Music Competition brought up to date. The new boards look wonderful and will be on display on 5th March.

## **Hall Chairs**

The newly extended school hall has highlighted the very poor state of the hall chairs and it is clear that the time has come to consider new seating. However, many of the chairs are of personal and historic importance and we are anxious to preserve this. We have been lucky enough to find someone who is prepared to do some reconstruction work and create some refurbished chairs, each one consisting of the outer frame of one of the old wooden chair and 5 or 6 of the chair backs on which there are names written. I hope that a sample of the work will be available for 5th March. I recognise that some people who donated chairs may feel that the whole chair should be retained so if you would like to reclaim your whole chair then please let me know.

## **Old Girls AGM**

This will take place at 12.00 on 5th March and the meeting papers are enclosed. The meeting is generally very short and will be followed by drinks before the lunch.

### **News and Information**

For several years now we have been attempting to compile an up to date list of addresses with email contacts too. Some people have been very helpful in responding but we still have far too few email addresses and so I would like to remind you again that we would be very grateful to have this information for all FHS Old Girls. We do not plan to stop sending a newsletter by post but email addresses will enable us to send out more frequent updates and reminders about forthcoming events. Special thanks go to those who have provided this information and taken the opportunity to send some news too; this will be included in the next newsletter. News items (even just 2 or 3 sentences) are always appreciated. Please fill in something on the enclosed form.

### **The Old Girls Database**

As part of the process of entering emails on the system we have been tidying up existing information and we are all very grateful to Caroline Rolls who has taken on this huge task. Caroline has also been gathering any information from Old Girls and can be contacted on [cr@fhs-sw1.org.uk](mailto:cr@fhs-sw1.org.uk). Additionally, if you wish to email some news please send it to Caroline or to [fhsoldgirl@fhs-sw1.org.uk](mailto:fhsoldgirl@fhs-sw1.org.uk)

### **Web Site**

The final enclosure is a copy of some recent extracts from our web site news pages. I hope you will find it interesting and feel encouraged to log on to read more about current activities at FHS. ([www.fhs-sw1.org.uk](http://www.fhs-sw1.org.uk))

I hope very much to see many of you on 5th March and look forward to hearing your news.

With good wishes

Yours sincerely



Stephanie Pattenden  
Headmistress