

Tatler's Best Head of Public School Winner 2021

Lucy Elphinstone, Headmistress of Francis Holland School, Sloane Square, was announced winner of the prestigious Tatler Schools' 2021 Best Head of a Public School Award at their Awards Ceremony on 6th October.



7th October 2021 — In addition to commending the other four finalists, all of whom have made inimitable progress in different areas of British Independent Education, she wished to thank Tatler and all those who kindly nominated and voted for her.

“It is a huge honour (and an enormous surprise) to receive this award but I’m reminded of the words of Winston Churchill: Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”

Lucy declares herself most proud of the happiness of her School and puts great emphasis on ensuring every child feels loved and valued as a unique individual. She has commented:

“People talk about transformational leadership, but it is I who have been transformed over the years by these girls and the wonderful colleagues who inspire me every day. Joy, laughter, courage and compassion, this is the atmosphere in Francis Holland – and this award is for all those who have made my life so rich. Thank you.”

During Lucy’s nine years at FHS Sloane Square, the School has enjoyed a transformation of its curriculum and character, as well as an expansion of its roll by nearly three hundred pupils. Having had extensive experience in both mixed and single-sex education, Lucy is passionate about the ability of all children to grow, succeed and contribute in a fast-changing technological world, where the 7 Cs (coined in iconic educational book *Educating Ruby*) of creativity, curiosity, craftsmanship, confidence, commitment, communication and collaboration are essential attributes alongside the academic aspects of learning.

FHS is renowned for its outstanding pastoral care and wellbeing provision, having been for many years a pioneer in the support of children’s mental health. Meanwhile, its superb academic results, its phenomenal co-curricular programme, its exceptional performing and creative arts, and its ground-breaking programme of developing entrepreneurial skill in all its pupils, all based on the fundamental principles of Creativity, Enterprise and Innovation, make it a highly sought-after school where girls become the very best they can be and are truly prepared for Higher Education and the wider world.

The Francis Holland Community are delighted that Lucy has won this prestigious award and universally agree that this couldn’t be deserved more by such an inspirational and dedicated leader.