

April 2011

Dear Alumni

As spring approaches I wanted to provide you with an update on new developments within the last six months within the Nonsuch Alumni and to say thank you to everyone who has worked with the school and its students. Building on the excellent work of the existing Alumni Committee, we are working to broaden our reach to former students, especially the younger generations, to enable them to enjoy closer links with the school. This in turn will help us in the development of community and business contacts and with key events in the future. I look forward to working with all partners of the school community to ensure that Nonsuch continues to flourish in a changing and challenging educational climate.

Our first e-newsletter was published at the end of January. I hope that everyone enjoyed reading news from across both the school and Alumni community. For those of you who are not members, an extract of the newsletter is now on the website to provide a taster – so you can see what you are missing! As a result of the newsletter mailing over 100 members are now signed up to our new e-membership which is excellent news. The next edition will be published in early July, to receive a copy please sign up to our lifetime e-membership by using the application form on this website. We hope that our online membership database will be up and running by the end of the summer term and will help you stay in touch with one another and the school. For those of you who have an interest in social and professional networking online we have also recently set up Nonsuch Alumni groups on both “Facebook” and “Linked In”.

It was a pleasure to see so many former students in school over the past couple of months who have been sharing with students their experiences of University, their travels and the world of work. Talking to former students reinforces the important role that the school plays in preparing our students not only to excel in exams, but also to develop as confident, happy and successful young women ready to take on the world. Your contributions to school life are highly valued and the girls find these discussions most inspiring. The following comment received from a parent who attended our ‘Be Inspired’ careers event typifies the appreciation of your support across the school community. *“I enjoyed attending the visitors’ talks, especially the ‘old girls’ who were not at all old! It was lovely to see their passion and enthusiasm and the freshness of youth – quite inspiring.”*

This term has seen a debate about Academy status involving many different groups which make up the Nonsuch community. At its meeting on 31 March, the Governing Body resolved to move forward with conversion to Academy status. This will allow the School greater freedom and flexibility to innovate – to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of our students, to engage in partnerships that provide new opportunities and to recruit and retain the very best in teaching and support staff. At a time when financial settlements for schools are likely to be squeezed, we also welcome the fact that we will be able to decide how to make the most efficient use of all the resources available to us.

This will not change the name, ethos, or admissions arrangements of the school, but will affect the way in which the school is funded in the future. I would like to thank all Alumni for their contributions during this process.

The School was recently awarded the Investors in People (IIP) Bronze Standard. This builds on the work from last year and recognises progress made. The accreditation reinforces how Nonsuch values and supports the contributions people make to the success of the school and how it invests in their development.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the various events coming up over the next couple of months. Finally, if you have any news you would like to share across the Alumni community or know of anyone who might like to join, please email alumni@nonsuch.sutton.sch.uk.

I would like to thank the committee for their continued hard work and look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

Karin Rowsell

Head