



12 December 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of The Ladies' College

What a wonderful term. From the moment I arrived, I felt this was a special place and this time of year you can see all the wonderful strands of this community shining through. The Pre-Prep's nativity full of the curiosity and beautiful uninhibited joy of 3-year-olds. The Preps with their practiced lines and full-hearted singing. The choirs rehearsing at Melrose and in the Senior School in readiness for our Carol Services, with notes of songs that have been sung for generations ringing out from the hall. And our wonderful PTAs who ran a brilliant Christmas fair at Melrose on Saturday and are hosting the mulled wine and mince pies for the Senior School Carol Service this week.

It has been a great ending to a fantastic term that has seen the launch of our new co-curricular programme, a huge number of trips in areas from English and Drama to Design & Technology, The Big Debate on AI, an almost uncountable number of brilliant sports matches across Melrose and the Senior School, a plethora of House activities and of course the unveiling of our new Sixth Form provision, Pathways. Just last week, the girls swept the board at the Sovereign Arts Awards, winning both top prizes and with three further students being awarded scholarships, and Mathilda and Evie won the Collas Crill Moot, retaining the title for the College.

We also welcome Mr Chris Colclough as our newly appointed Associate Governor, and I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our Board of Governors for their unfailing dedication to support our College community at such a busy and exciting time.

As I look forward, I know that the plans for both the Senior School production of *Chicago* and Melrose's production of *Matilda* are well underway, the final touches are being made to our ski trip and Iceland trips, and we are looking forward to another term full of laughter, energy, and connection.

A huge thank you to the staff who have made all this possible, and to you, who have supported the girls every step of the way.

Finally, to our students, for throwing themselves into the opportunities in front of them with joy and perseverance.

Wishing all of you a peaceful and joyful Christmas break,

With best wishes,

Daniele Harford-Fox
Principal