



PUPILS WITH SUZY DIXON

FRANCIS HOLLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL IS RELOCATING FROM BELGRAVIA TO MANRESA ROAD. HEADMISTRESS SUZY DIXON TELLS US MORE

WORDS: ALICE CAIRNS

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## WHY CHELSEA?

Chelsea is such a vibrant place. It's got an artistic side and it's full of energy. That's just what our school is like!

## WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO MOVE?

We're giving the girls the place that they deserve. They've shown us how curious and interested and hungry to learn they are – so we're responding by taking them somewhere bigger and better, with more resources.

Of course, it's not without its challenges. I keep comparing it to moving a hive of bees up the road! It's this delicate ecosystem, and moving it is both a bit dangerous and



necessary. That's not to say that I'm a queen bee...

## WILL THE MOVE CHANGE THINGS?

I've always wanted to maintain a small school of under 300 students, but this move is a chance to switch from one-form entry to two-form entry in order to embrace all the pedagogy that enables. I believe two-form entry as a model of learning is excellent, because you've got two teachers comparing, working together and researching, doubling the resources and the inspiration.

## WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR NEW BUILDING ON MANRESA ROAD?

It has two histories that make it the perfect fit for us. Of course it used to be the site of the Hampshire School, and the ethos of that school – led by women, finding creative ways of teaching beyond rote learning – really resonated with us. Then of course the building used to be a library – although



originally it was a library for boys only, so we're righting that wrong by moving a girls' school on to the site! But we love the fact that this building has always been a place of learning.

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