

## Mrs Hawtin, Head of Sixth Form reflects on life in **The 6**

I am so proud of our Sixth Form provision here at St Cat's, including our stunning, bespoke facilities such as the 'SHLIB' - the Speech Hall Library and **The 6** itself, but I am even prouder of our Sixth Form girls. I can honestly say that I feel so lucky to have a job which enables me to spend time with sixth form students, such talented and warm individuals. It is a real pleasure to be part of the final and, hopefully, most exciting two years of their school experience.

It is my firm belief that, in the Sixth Form at St Catherine's, we provide an environment that encourages girls to work hard and play hard, that gives them the confidence to aim for, and achieve, high standards, but that also allows them to have a lot of fun! In **The 6** you will find an inclusive and happy atmosphere in which each girl is encouraged to develop her individual talents and interests.



By studying their favourite subjects in depth, in intentionally smaller classes, the girls develop new skills and build on existing ones. There is the chance to become involved in a huge range of activities from fundraising to film-making. Friendships are strengthened and new ones are made. There is greater independence in **The 6**, which also means greater responsibility for effective time management. As girls move into U6, they contribute increasingly to the running of the School, affording them valuable leadership experience whilst acting as role models for the younger girls.

Life in **The 6** prepares girls for A Levels, of course, but also equips them with the ability to handle whatever lies ahead, be it university, a gap year, or another of the many opportunities possible for intelligent and capable young women! The Sixth Form tutor team supports girls in subject specialist form groups, helping them to plan their university applications and their future beyond St Catherine's.

Whether it is the team-building camping trip at the start of L6, the L6 musical that is always a highlight at the end of the school year, the leadership of House events, or a whole range of activities and trips, **The 6** is characterised by new challenges, enthusiasm, hard work and a genuine feeling of excitement. When girls leave us at the end of U6, we hope it is with a sense of achievement, purpose, and a strong awareness of their place in the world as young women of extraordinary potential.

Life in **The 6** is, of course, about progressing academically and developing intellectually. It is about developing independence and resilience and becoming increasingly confident in your own skin, but it is also about developing firm and lifelong friendships and enjoying being part of a strong, supportive and happy sixth form community. **The 6** is a place where ambitions and aspirations will be shaped and encouraged, and where girls will learn as much about themselves as they will about their subjects.

I'm looking forward to the new academic year with the Sixth Form and feel very grateful to be based with the girls in **The 6**. Thank you to all those parents and alumnae who contributed to our wonderful new community space.



# St Catherine's School