



MERRIMAN

■ Emily and Ruby - Merriman House Captains 2024/25

Merriman has had a successful year, and we are proud of everyone in the House who contributed to making all our achievements possible.

The Autumn Term began with many girls playing in the annual House Netball tournament. We proudly faced all the other Houses, and everyone played with high levels of enthusiasm throughout the term. At the start of the Autumn Term, the U6 carried out auditions for the House Drama production and weekly rehearsals soon began. Each House was allocated a painting to base their production on and Merriman was given the *Café Terrace* by Vincent van Gogh. We created a beautiful café environment in which the characters were brought to life. Well done to all who contributed to the play and congratulations to Lucy (U6) and Annabelle (U6) for their direction and winning the award for Best Script. A huge thank you goes out to Dani (U6), our former House Captain, for stepping into the lead role at the last minute and learning all her lines a couple of days before the final performance; we could not have done it without you!

The term concluded with our annual Merriman Fair where groups of Merriman girls worked together creating beautiful Christmas stalls for the rest of the School to enjoy and participate in some well-earned pre-Christmas fun. We are proud to have raised £1,663 for The Teenage Cancer Trust and The Rainbow Trust. Throughout the year we also sold ice lollies during House lunchtime activities and raised a further £257 for The Red Cross.

In the Spring Term our House Gym rehearsals sprung back to action. The L6 taught the younger years their various gym

routines to songs related to the theme of the *Olympics, Paris 2024*. All the girls worked incredibly hard, listening to advice and bringing excellent House spirit to every rehearsal. House Gym was a wonderful event. A special mention must go to the Aerobics and Middle School Dance teams for winning their sections. Merriman came 1st overall which is a huge achievement, and we are proud to regain the title for another year! Thank you to Dani, Lottie, Georgia and all the U6, for their continued commitment to House Gym since U3; we will miss you so much.

When not rehearsing for House Gym, Merriman was busy preparing for House Singing. This year each House was allocated a Disney song, and we were given the classic *Hakuna Matata* from *The Lion King*. The U6 also chose Queen's song *Somebody to Love* as our second song and we thoroughly enjoyed performing to the School and to the parents. Thank you to Lucy (U6) and Annabelle (U6) for conducting and carrying out the rehearsals.

Summer Term began with House Cricket and Tennis. The teams participated every week in some very hard-fought matches. Congratulations to the U3/L4 team who were the winners. We also competed in the inter-House debating competitions and Merriman were once again victorious. This is a huge achievement and congratulations to Jingyao (U4) for winning the prize for best Middle School Chair. Well done to Carys (L6) and Ruby (L6) for winning the Ellison Cup in Long Parli for excellence in debating and for making up two thirds of the team who came national runners up in the ESU Mace Debating Competition.

Merriman triumphed in House Quiz winning the Middle and Senior School competition as well as best team overall. Well done to the whole House for their knowledge and demonstrating Merriman's strong sense of teamwork. This winning streak continued when Merriman also triumphed in the U4 Maths Challenge; well done, mathletes!

The year's House events were once again rounded off with Sports Day. The House enjoyed a day full of fun sporting events as well as a delicious House picnic. A big shout out to all the U6 for returning to School and taking part in the final event of the year. It was very special for the whole House to come together once again for a final time. We placed 6th in the House relay trophy and finished 3rd overall. These results were announced to great excitement during Long Parli at the end of term and would not have been possible without the huge participation, commitment and get-up-and-go attitude of so many Merriman girls in the House; well done to you all.

This year has been extremely successful for Merriman and it would not have been possible without the continued guidance and commitment from the Merriman tutor team, and especially Mrs McQuade. We say farewell to Miss Green as our assistant tutor and wish her luck as she moves on from St Catherine's. We thank her for her constant support and the positive attitude she brought to Merriman this year; we know all the girls will miss you, Miss G.

1. House Gym
2. House Singing
3. Sports Day
4. Sports Day
5. Sports Day
6. House Gym
7. House Drama
8. House Drama