



Head's Founders' Day Address – Prep and Lower School

Good afternoon, students, parents, colleagues, Governors and guests.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our prize winners.

I would also like to say what a deeply personal privilege it is to stand here today as your—albeit familiar—new Head of Burgess Hill Girls.

Having shared so many moments with you already, stepping into this role feels both exciting and humbling.

Girls, I look forward to continuing this journey with you, celebrating your successes, and supporting you through every challenge.

Parents and guests, today we gather to mark the end of another remarkable school year and to celebrate what we have achieved together and reflect on the broader journey we are part of. One that extends beyond our school gates and into the changing world of independent education.

Something is shifting in our sector. And it is changing for the better.

A move away from isolation and tradition for tradition's sake, toward something more collaborative, more inclusive, and more forward-thinking.

Independent schools are no longer standing alone; they are sharing ideas, resources, and opportunities. These partnerships are enriching our students' experiences and strengthening our collective ability to prepare them for a complex, connected world.

And within this changing landscape, the value and distinctiveness of girls-only education can shine more brightly than ever.

Parents

In our school, you see how powerful it is when girls are given the space to lead, to question, to create, and to grow with courage and conviction. Where confidence is built not through competition, but through community.

When you chose Burgess Hill Girls for your daughters you made the decision not to limit their choice; but to expand it. You recognised the school as a space full of possibility, where your daughters are free to discover who they are and who they want to become, free from distraction.

Girls

Today is an incredibly special day, a day to celebrate you.



Your learning, your kindness, your creativity, and your courage. Every one of you has something to be proud of.

Perhaps you have learned to read a tricky word, solved a challenging maths problem, made a new friend, or helped someone who needed a hand.

Big or small, every step you have taken this year has helped you grow and that is worth celebrating.

As young girls it is so important you feel safe, seen, and supported. In our school you are actively encouraged to speak up, to lead, to explore, and to grow without pressure or comparison. Where building confidence begins early, and where your ideas, your voice, and your dreams matter.

Our school has four important school values that guide us every day:

SPARK – SPIRIT – STRENGTH – SUCCESS

Spark is where it all begins. It is that little idea in your head, the moment you think, "I can do this!"

It is the twinkle in your eye when you are excited to try something new.

Spirit is the fire inside you. It is the energy that keeps you going, even when things get tricky.

It is the giggle when you are learning something hard, the smile when you keep trying, and the cheer when you help a friend.

Strength is your quiet superpower.

It is being calm when things feel busy, brave when you are unsure, and proud of who you are. It helps you stand tall and believe in yourself.

Success is not about winning; it is about growing.

It is starting something new, sticking with it, and feeling proud because you gave it your best.

And to be BOLD means being brave.

It is putting your hand up even if you are not sure, trying something new even if it is a bit scary, and believing you are capable of anything you set your mind to.

You have all shown these values in so many ways this year, and I am extremely proud of you.

To our wonderful Year 6 girls, you are ready for your next adventure. You have grown in self-confidence, and your wings are ready to help you fly high.

We know you will shine in Year 7 and beyond. Keep being brave, kind, and curious.



Before I finish, I would like to tell you about a girl named Rosie. She is the star of this a book (show to students) by Andrea Beaty.

Rosie is quiet and curious. She loves inventing things from bits and bobs she finds. But when someone laughs at one of her inventions, she hides her ideas away.

Then her great-great-aunt Rose visits and shares her dream of flying. Rosie builds a flying machine for her. It does not work but her aunt is thrilled! She teaches Rosie that failure is not the end, it is just the beginning of learning.

Rosie learns:

That failure is part of success.

That creativity matters.

That supportive adults make a significant difference.

It is a funny, beautifully illustrated book that reminds us: girls can be BOLD, and that your ideas are worth sharing.

And speaking of bold girls, have you heard of Nellie Bly? She was a young journalist who was widely known for her record-breaking trip around the world. Just like the fictional character, Phileas Fogg in the story, 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Nellie wanted to see if she could travel around the world in 80 days. She did it in 72 days!

She once said:

"I have always had the feeling that nothing is impossible if one applies a certain amount of energy in the right direction. If you want to do it, you can do it."

I believe that too.

I believe each of you can do amazing things if you genuinely want to.

The key lies in your BOLDNESS in your SPARK – SPIRIT – and STRENGTH

Have a wonderful summer.

Rest well, dream big, and come back ready to continue shaping a future we can all be proud of.

Thank you, and congratulations to every one of you.