

A View from the Middle

I remember how I felt when I first stepped through the doors to Howell's. My heart was pounding, feeling as if it was about to burst out of my chest. I was so overwhelmed, and beyond happy. At the end of every corridor and every staircase, there was a new surprise for me to uncover. Whether it was the spectacular Great Hall or even just a classroom along the way, I remember finding it very difficult to contain my excitement.

Now, when I walk through the school, the feeling is not as strong. It is overshadowed by an intense feeling of pride – *I am part of this school*. The walls and rooms around me hold all the memories of me and my friends, and those are the things I will never forget. It is extraordinary to be able to say that such a fundamental part of my life is being spent at Howell's, and I am sure that this feeling is mutual in all the other girls, even the ones who have now left. Howell's leaves an impact, everyone can agree.

Every day, I see the Year 7s rush through the corridors to their next lesson, holding thin folders that break very easily—I know this from experience. It's almost impossible to believe that I was once one of them. Every once in a while, the same conversation comes up with my friends as we see the younger students walk past:

"Were we really that small in Year 7?"

Even the teachers agree! They often remind us that we were once that small, and that is one of Howell's' best qualities. It is filled to the brim with the most caring people that will always help you, no matter what. The teachers, even if they just teach you for one year, will never forget you. They'll never stop smiling at you in the corridors, they'll never stop asking you how you are. They watch us grow; they're there to welcome us at the door when we start in Year 7, and they're there to wave us goodbye in Year 13.

And yet, being in Year 11 feels as if we are about to leave something behind, though thankfully not Howell's itself. After this year, we will no longer be the anxious Year 11s who are dreading their GCSEs. We will be the girls who have worked through the hardest part of senior school and are ready to take on whatever challenge the future throws at us. Howell's helps its students every step of the way, and I have no doubt that the school and the staff will do everything that they can to help us as we look to our future.

The Senior School has been an amazing experience, and I will never forget it. I can only imagine what the College will be like, but, considering it's Howell's, I am absolutely positive that it will be as wonderful as the Senior School.

Many girls have come and gone, but I am sure that none of them will ever forget the life-changing experience that Howell's has given them. No school in the world cares about its students as much as Howell's does. In fact, there is no school like Howell's, because Howell's is not just a school, it is a community filled with all the best people.