



TAKING CENTRE STAGE

Tormead School is an independent girls' school in Surrey that applauds achievement in all its forms

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A key approach of Tormead School is to stress that "girls are the players, not the audience". It is an ethos that has prepared this girls' school to play its part in more than a century of remarkable achievements for women. Founded in 1905 in Guildford, Surrey, this independent day school has evolved into a 21st-century institution for female students aged four to 18.

"Our history is important to us, but we are also very forward-looking," says Headmistress Christina Foord. "We're passionate about embracing new technologies, and we have just been made an Apple Distinguished School, thanks to our successful 1:1 iPad programme, which ensures that girls are adept in the use of new tech."

Environment is also key to Tormead's success: "We've invested a huge amount in trying to give the girls innovative, creative and light-filled spaces in which to work," says Foord. "We've always had a very impressive library, because that is a focal point of the school."

A partnership with Surrey Sports Park provides students with access to impressive facilities, such as an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and Tormead has achieved national and local success in gymnastics, netball and

hockey. The school has also earned a reputation for public speaking, drama and music.

"Our fundamental aim is to ensure that the girls are happy, but we're also very ambitious for them going forward – in university, as professionals and in family life," says Foord. "We are passionate about preparing them for the world, from speaking a modern language to doing charity work or travelling the world. You can make a difference on every level, and that's what we encourage every girl to do."

While the school heralds its academic strengths, including a forte for A-level science and maths, there is also an emphasis on students applying what they learn to everyday life in the 21st century. "We are academically selective, but our first value is that we treat everybody with respect and dignity," says Foord. "We celebrate effort and achievement, outside school as well as in the classroom – being well-rounded is recognised as a strength. Whether it's getting further high grades, auditioning for a play or participating in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we encourage our girls to embrace the opportunities that life presents."