



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eleanor Marsden, Director of Development, joined the school in July from Wellington College to establish a Development programme at Farleigh.

What is your background?

No child ever declares, 'I must work in Development!' For me, it's a career I forged gradually after I started out lecturing in History of Art at the University of Southampton. I loved teaching, but my university's Humanities budget was hit pre-credit crunch and I ended up applying for a research job in its 'Development and Alumni Relations Office' – a department I had never even heard of!

In the early 2000s, university Development (which focuses on organisational fundraising and strengthening the bond with alumni and past staff) was a growing field, and I was lucky enough to join what would become a UK leader in this area of the charity sector.

From there, I moved to a heritage education charity in Hampshire, and for the past few years, was Deputy Director of Development at Wellington College, where I also qualified with the Institute of Fundraising. I manage to combine my charity knowledge with my 'art historical' side, too, through my role as a Trustee at a regional historic house museum. I love the way the house and gardens make you feel that you've stepped back in time to the eighteenth-century!

What attracted you to Farleigh?

My husband's family live around Farleigh – my brother-in-law even got married here – and we live in Winchester, so I knew it was in a lovely area. When I found out about the brand new Development role, I visited the school and was really taken with the friendliness of pupils and staff, the caring ethos and the genuine sense of community.

Q&A

Favourite Book

Jane Eyre by
Charlotte Brontë

Sum up your role in ten words

Building
community,
sustaining Farleigh's
principles and
supporting the
school's future.

Favourite subject at school

Anything that
wasn't cross country
running.

Random fact

I am the recorded
voice of various
exhibits at SeaCity
Museum in
Southampton!

So many people harbour special memories of their own or their children's earliest school days. Walking around the grounds, you can see Leavers' Gifts from previous years as tangible reminders of the impact Farleigh has had on past pupils and families. For me, offering ways for people to stay involved with Farleigh past and future is a natural next step for the school.

What can we expect of Development at Farleigh?

Lots of new events, initiatives and ways to help support the school. Ultimately, more ways for people to keep in touch with Farleigh; ways to support the school's future through giving; ways to come back and attend interesting things; ways to help current and future pupils, through new facilities, bursaries and opportunities; ways to volunteer and network within the Farleigh community... and more.

What about life outside Farleigh?

I discovered drama in my twenties and can usually be found watching, reading, performing in, planning or helping out with a play, these days at my local amateur theatre.

When I'm not treading the boards, I love having earth underfoot and exploring the countryside, or staying at home to cook/eat Greek food (with plenty of Greek music on in the background). Sometimes I get round to doing some painting, although these days it's more likely to be with a roller and emulsion than on a canvas!

'Not a lot of people know that'...

I dabble in acting and was once in a Trevor Nunn production - *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 2009.