



24th May, 2009

Dear Parents,

Speech Days 2009

Each year Queen Mary's School finishes the year with a Speech Day to reflect on the year, present awards to the girls and say farewell to the Y2s from the Pre-prep and S3s from the senior school. All parents and children are expected to attend their respective Speech Days.

The Pre-Prep Speech Day will take place on Friday 10th July, at 9-10am in the Chapel followed by tea and coffee on the croquet lawn, weather permitting.

The Main School Speech Day, for years 3-11, is on Saturday 11th July at 10.30am – 12.00pm in the Marquee on the West Lawn. **All day girls must in their form rooms by 9.45am**

Speeches will begin promptly at 10.30am followed by prize giving. Our guest speaker this year is Dr Ann Fitz-Gerald, Dean of Cranfield University. If you wish to learn about Dr Fitz-Gerald please see the attached biography.

Parents and girls are free to leave straight after prize giving at 12pm. The parents and families of the S3 leavers are invited to a leavers' service in the Chapel at 12.15pm followed by drinks and canapés in the Main Hall.

We will be providing a crèche for the Main School Speech Day, in the Early Years for younger brothers and sisters who may not wish to sit through the speeches. Please let me know if you would like to use the crèche so that I can make sure we have the right number of staff to look after younger children.

We look forward to seeing you and hope that you will also be joining us for the Summer Party in the evening which has a theme of "Quintessentially British". A lot of the tables are already booked so to avoid disappointment call me as soon as possible, if you are new to the school I will be more than happy to find a suitable table where you can meet other parents in your daughter's year.

Best wishes,

Carolyn Collin
School Administrator

*Dr Ann M Fitz-Gerald, Director
Centre for Security Sector Management (CSSM)*

Ann Fitz-Gerald is an Associate Professor of International Security Management at Cranfield University and the University's Associate Dean (Research). She holds degrees in Commerce, International Relations, International Security Studies and Security & Defence Management. Her PhD took her to Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti and Northern Ireland in order to examine the impact national disparities within multinational peacekeeping forces could have on sustainable development programmes in post-conflict states. Following an initial career in the banking sector, Ann joined the Canadian diplomatic core – a tenure which included posts at the Pearson International Peacekeeping Centre, the United Nations and NATO Headquarters. During these postings, she was seconded into Haiti (1994) and Bosnia (1995). Since her move in 1998 from Brussels to the United Kingdom, she has worked in various policy and practitioner capacities supporting the work of bilateral and multilateral donors across a range of post-conflict states, including Sudan, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Lebanon, East Timor, the Western Balkans and many countries in both East and West Africa.

Ann is currently a Board member for the Institute for Research on Public Policy, a member of the National Security Working Group for the Canadian International Council (CIC), and was recently appointed as Security Sector Advisor for UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). Ann has worked on national security, and issues related to sustainable security and development for 16 years. She is widely published in this field. Her most recent book is an edited volume entitled "From Conflict to Community: A Combatant's Return to Citizenship". Her more recent work has focused on the development of the UK's national security strategy. Ann is also immersed in a large government-funded piece of research which examines interdependencies across political, security and development lines of activity for interventionist forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ann has three children and is married to a British infantry officer. She spent most of her secondary school years training as a Canadian ice skater.