Dear Marymount Family,

I would like to begin by congratulating the Class of 2017 on their excellent results in the IB Diploma exams. The School’s average of the last four years (36 points) has been maintained and each student can be immensely proud of her achievements.

The commitment of our Faculty deserves special gratitude as they have been unfailingly steadfast in their dedication to teaching and supporting the girls. It is worth noting that students who joined Marymount for at least 4 years and particularly those who benefitted from the School’s full 7-year IB programme, did exceptionally well. Of those awarded 40 points and above, 90% completed the IB Middle Years Programme here, in preparation for taking the Diploma.

The academic year began with the excitement of boarders moving in to fully refurbished rooms in Gailhac Hall, thrilled by the bespoke furniture and spacious arrangements. This marked the start of a packed year where we continued to build and strengthen our programme. The pages which follow are a testament to the richness and variety of School life focussing both on academic achievements as well as our extra-curricular offering. Our active Spiritual Life programme remains central to School life and was especially meaningful and strengthening in a year filled with unsettling political problems and threats to security.

As I depart from Marymount London, I reflect on the blessings I have received whilst serving in this community for seven years. I should like to thank all of you as well as the Board of Governors and the Sisters of the RSHM for their support throughout. I have enjoyed the spirit, humour, intellectual curiosity and unparalleled professionalism of our wonderful faculty and staff. Above all I am grateful to the students and the parents who have so fully embraced the wonderful education the School has to offer.

During my time in London my many encounters with Alumnae across all ages have been deeply enriching. As a School we are nourished and buoyed by those who stay in touch, no matter how sporadically. We repeatedly hear from many how the spirit of the place has formed them and how the unique heritage and foresight of our founders shaped their education.

As she takes up her position as Headmistress, I wish Mrs Frazier every joy of this wonderful Marymount school. I look forward to working with her and to hearing news of you as I move to our sister school in Marymount Rome.

We hope that news from Marymount will be of interest to you. We value your warm support for the recent reunions and welcome all who return to visit.

Sarah Gallagher
Headmistress
Thanksgiving Mass for Sarah Gallagher

On 20th June 2017, a Mass of Thanksgiving, led by Fr Chris MacAneny was held in our garden for Ms Sarah Gallagher. Accompanied by exquisite singing from the School Choir as well as the fine a capella voices of teachers, the beautiful surroundings created a perfect, prayerful setting for students, staff, Sisters and guests to gather in thanks for Ms Gallagher’s many talents and her seven years of service to Marymount London. Mass was followed by a festive reception where all were able to wish her well as she moves to take up the Headship of Marymount International School Rome.

Ms Sarah Gallagher with Sr Anne Marie Hill, Headmistress Marymount London 1974 - 84, (above right). Fr Chris with members of the Sunday community (below).

Left: Ms Gallagher with Sr Michaeline (centre) and members of the Board, (from left to right): Julie Darwent, Miriam Twaalfhoven and Helena Reimnitz. Below, with Johanna Bambridge, Headmistress of Marymount Paris, Sr Rosamond Blanchet, Sr Mary Jo Martin and Sr Kathleen Connell.
Capital Campaign

After agreeing the final concept designs for the new Auditorium and Performing Arts Centre in 2016, this year was taken up with a lengthy and complicated process of consultation with various authorities and local residents’ groups. We are therefore delighted to announce that, in March 2017, we were successful in obtaining planning permission from the local council with no restrictions. This has given the Capital Campaign further momentum and enabled the architects to embark on the next design phase.

In order to develop a design which carries the School’s individual stamp, a workshop for teaching staff, consultants and designers was conducted. This means that vital discussions and analysis around the use of the teaching spaces are being incorporated into the design.

Furthermore, students from across various Grades took part in workshops with the theatre design consultant and architects in order to refine ideas for the approach landscape, foyer, auditorium, stage, dressing rooms as well as the lower courtyard.

In a vibrant and lively session, the students generated a flood of good ideas. They were articulate and confident in communicating their aspirations, thereby enabling the architects to pick up on a unique Marymount perspective. Ideas around colour, lighting and finishes were also plentiful. Below are images of the workshops along with a small selection of working drawings, annotated plans and brainstorms created by the girls. The image above shows an artist’s impression of the entrance to the teaching block at the rear of the Auditorium.

The Campaign continues to make very encouraging progress with the current total standing at £1,275,000. Our interim target of £2,000,000 will put the Governors in a position to commission the external build. The overall target remains £3,000,000.

We are immensely grateful to our donors for their generosity and the wonderful support they have shown.
As part of the School’s long term Masterplan, Gailhac Hall was given a complete makeover during the summer break of 2016. Floors, doors, ceilings, wiring, lighting were renewed and rooms were reconfigured allowing for fewer beds overall and more spacious arrangements. This also included two new flats for the Houseparents.

Boarders returning from their summer break were delighted to find custom-made furniture, designed to fit in with the fresh white and grey colours and cool plantation shutters.

This represents a true transformation of Gailhac, which was originally built on the site of the bomb-shattered stables in 1956.

“I really like my new room in Gailhac. The rooms are much larger and so are the beds. I now have plenty of space to store my things. The new key swipe system is great too!”

Öykü Zengin, Grade 11
In Memoriam

We were deeply saddened to hear of Fr Michael Hayes’s death on 14th April 2017 after a short battle with cancer – he is pictured here at the Blessing of our refurbished Chapel in 2013. His long association with Marymount began during the 80s, when he was a young seminarian. We were very fortunate to have him with us as the School’s Chaplain and later as Governor whilst he rose to become Professor of Pastoral Theology and Vice Principle of St Mary’s University, Twickenham. In 2011 he moved to Ireland as President of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. He retained his connection with the School as a gifted Chair of the Education Committee where his contribution was both deeply enhancing as well as intellectually rigorous. Fr Michael’s impact on Catholic education has been tremendous and his loss will be felt by all who had the good fortune to know and work with him.

“I am very sad to know that dear Fr Hayes has left us, physically. He was and is a dear friend to me and I feel his loss deeply. God bless you all. I am sorry I will not be able to be at the Mass but I will have a mass offered here in our Chapel.”

Sr. Catherine Bennett

“I spent so many hours in that art room and loved every second of them. Mr McFarland was such a wonderful teacher and so incredibly supportive and encouraging. His love of art, music and theatre was infectious and stays with me until today, almost 30 years on. What a great loss.”

Nicole Antar, Class of 1987

“I am so utterly saddened to hear of his passing. He was my favorite teacher and inspired my love and appreciation for Art History. He was funny, witty, honest and knew just how to encourage you to achieve what you thought you couldn't. A wonderful teacher/friend/person that will be sorely missed. Sending my love and condolences to his family.”

Maria Nakamoto, Class of 1996

We were very sad to receive the news of Mr Samuel McFarland’s death on 9th October, 2016 after a long bout of illness. Sam was an important part of the Marymount community, where he taught from 1981 to 2000. As well as being the Teacher of Art at IB level, he was also a Grade 12 Advisor, organising Graduation Week and providing college counselling. Over 150 heart-felt messages of condolence were shared on our Facebook page; it was clear that alumnae found comfort by sharing their grief. All the messages were passed on to Sam’s family in Ireland, in order to share the appreciation felt by so many of his students.
IB Diploma Results 2017

We are delighted to announce that the IB Diploma results for the Class of 2017 continue within the Marymount tradition of high academic achievement.

Class of 2017 deserve our heartiest congratulations!

40+ points

As before, 25% of our students scored 40 points and above (which is higher than A*A*A*A* at A-levels) and is typically only achieved by 5% of students worldwide. Local students who joined Marymount for at least 4 years of the School’s full 7-year IB did particularly well. Of the students awarded 40 points and above, 90% benefitted from the pre-diploma preparation (IB MYP) offered at Marymount which is so vital for success at Diploma level.

38+ points

37% of our students achieved 38+ points (the equivalent of A*AA), which places them in the top 10% globally.

Average score: 35.6 points

Our average score falls within the range we have maintained for the last four years. Globally, this score is achieved by the top 15% of all students taking the IB Diploma exam. The world average is 30 points.

Pass rate: 95% (the world average is 79%)

Bilingual IB Diploma

A Bilingual Diploma was awarded to 49% of our students. Of the 43 students from 28 different countries nearly half did two literature courses in 7 different languages combined with English. This offers our students the best preparation possible for top tier global careers, as they leave Marymount as multilingual, culturally fluent and instinctively internationally-minded citizens of the world. All students continue to benefit from a truly international environment which prepares them so well for life in a global context.

Top University Destinations (see full list overleaf)

This year confirmed University Destinations include Stanford (USA), Imperial College, University College London, Warwick, Bristol, Nottingham, Southampton, Bath and Exeter.

Others are aiming for top universities in Japan, Europe, Canada and Australia.

In light of our broad entry selection and our holistic approach to teaching, our results confirm that Marymount students are able to fulfil their true potential and in many cases perform beyond expectations.

Right: the top grade of 43 points was scored by Maria Beatriz Rodriguez.
Alumnae Induction Ceremony

The Graduation celebrations for this year began with the Alumnae Induction Ceremony. The Class of 2017 processed into the Chapel past a Guard of Honour of Grade 11 students. This was followed by the Mother Daughter Luncheon where the guest speaker was Qinyi Zhang, Class of ’11 (pictured in the opposite top left-hand photo next to Ms Gallagher). After achieving a full score (45 points) in her IB Diploma with an additional 7 points for Further Mathematics, Qinyi studied Maths at Imperial College and is now doing a PhD in Statistics and Machine Learning at Oxford. With deep humility and honesty, Qinyi shared some of the difficulties she needed to overcome in order to reach her remarkable goals and the valuable lessons she learnt along the way. The warm appreciation she felt for her education at Marymount shone through as she passed on wise and inspiring advice to the graduating class. Her thoroughly engaging speech was extremely well received and enjoyed by all.
Mother Daughter Luncheon
The Commencement Exercises of 2017 were brought to a joyful conclusion on a glorious, sunny day on which 47 students from 28 nationalities graduated in a memorable ceremony, proudly watched by family and friends.

Our Valedictorian, Alexandra Rispoli paid tribute to the graduating class and her time at Marymount and gave an engaging speech in which she shared her experience of growing up as a “third culture kid”. This was followed by a warm and personal address by our Guest Speaker, Dr Viji Draviam. As a PhD graduate from the University of Cambridge, followed by post-doctoral work at MIT and Harvard, she is a leader in her field of molecular cell biology. Her passion for life-long learning, her call for imagination and the exploration of untrodden paths and constant reflection, chimed well with our own educational outlook. She is an excellent role model to all.

The day concluded with the Graduation Ball in the Jumeirah Carlton Tower Hotel.
Graduation

Above: Ms Sarah Gallagher, Alexandra Rispoli, (Valedictorian), Dr Viji Draviam (Guest Speaker)
Graduation Awards

Gold Medal for General Excellence:
Alexandra Rispoli
Awarded to the Senior with the highest academic average.

The Four Acres Medal for Public Speaking:
Mallika Jhamb
For outstanding ability to express herself with fluency, conciseness and intelligence.

The Sally Shimmon Award for Social Service:
Alice Culligan-Huggins
For outstanding commitment to and involvement in Social Service.

The European Council of International Schools’ Award for International Understanding:
Julie Kolff
For being a good representative of her own country, with a positive attitude towards School life and the culture of the host country, able to converse in at least two languages, a contributing force in the life of the School, with the ability to bring differing people together in a sense of community, thus furthering the cause of international understanding.

The Marymount Medal:
Maddison Rennie
For outstanding integrity, loyalty and service to Marymount. Presented to a Senior who has exhibited a high level of personal honesty and integrity, who has positively supported the ideals and standards of Marymount and who has been actively engaged in service to the school community.

Middle School and High School Awards

The Kendal Trophy for Drama
Benedicta Visy

High School Poetry Award
Titilayo Soyombo

Middle School Poetry Award
Ani Maria Strecker

The Harvard Book Prize
Ayse Atun

The Middle School Medal for Academic Excellence
Ani Maria Strecker

The Marymount Middle School Medal
Julia Clark

The Headmistress’ Medal
Manon Sintes
Once again, every student at Marymount London has had the opportunity to take part in at least one individual UKMT Maths Challenge. Some have progressed through to the following Kangaroo or Olympiad rounds if their scores were high enough. As well as these, we took part in the Senior UKMT Team Challenge competition, the FMSP Maths Feast, and an international ISMTF competition, held in Bratislava. The results this year are summarised below:

UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls (optional): 5 girls took part with 1 receiving a Distinction, and 1 a Distinction and a book prize, a most prestigious achievement.

UKMT Senior Challenge: 6 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze with 3 girls taking the further Kangaroo round, one gaining a Certificate of Merit for this.

UKMT Intermediate Challenge: 2 Gold, 2 Silver, 9 Bronze with 2 girls taking the further Kangaroo round.

UKMT Junior Challenge: 3 Gold, 5 Silver, 5 Bronze with 1 girl taking the further Kangaroo round.

UKMT Senior Team Challenge: 3rd place in the Regional Final.

FMSP Maths Feast: 2 teams were entered and one came a commendable 5th in a local heat.
We hosted a lively annual Alumnae Reunion in October with a drinks Reception on Friday evening and a full programme on Saturday, including a recital by professional violinist and Alumna of Class of ’06, Midori Komachi (right). With Alumnae flying in from the USA, Spain, Norway and Africa, from classes ranging from ’61 to ’06, and particularly well attended by the latter year (pictured right on stairs and bottom right at lunch), this was a testament to the strong bond our former students share with each other and the School.
Young Alumnae Reunion

The Young Alumnae Reunion was held in Somerset House on Friday 3rd March. Attended by students from Classes of 2010 to 2015 as well as Faculty members - both current and former - everyone was thrilled to catch up and reconnect within the congenial setting of this historic venue.
In January 2017 we were delighted and grateful to welcome Sr Rosamond Blanchet (General Superior of the Eastern American Province) back to Marymount London. We were treated to her irrepressible warmth during Assembly where she challenged the students, in her inimitable way, to reflect on the School goal “lifelong love of learning” (see photo left of Mr Marcou, Sr Kathleen, Sr Roz and Ms Gallagher, after Assembly). We enjoyed every minute of her wise presence and her inspiring spirit. Sr Roz was also present for the Thanksgiving Mass for Ms Gallagher.
Sr Thecla Aguilar (pictured here seated to the right of Sr Michelle) departed for the RSHM Community in Tarrytown, USA. In her short time with us at Marymount she has become a dearly loved member of the community. We have been blessed by her prayerful presence, her many acts of kindness and her unfailing good spirits. She has promised to keep in touch!

Grade retreats have been a sacred time to pause and reflect, to take stock from a busy schedule and to get some perspective. Grade 9 made the pilgrimage to Béziers at the start of the academic year, which was a real highlight for them. Staying in the beautiful town of Albi, they had time to take in the sights of picturesque southern France as well as ‘walk in the footsteps of Jean Gailhac’ in a powerful trip down memory lane, led by Sr Kathleen Connell. With a fresh perspective on the foundation of the RSHM and its vision, the Grade 9 students really have been living out the School Mission “that all may have life”. Grade Masses, Sunday Mass with the Boarding Community, whole School Masses and Liturgies have all been important milestones for the wider community as we have journeyed, not just through this academic year, but also the liturgical year.
This was a great year for Model United Nations (MUN) at Marymount. With MUN now a Grade 10 subject, and a record number of girls from Grades 6-12 involved in the club, it is exciting to see this excellent vehicle for exploring our world becoming an integral part of our international School.

This year in January, Marymount continued its long tradition of attending The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN), the world’s biggest. Our largest team ever (29) joined 3,000 other students from over 200 schools. This was the first time we had been allocated three delegations—Mozambique, Yemen, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The girls had to operate independently, working as the lone voice for their country on a specific committee. The trip was a triumph with a number of girls distinguishing themselves on their various committees. Their hard work in the evenings at School was reflected in their ability to address hundreds of strangers, arguing in an informed and intelligent way on issues as diverse as Syria, global environmental degradation and immigration.

From March 3rd—5th, for the second time, we hosted the RSHM MUN on our campus. Four schools visited—two from Paris and two from Rome—and in total 65 delegates represented 15 countries in what was a weekend of spirited debate and negotiation, across five committees.

Overall, it has been a wonderful year for MUN at Marymount London, and we look forward to what we can achieve in 2017-18.
This year, Marymount London hosted the RSHM ISTA Performing Arts Festival from May 4th - 7th 2017. We were joined by students from the Marymount International Schools of Paris and Rome and the Instituto Marymount Nomentana. The theme of the festival was ‘that all may have life and have it to the full’, and the six goals of our schools were the inspiration for the workshops, which focused on community and being open to new ideas and experiences.

In March 2017, students participated in the ISTA Terezin Theatre Festival, where they worked in ensembles with peers from a range of international schools to devise new theatre. It culminated in a festival performance at the end of three days. The focus was on collaboration and followed a non-competitive ensemble approach.

The overarching theme for this festival was Propaganda and Art. Using a propaganda film made by the Nazis at Terezín in 1944, the festival explored the theme: what is truth and what is illusion. How can theatre expose truth shrouded by deceit? How can artists give a voice to the silenced?
This year Marymount London performed one of the greatest and best loved musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music*. Congratulations to over 100 students who were involved in the production, from the performers on stage to backstage as well as the orchestra. This show must rank as a triumph of highly complex organisation and team work delivered within an atmosphere of irrepressible enthusiasm and confidence. The spirit of joy on display was uplifting and heartening, perfectly complimented by the polish and professionalism of the production.

“The opportunity to take part in *The Sound of Music*, such a well known and classic musical, has been absolutely amazing! The girls involved in the show, whether they be cast or crew, have all worked extremely hard and we are all so close now because of it. We were very excited about the live performances and being able to share this fantastic production with everyone.”

Amelia Lockhart-Hourigan, Grade 10
International Day was once again celebrated with much enthusiasm at Marymount, demonstrating the vibrancy of our unique community whilst encapsulating the School’s goal of ‘Unity through Diversity’. This year we were treated to an energetic Irish gig, performed by students and Faculty members (above). Staff and parents took to the floor in good spirit for the final show dance (below) at the International Dinner.
The Parents’ Association continues to play an important part in the School community, helping to organise events such as the Summer BBQ, the Christmas Fair and our annual International Dinner. The PA has continued to raise money for the RSHM African Missions.
This year has marked another musically enriching time at Marymount with numerous opportunities throughout the year for talented staff and students to contribute to the rich and thriving musical life of the School, for example at Music Assemblies, the Chamber Music Concert, Lessons and Carols, and the Summer Music and Arts Festival.

Once again, the School Choir completed a successful European performance tour, this time to the beautiful city of Krakow, where 25 dedicated and gifted students took part. They had the opportunity to visit the old town, the Wawel Castle as well as the Wieliczka salt mine, and were able to perform in a number of venues: the imposing Baroque Church of Saint Peter and Paul, the Redemptorists’ Church and the stunning Chapel of Saint Kinga. The girls represented their School so well, and sang beautifully throughout!
Visual Art

It has been a busy year in the Visual Arts and Design department. The curriculum expands every year, employing new and varied techniques.

Students in every grade have produced striking works of art and product design that we have displayed in our annual exhibition during the Summer Arts Festival and our School Maker Faire. We also had a successful Grade 11 Pop-up exhibition in December and an impressive Grade 12 Final IB Diploma exhibition in March.
During the half term break, 18 Marymount students from Grades 7 - 11 plus four chaperones went to the city that never sleeps, New York. In the words of the great F. Scott Fitzgerald, “the city seen from the Queensboro Bridge is always the city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise of all the mystery and beauty in the world”.

The students were extremely enthusiastic of each new day, happy to take on board all the walking and subway journeys up, down and across town. They visited many different iconic museums from the Metropolitan to the MoMA, and saw a vast array of creativity from around the globe and spanning centuries. With so many highlights throughout the trip it would be difficult to pin just one down, although many mentioned the first view of the uniquely imposing New York skyline as being a standout moment.
Ski and Snowboarding Trip

During the February half-term break, 29 girls enjoyed six days of thrilling skiing in Anzère, Switzerland.

Overall the weather was beautiful and the views stayed clear. The first day of skiing was full of excitement and nerves, which quickly disappeared as the instructors offered gentle guidance and reassurance, and by the end of the week, the groups were zooming around the slopes at a blinding pace, only stopping to eat lunch and drink a hot chocolate. On the final day, they enjoyed a scenic barbecue lunch and held downhill races.

The week skiing in Anzère was further enriched by a full après-ski programme, with the girls enjoying fun-filled evenings of sledging and ice-skating under the stars, swimming and dancing the final night away at a disco.
Sports

A successful sporting year with great participation in Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Cross Country and Volleyball. One of the highlights of the season was the ISSA Volleyball tournament held at The American School, Madrid, where we were placed 2nd out of 8 teams – the best result that we have secured in volleyball for a while. Our girls also demonstrated their determination and commitment at the RSHM Middle School Sports Festival - hosted by Marymount Paris – where our 1st team won the Basketball and Soccer tournaments, securing third place overall for Marymount London.
Boarding

Ice Skating at Hampton Court

Building a Snowman

Pictures by the Christmas Tree

Birthday Celebrations

Archery in the Sports Hall

Decorations in Boarding
**Boarding**

- Theatre trip to *Aladdin*
- Trip to Brighton
- Evening Treats
- Halloween
- Game Night
- Creative Club
- Pizza Night
- Revision Time
- Trip to the Cinema
- Ping-pong in the Dining Hall
This year 54 students served in our vibrant National Honor Society fulfilling their duties in support of four NHS pillars: Leadership, Character, Service and Scholarship. With admirable energy and focus, the NHS students formed several committees. These included:

The Eco-Schools Committee which promotes sustainability and environment awareness by organising ‘green’ projects. This year they completed their Living Wall project.

The Lecture Series Committee continued to organise and host series of inspiring lectures which included talks by Rubina Khan on the United Nations and Lidia Aicardi on Law.

The ‘Day in her Shoes’ Committee promoted awareness of international crises and how these affect girls across the world. They raised money for the RSHM African Missions by making and selling candles and stickers.

The Cultural Diversity Committee promoted and celebrated the cultural diversity of our School, by organising a digital artwork competition.

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**Save the date**

**~ Annual October Reunion ~**

Friday 13th October and

Saturday 14th October 2017

Celebrating the Classes of ’2 & ’7

Marymount International School

**~ Young Alumnae Reception ~**

Friday 4th March 2018

Pennethorne’s

Somerset House

Strand

London WC2