



Dame Rosemary Squire re-visits Nottingham Girls' High School for Business Language Event

Nottingham Girls' High School was delighted to welcome back Dame Rosemary Squire OBE, to represent the world of theatre with a keynote talk at a languages event, appropriately entitled 'All the World's Your Stage'.



Dame Rosemary is an alumna of the school and was also instrumental in the development of its £9M performing arts centre which the school named after her family – The Squire Performing Arts Centre, also known as 'the space'. As a language graduate herself, Dame Rosemary was the obvious choice of keynote speaker for this event, organised by the BLC (Business Language Champions Ltd), combining her wealth of theatrical business expertise with her experience in the study of languages. Welcoming her back to the school also gave the Head, Julie Keller, an opportunity to congratulate her on her recent Damehood in the New Year's Honours list. Julie said: "It's such a privilege to welcome Rosemary back to the school and acknowledge her incredible success. She is such a great role model for our girls. We're delighted and grateful to her for attending this event and we couldn't be more pleased about her well-deserved recognition in the New Year's Honours list." She receives the honour from Her Majesty The Queen for services to Theatre and Philanthropy.

In her keynote talk, Dame Rosemary Squire told girls about the importance of having dreams and ambitions, and to always do what they love, stressing that girls and young women should not be afraid of learning skills in business. She used the story of her own success as an example, and also told the girls of how she loved languages at school and how studying languages opened up a world of culture and travel.



The event at the school – All the World’s Your Stage – was a drama-based regional challenge for A-Level language students organised by Business Language Champions Ltd, an East Midlands based company working with schools and businesses to promote the use of language skills in the workplace. There were participants from Nottingham Girls’ High School, joined by girls from Oakham School and Stamford School. The girls took part in workshops on writing and performing in order to produce short plays in their chosen language on a particular theme,

which they then performed in front of the other groups for judging. Sally Fagan from BLC said: “We were delighted to be invited by NGHS to use The Space for a drama based language event. As this was a pilot event, we weren’t sure what to expect, but we were amazed at what the students managed to produce in such a short time. We were truly impressed with the results and do hope to repeat this event again.”

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all those involved, including the eventual winners - Comédie Française – composed of two students from Stamford, one from Oakham and one from NGHS. All the teams were mixed school and were given names from famous theatres. The winning team wrote and performed a short comedy about a single mum with two children trying to get to the airport for a flight with everything going wrong.



Languages are a popular subject choice at Nottingham Girls’ High School which values their importance and the opportunities which can result from their attainment. This event was a successful way of building confidence through performance and the Modern Languages Department were very pleased with the whole outcome, and especially excited to have such a special guest of honour in attendance.

Notes to Editors

About Nottingham Girls’ High School

Nottingham Girls’ High School is an independent day school for girls between the ages of 4 – 18. Part of the GDST (Girls’ Day School Trust) Nottingham Girls’ High School is one of the largest schools within the group with over 800 pupils.

About the GDST

The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) is the leading group of independent girls' schools in the UK, with nearly 4,000 staff and 20,000 students between the ages of three and 18. As a charity that owns and runs a family of 23 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1872, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls.

About Dame Rosemary Squire, Lady Panter DBE

Rosemary Squire is one of the most prominent women in British theatre of the modern era. Co-founding ATG in 1992, it has gone on to become the world's number one live-theatre company with almost 50 venues in Britain, the US and Australia and is one of the world's most prolific theatre producers. Last year, Squire stepped down from her post as CEO to move into a new creative phase. The Trafalgar Entertainment Group owns and operates theatre buildings, developing a boutique brand as well as producing diverse, high quality, distinctive live work. The new venture is based at the iconic Trafalgar Studios in London's West End.

In 2014, she made history as the first woman to be named EY UK Entrepreneur of the Year. She is Chair of the South West Area for Arts Council England, Joint Chair of The Hall for Cornwall, and former Chairman of the Board for Sonia Friedman Productions. As Chair of Great Ormond Street's Theatres for Theatres Appeal she raised over £5m and now Chairs The Tick Tock Club which has currently raised £11m for the hospital.

When democratically elected as President of Society of London Theatre, she became the second only female President in the organisation's history. She won the prestigious CBI Real Business First Women Award for Tourism & Leisure and was awarded an OBE for Services to Theatre. Widely respected in the industry, Rosemary and her husband/business partner, Sir Howard Panter, have topped The Stage 100 for seven consecutive record-breaking years. This makes them the most successful entrants ever on the list. They have also topped the Evening Standard 'Power 1000' Theatre section and Rosemary was chosen as one of the 100 women on the inaugural BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour UK Power List in 2013 appearing at number 16 on the list. Rosemary has an Honorary Doctorate from Southampton University and was recently awarded an Honorary Doctor of Arts by both De Montfort University and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in recognition of her achievements as a theatre entrepreneur.

About BLC

Business Language Champions Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and run as a Social Enterprise to bring benefits to both the schools and businesses taking part. Currently run by Directors Sally Fagan and Suzannah Hutton, Business Language Champions aims to promote modern foreign languages and cultural cohesion by demonstrating to young people the importance of language skills in the workplace.

For more details about GDST schools, please go to www.gdst.net and follow us on Twitter @GDST