

# Lowther Hall

ANGLICAN  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL



*All about the girl*

## New Academic Wardrobe

**Launched**  
29 November  
2017





*"Experience shows that undoubtedly the adoption of a school uniform tends to promote that spirit of corporate life which is so essential to the welfare of a School. It is also of great help [in] merging self in the School. The adoption of a uniform, by its avoidance of a multiplicity of colours and styles, in itself makes for neatness and good taste. By its means there is not the constant need to be for ever changing with the changing fashions. The [crest] marks [a girl] as belonging to "the best school of all" and fosters the desire that she herself should ever uphold the honour of her School."*

**Extract from** "Circular to the parents of the pupils of Lowther Hall" (and other Anglican Girls' Schools) from their Headmistresses. **August 1923**

**Above:** Prefects with Miss Ferguson, Headmistress (1924), seated left.

# A new wardrobe for a new era

## **Lowther Hall has been educating young women for almost 100 years.**

Over this time, the changed role of women in society, their involvement in corporate life and their entry into a broader sphere of occupations, has been reflected in the changes to female codes of dress.

Recent discussion in the media about the ways in which school uniforms can be perceived to channel girls into one particular model of femininity have also been interesting to observe.

As the leader of a girls' school, I want our students to feel that what they wear at school, particularly in

their senior years, helps them to feel ready to enter the adult world as confident and contemporary women who will find a place in the modern world and be ready to make a meaningful contribution to it.

This is the context in which our new academic wardrobe has been designed.





# A collaborative process

**Change is never straightforward: it involves risk in leaving behind things that are familiar and sometimes much loved, and it requires trust in both the motivations and processes of those leading the change.**

The review of a school uniform that many people feel a strong emotional connection with needs not only to acknowledge the journey that has brought us to this point, but must respect those who will find the change difficult, by providing consultative processes and sound reasoning to inform the final decisions.

To this end, it was important to engage in a considered process which would allow

for genuine involvement of and consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

This began with questions about the current uniform being included in parent and student surveys in 2015 and then saw the establishment of a uniform review committee that has met for some 24 months now to provide feedback and guidance at each stage of the design process. Details of the committee membership are provided on the final page of this booklet and you will see that there is significant student representation.

At Lowther Hall we take student voice very seriously, and so it was important to us to have

girls meaningfully involved in the process, not only to provide insights about look and feel and what their peers would be happy to wear, but also to trial fabrics, try on items for fit and comfort and to help design options which would serve them well. As usual, we were most impressed with the commitment and insight shown by the girls.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who served on the committee for their interest and their dedication. It was a long process with many hours of deliberation, but one with an outcome that I think all can be proud of.



**Ms Elisabeth Rhodes**  
Principal



# A wardrobe that is comfortable and allows movement

**It was crucial that the new wardrobe would be comfortable to wear and would address some of the concerns that girls have with the current uniform, for example the transparency of the shirt and the fact that many students find the tights extremely uncomfortable.**

The possibility of girls having more flexibility and choice - to cater for different body shapes, body temperatures and different activities - was another strong consideration.

Additionally, we wanted a uniform that gave girls

more opportunity to be comfortably active, especially in their early years of school, so the decision was to select fabrics with some stretch, as well as including items such as shorts or pants.









**A contemporary  
wardrobe connected  
to the past**





**Lowther Hall has a history of which we are very proud and whilst there was much that needed to be different, everyone involved in the development of the new wardrobe felt strongly that our links with the past and connections to our traditions should not be lost.**

Our designer began his work by spending time in the archives becoming acquainted with the evolution of the uniform since the School's inception and derived the "Earlsbrae blue" that is the defining colour of the new wardrobe, from a dress worn at Lowther Hall in the 1940s.

The prominence of the School Crest has increased

in the new wardrobe and serves as a unifying feature across multiple items. A formal blazer and a hat have been retained.

Most importantly however, the traditions of girls wearing their uniform to a high standard and with pride, remain priorities at the School as we move towards our centenary year in 2020.



# A wardrobe of quality design and manufacturing

**In seeking to produce a wardrobe of high quality which would both wear well and represent the School appropriately, we engaged in a process to select the very best designer we could.**

Experienced designer, Jonathan Ward, whose work for RM Williams was well known to us, was the perfect choice, as has been borne out through his work over the last two years.

Jonathan's attention to detail and understanding of the Lowther Hall ethos have resulted in a wardrobe that is both stylish and easy to wear.

Some of the features of the uniform which Jonathan believes set it apart include:

- Fabric
- Marle knitwear
- Welled pockets
- Cut of blazer

Quality and ethical manufacturing have also been priorities for us in producing the new wardrobe. Items have been manufactured through our supplier, Noone Imagewear, with most garments made in Indonesia through Trisco Apparel.

Australian wool has been used in blazers, jumpers, vests, skirts and tunics. Garments such as the dress, feature cotton with Global Organic Textile Standard certification.







# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why are we referring to it as a wardrobe?**

Whereas the current uniform has all girls wearing the same thing at the same time (and is therefore, literally, “uniform” in its approach), the new range has a variety of connected trans-seasonal pieces from which girls can choose on any given day. It is therefore more accurate to describe it as a “wardrobe” of items.

## **What is the transition period?**

There is a two year transitional phase from the current uniform to the new one. All students are expected to be in the new wardrobe by the beginning of 2020, the School’s centenary year.

## **Won’t it look messy while we transition from one uniform to the other?**

Yes! However, we felt that it was important to give families sufficient time to make the change across to the new wardrobe. The transition phase will be a memorable time in the School’s history: it is similar to the idea of a work site while we erect a new building – we know it will be wonderful in the end.

## **What about school photos?**

Class and group photos are an historical record. For the next two years they will accurately record that we were in a transition to a new academic wardrobe. When girls look back at their photos in the years to come they will enjoy remembering this significant event in their School’s history. Individual photos will continue to be a beautiful record of each girl, no matter which uniform she is wearing.



### **What about girls who only have a couple of years of school left?**

Girls who will complete school prior to 2020 will make an individual family choice about whether to switch across to the new uniform. Once girls have completed Year 12 the new pieces can of course be sold through our uniform supplier's second hand shop so that some of the cost of outlay is recouped.

### **When will the new items be available for purchase?**

Our uniform supplier, Noone Imagewear, will be organising fittings following the launch. Specific times have been set aside for new and existing families.

### **What will happen to our "old" uniform items?**

We are organising for our "old" uniform items to be donated to a school in need overseas.

### **What will the rules be for the new wardrobe?**

A complete guide will be communicated to girls and families following the launch.

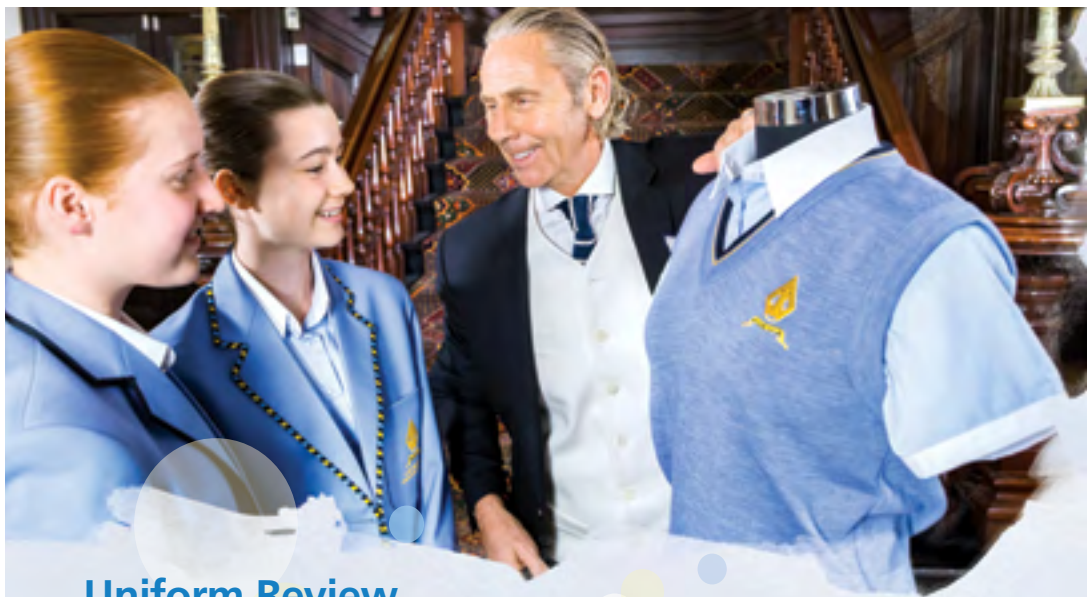
### **Is the sport uniform going to change?**

Following the academic wardrobe launch, the School will look at all other uniform items currently available. There is a possibility over the coming years that some PE items may change to be more in line with the new look Academic Wardrobe. If this is the case, any items of PE uniform deemed to be in need of updating will be phased in over a number of years primarily through attrition.

### **What about the Colours embroidery on my blazer pocket?**

If a student has Colours embroidered on an "old" blazer, the School will cover the cost of reproducing existing Colours during the phase-in period ie for the next two years only. Both old and new blazers should be handed in together at the Senior School reception on the last day of a school term. The blazers will be collected from Senior School reception at the beginning of the term after which they were handed in.





## Uniform Review Committee

**Ms Elisabeth Rhodes**  
Principal

**Ms Sandy Nelson**  
Director of Admissions  
& Marketing

**Ms Lauren McKendry**  
Class of 2005 &  
Communications Manager

**Mr Simon Oldham**  
Business Manager

**Ms Tracy Healy**  
Deputy Principal &  
Head of Senior School

**Mr Peter Williams**  
Head of Junior School

**Mrs Lisa Ashen**  
Head of Early Years

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**Ms Penny Adams**  
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School Captain 2016

**Ms Carina Chi**  
Deputy School Captain 2016  
**Mardi Sutherland** Year 11

**Elena Dawson** Year 11

**Elleni Yates** Year 10

**Olivia Henein** Year 9

**Dunya Kumbalata**  
Year 9

**Annabelle Montgomery**  
Year 9

**Lucy Vicendese** Year 7  
**Emma Tatti** Year 7

**Stephanie Koutoulas**  
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## Acknowledgements

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Parent

**Ms Chris Christofilea**

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**Ms Sally O'Connor**

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**Mia Caccamo** Year 8

**Kairo Calvitto** Year 11

**Zahri Calvitto** Year 4

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**Ruby Caruana** Year 8

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**Teal Goodchild** Year 5

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**Gabriella Griffiths** Year 9

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**Anny Le Nguyen** Year 2

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**Madelene Theodosios** Year 8

**Emma Thompson** Year 11

**Ruby Ure** Year 5

**Marie Villani** Year 10

**Keira White** Year 2

**Elleni Yates** Year 10

**Zoe Zheng** Year 4

**Pictured:** Mr Jonathan Ward  
with 2018 Prefect Mardi  
Sutherland, and Year 9 student  
Annabelle Montgomery.



*Educating the whole person  
for the whole of life*

Kindergarten  
to VCE

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