

To elect the President elect 2023/4

Fiona Illingworth (née Short) (BF 76 & Albans)

From the moment I was shown Haileybury by my father, **Henry Short (BF 43)** I knew it was where I wanted to finish my education and Haileybury did not disappoint.

I was the third generation and fifth Short to go to Haileybury and in those days we were chosen not necessarily for our academic prowess, as they wanted girls to fit in at all levels of the school and so for the next two years, I immersed myself in English Literature, French, History, singing and drama, joining the Political Society and instigating the Scottish Dancing Ball.

Haileybury gave me so much in terms of confidence, an ability to speak to anyone, a love of church music and English Literature the importance of service to others and several life-long friends – all of which I will always be grateful for.

Since leaving school it has been my honour to be the first OH girl to serve on the General Committee and I am also a Trustee of the Society.

Over the years, I have worked as a PA to several Managing Directors, run ski chalets, been an exams officer for children with learning difficulties and now run my own business as an independent funeral celebrant.

I am married to Robin who is Senior Partner of a Solicitors in East Sussex with offices in London and who specialises in property matters, including several vineyards in the South East. I have two adult sons; the eldest, Toby, is Operations Manager for Safedrop Ukraine and currently lives in L'viv and travels extensively throughout the country delivering medical, food and clothing aid and has recently set up a blood donation initiative out there. My younger son, Marcus, is a Success Coach at the University of Rio Grande in Ohio, where he went to university and was a Soccer and Academic Scholar.

I look forward to serving the Haileybury Society as President Elect and, in time, as President and continuing to strengthen ties with the school in the future and meeting as many OHs as possible in order to preserve the important position of the Haileybury Society to both its members and the school.