



## Empowering Women

Year 9 BBC School News Reporters speak to inspiring guest **speakers on International Women's Day.**

Are we equal? I bet each of you have asked yourselves this question. At one point or another we all doubt ourselves. In honour of International Women's Day, Lady Margaret School had guest speakers for each year group visit the school. They were, not only inspiring but uplifting as well. They told us to always push forward even if people were pushing you back. They spoke about their personal experiences and the experiences of others they had worked with.

Maureen Duffy was a Second World War survivor and author, her first book was published in 1962. Overall she published 35 books. She taught us to always follow our dreams no matter what happens. People tried to tell her it was going to be too hard but she persevered and finally found a way in. One of the main things she said which really struck us was "If you really want something, do it". She told us of the journey she had to go through before she became a writer. She was truthful and told us it was going to be hard but you have to persevere and get through it." If you really want it you will get it ". We really enjoyed having Maureen as she was very moving and encouraged us to persevere through trials.

Pupils at Lady Margaret School were fortunate enough to listen to a wide range of inspirational women on International Women's Day. They were very motivating and informed the girls about the careers they have in different working fields. Another speaker we listened to was Jessica Littlewood. Although she did not get a law degree, she persevered and achieved an Economics degree from Bristol University. She additionally taught pupils to "expect the unexpected" this is due to the fact that she didn't plan on being a lawyer. This had lead onto get achievements such as being a partner at a big law firm and having the opportunity to travel across the globe. Over the years, she has realised that "you don't need a plan, just near term goals". So what are your goals? Not for the years to come, but weeks?

Also visiting was a former LMS student, Teresa Reynolds who came back to inspire us and encourage us to 'recognise opportunities!' Teresa Reynolds inspired us to always take opportunities that come and encourage us (as we are in a crucial point in our education for deciding on our future) to think about how we want to live our life. Teresa has had many jobs but her most influential has been IBYouth (Incredible Brilliant Youth) which encourages young people's self-esteem, beauty and personal development.

As a school, International Women's Day is an event very close to our hearts because the school seeks to encourage young women to think for themselves and make the most of our futures. So what do you want for your future? We ask this question every day in year 9 as we all want our future to be the best we can shape it to be! These inspirational women who we were fortunate enough to interview have perhaps all asked themselves this question too; the main difference is they have acted on it **and succeeded, so let's follow in their footsteps!**