

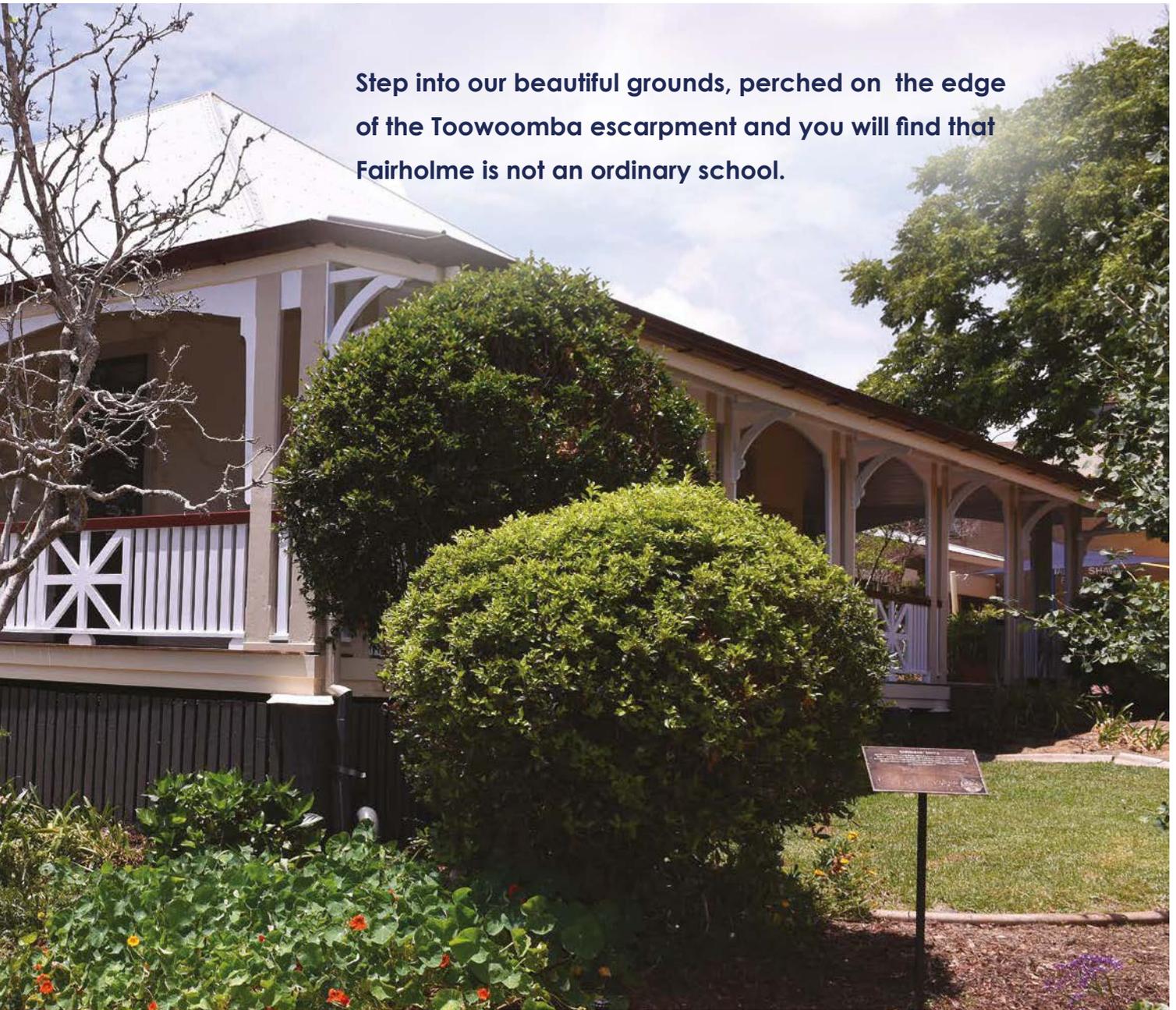


FAIRHOLME COLLEGE
TOOWOOMBA

A photograph of a house with a porch and a large, bare tree in the foreground. The house has a white porch with a decorative railing. The tree is large and has many bare branches, suggesting it might be winter or late autumn. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the foreground, there are green bushes.

'Let us help her
find her *beginning*'

Step into our beautiful grounds, perched on the edge of the Toowoomba escarpment and you will find that Fairholme is not an ordinary school.





Welcome to Fairholme

Our College motto, 'Ardens sed Virens' (Burning Yet Flourishing), encapsulates the spirited heart of our College: spirit drawn from our Christian foundations. We are proudly a College of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland and an all-girls' K-12 day and boarding school with a co-educational kindergarten. At Fairholme, we seek excellence for each and every student.

Step into our beautiful grounds, perched on the edge of the Toowoomba escarpment, and you will know that Fairholme is not an ordinary school. It is a school that celebrates its pursuits of excellence in academic, cultural and sporting fields whilst maintaining a clear commitment to active service – giving back at a local and international level.

A Fairholme girl is invariably hopeful, determined and focused – someone who expects to do well in whatever field of study or vocation she chooses. She understands perseverance, tenacity and persistence, and that choosing the hard over the easy often reaps the greatest rewards. Ultimately, she carries the legacy of all who have climbed the homestead steps before her and remains inextricably linked to all with whom she journeys during her time at Fairholme.

We welcome your visit to our beautiful campus, at any time. Here, you can gain a greater sense of what it means to be a Fairholme girl: Burning Yet Flourishing.

Linda Evans

Warm Regards

Dr Linda Evans

EdD, MA, BEdSt, Dip T, MACE, MACEL

Why Fairholme?

Tradition of Educational Excellence

Fairholme has a tradition of educational excellence which embraces all facets of learning: academic, sporting and the arts. We believe a well-rounded curriculum fully nurtures each student's physical and social development. In furthering this philosophy, our focus is very much upon the education of girls; creating classrooms that suit the learning of girls; challenging stereotypical views of females' roles in education and ultimately growing confident young women who are leaders within their community.

Student Care and Support

Fairholme's Student Care and Support Wellbeing program, founded on Christ-centred faith, is the cornerstone of our teaching practices. A Fairholme education is all about growing our girls to be young women who are passionate about learning, compassionate towards others and who have a strong sense of faith and social direction supporting them to achieve their personal best.

High Quality teaching

Fairholme has a reputation for engaging a staff of highly-trained teachers who are passionate about their art. Our teachers are committed to their own ongoing professional learning, and to challenging the girls to realise their potential.





Why Fairholme?

Balanced Education

We aim to encourage our students to be curious and critical thinkers with a broad vision for the future. A place of academic excellence, Fairholme strives to help our girls flourish in every aspect of their lives. We believe that the size of our school is big enough for a diversity of academic, cultural, service and sporting offerings but also small enough to ensure that relationships between teachers and students, as well as among the students themselves, remain fundamental to our daily practice. Underpinning this is an unparalleled spirit, pride and enthusiasm in being part of Fairholme.

Consistently High Results

Each year, Fairholme College's Year 12 results rank among those of the top independent girls' schools in Queensland. Our teachers consistently challenge and support our girls to do their best; their mentorship within teaching and learning drives the girls to success as well as extremely strong results year after year.

Master Plan

Our school exists for our students, and we seek to provide optimum conditions for their learning and growth, both now and into the future. Fairholme's Master Plan maps out our College's infrastructure into the future, to ensure that we are well prepared to connect with our communities, that there is sustainability within the College, and that technology and 21st century learning needs are met, nurtured and stretched for growth.



Vision and Values

As a College of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, we aim to lead students to a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and to nurture growth in the Christian life. The following values underpin everything we do at Fairholme: Christ-Centred Faith, Collaboration, Enjoyment, Respect, and Seeking Excellence.

Our Vision is to be a nurturing Christian school, committed to developing a vibrant learning community; one that challenges our girls to become confident and respectful contributors within our global society. We believe that students perform best only when set real challenges. This is genuine pastoral care and it provides a sense of achievement and self-respect.

Further, we emphasise the traditional values of hard work, fair play and taking pride in one's appearance and behaviour. The special character of the College lies in its harmonious balance between boarders and day students. The College takes seriously its role as a boarding school for rural families and places great emphasis on providing a 'home away from home'.

Fairholme seeks to empower students to be adaptive, compassionate and courageous; we aim to offer education which develops potential and guides students in such a way that they are capable of making responsible and ethical decisions in the future.

Care and Support

Your daughter is our focus. Her wellbeing is paramount at Fairholme, which is why we place such a strong emphasis on her care and support; care for her mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing and support for her academic and co-curricular learning journey.

All staff at Fairholme are actively involved and invested in our girls' wellbeing. In addition, we have a dedicated Wellness Team who oversee student welfare, using a collaborative approach to support students.

We seek to provide a safe, respectful environment underpinned by our core values.

We also believe that community connections, service initiatives and leadership opportunities help each girl to develop confidence, compassion, a capacity for adventure and resilience and, moreover, shape her sense of purpose and justice so she can help shape the world beyond Fairholme.

We know girls, and if your daughter is a student at our school, then we know your daughter. To do so matters a great deal to us – every day.



Ardens sed Virens



Educating Girls

Fairholme College's focus is very much upon the education of girls; creating classrooms that suit their learning; challenging stereotypical views of females' roles in education; and, ultimately, growing confident young women who are leaders within their communities.

'Girls can do anything' typifies the Fairholme experience. Implicit, or even explicit, gendered boundaries that often exist in a co-educational setting simply don't exist at Fairholme. This is evidenced in the range of academic, sporting and cultural opportunities afforded at the College. Whether she wants to participate in the sciences and technologies, in sport, on the dramatic stage, or in the artistic arena, your daughter is encouraged to pursue her passion in all levels of school life with willingness and spirited engagement.

An all-girls' school provides academic advantage, leadership opportunities, positive role models, a tailored curriculum, and the notion of service - locally and globally.

In our classrooms this is manifest in our girls' willingness to take positive risks in their learning, without inhibition. There is an absence of passivity and a plethora of activity; we see it in their energetic participation in sport at exceptionally high rates and their wholehearted engagement in the arts and in-service activities.

A typical Fairholme girl is busy with life and learning and is developing self-confidence, responsibility and compassion for others as she does so. Our girls also have the opportunity to develop deep friendships and connections with one another – friendships that invariably last a lifetime.







Three Schools, One Campus

The campus of Fairholme College, situated on the edge of the Toowoomba Range, provides our girls with first-class teaching, learning, sporting and cultural facilities. The one campus is divided into three sub schools, but significantly, it still enables close interaction between the Junior (K-Year 6), Middle (Years 7-9) and Senior (Years 10-12) Schools. Students interact primarily within their peer years which fosters friendship, a sense of belonging and a shared vision.

Conversely, there are many opportunities where students and staff are encouraged to engage with one another through a range of cross-campus activities, so students feel connected at all levels.

Students and staff are grouped vertically in four Houses – Cameron, Powell, Stephens and Black – for Holme Groups and for sporting and cultural activities and competitions; this further supports and enhances aspects of the College's Pastoral Care Program. The sense of camaraderie and identity within the Houses fosters school spirit, leadership, gratitude and service and develops a feeling of belonging and value in a peer-supported environment.

Fairholme is home to premium academic, sporting and arts facilities including a 25-metre indoor heated pool, gymnasium, track and field oval, two libraries, tennis courts, an historic Homestead, a large Assembly Hall with a stage and a professional sound and lighting room, as well as dedicated arts, dance and drama rooms.

The three sub schools on one campus provide our girls with a seamless transition from Kindy to Year 12, while offering a comprehensive, enriching, and diverse education.

Kindy

Fairholme Kindy offers a rich, play-based program for girls and boys who turn three years of age prior to their commencement at Kindy. Our engaging, fun, inclusive program offers a nature-rich environment, warm and inviting play rooms and access to wider school facilities such as the Junior Library, school oval, gymnasium and playgrounds. Fairholme Kindy offers a gentle transition between home and school through a safe, secure and supportive group setting.

Each child at Fairholme Kindy is valued as an individual with differing ideas, interests, abilities, strengths and needs. Our highly trained early-childhood educators observe the child's play, listen to ideas, encourage and support interactions and add resources and materials to extend and build on interests. We believe this play-based philosophy is such a valuable learning opportunity for young children. Essentially, it is how they engage, interact and find out about the world around them. Further, it provides many social interactions that support the development of friendship skills, collaborative relationships and empathy.

The program (informed by the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines) is supported by current early childhood research which reinforces the importance of a sense of belonging. Children are seen as social learners and play is the most relevant means for learning.





Junior School

Fairholme Junior, catering for students from Kindy to Year 6, provides a vibrant, supportive and nurturing environment for our children. We acknowledge each student's talents, interests and abilities and enable them to shine in their academic pursuits, their cultural endeavours and in the sporting arena.

Based upon a platform of strong pastoral care, Fairholme Junior develops the students' academic, sporting, cultural and social and emotional capacity through meaningful relationships and connections between children, staff, parents and the wider community. It is this platform that enables the development of young people brimming with resilience, self-belief, curiosity and gratitude.

As a result, Fairholme Junior continues to enjoy exceptionally high standards of results across academia, performing arts and sporting arenas. We are very proudly 'Top of the Hill' – the most successful independent school in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

Our extensive Junior co-curricular program sees our students sing in choirs, learn musical instruments, stage musicals, enjoy speech and drama, perform in singing recitals, play chess, debate, take part in Maths Olympiads, participate in swimming, cross country, athletics, tennis, netball, touch and hockey, and enjoy camps and excursions.

A caring, compassionate and supportive attitude, Christian worship, respect for self and others and a dedication to developing honesty and integrity are an integral part of everyday life at Fairholme Junior. Our pastoral care program focuses upon developing skills to equip our students with the personal skills they need to negotiate the increasingly complex world in which they live.







Middle School

Fairholme Middle School offers a stimulating and challenging curriculum for girls in Years 7, 8 and 9, delivered in a supportive and caring environment designed for achieving excellence whilst smoothly transitioning from Junior to Senior School.

A strong focus on academic studies, where the National Curriculum has been implemented in Years 7, 8 and 9 in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography, is well supported by our Pastoral Care and Life Skills programs. The girls embark on a curriculum founded on literacy and numeracy, but branching out to intellectually engaging, relevant and deliberately fun learning. Pastoral Care and Life Skills programs work to enhance the emotional, social and spiritual development of each girl, alongside these studies.

At a time when adolescent years can be challenging for many young people and particularly for young women aged 11 to 14 years, the support offered by the Fairholme Middle School to each girl is invaluable and prepares her beautifully for the challenge and excitement of the Senior School.

Further opportunities available to Middle School students include debating, maths team challenges, drama and musical productions, a vast range of sporting competitions, annual year level camps that boost teamwork and morale as well as volunteering service to our community. Such experiences offer moments of anticipation and exhilaration, and they kick-start the students' motivation to pursue individual and unique interests – crucially important in engaging girls of this age.

Senior School

Senior schooling at Fairholme (Years 10-12) is a dynamic phase of learning, living and leading which nurtures the girls' abilities to be successful and courageous women.

Senior School allows our girls to forge their own pathway as they prepare for life after school. They are encouraged to immerse in a learning phase that enriches and responds to their individual journey; it can be a time of discovery or purposeful specialisation – or both, as the girls explore their academic, vocational and service learning opportunities.

In addition to traditional academic pursuits, it seems that whatever their passion, our girls are able to engage in rich learning within The Arts and Sport, through Cadets, amidst a range of Service activities and via the leadership structure within the Senior School.

Nurturing our girls' skills in independent learning and developing healthy relationships, the Senior School experience focuses on enabling these students to navigate their learning and life experiences so that they may become spirited, skilled and courageous women who strengthen and inspire our communities.

As your daughter nears the completion of her Senior School years and prepares to embark on her adult life, Fairholme Senior School offers excellent academic prospects, incredible life experiences, and opportunities to excel.





Academic Program

The core curriculum at Fairholme consists of all Key Learning Areas. These are defined by the core learning outcomes (in which a number of cross-curricular priorities are embedded) and core content for each Key Learning Area. Students in Middle and Senior School are presented with a curriculum that provides opportunities to experience a broad range of compulsory and elective subjects.

In Years 7 and 8, most subjects are studied for the full year, while others are studied as part of a term-rotation program. Students engage in subjects in The Arts, Languages, Design, Business and Technologies, along with core studies in English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science and Humanities. These subjects in Middle School allow the girls to pursue areas of interests and develop a broad education perspective.

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to personalise their learning through the selection of elective subjects which suit their interests and aspirations. Year 9 students are exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences that assist them in making informed subject selections when moving into Years 11 and 12.

Year 10 students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, Christian Education and THRIVE, as well as two elective subjects. Further, they elect a specialist elective in areas such as Aviation; Health Services; Crime and Justice; Fitness and Educational Support.

Year 11 and Year 12 students work towards a Queensland Certificate of Education which incorporates the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Our contemporary curriculum is underpinned by a strong Pastoral Care program which allows us to support the 'whole' student in her learning journey at Fairholme College.

Visual and Performing Arts

Vibrant and full of life, The Arts department is a spirited display of the heart and soul of Fairholme College.

The Arts offers students an opportunity to acquire academic competencies and interpersonal skills through involvement in the artistic process. Offerings include Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Debating, Public Speaking and Sound & Lighting opportunities.

Fairholme College includes Arts activities for all year levels from Prep through to Year 12. Students may participate in The Arts through academic programs in class and also by becoming involved in the thriving co-curricular program outside of school hours. Students will be introduced to all, or a combination of, classroom subjects in the Middle School, with the opportunity to continue with elective subjects in the Senior School.

The Arts subjects, all QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) board-registered subjects, are Dance, Drama, Music, Music Extension (Year 12) and Visual Art. As authority subjects, they are based on syllabuses that have been approved and issued by the QCAA.

The cultural profile of the College is enriched by a strong set of performance and presentation events to showcase the highly valued depth and talent of the girls.





Sporting life

We are passionate about supporting the next generation of sporting champions as well as developing a healthy future for all students at Fairholme.

The College is recognised as one of the leading physical activity providers in Australia, with Olympians such as Emilee Cherry, Dom Du Toit, Liz Hepple, Cathy Freeman, Gemma Etheridge and Dannielle Liesch having developed their skills whilst attending Fairholme College.

A wide variety of sporting activities is offered at Fairholme, in both competitive and non-competitive environments. We offer cross country, swimming, track and field, basketball, netball, Futsal, Rugby 7s, hockey, soccer, cricket, softball, squash, tennis, touch football, volleyball, water polo and equestrian. Students who excel in their competitive sports are encouraged to pursue their talent at Interhouse, Regional, State, National and International levels.

Our philosophy is to promote physical activity for all our girls and provide opportunities for participation at all skill levels. Being involved in sport promotes both physical and mental wellbeing, builds confidence, encourages teamwork and helps facilitate friendships outside of the classroom.

From Junior to Middle to Senior School, there are many sporting opportunities available to students at Fairholme, ranging from House, representative and elite-level competitions, to fitness sessions, group and private lessons.

Pastoral Care and Community

A caring, compassionate and supportive attitude, Christian worship, respect for self and for others and a dedication to developing honesty and integrity form an integral part of everyday life at Fairholme College. Our Pastoral Care program focuses upon nurturing individuals as unique and valued members of our community while helping our girls develop skills to assist them with the personal skills they need to negotiate the increasingly complex world in which they live.

Pastoral Care remains a focus at every step. It exists in our classrooms, corridors and at sporting matches, through our restorative approach to conflict resolution, in our worship and the respectful way we treat one another each day. Our aim is to nurture a culture which is inclusive and one that encourages positive connections and thus a sense of belonging; this supports the girls as they pursue passions, negotiate challenges and navigate their world.

Girls in Years 1 to 6 enjoy vertically streamed Holme Groups that support the feeling of belonging in a small school that nurtures individuals. Using role modelling and peer-supported circle time to develop concepts, including building positive relationships and resolving concerns in a constructive way, fostering a sense of belonging is important and focused pastoral-care learning episodes occur.

In Years 7-12, where a vertical Pastoral Care system exists, students remain with the same Holme Group and teacher for the three years of each sub-school. Our approach places emphasis on the development of this small unit of care within the broader school context. Activities undertaken in the Holme Group or House setting are aimed at nurturing positive relationships and involve a variety of collaborative projects, service activities and Interhouse activities and competitions.









Boarding at Fairholme

Boarding at Fairholme offers many opportunities for enrichment and enhancement. Fairholme Boarding staff know how important it is to take great care of each girl. We go above and beyond to know each girl and her family well to ensure that every student feels valued and at home.

Learning to live in a community is a vital skill for life, and Boarders form close friendships and develop values such as independence, tolerance and resilience often much earlier than others who are not given the same opportunities.

With modern but homely boarding facilities (including the fully equipped Health Centre offering 24-hour care by trained nurses) and staffed by caring and trained professionals, the Fairholme Boarding experience enables each student to maximise the many opportunities available to her.

Our Boarders constitute about one-third of the student body in the Middle School and close to half of the Senior School, as well as a smaller group of girls in the Junior School.

Life in the Boarding House is continually full, with regular weekend sporting, cultural, art and craft activities and excursions on offer for the girls. The bright, vibrant and purpose-built living spaces and facilities at Fairholme Boarding cater for the learning and lifestyle needs of teenage girls and provide each Boarder with a balance between personal privacy and communal living. It really is a 'home away from home'.





Beyond Fairholme

Graduation is a natural milestone, but not the end of your daughter's Fairholme journey. We encourage Fairholme girls to build a deep and sustained engagement with issues and communities beyond our school. We want our girls to embrace the challenge of the future and a capacity to make her own positive impact on the world.

Since 1921, the Fairholme Old Girls' Association has maintained a rich and proud tradition of connecting past students of the College with each other while creating new connections with present girls.

There are many opportunities throughout the year where Old Girls return to the College to tell their story of life beyond school. Inspiring, motivating and unique, each one is celebrated for making a difference and for inspiring our future generation of women to do the same. We believe firmly in the adage, 'Once a Fairholme Girl, always a Fairholme Girl'.





Your Daughter's Journey Begins Now

Now you have read about all of the opportunities that await your daughter at Fairholme, we invite you and your family to visit and experience our first-class learning environment for yourself.

Fairholme caters to girls of all abilities. The College's academic standards are high, but so is the desire to see students discover and develop their own strengths and make the most of their natural abilities.

The College conducts regular tours during term time and a range of events throughout the year for prospective students and their families to learn more about Fairholme. To arrange a tour of our campus, please book online through the College website.

For further information, please contact our enrolments team:

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