Golden start to year for ex-pupil turned TV star

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A school in north Norfolk was on top of the world this week after one of its star pupils won one of the television industry's top honours - and then revealed they are still talking about her performance in a school production from 25 years ago.

Forty-two-year-old actress Olivia Colman, who revealed she discovered her love of acting at Gresham's Sixth Form in Holt, has won her first ever Golden Globe award for her performance in BBC One drama The Night Manager.

She was given the accolade, which are regarded as pointers to the Oscars, in the best supporting actress in a series, limited series or TV movie category for her work in the spy thriller.

But the Norfolk-born star, who beat This Is Us stars Mandy Moore and Chrissy Metz, Lena Headey of Game of Thrones and Westworld screenstealer Thandie Newton to take home the trophy, chose not to fly to Los Angeles for the star-studded ceremony in order to prepare to star opposite Dame Judi Dench in Sir Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of Murder on the Orient Express, which is currently being filmed.

Gresham's Headmaster Douglas Stone said: "We are immensely proud of Olivia's success and delighted that she will be amongst the stars in the film adaptation of Peter Morgan's hit play about Margaret Thatcher."

Drama wrote in the Gresham's 1991-1992 yearbook: "Pupils are still talking about Colman's performance in Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" - a school House production.

Many other Gresham's pupils have gone on to achieve success in the performing arts including Miranda Raison, Ben Mansfield and Sienna Guillory.

This week's song was Colman's second for her portrayal of Angela Burr and there could be more accolades to come as she has been nominated for further awards including an Emmy and a Critics' Choice Television Award.

Before her role in the global hit series, Colman was best known for playing DS Ellie Miller in the ITV drama Broadchurch, a role she will continue later this year as the show returns for its third series.

Colman said: "I can't believe I was not there but it feels like the wrong thing not being there for the first week of a new job."

"I had all these voice mails from the director Susanne Bier saying 'turn your phone on'". Now I'm so glad I'm