

BAFTA AWARD WINNING ACTRESS RETURNS TO HER OLD STOMPING GROUND



Gresham's School in Holt is delighted to hear that former pupil, Olivia Colman has won her third Bafta Award for best female actor in ITV's crime series Broadchurch which was announced on Sunday 18th May. This award marks the actress's third Bafta, after winning two TV Baftas last year for her roles in Twenty Twelve and Accused. Norfolk-born Olivia who studied at Gresham's recently returned to speak about her career and explain how the school's drama department helped her discover something "she loved doing" - acting. Arguably one of Norfolk's best exports, Olivia has become one of Britain's biggest stars appearing alongside stars such as Meryl Streep, Ian McShane and David Tennant.

Gresham's is known for producing pupils who go on to carve out successful careers in TV and film. Actors, Ben Mansfield (Primeval), Sienna Guillory (Love Actually, Eragon), Miranda Raison (Spooks, Married Single Other) and Directors, Stephen Frears (Philomena) and Julian Jarrold (Kinky Boots). This year, Sixth Form students have received offers from the Arts Educational School in London, The National Youth Theatre and LAMDA. Alicia Stark, a Sixth Form student who met Olivia during her visit is delighted that she has just been offered a place at The National Youth Theatre. When asked what had inspired Alicia she said, "Mr Hands, Head of Drama, is an incredible teacher and a real inspiration." (Mr Hands was mentioned in Olivia's BAFTA acceptance speech last year).



During Olivia's visit to Gresham's a 'Question and Answer' session took place where pupils were invited to ask questions of the actress. Olivia was asked what qualities she felt made a good actor, she said, "generosity and kindness". She was refreshingly honest about the highs and lows of an acting career and said fame was one of the downsides to her work. However, she said she realised, "how lucky she was to be doing a job she really loved". Her advice to pupils was, "Find a job you love".

Mr Hands thanked Olivia for giving her time so generously to the school he said, "The qualities of generosity, kindness and humanity, which she has praised in the actors she most admires, are the very ones that make her a great actor. We are all very proud of her."