

# Pastoral Excellence Conference

## Tues 12 May 2026

**Power for Girls!**  
**Digital and IRL Strategies for Success**

Haberdashers' Girls' School, Aldenham Rd, Elstree,  
Radlett, Borehamwood, WD6 3BT

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## Programme

Tuesday 12 May

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09:30

Registration & Refreshments

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10:00

Welcome

**Ruth Sullivan**, Chair of GSA Safeguarding & Pastoral Committee and Head of Sherborne Girls, **Dr Hazel Bagworth-Mann**, Head of Haberdashers' Girls' School, **Claire Brown**, Head of Haberdashers' Junior School and girls from the Prep and Senior Schools at Haberdashers' Elstree.

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10:30

**Pastoral Care in a Digital World  
for Senior and Junior Girls**

- **John Doherty**, Director of Digital Learning, Wycombe Abbey
- **Clare Jarmy**, Director of Innovations at Haberdashers' Girls' School, Elstree
- **Jacob Miller**, Pastoral Lead, Lady Eleanor Holles Junior School
- **Emma Stanhope**, Vice Principal, St Mary's School, Colchester

Speakers will look at the proactive steps which schools can take to keep children safe digitally. They will consider the dangers of using AI as a therapist. Junior and Prep practitioners will talk about a mobile free childhood and the digital world for younger girls.

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11:30 - 11:55

Pastoral Practitioners will facilitate discussions and share best practice on the following issues:

**This works well...**

**Round Table Session 1**

- **Table 1: Low Level Concerns** - Louise Chamberlain, Head, Walthamstow Hall
- **Table 2: Disordered Eating** - Rachel Whitton, Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, St Teresa's, Effingham
- **Table 3: Supporting the wellbeing of pastoral staff** - Sarah Pittaway, Senior Deputy Head and DSL at Francis Holland School, Sloane Square
- **Table 4: Medicalising issues** - Sarah Shore Nye, Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL, King Edward VI High School for Girls and Tracey Wilks, Deputy Head, Thornton College
- **Table 5: Asking questions to get to the bottom of difficult scenarios** - Celia Tedd, Head of Sixth Form, King's High, Warwick
- **Table 6: Supporting anxious pupils** - Amanda Poyner, Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, Lady Eleanor Holles School
- **Table 7: Kindness Counts: Helping Girls in Prep Schools Support One Another** - Ursula Elliott, Deputy Head Pastoral and DDSL, Haberdashers' Girls' Junior School
- **Table 8: Challenging Stereotypes** - Monia Zahid, Head of EDI, Haberdashers' Girls' School

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12:00 - 12:30

Pastoral Practitioners will facilitate discussions and share best practice on the following issues:

**This works well...**

**Round Table Session 2**

- **Table 1: Low Level Concerns** - Louise Chamberlain, Head, Walthamstow Hall
- **Table 2: Disordered Eating** - Rachel Whitton, Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, St Teresa's, Effingham
- **Table 3: Supporting the wellbeing of pastoral staff** - Sarah Pittaway, Senior Deputy Head and DSL at Francis Holland School, Sloane Square
- **Table 4: Medicalising issues** - Sarah Shore Nye, Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL, King Edward VI High School for Girls and Tracey Wilkes, Deputy Head, Thornton College
- **Table 5: Sixth formers caught in the middle between childhood and adulthood** - Celia Tedd, Head of Sixth Form, King's High, Warwick
- **Table 6: Supporting anxious pupils** - Amanda Poyner, Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, Lady Eleanor Holles School
- **Table 7: Kindness Counts: Helping Girls in Prep Schools Support One Another** - Ursula Elliott, Deputy Head Pastoral and DDSL, Haberdashers' Girls' Junior School
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12:30

Lunch

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13:15 - 13:45

### Caught in the Middle

- **Rachel Whitton**, Deputy Head Pastoral and DSL, St Teresa's, Effingham
- **Leiba Sablon**, Assistant Head, Head of Prep, Thornton College
- **Martyn Vandewalle**, Deputy Head Academic, Haberdashers' Girls' Junior School
- **Gill Aldcroft**, Head of Upper School, Haberdashers' Girls' School

Senior and Junior schools are often caught in the middle between parents/ daughters or mums and dads. How are these situations best resolved?

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13:45 to 14:25

### Breakout Session 1

*One from the following:*

- **Period Positivity: how to unlock fear and embarrassment around menstruation and encourage all girls to experience positive periods** - Sarah Shore Nye, Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL, King Edward VI High School for Girls
- **Flawed and fearless: tackling perfectionism** - Adele Waites, Head of Thirds (Year 7), King Edward VI High School for Girls
- **Power to Persist- Building Resilience in Senior and Junior Girls** - Tracey Wilks, Deputy Head, Thornton College and a member of staff from Haberdashers Junior School
- **RSE in the light of new statutory guidance for September 2026** - Rachel Hart, Head of Life Advice, Lady Eleanor Holles School
- **In a world of social media influencers, dubious role models and beauty products aimed at Prep ages students, how do we empower our girls in 2025?** - Diana Bruce, Deputy Head Pastoral & DSL, Manchester High School for Girls
- **Biased AI outcomes and why they matter** - Claire Jarmy, Director of Innovations at Haberdashers' Girls' School, Elstree

14:25 to 15:05

### Breakout Session 2

*One from the following:*

- **Period Positivity: how to unlock fear and embarrassment around menstruation and encourage all girls to experience positive periods** - Sarah Shore Nye, Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL, King Edward VI High School for Girls
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**15:10**  
**Plenary**

**Ruth Sullivan**, Chair of GSA Safeguarding & Pastoral  
Committee and Head of Sherborne Girls

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**15:15**  
**Depart**

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