

# New PM is inspiring pupils at old school

**Luke Sproule**

lsproule@nqo.com

Theresa May was congratulated by pupils at her old school as she moved in to 10 Downing Street.

Youngsters at Wheatley Park School wrote letters to Mrs May after she was confirmed as the country's new prime minister last week.

She won a place at Holton Park Girls' Grammar School when she was 13 and was a pupil there when it became Wheatley Park School in 1971.

Its current headteacher, Kate Curtis, said: "I am hugely proud of Mrs May's achievement.

"The pupils are very proud and very inspired by the story of a pupil from this school becoming so successful."

Mrs May visited her former school the week before she became leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister. Mrs Curtis

said: "She paid a lot of attention to the young people.

"She had just been identified at that stage as the front runner for the Tory Party leadership but she was impressively focused on the task in hand."

In one of the letters, Year 10 pupil Angel Gitau said she could not wait for Mrs May to "make this country great".

She wrote: "I would love for you to talk about racism and discrimination of all sorts and decrease the amount of prejudice there is in this country"

Caitlin Knight, Mariam Dilber and Charlotte Bell wrote: "This is very inspiring for the Wheatley Park School pupils as you have shown that you can achieve anything no matter what background you come from."

Mrs May grew up in Oxfordshire as her father was a Church of England clergyman who served as vicar of Wheatley.

She also attended Heythrop Primary School and St. Juliana's Convent School for Girls in Begbroke.

In 1980, she married her husband Philip in St Mary the Virgin Church in Wheatley.

Acting Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Colin Fletcher, said: "I'd like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Mrs May as she becomes prime minister.

"She grew up in the Diocese of Oxford where her father, the Rev Hubert Brasier, was first vicar of Enstone with Heythrop and later of Wheatley, where she and her husband were married.

"I can assure Mrs May of my continued prayers as she takes up office at such a critical time for our country"

After Wheatley Park School, Mrs May went on St Hugh's College, Oxford.

In a statement, the college said: "St Hugh's College offers its congratulations to Mrs May on the news that

she is to be appointed as prime minister.

"This is an outstanding achievement for a member of our college. She follows in a strong tradition of illustrious alumnae from St Hugh's College, with Baroness Barbara Castle, Aung San Suu Kyi, Nicky Morgan and Sarah Outen among many others."



Theresa May and her husband Philip outside 10 Downing Street last Wednesday after accepting the Queen's invitation to become prime minister. She met her future husband at Oxford University and they were married at St Mary the Virgin Church, Wheatley