New Hall School

THE AVENUE, BOREHAM, CHELMSFORD CM3 3HS

WEBSITE newhallschool.co.uk HEAD Katherine Jeffrey, MA, since 2001; previously deputy head of the Marist School, Ascot PUPILS 823. Day: 307 boys, 310 girls; boarding: 108 boys, 98 girls FAITH RC AGES 11-18 TERM FEES Day: £6,480; boarding: £9,949 OXBRIDGE 3% **REGISTRATION** By October of vear before entry; £80 fee ADMISSION School's own exam. interview and previous school's report ALUMNI Anya Hindmarch, Christiane Amanpour PREP: HEAD Carole Goodwin PUPILS 337 day and boarding: 167 boys, 170 girls AGES 3-11 TERM FEES Day: £4,746; boarding: £7,011 'If something can be done better, then New Hall will raise the bar,' praises our spy, who noted their forward-thinking approach and the exceptional value-added. This is one of the oldest Catholic schools in the country, housed in the Tudor Palace of Beaulieu, and is going from strength to strength with a new pre-prep building

under construction, the prep expanding to three-form entry and a dedicated science centre in the pipeline for next year. Head Katherine Jeffrey is an impressive 16 years into her headship; she looks for 'a spark of individuality' in her pupils. It's mainly a day school, but there's a charming boarding-school feel (around 21 per cent board). Sport is taken seriously - the U16 rugby sevens team were runners-up at the Rosslyn Park Nationals, and the U15's fought off tough competition to win the Eton junior pairs tennis tournament. There were a stonking 619 LAMDA exams taken last year, with 95 per cent obtaining merit or distinction, and the school production of Les Misérables had four consecutive sell-out nights. The school's diamond model (co-ed in the prep and sixth form and single sex from 11-16) works a treat, and A-level results nudged up to 79 per cent A*-B last year. Oh, and they scooped The Times's Independent School of the Year award. All is ticking along nicely.