



Downe House

13 April 2018

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Downe House Crowned Barnardo's National Senior Choir of the Year

A Downe House choir was crowned Senior Choir of the Year at the finals of the Barnardo's National Choral Competition held at the Royal Festival Hall in London on 12 March. At the end of a day in which they competed against seven other school choirs, the 18 Downe House girls in Senior Choral were announced as winners to great applause, bringing their competition journey to a phenomenal conclusion.

Each school performed two pieces. Senior Choral sang I Lift Up my Eyes by Bob Chilcott and the hit made famous by Aretha Franklin, I Say A Little Prayer. The performances were then judged by five adjudicators, including Douglas Coombes MBE, who set up the Barnardo's National Choral Competition in 2008, and who will compose a piece for the winning school in each category.

Downe House Director of Music, Dr Charlotte Exon said, "Senior Choral gave an utterly captivating and inspiring performance and I couldn't be more thrilled! They are a truly impressive choir who have worked incredibly hard. They sang with such integrity and warmth, conveying the true transforming power that music can bring."

Senior Choral is an auditioned chamber choir open to all girls in the Upper Fifth and Sixth Form at Downe House in Cold Ash. Winning the competition recognises the outstanding progress they have made over the past year under the direction of Dr Exon and marks a crowning musical achievement for those girls in Upper Sixth who will leave Downe House in the summer.

The evening was rounded off by a mass singing by all the choirs of You'll Never Walk Alone, raising the rafters with the many young voices in unison.

-ENDS-

**Note to editors:** Downe House is an independent boarding school for girls aged 11-18 located in Cold Ash, Thatcham.

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