



WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF  
MRS JANE TAN, FORMER HEADMISTRESS OF BOWDON PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL, WHO DIED PEACEFULLY AT THE AGE OF 86.

## *Mrs Jane Tan*

Born and raised in Dublin, Mrs Tan developed a lifelong passion for education from an early age. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in English, before going on to obtain a Diploma of Education from Queen's College, Belfast. Her early teaching career took her to Canada and later to the south of England, experiences that helped shape her broad educational outlook and deep commitment to academic excellence.

Mrs Tan eventually settled in the Northwest of England with her husband, Bill, where she became Headmistress of Lauriston School. In 1983, driven by a clear vision for traditional values and high academic standards, she left Lauriston School.

In September 1983 she re-established Bowdon Preparatory School on Stamford Road, with just six pupils and three teachers: Mrs Tan herself, Angela Colligan and Freda Jackson.

From the outset, Mrs Tan's dedication and leadership set the tone for a school culture rooted in excellence, care and ambition.

Under her guidance, Bowdon Prep quickly earned a strong local reputation for outstanding teaching and consistently high academic results. As pupil numbers grew, the school expanded, opening a nursery in Timperley village. A significant milestone then came in 2011, when the nearby Culcheth Hall School announced its closure. A group of parents and former staff established a charitable trust to acquire the Ashley Road premises, securing Bowdon Preparatory School's long-term future. That same year, Mrs Tan transferred the school to the new trust, and in September 2011 Bowdon Prep moved to its current site.

Mrs Tan retired in 2013, leaving the school in the capable hands of Mrs Gee, who strengthened the ethos Mrs Tan had established. In 2024, Mrs Makepeace-Taylor was appointed Head, bringing renewed vision and energy while preserving the traditions and values that both Mrs Tan and Mrs Gee had worked so hard to build. Bowdon Preparatory School continues to thrive, as a testament to Mrs Tan's enduring legacy.

Mrs Tan is survived by her beloved husband Bill, her sons Jonathan and Benjamin, and her grandchildren Melissa and Alex. She will be remembered with deep gratitude and affection by generations of pupils, parents, and colleagues, whose lives she shaped through her unwavering belief in the power of education.

