

# GRACE HADMAN

Joanna Wright

When Grace arrived, I learned that life for her and with her was never dull. She burst with life and had a vibrant personality. Grace's love for life meant that she packed more into her seventeen years than many are able to. Naturally gregarious, immensely popular, she was unstoppable, living life to the full and with such intensity that emotions were largely unfiltered and spontaneous. Sometimes this meant that she would get herself in trouble. She was often late for callovers or registration and many times she would whiz in through the door, giving a cursory glance at the clock and then produce a well rehearsed apology which was as unconvincing as it was charming.

Grace laughed easily and loved deeply. She made no secret of her love for her family and she was adored by them, as was clear to us here at school. What struck me particularly was the respect that she held for her parents and her brothers. Rather specially, for a teenage girl, Grace was very close to her mother. Her great capacity for love inspired love in many. She made great friendships across the Houses and the years. Many people feel that they were Grace's best friends, which is a testament to her loyalty and generosity of spirit. She saw the best in people.

Her leadership potential was also clear. This came to fruition in her last year when she excelled in her role as Head Sacristan. She always attended Chapel and would



compliment Rev. Wright on sermons when she saw him in House later. Grace had a faith which was steady and sure, and which she shared with her family.

Grace was genuinely beautiful both inside and outside. She was and would have been beautiful at any age in her life. She was stunning with her striking bone structure, perfect smile and eye-catching loveliness. She had the kind of beauty that did not need make up, even though she had a great liking for it and there was a time in the Fourths when she became rather orange!

Grace always had a strong sense of fairness and unfairness. She would express her options clearly and did not mind if someone did not agree or even if no-one agreed. She was sure enough of herself to stand up for the underdog. For someone who could feel her point of view so intensely, she was generous in her forgiveness. As her HM, I had to be forgiven quite often. Rules and she did not always concur and I represented those rules and sanctions. She sometimes found things petty and annoying;

though I could agree with her privately, I could not do so publicly.

Grace was a superb guide and ambassador for the school and parents who were shown around by her invariably praised her. Effortlessly confident, utterly charming and vibrant, she sparkled with enthusiasm, intelligence and interest. She was, as we know, a keen and talented sportswoman, playing with the firsts for hockey and netball. She won the most improved hockey player award at a recent dinner. She loved the teamwork and had a healthy respect for her hockey coach. When I think of her, I capture her in mid flight on the netball court but equally I see her at ease in her stillness just before bed time, curled up, book in hand surrounded by her ordered bedroom decorations.

At her funeral, Rev Kerr spoke of the place that Grace has gone to ahead of us. Grace and her family's Christian faith mean that they believe that Christ Jesus has kept his promise and He has prepared a place for her. He will be our comfort even though we presently walk in the valley of the shadow of death.

## The Grace Hadman Most Improved Sportsperson Award

Grace Hadman's death took a fantastic sportswoman and a wonderful individual away from us. In her time at St Edward's her strength and presence in our top hockey, netball and tennis teams grew and grew. She epitomised "Teddie's spirit" and brought

out the best in her teammates and in her coaches. In the field of play, as in life she was determined and individual; a unique person always in harmony with her team, which is a rare and precious thing.

My fondest memories of her were on the netball and cricket tour to South Africa. I feel this was the making of her sports career. She embraced every moment of the tour and her mother tells me she talked so animatedly and fondly about it and that they were so happy they had let her participate. After this tour, she grew in confidence and played 1st VII netball and 1st XI hockey in her final year. She probably would also have played 1st VI tennis as well.

In her memory an award will be awarded each year at the Sports Awards Dinner. It is called the Grace Hadman Most Improved Sportsperson Award and will be given to the pupil (usually in the Upper



Sixth) who has made the most notable improvement in a sport or sports during their time at St Edward's.

