

## Our Counselors



**Ms. Karen Kwok**

**B.A. Psychology (Harvard)  
MBA (Harvard Business School)**

**Karen Kwok** was born in the US and raised in Hong Kong. She attended The Taft School where she developed a passion for mentoring young children through her volunteer work at the Boys and Girls Club of Downtown Waterbury. It was at Taft that Karen learned how to structure her ideas and writing in a cohesive and compelling fashion; a skill that she has carried with her through her years at school and in her professional life.

After graduating cum laude from Taft, Karen attended Harvard College in Cambridge, MA and majored in psychology. Karen also continued her love for mentoring and teaching by volunteering with the Chinatown Citizenship program which enabled members of the Boston Chinatown elderly to pass their naturalization exam and become US citizens. She also gave singing lessons to a local underprivileged teenager.

While at Harvard Karen started helping many of her family and friends proof read their personal statements - boarding school essays, college essays and even graduate school applications. Her work evolved from correcting grammatical and spelling errors to larger restructuring ideas and brainstorming essay topics.

Karen's career path has taken her from investment banking to receiving her MBA from Harvard Business School and a stint in retail management, and throughout, she has kept up her interest in making a difference in young people's lives through mentoring and coaching. Karen brings her passion as well as her skills in writing and presenting to Baker & Bloom. She works closely with each student to empower them to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.



## Rory Reilly BA MSc

**Rory Reilly** was educated at Trinity College Dublin and has taught in a number of schools, including King's College School Wimbledon and The King's School Canterbury where he spent ten years as Registrar, in charge of Admissions. He now runs a private consultancy and specialises in preparing and placing pupils in top UK and Swiss Independent boarding and day schools.

Over many years, Rory has built a network of contacts across all the major UK senior and preparatory schools. Part of his brief at The King's School was to build close relationships with the Heads of all the Prep feeder schools and as a result he knows personally the Head Teachers of almost all of the significant Prep Schools in the South of England, including London. He also developed a very strong bond with the Registrars and Directors of Admissions of all the major UK Boarding schools. In the Summer of 2015, Rory was entrusted with setting up the Late Application Process for the top boarding schools and was the only person to have an overview of late vacancies across all of the major schools. Having worked in London in both the Prep and Senior sectors he also has a clear understanding of the difficulties facing parents when seeking places in this environment. This breadth of knowledge makes him ideally placed to advise parents.

In recent years Rory has acted as an advisor to and speaker at The Independent Schools Show in London and has spoken at various events such as the Independent Schools Council's Admissions Conference and the "Fit Right In" seminar for Russian parents at The Caledonian Club in London. He has twice been a speaker at The Registrars' Annual Conference.

Building on his wide experience and range of contacts, Rory has drawn together a team of specialist advisors in the areas of Admissions and Assessment, Music, Drama, Mathematics, Science and the Arts.