

*Lillian Friars is the Housekeeping Supervisor at Kilgraston. She's been at the School for over 25 years and works throughout the year from 7am until 2pm, Monday to Friday. Corralling the domestic logistics of boarders, holiday lets and summer language schools can be quite a problem, but she's a lady who likes a challenge...*

"Before joining Kilgraston - yes, there was life before Kilgraston – I worked for William Collins and Sons, the famous bookbinders in Glasgow. When my family move to Perth I initially did some child-minding before hearing about the job at the School. I started off working in the laundry but, about eleven years ago, I was offered the role of Housekeeping Supervisor, which I'm currently in.

I'm in charge of ten housekeepers and several tons of laundry; each week we do around 50 loads of washing. Although the school calendar allows for 16 weeks' holiday for pupils, rooms are used throughout the year for camps, language schools and external lettings.

We get to know the girls pretty well, especially those who have a lot of washing! Presenting a positive impression to pupils and our colleagues is all part of the job. Whether a boarder lives on the other side of the world or within walking distance of Kilgraston (yes, we've had quite a few who love it so much they'd rather stay here) this is home and it needs to feel welcoming.

I'm quite good with people, whatever the situation. Occasionally I have to be quite firm with some of the girls about the importance of putting their name tags on clothing – you have no idea how many pairs of tights we end up with at the end of each term! But, generally, we are quite relaxed and the girls feel very at home and comfortable here. Boarders don't usually have to be reminded about keeping their own rooms and belongings nice and tidy; the School's buddy system is especially good for that.

Of course, there is always a lot more I would like to be able to offer as part of the housekeeping service but, together with the Facilities Team and Bursar, we always operate within the budget and available resources. The Housekeeping team are wonderful and work their socks off.

Having been here so long, I'm very in tune with the rhythm of Kilgraston. I like the term-time routine, but having external lets always presents a new set of challenges and a big change, there's always a very different atmosphere in the School during these times. I do quite look forward to the pupils coming back at the end of August though!

Most of the time things jog along in a pretty organised manner but spillages not being reported quickly enough always cause a sharp intake of breath!

That all said, I love being part of the Kilgraston community. We have a good laugh and there's a real team spirit among our group."

