



# st mary's women

## EMILY PLANK ('02) Small Business Owner and Linguist



*"Running my own business has taught me a lot of things - namely in terms of accounting, marketing and networking - and I enjoy the independence that comes with being my own boss."*

I spent seven years at St Mary's, starting in Year 6 in 1996, and I can safely say that the skills and education I gained from the School have helped me in my adult life. There was always a great emphasis placed on social interaction and extracurricular activities, and over the years I was part of bands, choirs, debating teams and sports teams. My main love, however, was always languages, and I studied both French and German right through to Year 12. The assistance and encouragement I received from all my teachers, especially those in the languages department, contributed to my passion for this field, and I continue to be in contact with them even today.

Upon leaving St Mary's, I completed a Bachelor of Arts at UWA, majoring in French and German. I also spent several months living in Valencia, Spain, where I attended an intensive Spanish language school and taught English. After graduating from UWA in 2006, I took the plunge into self-employment and began running my own freelance business, translating various genres of documents from French, German and Spanish into English for clients around the world. Many of my translations have been published as part of tourist guides, history books, cookery books, documentaries and websites, and I am now a certified member of the UK-based Institute of Translation

and Interpreting and the Chartered Institute of Linguists. My ongoing professional development has also seen me attend events such as the London Book Fair and London Language Show Live, and invited to give talks to students and aspiring translators here in Perth at UWA.

Running my own business has taught me a lot of things - namely in terms of accounting, marketing and networking - and I enjoy the independence that comes with being my own boss. Translation demands discipline, motivation, a high degree of accuracy, and an understanding and appreciation of foreign cultures - all of which were promoted and nurtured at St Mary's.

There is no doubt in my mind that the School played a major role in my career path, and I have nothing but fond memories of the people I met and experiences I gained during my time there.

