

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST



Help Girls Learn Without Limits

At the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), access and social mobility matter - and have done since our foundation almost 150 years ago.

We've always been committed to bursaries and since 1998, when the assisted places scheme ended, we've supported nearly 6,000 pupils. Our bursaries help to make our schools vibrant and inclusive places.

We know the impact of our bursaries extends beyond our girls - to their families, their wider communities and the future networks they will create.

By supporting our *Help Girls Learn Without Limits* campaign today, you will be giving more gifted girls access to a GDST education.

The alumnae in this brochure describe how their education shaped their lives and what they think about bursaries today.

To give, please use the donation form enclosed or visit our website www.gdst.net/support.



“Belvedere taught us not to judge a book by its cover – it didn’t matter where we came from, we were in this together. If girls today can take these skills into the workplace, they will do well.”

Linda Hall

Lacrosse coach - Glenalmond College and
England Lacrosse Association
Alumna, Belvedere Academy
Class of 1978

www.gdst.net/Belvedere/Linda



"I am thrilled that I am part of a shift in social understanding of what women can achieve and what they can be good at."

Khadijah Mellah

Winner, Magnolia Cup

Young Sportswoman of the Year, 2019

Mechanical Engineering student, University of Brighton

Alumna, Sydenham High School

Class of 2019

www.gdst.net/Sydenham/Khadijah





“For me, the GDST stands for opportunity, first and foremost. It also says ‘family’ to me, I am a GDST girl and feel proud that I was, and still am, a part of it.”

Helen Jackson

Associate Director, Deloitte LLP
Alumna, Birkenhead High School Academy
Class of 2000

www.gdst.net/Birkenhead/Helen

“My time at Blackheath was character forming. It taught me values, honesty, independence, good citizenship. It lifted me from a rather difficult life to a totally different level at which I have continued to live and exist.”

Diana Gulland

Former Chartered Librarian
Alumna, Blackheath High School
Class of 1956

www.gdst.net/Blackheath/Diana



"I fully believe that no child's future should be shaped by their socio-economic background, their gender, or their race."

Dr Bethan James

Astronomer, Space Telescope Science Institute
Alumna, Howell's School, Llandaff
Class of 2002

www.gdst.net/Howells/Bethan



"I am very grateful and thankful for the opportunities getting a bursary gave me 30 years ago and I believe those opportunities are still important in today's world, especially for women."

Victoria Barnett

Former investment banker
Alumna, Blackheath High School
Class of 1989

www.gdst.net/Blackheath/Victoria





"I have had the most incredible education and memories. I will always be so grateful for the bursary which gave me the best school years I could ask for."

Chantelle Hopkins

Drama teacher and owner of Take a Seat Productions
Alumna, Bromley High School
Class of 2006

www.gdst.net/Bromley/Chantelle

“My time at Croydon High taught me to grasp as many different opportunities as I could, to try things and to not judge people on first impressions.”

Rowan Musgrave

Class Teacher for E21C Multi Academy trust
Alumna, Croydon High School
Class of 2000

www.gdst.net/Croydon/Rowan



"If I met a girl who had been given a bursary, I would advise her to take every opportunity from it that she can as it should enable her to follow in the footsteps of many notable women."

Helen Garson

Professional Double Bass player
Alumna, Brighton & Hove High School (now Brighton Girls) and Putney High School
Class of 1976 and 1978 respectively

www.gdst.net/Brighton/Helen



“My schools gave me an excellent and free education, which I have always valued, because I don’t think my parents would have been able to send me had there not been financial support.”

Kate Hoare

Alumna, Kensington Prep School and
South Hampstead High School
Class of 1961 and 1968 respectively

www.gdst.net/Kensington/Kate





"I could not have studied the combination of A-levels I had chosen at any other school in the area. I doubt that I would have obtained a place at Oxford to read physics without the encouragement offered by the school."

Judith Coghlan

UK and European Patent Attorney
Alumna, Norwich High School for Girls
Class of 1997

www.gdst.net/Norwich/Judith

“The fact that I could attend Northampton High gave me the very best start in life and that was entirely because of the financial assistance I was offered.”

Louise Takata

Audit Associate, PwC UK

Alumna, Northampton High School

Class of 2007

www.gdst.net/Northampton/Louise



"I have never doubted that it was my time spent at Portsmouth High School that gave me the edge, but it was my mother who understood the privilege of an assisted place long before I did."

Anne McMeehan Roberts

Company Chair and charity trustee
Former financial services and communications
professional and Chair of Governors at PHS
Alumna, Portsmouth High School
Class of 1972

www.gdst.net/Portsmouth/Anne



"My time at school taught me everything I know about life, it made me who I am today. It taught me to follow my dreams and to persevere no matter what."

Dr Ayia Al-Asadi

Doctor, NHS

Alumna, Heathfield School

(now Northwood College for Girls)

Class of 2006

www.gdst.net/Northwood/Ayia





“My school helped me find my own voice and develop my own identity. Without my bursary, I just would not be where I am today and I would not have had the life I’ve had.”

Lynne Blanchfield

Formerly The Open University
Alumna, Oxford High School
Class of 1977

www.gdst.net/Oxford/Lynne

“My time at Nottingham gave me the confidence to stick my head above the parapet. It taught me to question, to be able to stand my corner, to have an inquisitive outlook, be inclusive.”

Dr Anita Bloor

Medical Director, NEMS

Alumna, Nottingham Girls' High School

Class of 1980

www.gdst.net/Nottingham/Anita



“The funding of bursaries opens windows to the fresh air and clear light of knowledge and opens doors to children’s lifetimes of adventure.”

Clare Johnson

Full-time carer

Alumna, Notting Hill & Ealing High School

Class of 1973

www.gdst.net/NHEHS/Clare



“As a GDST girl, the most inspiring aspect of my education was the unwavering school-wide belief that there were no barriers to our potential achievements.”

Dr Kelly Bowlt

Senior Lecturer and Veterinary Surgery Specialist,
University of Edinburgh
Alumna, Newcastle High School for Girls
Class of 2000

www.gdst.net/Newcastle/Kelly





"In an ideal world, a high-quality education would be available for everybody. Sadly, it isn't; this makes bursaries very important. Everybody should have the opportunity to develop to their full potential."

Dr Laura Edwards

Clinical Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant
in Rehabilitation

Alumna, Sheffield High School for Girls
Class of 1998

www.gdst.net/Sheffield/Laura

"I think there is something very unique about GDST girls, a sense of confidence, brightness, a lack of doubt. It is obvious that they are being encouraged to appreciate the world and to give back."

Nadine Rochford

Director, Centre for Public Impact
Alumna, Royal High School Bath
Class of 1993

www.gdst.net/RHSB/Nadine



“Helping each child to be the best they can be and opening up opportunities for them to make a contribution to society as a result, is one of the best ways you can ensure a better and happier world for future generations.”

Liz Dolby

Formerly Head of Personnel Services
John Lewis Partnership
Alumna, Putney High School
Class of 1979

www.gdst.net/Putney/Liz



“Education should be about giving opportunities to those who will seize them and flourish.”

Sharon Pontin

School Nurse, Royal Grammar School, Guildford
Alumna, Streatham & Clapham High School
Class of 1992

www.gdst.net/SCHS/Sharon





“Receiving financial assistance gave me choices and chances that my parents never had, so financial assistance can be life-changing for families.”

Kate Leeming

Managing Editor, SAGE Publishing
Alumna, Sutton High School
Class of 1991

www.gdst.net/Sutton/Kate

"By sending into the world authoritative young women who believe in themselves, the GDST helps to give women a strong voice. It's vital that these women come from all kinds of backgrounds."

Professor Lara Feigel

Professor of Modern Literature and Culture, King's College London and Author
Alumna, South Hampstead High School
Class of 1998

www.gdst.net/SHHS/Lara



“Sometimes good education can feel out of reach if you don’t know where your next meal is coming from... it’s really critical to help girls in that situation achieve their full potential.”

Katie Mans

Alumna, Shrewsbury High School
Class of 2000

www.gdst.net/Shrewsbury/Katie



“The quality of your education is something you will carry with you for ever and ever; it gives you a backbone for everything you do, everything you see and the contacts you will make.”

Dr Aysha Waheed

Foundation Year 1 Doctor at King's College
Hospital NHS Trust
Alumna, Sydenham High School
Class of 2013

www.gdst.net/Sydenham/Aysha





“Not everyone with the ability and creativity to benefit from a GDST school can afford to pay. There is such a great gap now between wealthy and poor and bursaries can give girls an opportunity to access a slightly different world.”

Jacqueline Cleverley

English Teacher

Alumna, Wimbledon High School

Class of 1972

www.gdst.net/Wimbledon/Jacqueline



Sam Davies

Head of Philanthropy,
The Girls' Day School Trust
Alumna, Portsmouth High School
Class of 1994
s.davies@wes.gdst.net

"As the oldest of four children to a single mum living on a council estate, a GDST education would have been impossible if it wasn't for the full assisted place I received. I make a personal monthly donation in support of Portsmouth High School and I'm proud to help other girls like me fulfil their potential."

You can help us change more lives each and every year by joining me in supporting our campaign.

If you have any questions about giving, please contact us on giving@wes.gdst.net or call us on +44(0)20 7393 6898.

Full versions of our alumnae stories and online giving options can be found at www.gdst.net/support.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support.

www.gdst.net/support
Thank you.



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