



STEM ISSUE

*Alumnae leading the way in
scientific and medical research*

PLUS

33 years at South Hampstead

Our longest-serving staff member,
Chemistry Lab Technician Cecilia
Ezike on working at SHHS

Standing up and speaking out

Alumna Karen Pollock
CBE, Chief Executive of the
Holocaust Educational Trust

South Hampstead alumnae authors

The latest literature penned by
former students

“South Hampstead has always had a strong reputation for educating young women who have gone on to study STEM subjects at university, and we are proud of notable scientists and medics who studied here.”

VICKY BINGHAM
— Headmistress, South Hampstead High School



VMBig

VICKY BINGHAM
Headmistress,
South Hampstead High School



EMR

EMMA RUSSO
Guest Editor of Resplendens
and Director of STEM at
South Hampstead High School

Welcome to the 2021 edition of *Resplendens*, our magazine for South Hampstead alumnae. In this issue, we highlight the careers of our alumnae who have excelled in scientific and medical research.

South Hampstead has always had a strong reputation for educating young women who have gone on to study STEM subjects at university, and we are proud of notable scientists and medics who studied here.

Our alumnae have carved out extraordinary careers for themselves which reflect their open-minded approach to new challenges and to finding new ways of helping others. I hope you enjoy reading their inspiring stories in this edition.

Over the past 18 months we have become accustomed to discussing science and health around the dining table and comparing statistics over the effectiveness of different vaccines. In school, students have been buzzing with questions about data and graphs shown in government briefings, challenging one another over supposed Science they have encountered online, and confidently explaining how vaccines work. Scientific literacy and confidence when interpreting research and data has never been more important.

As *Director of STEM* at South Hampstead, my team and I pride ourselves in providing opportunities for our students to challenge, question and work out how the world around them works. Often young people are not aware of the breadth of options available to them by studying a Science course. Science opens up opportunities in a myriad of industries and gives students skills such as curiosity, creativity and collaboration.

It is incredibly informative to all in our community to be able to see, and hopefully be inspired by, alumnae working in such a wide variety of Science fields. In reading the interview with Dr Zita Jessop, I was struck by the significant impact that a talk at school from a plastic reconstruction surgeon had on her. When I read about the work of Ekaterina Shatalina in her PhD, or Dr Claire Lemer and Dr Jo Laddie, I can see direct parallels between the impassioned work of South Hampstead alumnae and current students. At South Hampstead, we aim to help students see how Science can be used to solve problems, and that a connection with social change and public policy can have a huge, positive impact. The work of Jenny Mindell is testament to this – as Professor of Public Health, she has built her career around influencing many of today’s public health policies.

Communication is a core part of Science. It is not enough to just understand the research or data that you are working on. It is essential to be able to describe and explain how this is relevant, and what this means to the wider world. Creativity in Science is key to being able to innovate and problem solve in future careers.

We will always be delighted to welcome you as former students to discuss your work and experience whether in person or online, so please get in touch.

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THE PINBALL WIZARDS
Sixth Formers are the first all-girls team to win a national safe cracking competition run by the Weizmann UK Physics Tournament



SUBLIMATION EXPERIMENTATION
Year 7 scientists learn about the transition of a substance directly from solid to gas

YEAR IN REVIEW

Science Highlights

South Hampstead continues to celebrate highly successful exam results for the academic year 2020-21.

We were delighted that 95% of our Upper Sixth leavers secured their first choice university following superb A Level results. For the third consecutive year, 20% of our Upper Sixth students received offers from Oxbridge; other popular destinations included Edinburgh, Bristol, Durham, Liverpool and UCL this year, with courses ranging from Modern and Medieval Languages to Meteorology and Anthropology to Integrated Design Engineering.

Seven students secured their places at top universities in the US and Canada, we had a record number of 13 medical and veterinary medicine students, and Art applicants received offers to prestigious art schools, including Central St Martins and City and Guilds.

In keeping with the theme for *Resplendens*, here is a snapshot of activity in the Science department this year.

CREATIVITY

Creativity is an essential skill for working in Science. This academic year, we encouraged students to embrace the opportunity to innovate in school, and while learning from home.

The summer term Year 7 Science Fair project encouraged students to answer a 'why' or 'how' big scientific question. They showed a high level of Science communication in their research projects exhibited at the fair and answered questions that included 'how do black holes form' to 'how sustainable is the SHHS Oakwood garden?'

During *Guided Home Learning*, students 'attended' one of the Royal Institution Christmas lectures on volcanic activity and learning why the ocean is so vital to life on Earth. Inspired, students created artwork, poetry, songs, reviews of scientific literature, academic posters and even working models of volcanoes.

This year students also launched *The Orbital*, an online Science magazine for students to write about the ideas and research that interest them. Do take a look at some of their articles: tinyurl.com/the-orbital-shhs

COMPETITION

A team of Lower Sixth Chemists were finalists in a national scientific invention challenge run by the University of Cambridge with their design for a pulse oximeter which aims to eliminate racial bias. Standard pulse oximeters often do not measure the oxygen saturation of some ethnic minorities correctly, due to issues with light passing through higher concentrations of melanin. Their innovation aims to prevent fatal misreadings of oxygen levels by recalibrating the oximeter so that it can be used accurately on patients with darker skin tones.

A team of Sixth Form Physicists were the first all-girls team to win a national safe-cracking competition in the Weizmann UK Physics tournament. Participating teams were tasked with designing a safe which could be cracked only by solving Physics problems and riddles. The judges praised our team '*The Pinball Wizards*' for their originality and creativity, which included an innovative thermopile design.

In the annual *GDST STEM 700* writing competition, South Hampstead students were awarded numerous prizes for essays on ideas such as the future of genetic engineering and an outstanding piece where a Year 10 student modelled, coded and explained the evolutions of viruses.

Students had great success with awards in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad,

the Chemistry Olympiad, and the Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge, including Gold level awards. A Sixth Form student won third place in the University of Sheffield's Jacob's prize for the innovative use of technology in Science learning for her video, "Where is everyone?" explaining the Fermi paradox confidently and clearly.

Many students have been pursuing their Bronze CREST Award for a scientific research project and report outside of the curriculum; one Lower Sixth student achieved a Silver CREST award for her project on how to wash your hands properly. She started this before the Covid-19 pandemic, but her research and findings were incredibly relevant.

EXPERT SPEAKERS

Dr Yolanda Ohene, recipient of the Institute of Physics Jocelyn Bell Burnell Medal and Prize, spoke to students about her research into brain imaging and neurodegenerative disease.

In *National Biology Week*, we hosted zoologist Katie Bickerton from *London Zoo* who spoke about her work with endangered species and answered questions about careers in conservation.

STEM week in March coincided with the return to in person teaching and students enjoyed participating in a full programme of virtual lunchtime lectures from across the GDST, including Google Cloud communications expert, Laura Wheeler;

AI Professor Rose Luckin of UCL; and CEO of the Guardian Media Group, Dr Annette Thomas.

Alumna Dr Jess Wade delighted Junior School students with a visit to read her new book '*Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small*', sharing cutting-edge nanotechnology and inspiring awe at the beautiful and complex nature of materials.



THE ORBITAL
An online Science magazine written by South Hampstead students

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about life at South Hampstead, have a look at our website www.shhs.gdst.net and Twitter feed @SHHSforGirls.

Networking

THROUGH THE

Community

The new form of networking is not about climbing a ladder to success; it's about collaboration, co-creation, partnerships and long-term values-based relationships.

The most successful people are often also those who rely heavily on the power of networking. Pursuing opportunities to connect with leaders or professionals with varying interests and perspectives is critical to career growth, but it can also be exhausting and daunting.

Our aim is to provide the whole South Hampstead community with opportunities to collaborate with each other and the wider GDST Alumnae Network. The focus is to build a friendly, welcoming and creative community which has real value as its members progress through their careers and life.

“GDST alumnae span the world and every professional sector. With over 70,000 members, the network could almost fill Wembley Stadium.”

This year, more than ever, we have learnt the value of this network and, as the world has moved online, the importance of providing platforms to build our digital community.

Our South Hampstead LinkedIn group membership continues to grow and with more than 1,300 followers, it is starting to play a key part in bringing our community together and providing career opportunities beyond the school.

The GDST Life platform was launched this year to provide careers information and details of events and networking opportunities across the GDST. As membership grows, it will be a key medium for South Hampstead alumnae to link up with other GDST alumnae from similar disciplines, and it is already the hub for many networking groups.

The Rungway mentoring app continues to be the platform to link students and recent leavers with alumnae. We encourage anyone who would like to help mentor younger alumnae, or pass on their university, careers experience and knowledge to Sixth Formers, to sign up to this app.

We are delighted our alumnae, parents and partnership organisations are playing an increasingly important role by supporting careers activities at the school, mentoring younger alumnae, and sharing knowledge through the network.

Alongside our networking platforms, we have been determined to continue to offer opportunities for our community to meet face-to-face this year. Recent leavers gave up time to mentor applicants, via Zoom, through their university interviews; and alumnae and parents have joined online panel events to answer questions on careers in sport, environmental sustainability, medicine and social outreach.

“The networking community includes alumnae, parents and partnership organisations.”

We hope that there will be many more occasions for our community to meet face-to-face this year through our programme of networking events and GDST networking groups, and that connections made through social media and online platforms will evolve into long-term relationships based on shared values and friendship.



Networking Groups

The networking groups are free of charge, and you are welcome to join more than one. Full details can be found via the GDST Life platform or at www.gdst.net/alumnae/networking-groups

City Networking Group

A business-focused networking group for alumnae working in the City. Members represent all levels of seniority: the valuable part is the interactive personal development that gives tangible take-aways to use in the office the next day, and the fun part is the networking over a few drinks.

USA Networking Group

Bringing together GDST alumnae across the US to create forums for both personal and professional connections and development. Events include networking opportunities, practical workshops, mentoring programmes and social events.

Women in Leadership Group

Linked to the GDST Leadership Award, this group focuses on different aspects of leadership: building successful teams, developing confidence, overcoming obstacles, working for greater diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and bringing complex projects to life.

Medics

The NHS has never been far from the news this year, and many Sixth Formers have been inspired to follow careers in medicine. This group helps to link alumnae already working in medicine with those seeking to embark on their training.

Law

This group creates valuable networking opportunities for its members by providing a community to actively support and promote each other throughout their careers. Members have a range of experience – up to the highest echelons. Events include high-profile inspirational speakers, informal social events and topical panel discussions.

Entrepreneurs Networking Group

A community to share ideas, learn and support one another.

Networking Platforms

**GDST
LIFE**
STAY PART OF IT

Events, information, networking groups, contacts across the GDST: www.gdst.net/gdst-life

runway® **LinkedIn**

University and careers mentoring in a closed environment: app.runway.com

Connections with the SHHS community: tinyurl.com/shhs-linkedin



DUPSY ABIOLA

The alumna, barrister, entrepreneur and businesswoman was our Prize Giving speaker this year

Thank you to our speakers

In 2020-21, the pandemic did not prevent us from inviting a range of alumnae and parents to inspire the South Hampstead community with their stories. As the majority of our speaker programme was online, our alumnae living abroad were able to join. We'd like to say thank you to the following people for sharing their expertise with us this year:

Jean Crossley (class of 1945) and Betty Spector (class of 1939) for sharing their memories of South Hampstead during the Second World War as part of our School Stories series.

Susan Blum (class of 1973) for her invaluable leadership training.

Laura Marks, OBE (class of 1978) and founder of Mitzvah Day for sharing a video message with students which they watched at a faith-led day of social action.

BBC journalist Katya Adler (class of 1990) and former South Hampstead parents Diana Fox Carney and Mark Carney for speaking to parents, students and alumnae at the South Hampstead Speaker Series.

Abi Gewirtz (Greenwood) (class of 1983) for speaking at the GDST Talks series offering advice to parents on how to support children with their worries caused by global problems.

Karen Pollock, CBE (class of 1992) and CEO of the Holocaust Educational Trust for speaking at a whole school assembly and to the Jewish Society.

Jenny Kleeman (class of 1997) for speaking at the Upper Sixth Free Thinking Friday series about her book, 'Sex Robots and Vegan Meat'.

Barrister, entrepreneur and businesswoman **Dupsy Abiola (class of 2000)** who was our Prize Giving speaker in September 2021.

PhD student **Ana Hallgarten (class of 2012)** and **Dr Jilli Crosby (class of 2012)** for leading GDST Limitless Learning sessions on medical law and ethics and veterinary science respectively.

Emily Burton (class of 2015) for setting up a partnership between South Hampstead and FEAST With Us, a charity that helps to alleviate food poverty in the local community by raising awareness of food and plastic waste.

Osiro Imoedemhe (class of 2011), Isabel Hale (class of 2007) and Jessica Zeynel (class of 2017) for speaking about how they turned their passion for sport into a career

Zoe Cokeliss Barsley (class of 1999), Alicia Kaplan (class of 2015) and Helena Nathan-King (class of 2011) for discussing their careers in sustainability with students

Dr Claire Lemer and Dr Shama Goyal (class of 1994), Dr Tatiana Zhelezniakova (class of 2013), Natalia Abramovich (class of 2014), Dr Pandora Rudd (class of 2005) and Dr Jilli Crosby (class of 2012) for giving mock interviews to our medical and veterinary school applicants; **Ziba Sarikhani (class of 2007)** for giving mock interviews to Oxbridge Land Economy applicants.

Former bursary students **Datshaine Navanayagam, Lola Bursari (both class of 2005) and Amanda Dewinter (class of 1982)** for helping to establish a mentoring scheme for students on fee-assisted places.

Meheen Rangoonwala (class of 2001), Jess Tucker (class of 2004) and parents Lara Mindenhall and Shani Zindal for judging First Give, a programme designed to spark a social conscience in our pupils.

Alumnae in the news

Congratulations to alumnae across generations for achieving career success. Here is a snapshot of the accomplishments we have heard about in the past 12 months.

ABLEISM

Dr Grace Spence Green

Challenging people's perspectives on disability

Grace has spoken out in the media about how her life changed instantly following an accident, and yet she subsequently gained friends, greater empathy and a passion for changing people's perspectives on disability.

ARCHITECTURE

Madeleine Kessler

Listed in Architects' Journal 40 under 40

Madeleine is one of 40 architects included in this list, which is compiled once every 15 years. She was also interviewed on BBC's *Newsnight* about her work at the architecture exhibition the *Venice Biennale 2021*.

ARTS

Lydia Goldblatt

Awarded second prize at the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Awards 2020, exhibited online at the National Portrait Gallery

The prize focused on the way we've coped during Covid-19 and featured an all-female winners list for the first time. Lydia's image 'Eden' is on the right.

EDUCATION

Karen Pollock

Awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for Services to Holocaust Education

Karen is an activist and CEO of the Holocaust Educational Trust. She has been praised by politicians across the spectrum for her work in Holocaust education and remembrance, and works continually to motivate future generations to speak out against intolerance.

FILM

Olivia Williams

Chosen to appear in Netflix's drama The Crown

Olivia will play Camilla Parker Bowles in series 5 and 6.

FOOD

Julie Kleeman

Shortlisted for the Best Street Food/Takeaway in the BBC Food and Farming Awards

Julie co-founded Taste of Tibet, a restaurant and food stall based in Oxford, UK. She won the Yan-Kit So Award for Food Writers on Asia in 2019 and will be publishing her first book, featuring food stories and recipes from Tibet, in 2022.



EDEN
Lydia Goldblatt was awarded second prize at the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Awards 2020



DR GRACE SPENCE GREEN
Challenging people's perspectives on disability (Photo credit: Dolly Clew)

LAW

Rosa Curling

Standing up for digital justice

Human rights lawyer Rosa Curling was profiled in *The Sunday Times Magazine* for her work standing up to tech giants and governments, and establishing the independent, non-profit law firm Foxglove campaigning for digital justice.

Tracey Dovaston

Championing women in law

Tracey is a partner at the law firm Boies Schiller Flexner (BSF) and has received two awards for driving change to increase gender diversity in the workplace. She was awarded Solicitor of the Year at the Inspirational Women in Law Awards, and was named in The HERoes 100 Women Executives Role Model List as one of the UK's top leaders supporting women in business.

MUSIC

Suzu Klein

Appointed to the newly created role of BBC's Head of Arts and Classical Music TV

Suzu's role represents a long-term commitment to the transformative power, inspiration and joy that the arts bring. She aims to create compelling, unmissable programmes for audiences across the UK.

SCIENCE

Dr Karin Shmueli

Appointed Professor of MRI Physics at University College, London

Karin has worked on researching and developing MRI techniques throughout her career as a medical physicist. She leads the MRI research team in the UCL Department of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering.

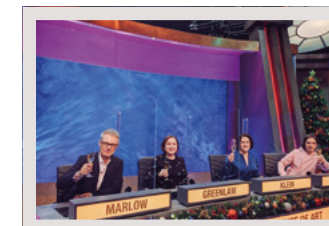
UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Jacky Klein & Katrina Dionisio

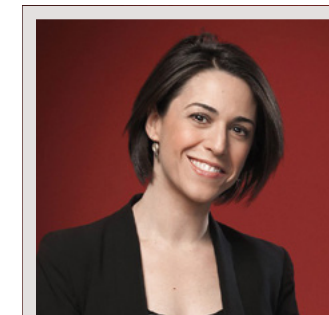
Two alumnae lead winning teams on the television programme University Challenge

Art historian and broadcaster Jacky Klein and her team from the Courtauld Institute won the final of University Challenge in December 2020.

Katrina Dionisio, a student at St Hilda's College, Oxford, was team captain during her match in July 2021.



UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE
Jacky Klein and Katrina Dionisio lead winning teams



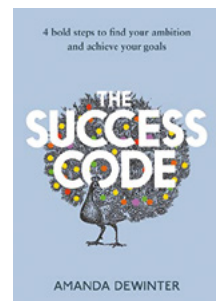
BBC'S HEAD OF ARTS AND CLASSICAL MUSIC TV
Suzu Klein

TELL US YOUR NEWS

If you or one of your school friends has a success story, we would love to hear about it. Please contact us on alumnae@shhs.gdst.net

Alumnae authors

The last 12 months have seen many South Hampstead alumnae publish books in a range of genres. If you're looking for your next book, here are the latest titles to add to your reading list.



NON-FICTION

The Success Code

AMANDA DEWINTER

Aristotle on Thought and Feeling

PROF PAULA GOTTLIEB

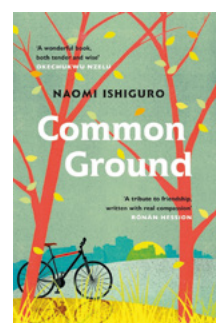


Circles and Squares: The Lives and Art of the Hampstead Modernists

CAROLINE MACLEAN

Queens of Jerusalem: The Women Who Dared To Rule

KATHERINE PANGONIS

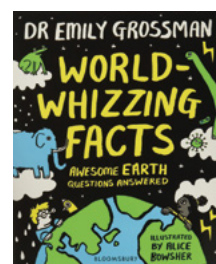


Ahead of Her Time

JUDY PIATKUS

And this is my friend Sandy: Sandy Wilson's The Boy Friend, London Theatre and Gay Culture

PROF DEBORAH PHILIPS



Reflective Writing

JANE SPIRO

FICTION

Common Ground

NAOMI ISHIGURO

Twice

SUSANNA KLEEMAN

CHILDREN'S

World Whizzing Facts

DR EMILY GROSSMAN

Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small

DR JESS WADE



We have a growing collection of alumnae author titles in the school library and encourage students to read them. All books written by alumnae will display our new alumnae author logo.



DR JESS WADE AND FORMER PHYSICS TEACHER DOROTHY WALGATE
Jess dedicated her book to Dorothy and South Hampstead High School

DR JESS WADE

Introducing nano technology to children

Dr Jess Wade, BEM (class of 2007), is a highly skilled physicist and trailblazing campaigner for diversity in STEM fields. She published a children's picture book in April introducing young readers to the fascinating (and cutting-edge) world of nanotechnology, and dedicated the book to her teachers at South Hampstead.

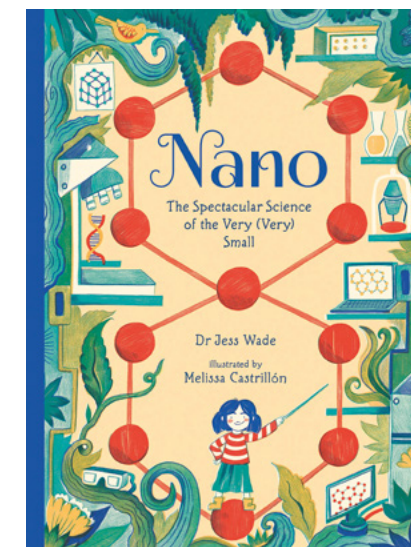
"Nano – *The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small*" was lauded as one of *The Guardian's* children's books of the month, praised for its accessible text and richly shaded pictures. "Everything is made of something, but the way we make things, from the materials we use to the science and technology involved, is changing fast. Nano offers a fascinating narrative introduction to this cutting-edge area of STEM, better known by the name 'nanotechnology,'" says *The Guardian*.

Jess clearly explains how everything in life is made out of a material. There are lots of different kinds but all of those materials are made from atoms, from air to water to chocolate to mobile phones. Scientists working with atoms have now discovered ways to work at the nano level, which means that they can create nanomaterials that can help us in lots of different ways, from making lighter aeroplanes that need less fuel to stay in the sky, to tiny medicines that doctors can steer through your body with machines.

Being able to work with tiny things at the level of the atom means that as well as creating amazing new nanomaterials, scientists are working on other amazing tiny inventions, such as sieves that would clean plastic particles from the seas or make nano computer chips, which could help people who have lost their sight to see again.

"Combined with illustrations that explode across the pages in a riot of beauty, this makes for an exciting and hopeful book about a lesser-known area of science for younger readers," says BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity.

Jess is a research physicist at Imperial College London. Alongside her investigations into polymer-based organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs), she has become an award-winning champion of women in Science and a crusader against gender bias. She has won a myriad of prizes for her work and campaigning. In 2019, she was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to gender diversity in science. She was also named one of the 'Most Influential Woman in UK Tech'.



Standing Up AND Speaking Out

We were delighted that alumna Karen Pollock, CBE (class of 1992) was shortlisted for the 2021 GDST Alumna of the Year Award earlier this year. Karen is an activist and Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust. A passionate and outspoken campaigner, Karen writes articles and makes regular appearances in national and international media discussing Holocaust related issues, antisemitism, racism and equality. For Resplendens, she writes about the importance of 'standing up and speaking out'.

I learnt a lot from my time at South Hampstead. Admittedly, I was not the most studious, but something I certainly took away from my time at school was self-assurance. Knowing I could be who I want to be and that I am accepted.

I think that is very empowering – to know we are not all the same and we come with different interests and talents, but we all have a part to play and a right to succeed. So, while I never knew at school what I would go on to do, I am sure that the confidence instilled in me in my school days was a strong foundation for where I ended up.

At the Holocaust Educational Trust, a national charity which I have run for many years now, our mission is to ensure that people from all backgrounds know about what happened during the Holocaust and learn lessons for today.

The greatest privilege of my life is to have got to know and work with several Holocaust survivors, who now are like my extended family. I have met royalty, prime ministers and various celebrities, but it is the survivors who have left the biggest imprint and who inspire me every day. What they have been through is unimaginable but they have a strong determination to share what they experienced, while also somehow having the most positive and life affirming attitudes.

Remembering the past is not only up to the people who went through it, but for all of us – and all humanity. The fact is that genocide, antisemitism and racism still blight our society today. There is still injustice. But standing up and calling it out is a duty for us all.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Antisemitism, racism, and hate do not happen in a vacuum. There are warning signs. But we have to be vigilant, and we have to care. It might seem small scale or something that is happening to someone else, somewhere else – but it impacts us all in the end and our role in making a difference can shape a tolerant society for everyone.

It can be tough being on the receiving end of racism, but my message to you is: whatever it is that you care about, that you want others to care about, USE YOUR VOICE and know you can have an impact. Apply the confidence which is no doubt instilled in you, as it was me, all those years ago at South Hampstead to believe in yourself.

And let me say something about navigating all this as a woman: Today, we place great emphasis on the makeup of boards, speaking panels and the workforce, ensuring they proportionally reflect equality, diversity and inclusion.

When I started at the Holocaust Educational Trust, I was a young Jewish woman leading a charity. I attended meetings at Government departments, briefed Members of Parliament and Government Ministers, canvassed potential funders for my charity, and mixed with key business figures and the leadership of the Jewish community – the majority of these meetings were predominantly with groups of men in suits. Their and my approach to discussions and negotiations often differed and, in my early days, I think there may have been a little apprehension or doubt about my ability, or merit to be in the room – but I was not afraid, flustered or intimidated by this. I would return to my desk at the office, thinking they shouldn't underestimate me! This must be, in some way, down to the inner sense of strength I developed at South Hampstead.

So, when using your voice, I wanted to share a few tips:

1. Be clear and positive - understand your cause or issue and be a positive messenger. Take note: aggression and rudeness don't work.
2. Stand strong - do not let your opponents intimidate you or prevent you from thinking your voice matters.
3. Know your strengths - using your voice does not necessarily mean being loud – so it is not necessarily posting something on Instagram, doing a media interview or giving a speech. You can influence opinions and people's positions in a number of ways. Home in on your strengths.
4. Make allies – one of the most uplifting parts of my work is that I work with people from all faiths, ages and backgrounds, and we join together against hate. Make sure you are not standing alone.
5. Empathise – it is really important to understand other people's views. Obviously, I will not sit down with a renowned racist or antisemite, but what I mean is there are some who just need to understand or learn more. Understand each other and carry people with you.
6. Keep learning – always accept that you do not know everything. Curiosity is a wonderful thing. Do not underestimate the power of knowledge, and having new experiences.
7. Finally, don't be too hard on yourself – I have learnt so much from sometimes trying something and it not quite working out, but I have learnt along the way. Sometimes we make mistakes, but we can start over and that is absolutely fine.

Leadership has many guises and you will find your personal style, I am sure. What I would add though is however bright and persuasive you are, however fluent at the lectern, however brave at the rally or in the boardroom you may be, never forget that patience, humility and kindness are qualities that go a very long way, and you will need to rely on those, always.

Alumnae leading the way in scientific and medical research

In this edition, we profile nine alumnae who are combining their scientific knowledge with creativity, problem-solving and analytical skills to design innovative solutions for challenges they encounter in their professions. Their work is leading to real impact and change in preventative health, diagnosing and treating illness, and how we live our lives.

Advancing MRI technology

PROFESSOR KARIN SHMUELI (CLASS OF 1994)

MRI scans provide a detailed picture of the brain and body, enabling doctors to both diagnose disease and monitor the effectiveness of therapies. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is an evolving technique that Karin Shmueli (class of 1994) has researched and developed throughout her career as a medical physicist. Today, Karin leads the MRI research team in the UCL Department of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, developing and optimising techniques to improve diagnosis for a range of conditions including cancer and neurodegenerative diseases. Karin was appointed Professor of MRI Physics in October this year. She speaks to Resplendens about her research.

"I've always been completely captivated by the Science behind MRI. It's a fascinating modality that involves so many different layers of physics and so much amazing science and engineering. I've worked in MRI for 20 years and seen how the technology has advanced and continues to improve. There are different ways of understanding it, whether through a classical physics lens, or using a quantum mechanical description. We use the contributions of so many scientists over the years to make MRI what it is today.

It's such a versatile technique: MRI can give you so many different types of images - structural images showing detailed anatomy, functional images of brain activity, and images showing how microscopic nerve fibres in the brain are connected. The development of higher field strength magnets has allowed us to push the frontiers and scan faster or at higher resolution."

In 2001, Karin received a Wellcome Trust studentship grant to work towards a PhD in MRI Physics at UCL on the highest field strength MRI scanner in Europe at the time. Her PhD was supervised by Professor Roger Ordidge, a former PhD student of Sir Peter Mansfield who won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2003 for his key discoveries in MRI. Following her PhD, Karin spent six years as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the USA National Institutes of Health in Maryland, USA pioneering a new MRI technique called quantitative magnetic susceptibility mapping (QSM). She then joined UCL as a Lecturer in MRI in 2012. Her standout career moment was receiving her five-year Consolidator grant from the European Research Council to develop a rapid MRI scan integrating new structural and functional techniques. "I submitted the grant application just before finding out I was pregnant, and got the news I'd received it the day I came home from hospital with my baby daughter!"

"QSM is a technique that I've researched for the last 10 years. It has huge clinical potential. Typical MRI scans show us brain structure and changes caused by disease



PROF KARIN SHMUELI WITH FRANK DOBSON MP AT THE UCLH MRI FACILITY

In 2013, Karin was paired with Frank Dobson as part of The Royal Society's pairing scheme which gives policymakers and research scientists an opportunity to experience each other's worlds

or cancer. QSM can provide new and useful information about the chemical makeup of tissue, and how it changes in a variety of neurodegenerative diseases.

For example, QSM can help detect increased brain iron in Parkinson's disease and will hopefully lead to earlier diagnosis of the disease. There's also potential to use QSM to monitor therapies and for drug trials so it has a really wide impact. We're working on lots of different clinical applications of QSM for a variety of conditions, and I think using QSM as a tool to aid diagnosis of Parkinson's disease will make it into the clinic first. We're also working on sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disease affecting red blood cells that can cause pain and cognitive impairment, and lead to blood clotting and strokes. We are using QSM, in studies at Great Ormond Street Hospital and in Tanzania, to give greater insight into what happens in the brain in sickle cell anaemia."

When she thinks back to her time at school, Karin says, "It was my experience at South Hampstead that first sparked my interest in Science. I have vivid memories of being fascinated by a Physics lesson taught by Tessa Cox where we made an electric dynamo and were able to induce a current to turn on a light bulb. I had great, inspirational teachers - Dr Jenny Paul (Biology) was a wonderful role model - who encouraged me to pursue the subjects I enjoyed, igniting a passion for Medical Physics and providing the springboard for my career in MRI."

It was my experience at South Hampstead that first sparked my interest in Science...igniting a passion for Medical Physics and providing the springboard for my career in MRI.

Transforming reconstructive surgery and pioneering a Covid-19 nasal spray

DR ZITA JESSOP (CLASS OF 2004)

Former student Dr Zita Jessop (class of 2004) is a senior lecturer at Swansea University and a surgeon at the Welsh Centre for Burns and Plastic Surgery. For the last six years, she has worked on pioneering new ways to engineer tissues for reconstructive surgery. More recently, Zita has led a clinical research trial to help find a way of protecting colleagues from Covid-19 using over-the-counter nasal sprays.

When did you first realise you wanted to be a doctor?

I remember a talk at South Hampstead where a female plastic and reconstructive surgeon spoke about her career, and brought in fake skin to show us how to suture. I was fascinated by the possibility of combining the creative with the practical aspects of reconstructive surgery, and inspired by the idea of being able to use my hands to help people in a practical way. From then on, I knew I wanted to follow a surgical path.

How did South Hampstead influence your career path?

I was one of the last students to benefit from an assisted place. The scheme was wonderful in giving me the chance to be in an environment where ambition was nurtured, and the opportunities felt endless. I had some amazing teachers, who encouraged me to pursue my ambition to become a surgeon, some of whom I am still in touch with and have become like family. I owe a huge amount to South Hampstead.

Tell us more about your research into a nasal spray to prevent Covid-19. How did you come up with the idea?

The past 18 months have been so difficult for many, and I wanted to use my research experience to find a way to help. I came across research on a nasal seaweed spray which can reduce the symptoms of the common cold, particularly those caused by other coronaviruses, so I thought why not this one? At Swansea we have clinical research facilities and the Swansea Trials Unit are in a great position to organise and run clinical trials. In December 2020, we started to roll out the trial for the nasal spray. Initially, it was designed to protect healthcare workers but as they became vaccinated, we expanded it to all key workers. The trial has now closed to recruitment and we are currently analysing the results. If the trial results show a difference, the spray could be a useful supplement to the vaccine or against other potential future viral strains.

In 2015, you were awarded the GDST Emerging Talent Award for your research pioneering new techniques for reconstructive surgery. How has your research progressed since then?

I received the award while working on my PhD using 3D bioprinting to build human cartilage for nose or ear reconstruction. The majority of reconstructive plastic surgery involves wound closure, wound management, and reconstruction of tissue defects following cancer

excision, trauma and burns. Wounds and tissue defects are often debilitating for patients and pose a significant health and economic burden, costing the NHS an estimated £5.3 billion annually. The alternative could be to develop natural bioinks to print tissues for surgical reconstruction, and this was the focus of my research.

The prize fund was hugely helpful in enabling me to participate in 3D bioprinting training, and to set up a custom-made 3D bioprinter in the lab in collaboration with the engineering department.

My PhD work resulted in several publications on defining what makes an ink printable and demonstrated that when human cells are mixed with the bioink, cartilage can be grown in the lab after a period of incubation without the need for other growth factors. I am now a Senior Lecturer in the group, which has just received a £2.5 million grant to explore how we can translate this work into the clinical environment to help patients requiring facial reconstruction. More research is still required to make the cartilage stronger and less susceptible to immune reaction, and there are now other PhD students and postdoctoral researchers taking this forward.

What is your stand-out career moment?

I was honoured to be invited by the Royal College of Surgeons to deliver a presentation on tissue engineering at the House of Lords during a celebration of Seven Decades of Innovation in the NHS. Most recently, I have to say it has been a real honour to be in a position where I can set up a clinical trial to help with the Covid-19 effort.

What advice do you have for students and alumnae considering a career in surgery?

An academic surgical career is extremely challenging, varied and rewarding with lots of opportunities for innovation and transformation of patient care. I am keen to encourage anyone who is interested in a similar career path. I would advise you to get exposure to different surgical specialties at school and university to see what inspires you most and work on projects you feel passionate about.

“An academic surgical career is extremely challenging, varied and rewarding with lots of opportunities for innovation and transformation of patient care.”



South Hampstead alumnae heading up paediatrics at the Evelina London Children's Hospital

We can be pleasantly surprised to cross paths with old school friends in our professional and personal lives - there's a sense of shared history knowing there's someone else in your work place or social circle who has had the same education experience as you. These feelings are particularly strong at the Evelina London Children's hospital, part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, where four South Hampstead paediatricians work together as part of a wider team.

Dr Claire Lemer (class of 1994) is a Consultant in General Paediatrics at the hospital and combines her role with community and hospital care. She first met **Dr Jo Laddie** (class of 1994), a Palliative Care Consultant at Evelina London, when they started Reception together at South Hampstead Junior School. Over the years, their careers in medicine have overlapped and they first found themselves working together nine years ago at the same hospital.

"There's an amazing sense of camaraderie and support across all services and roles in the Evelina," says Claire. "It's an absolute pleasure working with Jo and other alumnae from South Hampstead, and of course being part of a much larger team working to make a difference to children's lives." Claire is also the Director of Clinical Transformation for the hospital expansion programme, as well as Clinical Director for the division of medicine. She was awarded a BEM in 2014 for her work in children's health.

After completing post graduate training at various London hospitals, Jo now works as a Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care at Evelina. "I love the energy in paediatrics and the shared sense of fun. Even in all the sadness there is a lot of laughter. I particularly love the holistic approach of not only looking after the child, but also their family and being a crucial part of the care and support we provide." Jo is passionate about excellent communications skills being integral to clinical practice, improving the patient journey and reducing conflict in the NHS. She is chair of the Guy's and St Thomas' Ethics Committee and involved in national Paediatric Palliative Care development.



SHHS ALUMNAE AT THE EVELINA LONDON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (left to right) Paediatricians Dr Jo Laddie, Dr Claire Lemer, Dr Alice Roueché and Dr Chloe Macaulay work together.

Jo and Claire work closely with fellow General Paediatric Consultants **Dr Chloe Macaulay** (Doganis) (class of 1992) and **Dr Alice Roueché** (class of 1997) who are jointly responsible for undergraduate training in paediatrics for King's College medical students. "We're all proud that South Hampstead is so well represented at the Evelina," says Chloe, who is also the paediatric lead for the Children's and Young People's Health Partnership, developing a new model of integrated care for Lambeth and Southwark.

"I'm passionate about quality improvement and education," says Alice. "That's why I'm working with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health on improvement". Alice is also the lead for a specialist clinic for children with genetic conditions, which takes a holistic approach to patient care by also joining up with mental health and education services.

All four alumnae are passionate about their speciality, keen to make a difference and inspire others.

"In my role, I absolutely love the satisfaction of making a difference to a family, whether it's supporting a complicated discharge, or helping organise research, or work to introduce drugs into a new practice," says Claire.

"Paediatrics is the best career. I started out as a GP but changed career when I tried out paediatrics," says Alice. "I work in an amazing team, children are fun to work with, they recover quickly and there's a great energy at work. Even in sad situations, you know you are doing the very best for the family."

"Through my work with King's undergraduates, I'm now doing lots of work to inspire future doctors to become paediatricians," says Chloe.

When they reflect back on their time at South Hampstead, the paediatricians feel that their education prepared them well for their careers in medicine.

"South Hampstead gave me a quiet confidence," says Claire. "It taught me how to learn, which has been invaluable for all the exams I've done. It normalised for me the roles that women can and should play in the wider world. Perhaps most importantly, it was a crucial first step in understanding the power of long-standing friendships."

"South Hampstead gave me a quiet confidence. It normalised for me the roles women can and should play in the wider world. Perhaps most importantly, it was a crucial first step in understanding the power of long-standing friendships."

Dr Claire Lemer

Innovation in mental health

EKATERINA SHATALINA (CLASS OF 2014)

Ekaterina Shatalina (class of 2014) is based at the London Institute of Medical Science (LMS) at Imperial College and is in her final year of her PhD, researching the neurobiology of schizophrenia. She is also passionate about innovation in the digital mental health space and has worked on commercialising several technologies coming out of academia.

“The aim of my research is to build a better understanding of the symptoms of schizophrenia: if we can improve our understanding of their biology, we’ll be able to develop better solutions that we can offer someone with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or psychosis,” says Ekaterina.

“I’m excited about innovation, especially about translating scientific insight into working solutions... I hope that my research will provide the background to developing new treatments for schizophrenia.”

Her research looks into applying novel ways of imaging the brain, particularly looking at how synapses, the connections between nerve cells in the brain, work. In schizophrenia, scientists believe these connections are mistakenly removed by the brain’s immune system during adolescence, which results in changes to how the brain functions.

“Active psychosis is viewed as the third most disabling condition after dementia and quadriplegia,” explains Ekaterina. “Psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia are also fairly common, and affect almost one in 100 people. Someone experiencing a psychotic episode is often unable to tell the difference between what is real and what isn’t.

We have previously shown that patients with schizophrenia have fewer connections between their neurones, and now, I am investigating how losing these connections is linked to problems with working memory, brain-processing speed and attention, all of which are also symptoms of schizophrenia. My PhD research involves analysing how many synapses patients have, and how well they complete memory tasks in an MRI brain scanner.”

Ekaterina knows that most neuroscientists are working on long time scales. “I hope that my research will provide the background to one day develop new



treatments for improving cognition in schizophrenia, something that existing medications are unable to address,” she says.

Alongside her PhD, Ekaterina has also been working with MedTech SuperConnector, an organisation set up by a collaboration of research institutes helping to commercialise scientific research. “I’ve worked on two exciting research projects in the digital mental health space. The first was aiming to build a mood tracker by looking at how a user interacts with their browser and computer. Big tech companies can interpret our activity online to know if we’re feeling happy or anxious, but none of these innovations are user-facing. If users had this feedback, it could be used as a tool to help manage increases in their anxiety. I also worked on a second start-up using AI-based voice analysis as a diagnostic tool for depression. This could be a useful tool for clinicians, particularly now that so many consultations are online.”

Ekaterina is now working with an early stage venture capital firm called Creator Fund, which recognises university campuses can be at the forefront of innovation. “I’m an investment partner in the fund as I am trained to identify and finance new innovations coming out of scientific research,” she explains.

Where this will take her next, she’s unsure, but she knows she’ll carry on working in the neuroscience and neurotechnology space. “I’m excited about innovation, especially about translating scientific insight into working solutions. Both academia and industry are exciting platforms for this, and I hope to keep strong ties with both throughout my career.”

STEM Ambassador

EVE TOWNSEND (CLASS OF 2016)

Eve Townsend (class of 2016) talks to Resplendens about her role as a STEM ambassador and the commercial potential of her final year research project.

The Physics graduate explains her passion for Science: “Science acts as a lens through which we view the world and Physics has enabled me to take a different perspective on how we interact with it... it’s a way to understand the interplay between nature and technology; it positions you at the forefront of innovation.”

Eve’s final year research project at Bristol University tackled the pressures on water quality resources due to climate change. It was awarded a commendation by the School of Physics, setting Eve on a pathway to commercialise her research after graduating. “The impacts of climate change have resulted in the scarcity and poor quality of natural water sources. I set out to provide a solution to monitor the quality of drinking water and detect the pressures of pollutants. Through the project, we were able to develop an optical detector prototype that enabled the detection of low-levels of pollutants in drinking water. The prototype showed the same levels of detection as commercial devices.”

Shortly after graduating, Eve joined Spin Up Science, a start-up based in the Bristol incubator Science Creates, whose mission it is to empower scientists



with the skills to drive research out of the lab and into real-world solutions. “I learnt the operations involved in running a business and how to manage different projects. Working in a start-up with entrepreneurial-minded scientists was both a humbling and exciting experience. I learned about the hard work required to grow a business model from scratch. I was surrounded by expertise, learning from the best and ultimately left feeling inspired with the drive to pursue my own start-up and create impactful solutions.”

Eve is now a STEM ambassador so she can be more involved with how we teach Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths from a young age, and help identify barriers underrepresented groups face. “Science is constantly evolving and developing. I hope I can use my role as an ambassador to provide insight and illuminate the different career paths now emerging which do not necessarily follow traditional scientific routes. Building stable career paths for scientists is crucial for attracting aspiring innovators.”

“Throughout my career I will continually have a desire to learn new skills and integrate my experiences into my work. I want to learn about how we can design more impactful and realisable solutions, integrating technology in a way that could provide value to our society. In September, I will be starting a unique double-master’s programme, Innovation Design Engineering (MSc/MA), at Imperial and the Royal College of Art. The programme aims to bring together engineers and designers, from a range of disciplines, with a determination to initiate positive environmental and social impact. Through the programme I hope to leverage my background in Physics and combine my technical skill with creativity, to learn how to problem seek and conduct fundamental research that underpins real-world problems. I am excited to be immersed in a community with such different skills and disciplines and learn how to encompass broader cultural and societal challenges.”

“I hope I can use my role as an ambassador to provide insight and illuminate the different career paths now emerging which do not necessarily follow traditional scientific routes. Building stable career paths for scientists is crucial for attracting aspiring innovators.”



Shaping government public health policy

PROFESSOR JENNY MINDELL (CLASS OF 1974)

Campaigning for smoke-free public places, persuading the Greater London Authority to promote walking and cycling, and promoting the use of statins to prevent heart disease – Professor Jenny Mindell speaks to Resplendens about how her research has contributed to many of today's public health policies.



Jenny Mindell (class of 1974) is Professor of Public Health at University College London (UCL). Her family has a long association with South Hampstead. Jenny and her sister Nicky were students at the school during the 1970s; Jenny, her mother-in-law Marianne Rosenblatt, and her daughter Judith Cohen were all Trust scholars. Jenny has had a lengthy and successful career in medical and public health research, campaigning in numerous areas to make a difference to our quality of life.

How would you describe your career to date and what are you working on at the moment?

In the late 1970s, I trained in medicine at St. Mary's Medical School and undertook an intercalated BSc, where I first discovered my passion for medical research. After qualifying, I worked in various North West London hospitals, trained as a GP, and then had a variety of posts including research and health promotion. From 1998, I spent four years studying for a PhD in Epidemiology at Imperial College London while finishing my public health medicine training.

In July 2005, I started work at University College London as a clinical senior lecturer, then Reader, and finally professor. I lead the UCL team working on the annual Health Survey for England, monitoring trends in the nation's health and care. We invite a nationally-representative sample of the general population to participate, ask people questions, and take objective measurements. My role here has led to international work in Europe and Latin America.

I also work on transport and health, and have published work showing that road fatality rates vary more by age, sex and deprivation than they do by whether you walk, cycle or drive. Young males should cycle – it's safer for them and us! I led a large multi-disciplinary study to measure the barrier effect of busy roads and one of our case studies was Finchley Road from Finchley Road & Frognal station to Swiss Cottage station. One of the post-doctoral researchers had been at UCS and his mother had taught at South Hampstead, so we both knew the area very well!

When did you realise you wanted to work in epidemiology and public health?

When I applied for a GP partnership, I realised that I wanted to study public health instead. Most of the difficult issues I'd encountered while working as a doctor in socially deprived areas occurred due to the 'social determinants of health' (e.g. poor education, housing, unemployment, poverty). I thought I could make more of a difference to people's lives by working in public health.

What has been your most rewarding role?

I can't pick just one! I have so many broad interests and expertise. Three of my highlights are:

From December 2001 until July 2005, I was Deputy Director of the London Health Observatory (LHO), an organisation which produces information, data and intelligence on the health of the 7.8 million people who live in London. Our health impact assessment of London Mayor's Transport Strategy increased the emphasis on walking and cycling, which we promoted for health and environmental reasons. The Greater London Authority liked our comments as this was so much quicker (and cheaper) to implement than major rail or road projects.

I am particularly proud that my health and transport survey on walking speeds received huge media coverage. Our analysis of Health Survey for England 2005 data showed that most people aged 65+ walk more slowly than the 2.7mph speed used

for clearance times at pedestrian crossings. As a result, the Department of Transport decreed that new signalised crossings must have a countdown timer or include a camera to detect pedestrians crossing, and eventually changed the regulations to allow local authorities to provide longer times. The pinnacle of this was a YouTube video posted by a group of Kilburn elders singing for political advocacy to London Mayor Boris Johnson based on our research! You can watch it here: tinyurl.com/hey-mr-boris

I am the founding editor-in-chief of the Journal for Transport and Health, which I led from 2013 to 2019. I am also heavily involved in international transport and health organisations. I've learned Latin American Spanish and visited Colombia, Brazil and Chile to discuss transport and health research, as well as health examination surveys.

Tell us more about how you campaigned for smoke-free public places in the 1990s. How much opposition did you encounter in your role?

From 1990 to 1992, I was the director of a cancer prevention project in Oxford, and was regularly quoted in the local press commenting on tobacco industry activities, the dangers of smoking, and benefits of quitting. Tobacco control work may seem strange to younger readers, but at the time, few schools, shopping malls or bus companies were smoke-free and there were no national tools or guidance for these, so we developed our own. Although small scale, we achieved significant change. We campaigned against tobacco advertising and I wrote a manual for school governors and headteachers on making their schools smoke-free. We also worked with local MPs to raise tobacco control issues in Parliament and I persuaded the Oxford Coach company to go smoke-free. National Express, on the other hand, told me where I could take my suggestion!

How did your time at South Hampstead impact your career path?

Being at South Hampstead helped me gain great academic results, a love of learning, an enquiring mind and the enjoyment of mixing with other like-minded people. Above all, there was always the assumption that women can do anything and not to let others' outdated sexist views hold us back. I was lucky that the new Science block was completed in time for my O and A Levels, replacing the old and ill-equipped labs next to the dining room in the basement of the old main building.

What do you love most about what you do?

Having great colleagues, and the belief I'm doing something worthwhile which could impact government policy, improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities.

“

Being at South Hampstead helped me gain great academic results, a love of learning, an enquiring mind and the enjoyment of mixing with other like-minded people.

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Cecilia Ezike

**SOUTH HAMPSTEAD'S CHEMISTRY LAB
TECHNICIAN FOR 33 YEARS**

You may walk along the ground floor of the Science block with some trepidation. There is a closed door with a bright, yellow warning triangle saying 'dangerous chemicals,' and another sign saying 'Science prep room, no unauthorised access.' The opposite wall of the corridor is adorned with a complicated, life-sized chart displaying the principles of organic Chemistry. However, knock on the door and you will be warmly greeted with a smile and laughter from Cecilia Ezike, the face behind the school's practical Chemistry experiments for the last 33 years, and South Hampstead's longest serving staff member.

"My time at South Hampstead has been great to say the least. Watching pupils learn and develop has been inspirational, and being part of that growth has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience," says Cecilia as she reflects on her career as a Chemistry Lab Technician. "Over the years, several students have told me that they chose to study Chemistry because of me! It amazes me that I have been able to influence their future studies or career paths. I have been on a number of courses over the years, which have helped me to improve in my job and as an individual. Many colleagues have turned into friends."

Cecilia joined South Hampstead in 1988 when the Science department was spread out over two buildings. "Chemistry and Biology lessons were taught in the Science building, but for Physics the girls had to traipse over to the fifth floor of the old Waterlow Hall building! I'm so pleased Science is all in the same area now. It makes so much more sense."

As well as seeing students learn, Cecilia has also been able to develop her own knowledge of Chemistry. In the 1990s, she studied for a Chemistry degree at Birkbeck University, while working full time and being a mother to four children. "South Hampstead really encouraged me to go for it. With four children, I didn't think I could do it, but I was so proud of myself when I passed."

When reflecting on how her role has changed in 30 years, Cecilia says she is grateful to work in the new building, which opened in 2014. "I love working in modern facilities and the new lifts were a welcome addition. There has been an increase in diversity of teachers and support staff, which better reflects the society we live in today, and the girls' intake has increased tremendously, leading to more Science teachers too."

During her tenure, Cecilia has worked with many Chemistry teachers and six Headmistresses. "I've worked with so many characters that nobody fazes me now. Two Chemistry teachers who stand out the most are Mr Riches and Mr Arundale. Mr Riches was fantastic to work with, and someone that we could all laugh with. Mr Arundale trusts me to do the job, and knows that I can be flexible. Only occasionally will I respond to his late practical requests because it's for the girls, not for him!"

Cecilia has also worked with countless students and finds them all respectful, well-mannered, and very disciplined. "They are the best I have ever come across," she proudly tells me. "I tell the parents who come for the open days, 'this is the best place for your child. They will go so far.' I'm so pleased my daughter Ada came here. Sometimes, I see alumnae outside school, and they all remember me. It's a fantastic place to work."

Questions, Directions, Warnings and Advice

Barnaby Harkins, Head of English, reflects on his experiences of South Hampstead High School (so far).



I'd arrived at South Hampstead in 1997: my first proper job. I remembered clearly how disconcerting I'd found the teacher training year. A lot of scary crowd control and not much literature. I wasn't sure teaching was going to work out – at all. Then, a friend found the job advert for South Hampstead High School. 'Girls' independent day education: it's definitely for you,' she urged. Okay, I thought, but aren't teachers supposed to crusade and suffer?

I nearly walked past the old Victorian main building on the day of my interview. It didn't look much like a school. Thinking back, it's strange the building no longer exists. I got very used to walking through the front doors, having survived gruesome manners on the tube, to be greeted brightly: 'Hello, Mr Harkins!' Very quickly, I realised that South Hampstead was unlike other experiences of London. Whatever happened outside, I knew there would be innocent good humour as soon as I reached the lobby.

About ten years into my time at South Hampstead, I found myself working alongside two women I trained with at King's College, London (Ms Shah and Mrs Keyte). Between us, we counted how many of the forty people we trained alongside were still teaching: none that we knew of. It was a salutary reminder of what makes South Hampstead such an unusual place to teach.

In my first year, I remember being despatched by Mrs Margaret Cullen, my first Head of Department, to teach 'Sons and Lovers' to Year 10. I never expected the girls to read the whole book – but was shocked that some of the toughest nuts (even South Hampstead has them) absolutely loved it. I waited for their enthusiasm to waver but it never did. Lives and reading habits changed a lot almost immediately afterwards (the internet, social media ...) and I wouldn't try 'Sons and Lovers' with a whole Year 10 class now but that was an enlightening moment. Still, if things have changed at South Hampstead, they must have changed a lot more elsewhere.

A further early experience showed me the uniqueness of South Hampstead. I was form tutor to a Year 9 class and just getting to know them. Suddenly, a normally cheerful girl was crying and inconsolable. I took her into the corridor to find out what was wrong. At first, I was unsure I'd heard correctly but could tell it was a 'intimidation' issue. I asked the sobbing girl to repeat the accusation: 'She says – she says – I'm not working hard enough!' said the girl. I thought of my own experiences at an aggressive boys' school – and managed not to laugh. To me, it elevated peer pressure to a different level – of greatness! Of course, I've since had plenty of different form tutor experiences of charged

interactions (shocked: 'She said what?!') but I've never forgotten that early, favourite event.

Sometimes I bump into South Hampstead old girls. They usually ask ominously and suspiciously if South Hampstead has changed (apart from the massive new building). I suspect they secretly want the school to be less fun, now they are no longer part of it. I always disappoint them: South Hampstead girls are as much fun to teach as ever. One strange way the school has changed, however, is that girls now seem much more grateful. At the end of each lesson, girls shout, 'Thank you!' as they leave. That never used to happen. In fact, I used to smile to myself that South Hampstead girls didn't realise how great a school experience they were having. I even thought a couple of weeks in the real world would change their attitudes entirely. For me at least, South Hampstead keeps the real world at bay.

Strangely, South Hampstead old girls also tend to ask me incredulously: 'You mean you're still here?!' Yes, I reply patiently. Where else would I go? And I remember explaining my experiences of South Hampstead to a wise friend years ago.

'You won't leave that school until you've finished with teaching,' he told me. He'd listened very carefully to my tales of school and knew me well. His prediction remains to be proved, however. I certainly have no wish to teach elsewhere. A different (also wise) friend once commented portentously that I never complained about my students.

'But why would I?' I asked, surprised.

'I know many teachers,' he said drily. 'It's all they ever talk about.' I realised then that my experiences of education had become as wonderfully sheltered as the average South Hampstead girl's.

I'll leave you with a realisation given to me by Mme Raitz, when I used to accompany her Loire Valley trip. Inevitably, there would be delays with coaches, at ports and queuing to enter châteaux. 'Look closely,' ordered Mme Raitz, 'and listen!' Of course, I obeyed – aware that I was being directed by my de facto boss to a profound observation. Around us, dozens of young South Hampstead girls sat in small groups, chattering and entertaining each other kindly. It never failed to happen: time-defying, patient, kind chatter.

And to my former students (and those girls I never taught but who treated me as their personal holiday rep), I hope your careers have been as amusing and fulfilling as mine at South Hampstead.

Farewell to staff

At the end of this academic year, we said goodbye to a number of long-standing teachers and support staff who have dedicated many years of their career to South Hampstead. We thank them for all they have done for our students, staff and the wider community and wish them all the best for their next steps.



Amanda Johnson

Head of Philosophy and Religion

In December 2020, we said goodbye to one of our longest standing teachers: Amanda Johnson has taught Philosophy & Religion for almost 30 years. She joined the department in 1991 when it was only possible to study the subject at A Level. She left in 2020 having passed on a love and passion of her subject to countless students who frequently say that Mrs Johnson's Philosophy & Religion (P&R) classes are one of the most enjoyable at school.

Many alumnae have said that they cannot image South Hampstead without Mrs Johnson because, like so many other former pupils, she had such an impact on their learning... "She brought, and I'm sure continues to bring, such passion and enthusiasm about different religions and cultures to her lessons."

A full interview with Amanda can be read on our website here: www.shhs.gdst.net/news/a-new-chapter-for-mrs-johnson

Rob Clarke

Site Manager

Rob Clarke is retiring after 13 years. As a Site Manager, Rob witnessed many changes, including the creation of the new buildings in Maresfield Gardens. He was instrumental in keeping the school functioning in that tricky stage in the school's history. Rob's wisdom, supportive words and entertaining stories will be sorely missed in the corridors and pathways and we wish him well in retirement. Mr Clarke hopes to spend some of his newly found freedom with his greyhound, Freddie, and supporting his beloved Tottenham.



Honorary Alumnae

In recognition of their loyal service and support over the years, all long serving staff will be considered honorary alumnae of South Hampstead. Our community's strength is not just in its alumnae who benefitted from an education from South Hampstead, but also from individuals who have volunteered their time and advice or dedicated their careers to the school.

We also said goodbye to:

Minnie Claridge

DT Teacher

Jenny Matthews

PE Teacher

Martin Gadgil

Chemistry Teacher

Yi Wang

Maths Teacher

Laura Hruska

Geography Teacher

Chris Wharton

Head of Economics

Tristan Jones

Assistant Head

Sadaf Uddin

DT Technician

Laura Knowles

Assistant Head

View from the Archive

High up in the attic of Oakwood, you can uncover 145 years of South Hampstead's history. School archivist and former History teacher Joanna Coates is responsible for collecting and preserving all school artefacts including annual school magazines, photographs, concert programmes and correspondence between teachers and pupils.

Here is a snapshot of some of the fascinating material she found on teaching Science at South Hampstead...



SCIENCE IN THE 1950S

I found this delightful image of a Chemistry lesson at South Hampstead in the 1950s. The teacher was Mrs Pepper and I'm amazed that none of the students or the teacher are wearing goggles or a lab coat.



FARRER HOSPITAL
Farrer Hospital in India which was named after Ellen.



ALUMNA DR ELLEN FARRER

DR ELLEN FARRER M.B., B.S., 1865 – 1959:

ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO TRAIN AS A DOCTOR

In the Jubilee edition, I was fascinated to read about the large number of students who had trained as doctors, including alumna Ellen Farrer. Ellen was one of South Hampstead's first ever students, starting in the school's first year in 1876 when she was aged 11. Ellen's name is on the school's scholars' board which hangs in the atrium today.

A Google search reveals a fascinating life of one of the first women to qualify as a doctor and who spent most of her life living and working in India. She travelled independently and worked tirelessly during an era where medical careers for women were regarded as 'unwomanly.'

Ellen's father was a Baptist minister and her parents encouraged her to make the most of the academic abilities they believed God had given her. Ellen studied at the London School of Medicine for Women and London University to qualify as a doctor. Upon graduating, she found very few hospital posts open to women, and realised that she could build her medical career more successfully abroad. In 1891, she applied for work as a missionary doctor with the Baptist Zenana Mission in Bhiwani, India, with the ambition of building a new hospital.

Upon arriving in Bhiwani, Ellen took over a small dispensary in an Indian house, and treated women in the area where native customs prevented them from attending hospital with male doctors. It was a challenging environment as many patients were superstitious about medical care. Ellen was determined to succeed: she must have had that true South Hampstead grit, and worked hard to gain the trust of her patients. In her archive of diaries and letters, she explains how the success in her first surgery was vital in gaining the confidence of the people. Early operations were performed in the open air in order to have enough natural light. Despite these difficulties, soon a 24-bed hospital was established.

In 1923, a new and better hospital was developed with 50 beds. It was named The Farrer Hospital and Ellen spent ten years there healing, teaching, and training nurses. Her work was recognised twice by the Indian Government who bestowed the Kaiser-I-Hind Silver Medal and later the Gold Medal of the same order. By the Second World War, Ellen had retired and was living in England. She did, however, come out of retirement to tend to sick and injured soldiers. Afterwards, she retired once more and died aged 94 in 1959.

Images and text reproduced with kind permission of the Angus Library and Archive, Regent's Park College. Ellen Farrer's diaries and letters are stored in their archive.

SCIENCE AT SHHS IN THE 1920S

In 1926, the school was fifty years old and Miss Walker was the Headmistress. She wrote a short piece for the Jubilee edition of the school magazine about Science at South Hampstead:

"In 1882, the school moved to Maresfield Gardens. The only science lab was a small basement room (now a cloakroom) beyond the washbasins. The lessons must have been a dark and dismal abode, but those girls who have a bent towards archaeology may still find traces of the draught cupboard and the one sink and tap. Finally, a new laboratory was built in 1902, which must have seemed palatial after the old dark cell. For the next 16 years, more than half the University degrees taken by old girls were Science degrees. Another junior form room was converted into a Physics laboratory when the Juniors moved into Waterlow House in 1921."



SOUTH HAMPSTEAD'S NEW SCIENCE LABS
In the 1970s



ZOOLOGY LESSON
1963

1970S: A NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

The new Science block was opened in 1971.

The opening ceremony took place in the School Hall, which was decked with flowers and had magnificent new curtains.

It was presided over by Dame Kitty Anderson (formerly Head of North London Collegiate School). She recounted the long and arduous history of the Science block, explaining the difficulty of buying land, and of finding money when, at last, the land was available.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, one of the country's most eminent scientists, whose world famous discoveries in the development of techniques in X-Ray crystallography earned her the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

Professor Hodgkin then gave a short philosophical address on the relationship between science and happiness, and explained how scientific advances produce happiness not just for the scientist but for everyone. She hoped the girls would find this sort of contentment using the new labs. The opening of the labs, in pouring rain, was complete with a fanfare, and experiments were demonstrated.

Professor Hodgkin told of the pleasant hours she spent in her own school lab where her interest in Science was born. She also spoke about her interest in Insulin research. 'Science', she said 'is to learn to see things as they are.'

In her vote of thanks, the Deputy Head Girl, Penny King, pointed out how Professor Hodgkin was a perfect example of how a career and marriage can work successfully together.

TEACHING SCIENCE AT SOUTH HAMPSTEAD:

MEMORIES FROM TEACHERS

MR CHRIS KIKAS *Head of Physics*

It was wonderful to re-connect with Chris at our Zoom Reunion in May. Chris now lives in Cyprus where he runs an art gallery. He was Head of Physics at South Hampstead for nine years from 1980 until 1989 and sent us this photo on the right of his last day in the role.

LYSTRA RICHES *Chemistry Teacher*

Lystra taught at South Hampstead from 1990 to 2002. He had huge enthusiasm for his subject and tried to convey that enthusiasm in his final assembly in 2002, entitled 'Why People Fear Science'.

He claimed that "scientists usually get very defensive when their subjects are described as uncreative.... the implication being that anyone who is enthused by studying the Sciences must be some kind of unimaginative, emotionally challenged nerd." Mr. Riches denounced this point of view. He then went on to describe the "sheer sense of wonder that scientific theories and discoveries can produce - as with great art, a feeling which is religious in character in the sense that the feeling goes far beyond the bare material and opens the world out rather than closing it down." He felt that there must be something lacking in those who are not affected in this way. "No other field of study produced such staggeringly profound ideas in the last 2 centuries as were produced by the Sciences. Just as we need to know something of theatre, music, poetry and novels, so we must appreciate the richness of Science as well."

Lystra – we know former students and colleagues remember your humour and anarchism in lessons, and hope you have inspired alumnae to appreciate sciences, regardless of their subject choices.

DOROTHY WALGATE *Physics Teacher*

My time teaching Physics at South Hampstead in 1995 began with an unspoken question. Walking into the lab to teach my new Sixth Form group for the first time, I was met by one of them lying prone on the front bench looking quizzically up to see how I would react. She has since had a fascinating career as a science writer. It was the girls' questions over the years, from every group that I taught, that made teaching at the school so enjoyable. We would start a topic with a series of experiments and demonstrations that needed explanations. Learning the nature and range of the questions that Science is able to answer, and learning what questions remain unanswered, is very important. But I had usually only anticipated about half of the questions that the experiments provoked. The simple question 'why?' has many different shades of meaning. So it was with great pleasure (and a little pride) that I listened to the girls ask questions whenever we had outside speakers, or went on visits, such as the ones to the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva, just before it started up. It has been a real joy to follow their careers since they left school, and see the difference their intelligent curiosity and enthusiasm can make in the world.

DR CLARE WOODWARD *Biology Teacher*

Clare remembers when we taught on platforms, which were quite narrow planks of wood in front of the girls, on which there were high chairs, also narrow. Clare misjudged the width of the platform, sat on her chair and slowly fell backwards, clinging onto the chair for dear life. She emerged upside down but uninjured. The girls were horrified. Only Clare found it funny.



CHRIS KIKAS WITH STUDENTS
Head of Physics, 1980 – 1989



LYSTRA RICHES
Chemistry Teacher, 1990 – 2002

ONLINE ARCHIVE

To view old school magazines, photographs and other archive material from South Hampstead's history, please visit:

www.shhs.archive.net

Username: SHHSAlumna | Password: MehrLicht1876

Transforming Lives in Partnership

Each year, we seek support from our community to help fund means-tested bursaries for new pupils joining South Hampstead High School. We also work in partnership with several organisations who are focused on supporting education and transforming young people's lives.



In 2002, HSBC committed to providing bursary funding for girls entering the GDST from maintained schools. Working with all the GDST schools, the HSBC Scholarship Programme has since supported 400 girls through their education. They have also co-sponsored the Belvedere Academy and have worked with schools across the GDST network to create internship and employment opportunities.

Claudia Evans (class of 2012) applied for the HSBC internship programme in her final year at South Hampstead and spent three months working with them as part of her gap year before university. She went on to study Politics and International Relations at the University of Bristol, and during every summer returned to intern at HSBC. When she was offered a place on the HSBC graduate scheme, she knew she wanted to accept. She still works at HSBC, and is now in their Wealth Management business, where she looks after costs, deciding where money should be spent and identifying trends in performance data.

'I really enjoy what I do, and when I took that internship 9 years ago, I never thought I would still be here today.'

Duha (class of 2022) is one of our current HSBC Scholars. From the moment she joined South Hampstead, she has embraced every opportunity.

'I don't think I have had a free lunchtime since Year 7 and I wouldn't do it any other way, from dance clubs to chorale, and Doctor Who appreciation society, it has been such an incredible opportunity to try out new things and discover new passions.'

She is now a member of our Sixth Form Head Girl team and is the Deputy Head of Wellbeing and Peer Counselling. Duha is also an Academic and Drama Scholar and, besides making regular contributions to our scholars' journal *The Beacon*, she has taken part in every drama performance available to her. This has included outstanding performances in 'Made in Dagenham' and, most recently, in our ground-breaking production 'Emilia'.



Claudia Evans applied for a HSBC internship while in the Upper Sixth and is still working for the bank nine years later.

'I am so grateful to have been able to learn more about myself within the support system of this incredible institution. I have been taught to recognise and understand my values and been given opportunities to express them with the school community. I have understood the love of learning for learning's sake thanks to teachers whose passion radiates and infects the entire class. I have built an incredibly strong work ethic and have learnt to strive for the best and to believe in my potential. I am so lucky to have developed strong friendships and I have watched my friends and peers turn into my role models – young women for whom I have the utmost respect because of their confidence in themselves and their talents, their ability to hold their own, and their strength to stand up for what they believe in.'



Duha is a current HSBC Scholar at South Hampstead and takes part in every drama production available to her.



Committed to increasing educational access for underprivileged children around the world, the foundation's primary goal and focus is to remove any barriers to the aspiration and achievement of the young people it hopes to serve. In 2013 the Foundation launched The Black Heart Scholarship Programme which awards several annual bursaries to qualifying candidates to advance their educational goals and life aspirations. The foundation supports pupils across several GDST schools and we are lucky enough to have two sponsored pupils at South Hampstead - one of whom joined us in the Sixth Form:

'Being at South Hampstead has opened so many doors for me. I can pursue so many interests; I have joined Science clubs, started a business and a coding club, volunteered for a charity and continue my music lessons. All this, alongside excellent teaching and resources, has allowed me to excel in my studies and feel supported by my peers and teachers. All of this has happened within the first term of being at South Hampstead. It has been a terrific experience so far, even with lockdown and online learning. I have made many memories here, and I am sure I will make many more.'

Both our Black Heart Scholars feel strongly that everyone should have opportunities in education, regardless of background or wealth. They have been able to be ambitious in their choice of A Levels, and where they want to go on to study. Most importantly, they feel that South Hampstead is helping them gain confidence, learn to question and to speak out about the issues they are passionate about.



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

With a long and distinguished history dating back to a 16th Century Royal Charter, John Lyon's charity is committed to supporting life-changing bursaries for disadvantaged young people who live in nine boroughs in North and West London. The charity commits nearly £2 million annually to bursary support, and has worked in partnership with GDST schools for many years.

Between 2001 and 2007, John Lyon's sponsored one of our pupils here at South Hampstead:

Rina Kurshumlija (class of 2007) studied Biology, Chemistry, Theology and Economics in the Sixth Form, and went on from South Hampstead to study Nutrition at King's College, London. Her career started in a project manager role with Diabetes UK and the British Science Association, before taking a different direction into film and theatre production. Most recently she has been based in New York working as a Global Strategic Campaign Lead for Apple Music.

John Lyon's Charity continues to partner with the GDST, and is currently supporting pupils at Notting Hill and Ealing High School GDST.

GET IN TOUCH

We are so grateful to all our partnership organisations who work with us to improve educational opportunities for all. If you are involved with a Trust or Foundation and would like to know more about our bursary programme, please do get in touch.

GDST

Telephone Campaign 2021

Strengthening relationships between South Hampstead and alumnae

This July, South Hampstead was one of six schools to participate in GDST's first-ever multi-school telephone campaign.

Alumnae Helena Woolich (class of 2018), Chole Hum (class of 2021) and Sixth Form student Mia Brent, made up a team of 18 callers for the two-week campaign. During the evenings and at weekends, they called South Hampstead alumnae, sharing news and updates and reminiscing about their school days. They also spoke with former members of the parent and staff communities.

The telephone campaign not only strengthened relationships between South Hampstead and our alumnae community, but it was also an opportunity to share our philanthropic vision and seek support. By working with the GDST, we want to transform the futures of as many girls as possible, whatever their circumstances, by growing our bursary programme. Our priority is to increase the number of bursaries that South Hampstead can offer, so that talented and ambitious girls from a range of backgrounds can access a GDST education. Many alumnae, former parents and former staff made donations to the schools' bursary funds during the campaign, raising a total of £121,000 across the six GDST schools.

In addition, we received many offers from alumnae to further support their school and its current students by returning to give a careers talk, acting as a mentor and offering work experience placements.

During the campaign, our callers spoke to almost 300 members of the South Hampstead community. The recipients of the calls really enjoyed their conversations and our team of callers gained valuable paid work experience.

“

Alumnae, former parents and former staff made donations to the schools' bursary funds during the campaign, raising a total of £121,000 across the six GDST schools.

”



JESSICA BRIGGS
(class of 2011)

Jessica Briggs is one of our alumnae who will very kindly be making a monthly donation to the South Hampstead Bursary and Assistance Fund:

“It was a real pleasure talking to Helena and hearing about how South Hampstead has changed, and also stayed the same, in the 10 years since I left. I’m delighted to support the GDST and South Hampstead’s bursary campaign by contributing a monthly amount via direct debit. South Hampstead provided me with many of the skills and inner-confidence required to strive for success; I hope that, through my contribution, I can help other girls benefit from the many opportunities the school has to offer.”



HELENA WOOLICH
(class of 2018)

One of our callers was Helena, who has just finished her second year studying Law at the University of Bristol:

“I gained so much from taking part in the telephone campaign. No two calls were ever the same, which meant that I learned a lot and was able to develop my communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills on a completely new level. I received some great advice from alumnae – specific to my career interests and more generally – all of which I was very grateful for and am sure will be incredibly valuable.”

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to support our Bursary and Assistance Fund, please contact us on development@shhs.gdst.net. Gifts of all sizes really make a difference and we hope as many of our alumnae as possible and other supporters will want to be involved.



Lara Casalotti

1991 - 2021

Alumna Lara Casalotti (class of 2009) sadly passed away in May. Lara campaigned tirelessly to diversify the stem-cell registry for all, and spoke to students at South Hampstead about her work.

By her father Stefano Casalotti

My daughter, Lara Casalotti, who has died aged 30, had a reluctant media moment in 2016 when the Match4Lara campaign reverberated through national and international media. Diagnosed with a blood cancer (acute myeloid leukaemia), Lara needed a stem-cell transplant. When she learned that patients with black and minority-ethnic backgrounds like herself have a significantly smaller chance of finding a genetically matched stem-cell donor, Lara agreed to be the face and soul of a campaign to diversify the stem-cell registry for all.

Match4Lara, through a tremendous effort by her friends, family, Anthony Nolan and other organisations, registered more than 50,000 new stem-cell donors of more diverse backgrounds than previously on the registers. Many Match4Lara registrees have gone on to donate and save lives. Lara was fortunate that a generous donor was on the register, and she received a transplant that gave her precious additional years.

Aware of her privileges, Lara was an advocate of social justice especially freedom of movement. As a holder of four nationalities – US by birth, Thai and Italian from parents, and UK, acquired by residency from the age of six – she deeply valued internationalism and saw national borders as an injustice. At Bristol University, she joined Star (Student Action for Refugees), and followed her passion into a career as a case worker at the British Red Cross, supporting asylum seekers navigating the “hostile environment”, and as a coordinator and consultant for Asylos, an organisation that provides legal services for asylum seekers.

Throughout her years of cancer treatment, she continued working for vulnerable people, often holding calls between blood transfusions. Though the gravity of refugees’ struggles at times affected her own mental health, she transformed that weight into resolve and positivity.

Born in Rockville, Maryland, to me, a senior lecturer in Biomedical Science at the University of East London, and my wife, Supanya Lamsam, a retired health consultant on HIV/Aids and magistrate, Lara attended South Hampstead High School from 2002 to 2009. From there, she went on to study Geography at Bristol University. Nikki Liston, one of Lara’s teachers, remembers her as an academically gifted student who always strived to do her best. “She brought positive energy to every interaction with her megawatt smile. Lara’s socio-environmental conscience and sense of responsibility were already evident before her departure for university, so it is no surprise she worked tirelessly to help others, even during her own health struggles. It was a privilege to teach her.”

Lara nurtured close relationships with many dear friends and close family, with whom she shared her love of food, global music, art, group games, pottery classes and, especially, travel. She lived life openly, welcoming others into genuine and warm friendships.

Lara impacted many lives through her work for justice and her deep, loving relationships. She is survived by Supanya, me and her brother, Seb.

The original version of this obituary first appeared in The Guardian and is available at: tinyurl.com/lara-casalotti-obituary

“Throughout her years of cancer treatment, she continued working for vulnerable people, often holding calls between blood transfusions.”



Frances Rotblat

1946 - 2021

Alumna Frances Rotblat (class of 1964) was a Scientist at the Royal Free Hospital who helped to create an effective treatment for haemophilia.

It is a marvel of our bodies’ ingenuity that when we cut ourselves, our blood will clot, damming itself up to allow the skin to regrow. If it were not for this ability, small cuts would become medical emergencies, as they do for sufferers of haemophilia. Their blood clots less easily because it contains less of a protein called Factor 8.

In the 1960s and 1970s, when Frances Rotblat was training as a haematologist, the treatment of haemophilia was an arduous business. When treated for a cut, haemophiliacs had to have their veins pumped with litres of cryoprecipitate, a yellow substance prepared from blood plasma that contains diffuse quantities of Factor 8.

In 1979 Rotblat joined the haematologist Edward Tuddenham in his mission to create a more convenient and effective alternative to cryoprecipitate.

Techniques already existed to purify Factor 8 to some degree, but Rotblat and Tuddenham had invented a final stage. They had injected purified Factor 8 into a mouse, which fought it off by developing antibodies. They then removed the mouse’s spleen, where it made these antibodies, and used it to make more of them.

Having caught the Factor 8, they then loosened it from the antibodies’ grasp, and were left with the purest sample ever acquired. They sent it to the American biotechnology company Genentech, which aimed to gene sequence and clone it in 18 months.

“Frances, if this succeeds you are going to be rich and famous,” said Victor Hoffbrand, the head of haematology at the Royal Free Hospital. “No,” she replied with typical tartness, “David Heath will be rich, Ted will be famous, and I’ll be out of work.”

When Genentech completed its work in 1984 the first and second of Rotblat’s predictions came true, as, almost, did her third. Speywood cut funding to the laboratory but she started a job at the Department of Health the day she left. She had no doubt that sexism had denied her the recognition her fellow purifiers of Factor 8 enjoyed.

Rotblat was the daughter of Polish Jews who escaped Nazi persecution. Her family emigrated to Britain after the Second World War and settled in Hampstead where Frances attended South Hampstead High School and studied medicine at St Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College. She gained degrees in physiology, medicine and surgery and later fellowships in pathology, haematology and pharmaceutical medicine.

After concluding her work on Factor 8, Rotblat became the senior assessor of biological products at the Department of Health’s Medicines Control Agency. It was her job to lead the review of new blood products and vaccines. She also took an interest in new treatments for HIV and the regulatory challenges of new cancer therapeutics.

Volunteering for the Citizens Advice Bureau during her retirement, she lived alone, content with the company of her cats, Edwin and Xander, and her many close friendships, some of them lifelong.

Reproduced with kind permission from *The Times*. To read a full version of the obituary, please visit: tinyurl.com/frances-rotblat-obituary

Audrey Walker

1926 - 2020

Audrey Walker was a textile artist who oversaw a globally respected degree course at Goldsmiths College; she passed away aged 92. She began her career as an Art teacher at South Hampstead in the 1950s.

By former student Kirsten Thorley

“A subtle and sometimes unsettling textile artist who oversaw a globally respected degree course at Goldsmiths” summarised the life and legacy of Audrey Walker in her Guardian obituary. But before all that, she taught Art in schools, first in Leeds, then at South Hampstead, and after that, took her skills to one of the first comprehensives, Parliament Hill.

I have been trying to find words to describe her influence; it’s difficult because she had such a light and discursive touch that you hardly realised until later how much you were learning.

It didn’t take much to encourage me and my three close friends to spend time in the studio – we were all mad keen anyway. It was a very special place, a huge room with an immense north-facing window that had been specially created for Sir Ernest Waterlow, a painter, born in 1850, famous in his day, who lived in what later became South Hampstead’s Junior House – now replaced by the modern building. Audrey Walker made us welcome there; she was open and friendly without being unnervingly chummy. Carmela and Judy were clearly destined for careers in art and went on to study at the Slade and St Martin’s. (Carmela was later to become a distinguished textile conservator.) Lesley and I both went on to read English but were allowed to add Art to our full A Level portfolio because, luckily, the powers that be had no idea how much time and attention were actually going to be required. Of the four of us, I was not much better than average - that was obvious – but thanks to Miss Walker’s encouragement of what small talent I did possess, I managed an A Level like my friends.

I’m sure that my lifelong love of Art and, perhaps a strong feeling for colour, form and design, I owe to Audrey Walker’s direction. I’m sure the seeds of a late-in-life discovery of fused glass making, which gives me such enormous pleasure, were sown in that studio.

Although we self-styled rebels would never have admitted it at the time, the staff room during the Fifties housed some pretty distinguished teachers. Many of them had been there for quite some time. Audrey Walker must have raised a few eyebrows there when she turned up in her practical jerseys and denim trousers. Teachers in trousers! Unheard of! None of us girls could conceive of our teachers having a life outside school, so of course we had no idea that off-duty Miss Walker mixed with some of the most influential artists of the time, or that she was involved with the Young Contemporaries annual exhibitions at the Royal Society of British Artists galleries.



It was the Young Contemporaries show in the late 1950s that prompted a frightening unexpected confrontation. How we thought all four of us could cut school unnoticed I have no idea. At any rate, off we snuck to the RBA in Suffolk Street. I remember nothing of that. What I do remember only too vividly is strolling back towards Tottenham Court tube station – and who should be cutting across the grass in Soho Square towards us but Miss Walker... Whether it was our dedication to her subject that saved us, I have no idea; in any case she told us off most severely (of course), extracted a promise never to cut such a caper again (of course), and did not breath a word of our transgression.

I did meet her once more, long after leaving school – I was working in Nottingham when there was an exhibition there of Audrey Walker’s quite amazing large-scale constructs of layered and stitched threads and fabric. And there she was, recognisably the same woman with the bright, observing gaze and easy manner. She was living on the Pembrokeshire coast in retirement but still as busy and creative as ever. And she hadn’t forgotten her South Hampstead pupils in Sir Ernest’s magnificent studio.

Sheila Wiltshire

1925 - 2020

Sheila Wiltshire was Headmistress of South Hampstead from 1969 until 1974; she was instrumental in the opening of the Science block in 1971, leading to a substantial increase in students studying Science. She passed away in February, aged 96.

Mrs Wiltshire was the Head of South Hampstead High School, and a first in many respects: the first alumna to become headmistress; the first married woman to hold the position; and the first headmistress who did not come from a traditional teaching background.

Mrs Wiltshire graduated from the London School of Economics with a first class degree in Economics; was a research scholar at Newnham College, Cambridge; worked as an assistant lecturer at London University; then became a civil servant attached to the British Embassy in Rome, while working for the United Nations.

When she returned to South Hampstead as Headmistress, she continued the developments started by her predecessor, Miss Bodington, particularly in academic success, and in Art and Music. She was efficient, fair and well-respected. She also established our parents’ association FOSH (Friends of South Hampstead), enabling parents to support the school by introducing new events and fundraising initiatives – it is still running today under the same name. The highlight of Mrs Wiltshire’s headship was the building of a dedicated Science block in 1971, opened by the Nobel Prize Winner Professor Dorothy Hodgkin. With this new space, South Hampstead was able to introduce new Science courses which led to a substantial increase in students taking the Sciences – a legacy that remains to this day.

Former colleague, Chemistry Teacher Barbara Hilton, has vivid memories of working with a Head who showed strong moral principles, care for individual students, and who delighted in the personal development of her staff:

“Mrs Wiltshire had a quiet, firm demeanour, always seemed courteous and pleasant while showing strength in upholding traditions of the school and moral principles. Daily she took assembly, a dignified presence in her gown. Her concern for

individuals was shown in the regular review at a staff meeting of the progress of students: by form, each girl was discussed in turn. Her warmth was evident at a staff event and I think, looking back, this must have been at the point she left for her next headship. We were invited to her comfortable home in Harrow and on a warm summer evening the atmosphere was relaxed and convivial. The formality of her post was left aside for the evening and we were allowed to see a gracious woman, of considerable ability, who took pleasure in leading and supporting her team, with good humour reciprocated.”

In 1974, Mrs Wiltshire left South Hampstead to become Headmistress of Haberdashers’ Aske’s School for Girls. She remained in this role for 17 years until her retirement in 1991.

Zoom Reunion

2021

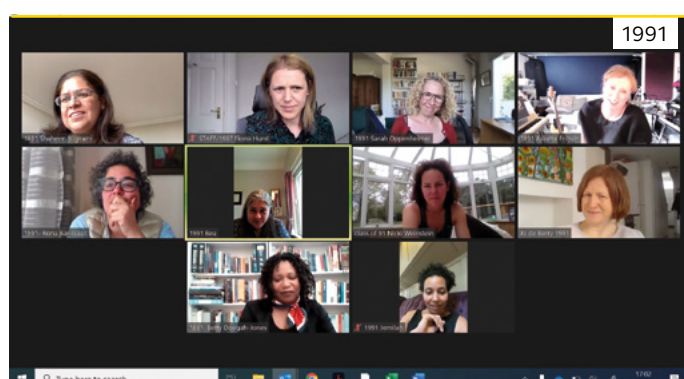
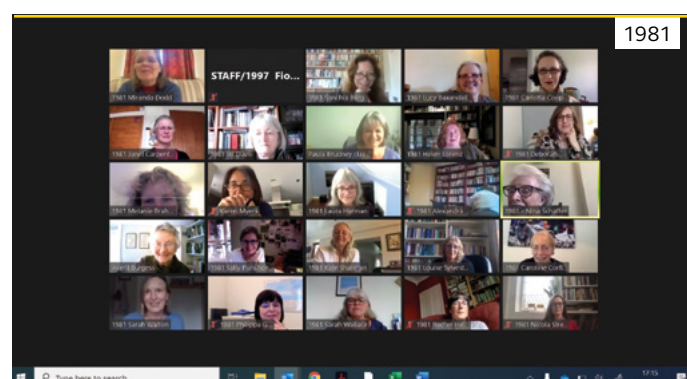
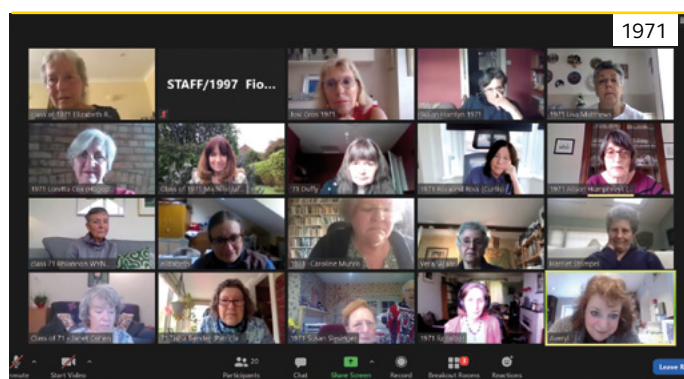
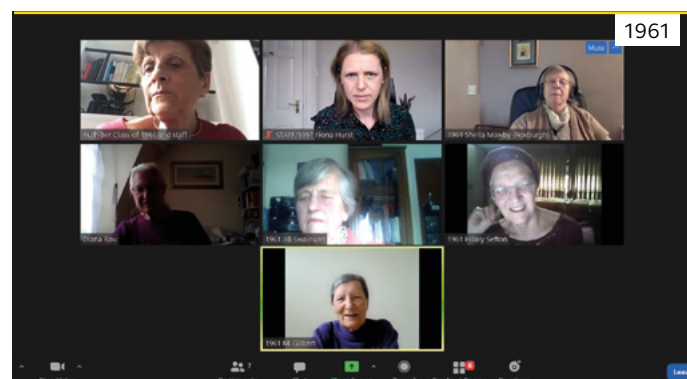
On Sunday 11th May, 160 former students and staff came together for our first ever annual reunion over Zoom.

Alumnae spanning six decades and living in 15 international locations met online at 4pm for a virtual tea party and to hear from Headmistress Vicky Bingham. They then caught up with their year groups in individual breakout rooms or participated in our archive quiz on the history of the school.

All guests received a reunion gift pack through the post a couple of days before the event containing an event brochure, a South Hampstead travel mug, herbal tea bags and a selection of cake and biscuit recipes from our school chef to bake in advance.

The online nature of the event enabled former pupils living in America, South Africa, Israel, India, Cyprus, Belgium and Denmark to re-kindle friendships, some for the first time since leaving school. We were delighted that numbers for this event were the same as similar reunions held in person at school.

We look forward to welcoming back many more alumnae for our 2022 reunion, which we aim to hold in person in our new Waterlow Hall.



Recent Leavers' Reunion

1st September 2021

After two years of delayed and cancelled dates, it was with joy we welcomed back alumnae from the classes of 2018, 2019 and 2020 at the very start of September. More than 100 people filled the Waterlow Hall to catch up with former teachers and school friends. This was a particularly special evening for the class of 2020 who left South Hampstead in the midst of the Covid lockdown, without any proper farewell or celebration. We were so pleased to be able to meet up again with so many of our recent leavers, and to hear about their progress since leaving the school.



Events

South Hampstead Speaker Series GDST Talks

One silver lining of the pandemic has been moving our speaker events online, enabling us to invite more of the South Hampstead community to come together and hear from distinguished guests who deliver talks that open doors, hearts and minds.

In November 2020, BBC Europe Editor and alumna **Katya Adler** (class of 1990) shared fascinating insights into her life and career, live from Brussels. She delivered an exhilarating evening spanning politics, her idols (Kate Adie) and amusing anecdotes – from her professional opinion on Brexit and Biden, to being on the verge of missing her own engagement party whilst stuck in Gaza. Describing the twists and turns of her winding career path with incredible passion and pragmatism, she explained how it's important to have goals and ambitions, but also to have patience and to enjoy the journey. "You need to be humble, to aim high... but most importantly, you have a duty of care to look after yourself."

In February 2021, we were delighted to welcome back two former South Hampstead parents to speak to the school community: **Diana Fox Carney** and **Mark Carney** explored the tensions between economic and environmental values. Their cogent and compelling discussion focused on how financial values have come to dominate human values – and explored what we can do about it in the critical decade ahead. As well as outlining the challenges of reaching net zero emissions targets, they highlighted the real progress that has been made in tackling the global climate crisis in recent years.

In May 2021, we welcomed the author and comedian **David Baddiel** to discuss his new book 'Jews Don't Count' – a bold exploration of how and why antisemitism has been overlooked. Citing numerous examples from politics and the media, as well as powerful personal experiences, Baddiel illustrated how Jews don't fit into the 'sacred circle' that some left-wing progressives have drawn. He argued that although all racisms should be equally bad, antisemitism is a "second class racism" which fails to elicit the reaction it warrants. He tackled an important and complex topic with candour, clarity and wit.

Towards 150 Concert

Our guest for this year's *Towards 150* concert was the renowned pianist and musician **Joanna MacGregor, CBE** (class of 1977). Parents, alumnae and pupils joined us for a wonderful performance and the inauguration of a new lectern, commissioned from the artist Bobby Mills in memory of Helen Strange, our former chair of Governors. The class of 1977 took this opportunity to organise their own reunion around the event with alumnae meeting up for drinks beforehand and dinner after the concert.



PROF ABI GEWIRTZ

In 2020, GDST launched GDST Talks, a series of online seminars for GDST parents and alumnae. Seminars are led by distinguished experts who share their experience and advice on pressing issues of the day.

We were delighted that South Hampstead was represented in this series. Thank you to Professor Abi Gewirtz (Greenwood) (class of 1983) who spoke about her new book, *When the World Feels Like A Scary Place*, and offered advice to parents on how to help their children deal with their worries caused by the many problems in the world, from refugees to climate change. Abi is Leadership Faculty Chair of the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development, and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Psychology*. She has consulted with many national and international organisations on parenting, including the U.S. Congress and UNICEF.



KATYA ADLER



JOANNA MACGREGOR, CBE

Tes (Times Educational Supplement) May 2021

Ofqual is telling us off



Headmistress Vicky Bingham defends schools' decisions to continue to assess students during the summer term in lieu of GCSE and A level exams. "Testing gives students a chance," she writes.

Full article at: tinyurl.com/ofqual-is-telling-us-off

Talk Education September 2020

A cohort of confident, intelligent young women... with a brilliantly offbeat sense of humour



A new website, *Talk Education*, provides a guide to the 'best of British independent education.' Both South Hampstead Junior and Senior Schools feature among its top 200 schools in the UK.

Junior School review: tinyurl.com/shhs-junior-school-review
Senior School review: tinyurl.com/shhs-senior-school-review

School Report magazine September 2020 and May 2021

South Hampstead emphasises life lessons and sport after weeks of home learning



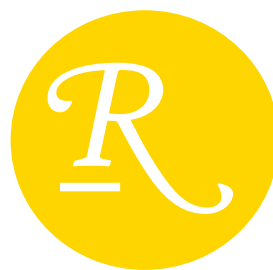
School Report magazine reviews how different schools are compensating for the disruption students have faced, highlighting South Hampstead's emphasis on learning life skills and sport. "In lockdown, the school's community work included making PPE in its DT workshops, raising money for disadvantaged students, writing to vulnerable alumnae and working with partner schools." On returning to school, "new activities on offer have included pop lacrosse, tag rugby, frisbee and handball, while the spring term ended with a wellness week, including energetic dance sessions."

SOUTH HAMPSTEAD

In the News

South Hampstead has been hitting the headlines in the education media with reports on our creative approach to home learning during the pandemic.

CONNECT WITH *South Hampstead*



September 2022



Recent Leavers' Reunion Drinks

All alumnae, who graduated from South Hampstead in the last five years, will be invited back to South Hampstead for drinks and canapés with school friends and former teachers at the start of September.

Further details to follow closer to the date.



South Hampstead Speaker Series

Alumnae are welcome to join us for the South Hampstead *Speaker Series* events. The *Speaker Series* is an opportunity for the school and local community to come together and hear from distinguished guests with a myriad of different perspectives on the world. Recent high-profile guests have included former pupil and BBC Europe correspondent, **Katya Adler**; former South Hampstead parent and ex-Governor of the Bank of England, **Mark Carney**; the Today programme presenter, **Mishal Husain**; and anthropologist, **Professor Alice Roberts**. Look out for details on our next alumnae e-newsletter.

Sunday 13th March 2022

Spring Alumnae Reunion 2022

Our reunion lunch is open to all alumnae and former staff. Each year we focus on inviting select groups of alumnae to celebrate anniversaries since leaving the school, however everyone is welcome to attend and put together a table for the event.

We will be organising specific year group reunions for the classes of 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 and 2012 and we are looking for year group reps to encourage their friends to come and join us. If you would like to help out, please get in touch.

All year groups who came to our Zoom reunion in May 2021 are also very welcome to join us in-person at South Hampstead in 2022.

Keep in Touch


South Hampstead alumnae offer so much to the school and our students. We truly value your insights and the valuable connections you provide.

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

We have your postal address to send you *Resplendens* each year but we may not have your email address, our preferred method of communication. If you would like to receive regular alumnae news and invitations to alumnae events by email, please contact us on: alumnae@shhs.gdst.net

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