SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL



Philanthropy Impact and Stories



IMPACT FACTS AND FIGURES

£1 million+

Given or pledged to Towards 150 projects last year

Thank you for your support!

Members of our 1876 Society and Class of bursaries can be viewed here with our thank you card to all donors.





TEACHING & LEARNING



State school pupils competing in Debate Hub events

1

Mitzvah Day Outstanding Youth Achievement Award



Visiting speakers sponsored by your generosity

20

Rangoonwala Prizewinners at the Bingham Debate Hub competition



BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

10

New bursary awards in Sept 2023

250+

Class of bursary contributors



Senior pupils with bursary places



Sixth Form bursary Sponsored by Black Heart Foundation and the Class of 2023

R

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

100+

Mehr Licht Community events

3

Years continuous Carbon Neutral Certification



Members of the 1876 Society



Nomination for the Independent Schools partnership programme award CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Refurbishments





Improvements and refurbishments were carried out at both the Junior School and in the Oakwood garden

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to share our stories of how your support for South Hampstead has made a difference over the last year.

In this Philanthropy Review, we turn the spotlight on some of the many people who have benefitted from your generosity in supporting our *Towards* 150 initiatives. As the new Head of South Hampstead, I already carry a deep sense of connection with the school and with the wonderful community which surrounds it. I hope to continue to build strong relationships through a shared language and mission, building a culture characterised by collaboration and conversation.

In September 2026, South Hampstead will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Since 2018, we have been working towards our Towards 150 masterplan founded on four key areas:



TEACHING & LEARNING

Encouraging debate, creativity and scholarly endeavour.



BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

Extending outstanding opportunities to all girls regardless of means.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

Building sustainable and mutually enriching partnerships.

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CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing the best possible environment for an expansive education.

At the heart of our masterplan are our values: Aspiration, Courage, Creativity, Kindness and Commitment.

We are reliant on our whole community to help us achieve this vision and your support over the last few years has been the embodiment of these values. I am committed to making sure that your contributions are used wisely and with intent so that you always feel confident that they are appreciated and have real impact.

So, please do take a moment to read and (via our QR codes) watch some of the stories enclosed. They illustrate just how important your generosity has been and continues to be at the school. Thank you for everything you have done in the past year. I look forward to getting to know you better, sharing conversations and understanding what matters most to you as a community, so that together we can achieve even more this year.



MRS ANNA PAUL Head, South Hampstead High School



This year, the Girls' Day School Trust celebrated its 150th anniversary. Founded on the belief that girls should have the same educational opportunities as boys, the GDST has since forged a long history of pioneering innovation in girls education.

To mark 150 years, the GDST commissioned a ground-breaking survey, The Girls' Futures Report. With input from 5000 girls from state, independent and academy schools across the UK, the report reveals what matters most to girls today and how they feel about their future.

Equality, diversity and inclusion lie at the heart of all the GDST schools. Since 1998, just over 6,600 women across the UK have benefited from the life-changing opportunity of a GDST education thanks to the bursary programme. At South Hampstead, 1 in 10 of our Year 7 pupils now benefit from financial support thanks to support for our *Opening Doors* Bursary Campaign.

The GDST has committed to add a further 150 bursary places across the network to mark their anniversary and we are delighted to be welcoming a GDST 150 bursary beneficiary to South Hampstead this year.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Neve

Class of 2027 - Bursary Recipient

To celebrate and share the impact of bursaries, the GDST have produced a series of films to spotlight girls across the network. We are so proud of our current student, Neve, who spoke out about her own experience in the South Hampstead Spotlight Video.



Watch the Spotlight video tinyurl.com/shhs-bursary-videos





Read the Girls' Futures Report tinyurl.com/shhs-futures-report



Support our bursary programme www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us

Earlier this year, we heard about In the Room, a company which produces innovative, conversational media using AI video to recreate the experience of a face-to-face encounter.

The origins of In The Room began with the 'Forever Project' at the National Holocaust Centre and Museum. The company used digital technology to preserve and share testimonies and artefacts from a core group of Holocaust survivors. As a result, their stories have been preserved for generations to come.

Inspired by this project, we wanted to bring our bursary campaign to life by creating meaningful and engaging experiences with the young women who are actually benefiting from the funds raised. Thanks to the support of our community, we were able to work with In the Room on a pilot project featuring one of our current pupils, Frances, and a former bursary recipient, Datshiane (2005).

Our aim is to double our bursary provision so that by our 150th anniversary, at least one in ten of our Senior School pupils is supported financially.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Datshiane

Class of 2005 - Bursary Recipient

Datshiane is also a governor at South Hampstead and a member of our Bursary Board. You can question her about the bursary scheme and how your contributions can make a difference, as well as learning about her career and how her South Hampstead education has framed her future.

Frances

Class of 2029 - Bursary Recipient

Frances joined South Hampstead in September 2023 and you can find out first-hand about the experience of joining the school and how she is making the most of the opportunity.



Speak to DATSHIANE

tinyurl.com/shhs-datshiane



Speak to FRANCES



tinyurl.com/shhs-frances



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ann Kirk

Class of 1946 - Bursary Contributor



Our Class of Bursaries bring together alumnae from the same year group so that they can help to support educational opportunities as a cohort. Ann Kirk (née Kuhn) is our most senior bursary contributor. In the 1930s, South Hampstead opened its doors to 36 girls fleeing war-torn Europe. At that time, the whole community – teachers, parents, alumnae and friends – joined together to provide emotional and financial support for these girls and help them adjust to a new life in London. For many, South Hampstead became their home and family. Ann arrived in the UK as a refugee from Berlin in 1939; we spoke to her about her experience at South Hampstead and why she gives back to her Class of 1946 Bursary.

Ann adored growing up in Germany. Her family owned a boat and her father played the piano and the cello – two memories she recalls very fondly. As war loomed in Europe, it became apparent that it was no longer safe for Ann to live in Germany and her parents made the indescribably difficult decision to send her to the UK on Kindertransport at the age of 11. Ann, along with another young refugee, went to live with two women on Finchley Road, who welcomed the girls with open arms. Ann fondly refers to them as her aunts. After a swift entry exam, conducted by Headmistress Miss Potter, Ann was accepted into South Hampstead High School.

Her first term was turbulent; she recalls sitting examinations in the middle of air raids, memorising exam questions before rushing to the shelter for safety. In 1939, most of South Hampstead's pupils, including Ann, were evacuated to Berkhamsted. Berkhamsted's lessons took place in the morning, and South Hampstead's from 2pm to 6pm.

Although challenging to learn the rules of their new school, the relative safety of Berkhamsted in comparison to London was a relief. In 1944, staff and pupils returned to South Hampstead, and Ann began her final two school years in Maresfield Gardens.

In the 1940s, it was less common for young women to attend university, or indeed complete their A Levels. However, Ann's 'aunts' allowed her to complete one year of her A Levels so she could go to secretarial school. Ann explains: 'If my parents came out of the camps alive, I would need to be able to support them. I wrote to them once a month, but I never saw them again. As an only child, I missed my family greatly.' Ann's determination to succeed meant that she attended St Godrick's Secretarial School before securing a job in publishing. She was soon promoted to Editorial Assistant, translating Hebrew in her spare time. Ann notes how important her schooling at South Hampstead was to her career.

"Miss Barbour was my favourite teacher. She made English come alive. My love for writing and editing is all thanks to my teachers. Without South Hampstead, I simply would not have had the career I've had."

Today, Ann and her husband have British Empire Medals for their services to the community. At 94, she still continues to visit schools, educating them about Kindertransport and telling her story. In 2018, Ann visited South Hampstead to do just that.

Ann is adamant that schooling was central to her success in life and feels strongly that supporting South Hampstead helps to widen educational accessibility. "I'm very enthusiastic about South Hampstead. The wider knowledge you have, the broader perspective you will gain. Today, so many families are being split, but difficulties are there to be overcome and South Hampstead gave me this opportunity. I couldn't be happier that South Hampstead continues to welcome refugees today as they did for me. It has been wonderful to hear about the Ukrainian pupils."



SUPPORT US

To find out more about how to support bursaries and join your own Class of group please visit www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our Ukrainian Pupils

Assisted Place Recipients



Last year, we opened our doors to girls from Ukraine; once again, the whole community has rallied to provide support. Thanks to the generosity of our parents, alumnae and the GDST, we have been able to welcome eight girls to South Hampstead. In an interview with fellow students, they reflect on a year at the school.

How did you end up at South Hampstead?

Olesia "My uncle used to teach at South Hampstead, so that's how I first learnt about the school. He came to help me and my family leave Ukraine at the very start of the war."

Katya "I visited a lot of schools, but I liked this one the most because it felt less pressured and more welcoming compared to others. The academic standard is very good, but it feels relaxed."

Can you describe what it was like settling into the school? How were you welcomed?

Sofiia R "Everyone was really open and ready to help. It surprised me – I was really taken care of. I didn't expect so much care!" **Arina** "People would walk up to me and strike up a conversation which was lovely. It definitely took some time to fit in and get used to the size of the classes – at home we have much smaller year groups."

Was it easy to make new friends?

Olesia "I play netball and I think that helped me make friends."

Sonya "Teaching groups and form classes definitely helped me make friends."

Sasha "I am in the Jazz Band and Salsera, and play guitar and drums, so I've met people through this."

Arina "I am in Senior Choir and Student Voices Choir. I did a lot of singing in Ukraine too."

Is the education different at South Hampstead?

Sonya "Here, I have more opportunities to study different things. The system is very different from what I'm used to – you are allowed to share lots of ideas in class and add your own personality."

Sofiia S "It was initially hard to fit in, but after a while I did get used to it. I think coming to a different educational system was much better in terms of opportunity, but the personal side of things was definitely a bit harder."

Olesia "I think the education system here is better because you can choose subjects you really want to do, so you find it easier to study them. There is definitely more variety here. It's been really useful to study new subjects."

Sofiia R "I carried on studying my Ukrainian subjects because I didn't plan on having to stay in the UK this long. I wanted to apply to university with my Ukrainian grades. Life is changing quickly, and I never know what might happen next month, so I am carrying on with both."

What is different here compared to Ukraine?

Sofiia R "The food in school is really good! But British food in general is... questionable!"

Sofiia S "I miss Ukrainian food – it is amazing, the best thing ever."

Arina "We didn't have to wear uniform in Ukraine, so this is different. I don't know if I like the colour of the shirt, but wearing uniform definitely has its benefits!"

Sofia R "I think there are a lot of rules here. We didn't have as many rules in Ukraine. There are certain ways to write essays and keep notes here, and people care a lot about that. In my Ukrainian school, I'm sure there were rules about these things, but I did things more in my own style!"

What role do you think education plays in your life? How important do you feel it is?

Sofiia S "Education is the most important thing in my life. It is the base of my future. I

think school is maybe even more important than university because it gives you a proper foundation level of knowledge."

Olesia "There are more opportunities here than in Ukraine, so I am really glad I have been to school here. I want to go on to university in the UK as well."

Katya "I am really interested in Drama and Theatre, and London is a dream city for this! It is so well-connected and there are more opportunities here."

Sonya "Everyone here loves dogs! I love the parks. It's more open and there's lots more space."

Arina "Of course I love London. There's always something to do here. It takes my mind off things."

This past year has been full of change for you. Where do you see your future?

Sofiia S "I planned to stay in Ukraine because I had a good school and the opportunity to go to a good university. All my life is in Ukraine. I am happy here though and things are better in lots of respects, but I have lived all my life in Ukraine. In Ukraine, when you go to the hospital, you are better again after 20 minutes, here it takes months!'

Sasha "Right now, it is really uncertain. We don't know what might happen next month, let alone in 10 years. There's no predicting what will or can happen. I don't think I can answer."

Katya "I think that Ukraine has evolved a lot over the last 10 years. We have seen so much growth in such a short time and now, in circumstances of war, there is so much change. Maybe in 10 years, I will return and it will once again be wonderful."



SUPPORT US

Find out more about how we are helping these young women and others like them at: www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jenny Hyatt

Class of 1976 - Minerva Circle Member

South Hampstead High School was founded in 1876 with the purpose of creating equal educational opportunities for girls from all backgrounds. Born in an era where education was often not an option for girls, South Hampstead blazed a trail for the women of the future.



Today, we carry this ethos with us in everything we do. We want to ensure that a safe, inspiring and stimulating education of the highest standard is widely accessible to all bright young women.

A legacy is one of the simplest and most flexible ways of making a significant contribution to the future of South Hampstead, and allows many of our supporters to help the school in a way they could not during their lifetime. The Minerva Circle recognises and thanks members of our community who choose to make a gift to South Hamstead from a legacy or will.

At the annual reunion lunch we were delighted to welcome many of our supporters as our guests, including Jenny Hyatt (Class of 1976) who shared her story.



"I believe that bursaries can open up education to every member of society. If you have intellectual ability but you don't have financial means, a bursary really is a gift."

"I joined the Junior School with my twin sister Judy, in 1965. I remember we were interviewed by Miss Clark which was a bit scary at the time.

Having a twin made it really easy to settle into the school and I quickly developed a wide group of friends particularly through playing sport. Miss Cox was a fantastic teacher and I seem to remember doing sport at all possible times - lunch, breaks and then playing for teams at the weekend. My love of physical activity has continued throughout my life, and both Judy and I took up mountaineering with Judy eventually becoming a mountain rescue volunteer in later life. I still enjoy cycling, walking and running to the present day.

We learnt French from a young age and the methods and teaching techniques were trailblazing. We had to speak in French from the start; this was challenging but it stretched my abilities. I went on to study French at university and then became an editor. I even worked on an edition of the French Bible.

We were aware that we were only able to attend the school because of financial support, but our school experience didn't feel any different from anyone else's. You were never treated separately and never made to feel inferior. I just felt grateful and although I've lost touch with friends over the years, I was able to reconnect with them again through the annual reunion lunch.

I believe that bursaries can open up education to every member of society. If you have intellectual ability but you don't have financial means, a bursary really is a gift.



We had to leave South Hampstead early, because of moving home, and it was only when I was at another school that I realised what a high standard of teaching I had enjoyed.

The school has truly made a lasting impact on my life and I will always be grateful for the way I was accepted wholeheartedly. This is why I have chosen to repay some of the generosity I received through a legacy from my mother."

FREE WILL-WRITING SERVICE

GDST alumnae and friends can benefit from a free will-writing service via leading provider, Farewill. To take advantage of this opportunity, please get in touch.

development@shhs.gdst.net 020 7435 2899



COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP



Partnership work at South Hampstead has continued to expand in recent years and joint ventures with local schools and organisations now form a core part of our academic and co-curricular life at both Senior and Junior schools.

Projects include our Year 5 Saturday Sparks enrichment programme, and Modern Foreign Language and Latin teaching to a wide range of students from partner schools. University preparation sessions and careers talks are also open to all who want to attend.

The South Hampstead *Debate Hub* offers training and professional development to students and teachers keen to learn the art of public speaking and debate. We run a specific programme to support state school colleagues and help them to promote debating in local schools and we are delighted that pupils who have participated in our workshops have been selected for the Team England Development Squad this year.

Within the wider community, we have long standing partnerships with SPEAR, Pensioners' Link and volunteering via the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. Each year group has a specific social action opportunity, with the emphasis being on the time pupils give, rather than the money raised. Whether writing Christmas cards for those in need, baking cakes for our local youth project, sharing experience with pupils in Calcutta, or coaching debating, all our pupils get involved with our volunteering and outreach programme.

Our Debate Hub and partnership programmes are funded by our community. If you or your company would be interested in supporting, please contact us.



To support us and find out more about any of our *Towards 150* initiatives, visit: www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us ည် co

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Teacher Exchange Programme

Volunteers at UCLA

Partnerships are hugely beneficial to all involved.

As part of our programme this year, we set up a new teacher exchange programme with a local school to enable teaching staff to observe lessons, teach in a different environment, and share ideas and best practice.



Situated by Swiss Cottage, The UCL Academy (UCLA) is one of our closest schools: a nonselective, co-ed secondary school established in 2012 by University College London (UCL) with over 1100 pupils.

We turn the spotlight on members of staff involved with this innovative teacher exchange programme as they reflect on their experience.

South Hampstead English Teacher,

Mr Larochelle: 'My exchange teacher's enthusiasm, positivity and support made the experience wholly enjoyable... We both developed a swift fondness for each others' students and interest in their success. The collegiality and unity of the staff at UCLA impressed me greatly; they are clearly a team united in their determination to care for their students and guide them towards success.'

Ms Trevisi, from The UCL Academy: 'Working in a completely new environment felt daunting at first, but Mr Larochelle was so welcoming, knowledgeable and warm. It was very enjoyable to teach different texts, and this really inspired me with some choices we could make in our department.'

South Hampstead Geography Teacher, Mrs Sanders, shadowed a UCLA Engineering Teacher: 'The programme helped me to recognise the common experiences of teenagers in London and appreciate the role that all teachers play in providing support to buoy their students. It has been a positive and inspiring experience.'

The partnership between the two schools has proven so successful that we have now combined forces to recruit a joint Chemistry Teacher in what is thought to be the first arrangement of its kind. The new appointee began teaching in both schools this September.



Read more about the partnership programme: **tinyurl.com/shhs-partner**

SUPPORT US	R	South Hampstead
To make a donation, please detach and complete this email to development@shhs.gdst.net or mail to Philar		High School
Office, SHHS, 3 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 555		GDST
Name		
would like my donation to go towards		
Opening Doors Bursaries O Speakers O Proj	ect Zero Partnerships (Unrestricted
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DONATE VIA THE BILL (1876 Society parents only)		
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WAYS OF GIVING

We welcome all types of contributions from our community. You can get involved by volunteering, organising events, offering careers guidance and supporting pupil initiatives, or by making a donation.

As a member of the GDST, South Hampstead is covered by the registered charity status (no. 306983). There are significant financial advantages if you choose to make a donation to one of our funds.

- If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim Gift Aid which will boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Please sign the Gift Aid declaration when you make your donation.
- If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you will also be eligible to claim back tax paid on your gift from the Inland Revenue.
- If you choose to donate shares or property, you can save 40% capital gains tax and deduct the full value of the shares or property from your income for tax purposes.
- Legacies left in your will are free from inheritance tax.

THE 1876 SOCIETY

The 1876 Society, named after our founding year, recognises members of our community who pledge a regular annual gift of £1,876 or more to bursaries, or who donate the equivalent of a one-year full fee bursary place. A gift of a full seven-year bursary secures lifetime membership.

Every year, we host an event to say thank you to our 1876 Society members, and their names are recorded in the 1876 Society book.

£500	
£1,500	
£1,876	
£18,760	
£1,000	
£19,760	

Current parents can join the society by electing to make a donation via their termly bill. Simply complete and return the donation form opposite, or donate online by visiting shhs.gdst.net/support-us, or by scanning the QR code below.



DONATE ONLINE shhs.gdst.net/support-us

CLASS OF BURSARIES

The Class of Bursaries bring together alumnae from the same year group to help support our *Opening Doors* Bursary campaign. Regular donations quickly add up and allow us to plan for the future, but any support is welcome and will make a real difference.

Class of Bursaries

Average size of class	80	
Monthly donation	£20	
Value with Gift Aid	£25	
Annual value	£300	
Potential class contribution	£24,000	

We invite leaving parents to donate their original registration deposit to their daughter's Class of bursary fund, creating a legacy to their daughter's time at school.

Leavers' Class of Bursary

Average size of class	80
Registration deposit	£1,000
Value with Gift Aid	£1,250
Potential class contribution	£100,000



South Hampstead

High School

GDST

"Your support has a visible and tangible impact at the school. It makes everyone value the opportunities and encourages us all to do more. Thank you."

MELITA OREKOYA Class of 2023 – Bursary recipient

CONTACT US

Director of Philanthropy South Hampstead High School 3 Maresfield Gardens London NW3 5SS

020 7435 2899 development@shhs.gdst.net SUPPORT US



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South Hampstead High School is part of the Girls' Day School Trust, a limited company registered in England, no. 6400, and a registered charity, no. 306983.www.gdst.net