

# *Towards and beyond our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

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*A masterplan for the future of  
South Hampstead High School*



*Our mission at South Hampstead is to open doors, hearts and minds. We are already one of the most successful schools in London. We aim to be one of the greatest in the fullest sense of that word – a school which sets the agenda and educates its pupils to be pioneers, just like the original founders of the Girls' Day School Trust.*



**South Hampstead**

*High School*

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GDST

It is a privilege to be writing to you as the 13th Head of South Hampstead. There is so much about South Hampstead which strikes me as deeply inspirational and without doubt one of the most impressive elements is the strength of the school's brilliant community.

The support of our community has been critical in helping us to deliver on our strategic ambitions over the last few years in four key areas:



**TEACHING & LEARNING**



**BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY**



**COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP**



**EVOLUTION OF FACILITIES**

As we look towards the school's 150th anniversary in 2026-27 and then beyond, we will continue to develop our plans in these areas to ensure that we always deliver an outstanding education for all. I thank everyone in our community for joining us in this mission.



**ANNA PAUL**

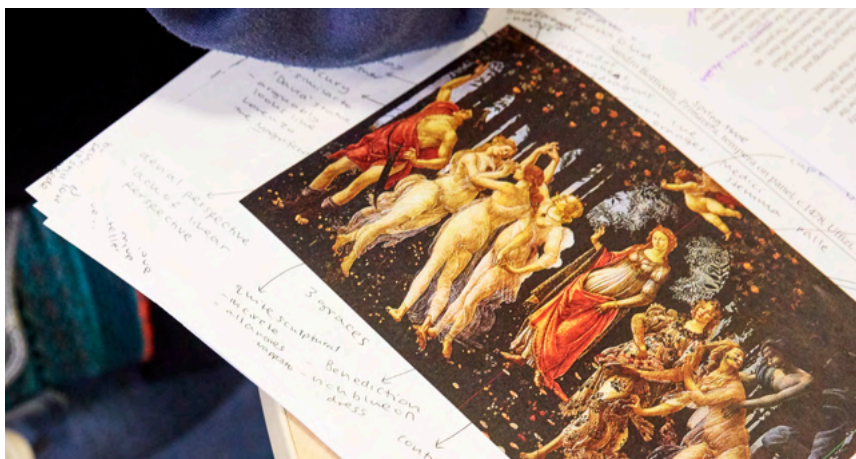
*Head, South Hampstead High School*



TEACHING & LEARNING

*Scholarship & Research*





## *A genuinely enriching and inspiring intellectual education*

Success in national examinations is important and opens doors, but a genuinely diverse, enriching and inspiring intellectual education will do far more than that. Our aim is consistent excellence of provision across the board so that whatever a pupil's background, aptitudes or interests, she can fly.

We want to continue to raise the profile of scholarly endeavours and we aim to review our curriculum in the widest possible sense to ensure that critical thinking lies at its heart and that we are tackling diversity, racism and prejudice through our teaching. We are committed to ensure that South Hampstead is a place where mutual respect and diversity can flourish and are at the heart of everything we do.

Our teachers are passionate about their subjects, but many are involved in additional research and scholarship beyond their everyday teaching. Continuing professional development is central to our teaching and learning plan and through the Mehr Licht enrichment programme for staff, we aim to make continuing professional development central to our teaching and learning plan and be a centre for educational learning for our own staff and colleagues in other schools.



BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

*Bursaries*





## *Double our current bursary provision*

*“More than ever, I value the self-confidence and independence of spirit I developed as a result of being at South Hampstead. My education set in motion lasting foundations, values and ambitions to give me one of the best possible starts in life.”*

**DATSHIANE NAVANAYAGAM (2005)**

Bursary pupil, BBC Producer

The GDST and South Hampstead, have a long history of providing bursary awards and our bursary pupils have contributed hugely to the diversity and endeavour of the school.

Each year, the GDST is able to support around 1,000 pupils across the school network. At South Hampstead, bursaries are funded through the generosity of our whole community and our ambition is that by our anniversary year we will be able to offer support to at least one in ten of our Senior School pupils.

If you would like to help us achieve this aim or find out more about our bursary programme, please visit [www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us).





## *Long lasting and mutually enriching partnerships*

Partnerships are a critical part of our master plan. We have excellent relationships within our community and our students volunteer across a range of local enterprises. We want to continue to establish sustainable and mutually enriching partnerships which benefit our staff, pupils and those beyond our gates. We see our role in fulfilling these responsibilities as an exciting opportunity and a critical part of our educational mission – to open doors, hearts and minds.

We work hard to build connections with everyone associated with the school; parents, alumnae, pupils and friends. Through the Mehr Licht community we aim to build an extensive programme of social events, networking opportunities, mentoring and speaker events as well as involving volunteers on steering groups and consultative bodies. Our goal is to ensure that everyone involved with South Hampstead remains linked to and supported by our school community throughout their lives.



COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

*Project Zero*





## *Project Zero: A pupil led initiative to reduce our impact on the environment*

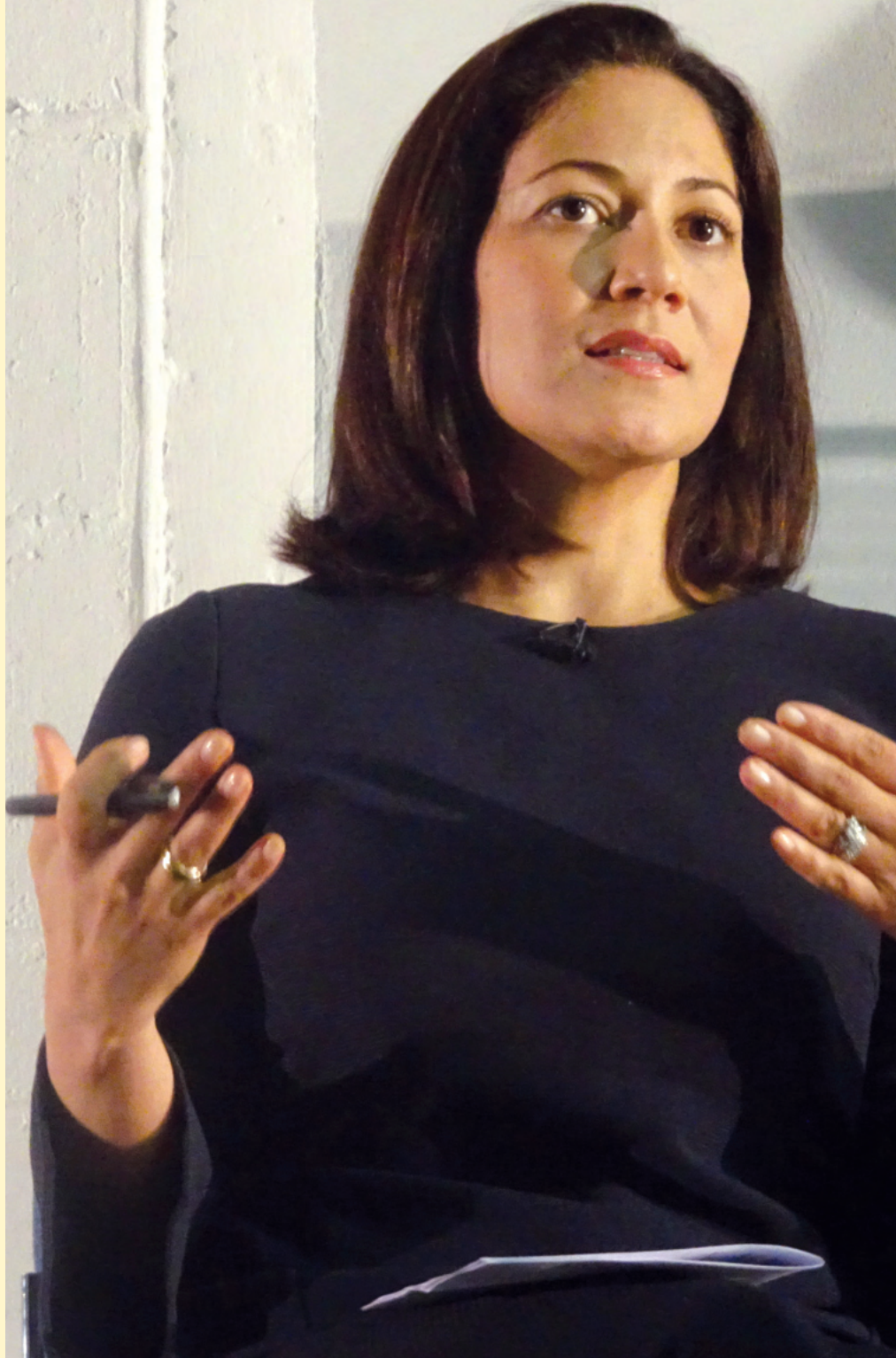
In 2014, to celebrate the opening of the new Senior School, we commissioned the artist William Sweetlove to create an artwork. He chose to focus on an environmental message. The South Hampstead penguins are made from a recyclable plastic and the artworks are designed to inspire a community-wide conversation about the importance and the environmental impact of recycling.

This conversation at South Hampstead has evolved into Project Zero, a pupil-led initiative. Its goals for our 150th anniversary in 2026 are to make South Hampstead as carbon neutral as possible and to build sustainability into all areas of our school life. We hope that all our pupils will enter our 150th year as leaders in reducing the impact of South Hampstead High School on the environment.



TEACHING & LEARNING

## *Debating & Public Speaking*





## *Pursuits beyond the classroom that build character and confidence*

South Hampstead's Mehr Licht co-curricular programme is a critical part of the education we provide. We currently offer hundreds of clubs and activities ranging from Feminist Society to Chemistry Club. The award-winning Waterlow Hall provides a showcase venue for a whole range of concerts, drama and speaker events and we aim to open our doors to outside performers alongside our own pupils. We have invested in an extensive oracy programme to educate pupils across all the years in the skill of public speaking. Debate Hub is a sponsored initiative which brings debating and speaking to partner schools across the state sector. Through the South Hampstead Speaker programme, we welcome a range of internationally acclaimed guests to share their views with our whole community.

We have benefited from generous support in this area and are keen to ensure that this part of school life remains as rich as ever. Our goal is to enable pupils to find and use their voice – by listening to ideas, by asking searching, even provocative questions, and by presenting in turn themselves.





*A full refurbishment,  
reconfiguration and extension  
of our Junior School buildings*

In 1957 we were able to acquire a new site to create a home for our younger girls. Ever since, the Junior School has grown and thrived in our two beautiful Victorian buildings in Netherhall Gardens.

We are now seeking to adapt and enhance these buildings to ensure that the quality of our teaching spaces support and enhance the quality of our teaching. The plans will also embrace our sustainability goals and create new communal space and play areas to allow for seamless indoor and outdoor learning.





*Pupils who go into the world  
as engaged, confident and  
responsible citizens*

South Hampstead is a community and fundamental to our ethos is that every girl is known by and belongs to this community. In the next few years, our aim is to extend our pastoral care and support through the tutorial system, group and individual coaching and counselling, and the teaching of life-skills and through the PHSE programme. Importantly, we plan to share these initiatives with parents and pupils so that all know how to get help and feel the core sense of being part of a community that cares.

Inherent to this are efforts to further embed our values of Courage, Kindness, Creativity, Aspiration and Commitment throughout the school and to ensure that our pupils understand how to live by these values and go into the world as responsible and confident citizens.



BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

*Sporting Stage*





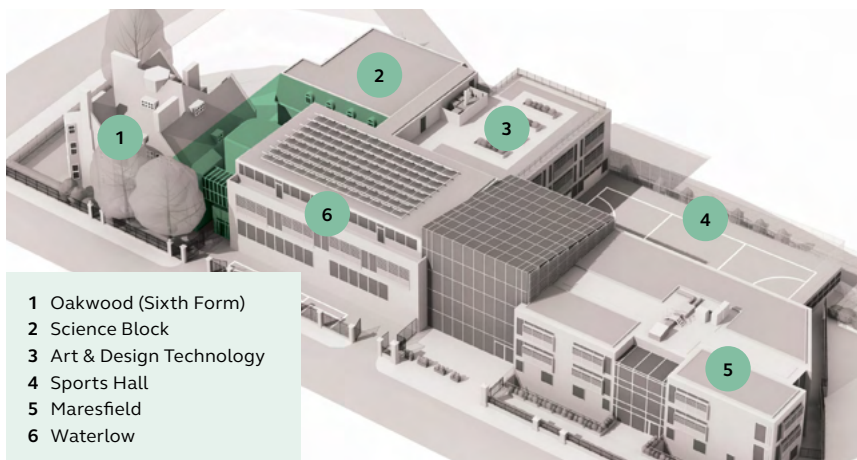
## *Inclusivity, breadth and excellence on the local and national stage*

We regard sport and physical activity as a critical part of our personal development and wellbeing strategy. We aim to cater for those pupils with real competitive spirit and talent but also for those who simply wish to develop healthy habits for life. Many of our pupils currently compete at National and County level, but equal emphasis is placed on wider participation in sport. We have invested considerably in our sports department and strategy across the school to ensure that all pupils are able to participate.

Our Lymington Road sports complex and our relationship with the Hampstead Cricket Club and Cumberland Lawn Tennis Club offer us fantastic opportunities. Together with them and the GDST we intend to explore how we can make best use of this site over the next few years.

The aim is a sporting programme which will offer inclusivity, breadth and excellence on the local and national stage.





## *A coherent home for the final two years of study*

In 1991 Oakwood House was purchased to create a home for our Sixth Form. It provides a wonderful, historic and warm setting. As our sixth form continues to expand, we need to ensure we have additional study and relaxation space. Our plan is for an extensive but sensitive refurbishment of Oakwood and the sixth form garden to create a coherent space and home for the final two years of study. We have already completed the transformation of the Burgess Room, which is now both a library and the centre of our Free-Thinking speaking programme.

The Sixth Form is an integral part of the school (indeed, the pinnacle of the South Hampstead experience) so alongside this refurbishment, we will seek to transform how the Oakwood building links to the main school building to allow direct access to the science, art and design & technology departments.



TEACHING & LEARNING

*Beyond South Hampstead*





## *Opportunities and adaptable skills to deal with an ever changing workplace*

Preparation for life beyond South Hampstead very much ties in with our aspiration to become a research-rich school. One of the most important debates in education right now is how best to prepare pupils for an ever-changing workplace. Answering this question requires careful thought, wisdom, research and, perhaps, making some bold choices. We are living in some of the most exciting times for education.

The Futures Programme was launched in September 2017 and the aim is a cohesive programme running from Years 7-13 to educate students in career options, workplace skills and university choices. We want to use our network to best effect and implement the GDST leadership programme in the sixth form. We have invested in computer science and a coding lab to embed Technology and Innovation into our curriculum. Our aim is to equip our pupils with the skills for the future which will address the female confidence gap as well as the gender pay gap.

*Get in touch at:*

*development@shhs.gdst.net*

SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL  
3 MARESFIELD GARDENS, LONDON NW3 5SS