

# Resplendens

The Magazine for the South Hampstead Community

Shining Back

ISSUE #7



## INNOVATORS OF THE FUTURE

*Meet the members of our community who are trailblazing their way in technology*

## PLUS

### *Inspiring speakers*

A moving retelling of an alumna's journey as a refugee from Berlin to Hampstead.

### *Memories*

A look at South Hampstead's connection with the Royal Family over the decades.

### *Community*

An introduction to our brand new Mehr Licht Community.

*“The pioneering nature of girls’ education at South Hampstead is an inspiration to me. I feel a profound and instinctive connection with the values, spirit and ethos of the school and it is an absolute privilege to lead a community characterised by such energy, warmth, innovation and spark.”*

ANNA PAUL

— Head, South Hampstead High School



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# Welcome to our 13<sup>th</sup> Head in nearly 150 years.

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*Mrs Anna Paul brings with her an impressive record of achieving academic excellence over the course of her career, along with substantial pastoral experience.*

She joins South Hampstead following nine years as Senior Deputy Head at Godolphin & Latymer where she was responsible for overseeing pastoral care.

She is an English teacher by background and has strong local connections, previously working at The John Lyon School and North London Collegiate School.

Born and brought up in North London, she continues to live close to South Hampstead with her young family – her two daughters joined the Junior School in September.

Mrs Paul has a degree in English Literature from Durham University and a Postgraduate Certificate of Professional Study from the University of Cambridge.

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It is my privilege to welcome you to *Resplendens* 2023, the magazine for the wider South Hampstead community.

It is very clear from browsing through the following pages what an interesting, supportive and committed group of alumnae, parents and friends surround South Hampstead. From our tech-savvy alumnae, who gave up their time to talk to current Sixth Formers, to the inspirational women whose lives are remembered and celebrated in the remembrance section, every page reflects the dynamic, creative and energetic individuals who make up the South Hampstead community.

In celebration of this, I am excited to announce the launch of our *Mehr Licht* Community as we bring together all the South Hampstead activities that you can get involved in under one banner. *The Mehr Licht* Community will celebrate the energy and commitment of our staff, alumnae, parents and local residents and combine the many strands of our annual programme of events: lectures, concerts, workshops, careers information and courses.

The programme draws on the endless creative energy which so enriches the South Hampstead experience, and we really hope that every one of you will find something to engage with over the course of this year.

I look forward to meeting many of you this academic year at our *Speaker Series* talks, the *Opening Doors* bursary dinner, Friends of South Hampstead (FOSH) and PTA events, at reunions, or, perhaps one sunny evening, with the running club on Hampstead Heath.

I have already felt truly welcomed by you all and look forward to us writing the next chapter of the school's history together.

***Mehr Licht!***



MRS ANNA PAUL  
*Head, South Hampstead High School*





MAKING MOVES  
Spring Dance Show

## The Year in View

At the start of the last academic year, we were crowned the Independent Girls' School of the Year, with the judges praising South Hampstead's unwavering commitment to feminism and forward-thinking approach.

Throughout the year, we have continued to embed our school values: aspiration, creativity, kindness, courage and commitment. The Year in View reflects on some of the wonderful ways our pupils embody these values every day.



### FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about life at South Hampstead, visit our website:  
[www.shhs.gdst.net/news](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/news)

Or follow us on Twitter  
[@SHHSforGirls](https://twitter.com/SHHSforGirls)

## ASPIRATION

We pride ourselves on our academic excellence. Our pupils, once again, gained outstanding results in public examinations. 20% of our Upper Sixth students were offered places at Oxbridge this year, with many heading to other Russell Group universities, drama school and art college. At our recent summer drinks event, recent leavers returned to share their university experiences with the next generation of Sixth Formers as they prepare to apply for higher education.

Through our Saturday Sparks enrichment programme, we welcomed enthusiastic Year 5 pupils from neighbouring schools for fun, free sessions in creative writing, puzzles and problem solving, whilst our Debate Hub initiative continues to expand. Our award-winning debating programme, which promotes oracy skills with partner schools, has now reached more than 1,000 partner school pupils in 50 different schools across the UK. We recently hosted a new state-school-only debating event, named the Bingham Debating Competition, in honour of our departing Headmistress. In recognition of our work in this space, we have recently been shortlisted for an award that recognises Outstanding Educational Partnerships.

Our Futures Programme continues to encompass careers opportunities across all year groups. In February, we held our biennial Aspirational Futures Fair, with pupils learning about a variety of roles, from project management to ethical hacking, culminating in a thought-provoking panel discussion on how to thrive in male-dominated industries.



MUSICAL FLAIR  
Junior School Winter Concert

**CREATIVITY**

The year has been bursting with creativity, beginning with the *Towards 150* Concert in October, when we welcomed alumna Gemma Rosefield (1999) and *The Leonore Piano Trio* to the stage. Our talented musicians last year delivered more than 45 outstanding musical performances, culminating in joyous Senior and Junior Summer Concerts.

From productions of *Grimms Tales*, *Sense & Sensibility* and *The Light Burns Blue*, led by the Senior School, to an enchanting performance of *Madagascar* from the Junior School, the theatre and Waterlow Hall have resounded with applause for outstanding performances this year. Sixth Form Drama Scholars performed at the Edinburgh Fringe again this summer, with a play written by one of our English A Level students. And the Dance and Gymnastics shows demonstrated the depth and versatility of our performers' talents.

Art Historians spoke out at the ARTiculation public speaking competition, whilst our artists and designers showcased their own work at our Art and DT exhibitions. At the Girls' Day School Trust's inaugural Art Biennale at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, four students won awards, testament to the thriving arts scene at South Hampstead.



CREATIVITY  
GDST Summer Art Awards



SPEAKING OUT  
Junior School Performers



SPREADING JOY  
Culture week



STEPPING OUT  
Our Whole School Walk



GOING FOR GOLD  
Duke of Edinburgh students

## KINDNESS

Kindness is a hallmark of the school community. This year, we found places for eight Ukrainian students, and we are grateful to the Friends of South Hampstead for funding their trip costs and expenses. Other fundraising projects have included the One Tree initiative, foodbank collections and our whole school community walk, which supported The Winch youth project. Over £44,000 was raised for more than 23 charities this year, and pupils were awarded the Mitzvah Day Outstanding Youth Achievement Award for their commitment to social action initiatives.

We have hosted multiple receptions to raise awareness of our *Opening Doors* bursary programme, including the 1876 Society meeting, where we thanked our supporters. 1 in 10 of our new pupils joining in 2023 will receive 100%+ bursaries; our bursary recipients spoke out about the impact of this programme through our *Spotlight* and *In The Room* videos (see page 15 and 28).

To coincide with Children's Mental Health Week, students participated in Wellness Week: meditating during form time, singing during lunchtimes, and crafting friendship bracelets.

## COURAGE

Students continued to impress with their unwavering enthusiasm for a challenge. Our top debaters have excelled at some of the biggest national and international competitions, making the finals of the Oxford and Cambridge Finals' Days and the Grand Final of Durham Schools, whilst one student competed as part of the England Team at the World Schools Debating Championships in Vietnam this summer.

Over 100 pupils have completed their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year, and dozens are undertaking the Gold Award. Year 8 and 9 pupils embarked on expeditions to the Azores in challenging weather conditions, whilst Sixth Formers went trekking and tree-planting in rural Tanzania. At the GDST's celebration of 150 years, alumna Grace Spence Green (2014) was awarded the Trailblazer of the Year Award, for her outstanding commitment to tackling ableism.



**BREAKING RECORDS**  
*South Hampstead Sports Day*



**TEAM SPIRIT**  
*GDST U18 Cricket Team*



**STRETCHING BOUNDARIES**  
*Whole School gymnastics show*

**COMMITMENT**

South Hampstead’s commitment to sporting excellence remains strong, with our U11 football team, U12B and U16A netballers securing some big wins this season. At this year’s sports day, six records were smashed on track and field. Numerous other podium places – including cricket, athletics, skiing, and tennis – were celebrated at our annual Sports Awards evening.

Commitment to learning beyond the syllabus was demonstrated across all year groups as pupils took part in a whole range of academic challenges and competitions. Students triumphed in national competitions and challenges, and were awarded prizes and medals for Poetry, Photography, Entrepreneurship and Ethics, as well as Biology, Physics, Engineering, Computing and Maths.

Following our recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), the quality of education was rated as “excellent” in every category, the highest possible outcome. Inspectors praised the school’s “pervasive culture of joyful scholarship.”



**OPENING DOORS**  
*Modern Languages Evening*

# Transformative Experiences

Exploring the impact of Careers, Co-curricular and Community in school.

*As our Deputy Head for Careers, Community and Co-curricular, Dr Rachel Osborne, bid farewell to South Hampstead, she reflected on how our community has played such an important part in helping develop a holistic education that goes beyond academics.*



**DR RACHEL OSBOURNE**

*Deputy Head of Careers, Community and Co-curricular*

What I've enjoyed most about working at South Hampstead is the feisty, creative, and courageous spirit of our students. At South Hampstead, we focus on providing a holistic education which enables that spirit to thrive. Our carefully planned curricular and co-curricular strategy enables every individual to develop a portfolio of skills, enabling her to take her place in the world as a force for good.

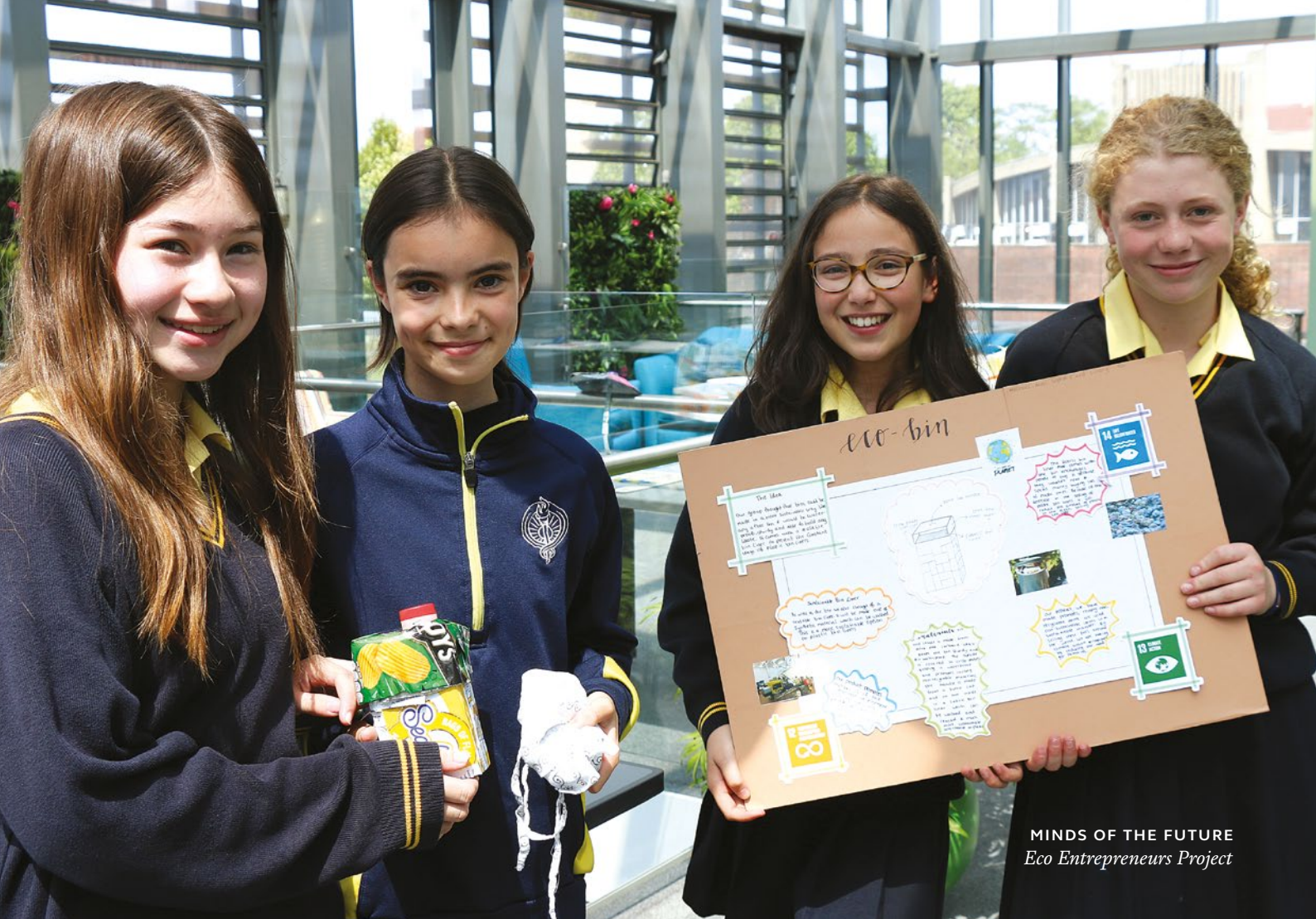
We encourage all our pupils to discover and nurture their own passions, interests, and talents. Whether participating in clubs as part of our extensive *Mehr Licht* co-curricular programme, volunteering for one of our numerous community social action projects, or taking on leadership roles, students here have a wealth of opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop a sense of self. Our staff are critical in making this possible.

During Activities Week in June, Year 8 students collaborated contemporaries in Kigali, Rwanda on a *Think Global, Act Local* sustainability project, a partnership which was spearheaded by our Social Action School Consultant Teacher (SCT), Ms Aneja. I had the privilege of judging their final ideas on how to reduce and reuse: refillable crisp and toothpaste stations, crisp packets made from cellulose, and eco-friendly fresh juice dispensers for schools. Their insight, creativity and ideas were outstanding, thanks to training sessions from our Sustainability SCT, Ms Wrigglesworth, our Head of Marketing & Communications, Ms Mason, and our debate and public speaking coach, Mr Hepburn. Experiences like these not only foster self-awareness but also promote character development, resilience, and adaptability – essential qualities that shape students into well-rounded individuals.

Our integration of careers, co-curricular activities, and community engagement equips students with a diverse range of skills that are crucial for their future endeavours. While academic knowledge

Networkings  
Careers &





MINDS OF THE FUTURE  
Eco Entrepreneurs Project

forms the foundation, participating in activities beyond the classroom enhances vital skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and time management. Being part of a student-run organisation, such as Politics Society, Culture Shock or Space Society, or participating in Debate, Drama or Music clubs, hones their ability to collaborate effectively and articulate ideas confidently – useful skills that can be transferred into higher education and the job market.

By engaging with local organisations, volunteering, and participating in community service initiatives, students develop empathy and compassion. Each year group now has a long-term partnership with a different social action project: Pensioners' Link, Norwood, Spear... Year 7 pupils work with Heath Hands, a local charity dedicated to conserving 350 hectares of green spaces. I think they surprised themselves with how satisfying weeding and litter-picking could be!

Our teachers are also role models in committing time to social action projects. Our Modern Foreign Language teachers deliver specialist language teaching in primary schools across London, as do our Classics teachers. Our partnerships with The UCL Academy in Swiss Cottage has seen Ms Turnor start teaching Year 8 Latin there; such is its popularity that we are looking for funding to continue into Year 9 as well as welcoming a new cohort of Year 8 pupils.

We are also proud that so many of our alumnae give back; many are actively involved in mentoring programmes and career guidance sessions to provide students with valuable networks and connections. The online platform, Rungway, offers a safe and secure method for students to connect with our alumnae network to ask for careers advice. At our biannual Aspirational Futures Fair, former pupils return to talk to students about their careers, ethical hacking, sustainability and investment, design and fashion, music...

This year's buzzing fair attracted over 600 pupils, including students from Haverstock School in Camden.

Our Futures Certificate is now in its second year – a bespoke careers programme for Years 7, 8 and 9, whereby they explore their own skills, as well as non-traditional careers pathways, and begin to develop their own personal brand before they take part in the Morrisby test in Year 10.

We have also launched Rebel Minds, our entrepreneurship programme; at the Rebel Thinkers after school club, pupils develop and pitch their business ideas to an esteemed panel of Rebel Minders. This year's innovative ideas included flavour-filled lip balms, app-enabled water bottles, and a café where you relax under the stars. Our Sixth Form Rebel Makers have the opportunity to participate in the GDST LEAD course – a Leadership & Enterprise Advanced Diploma. In partnership with LSE Generate, over 180 students from across 16 GDST schools participated with a focus on sustainable businesses. One of our teams hit the headlines of our local paper and picked up this year's People's Prize for their terrariums: self-sustaining 'mini-gardens' in upcycled glassware.

These transformative experiences have a profound impact on both our students and wider community. By providing a holistic and integrated education, South Hampstead enables its students to unlock their potential, equipping them with the tools they need for success in their chosen careers and making a positive difference in society. It's been wonderful to belong to a school community that prioritises these aspects, helping to foster a generation of individuals who are not only academically accomplished but also socially conscious and poised for a meaningful and impactful future.

Mr Chris Dearmer joins South Hampstead this September as Deputy Head – Co-Curriculum, Community and Careers.



**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**  
*Olivia Aslett with Sixth Form pupils*



**SPEAKER SERIES**  
*Lord Gavin Barwell with former Headmistress, Vicky Bingham*

### *Thank you to our speakers*

Every year we welcome alumnae, parents and friends from the South Hampstead community to speak to students and staff. We are always so grateful to those who give up their time to share their knowledge. Thank you to all our speakers for their inspiring visits.

Find out more about these talks and visits in the news section of our website:



[www.shhs.gdst.net/news](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/news)

Broadcaster, journalist and author **Jenny Kleeman (1997)** for speaking to our Sixth Formers as part of our *Opening Minds* series and hosting a panel of alumnae and current bursary students at our 1876 Society meeting.

**Maya Forstater (1991)** for speaking to our Sixth Formers about the Forstater vs Centre for Global Development Europe case.

**Simmi Bharadia (2008), Emily Dunne (2021), Gary Blaker, Kate Caspari (2020), Rosie Poser (2020), Ella Dane-Liebesny (2019), Natalia Abramovich (2014), Pandora Rudd (2005) and Shama Goyal (1995)** for conducting mock interviews for pupils applying to university.

Published author **Natasha Siegel (2017)** for reading passages from her new novel to pupils.

Current parents **Raghujit Narula, Abirami Eswar, Mads Jensen, Stephen Barabas, Nandana Dutt, Vivien Creegor, Christiane Laurence** for talks at the Junior School.

**Chehara Dharmawardene (2022) and Olivia Aslett (2017)** for speaking to current Sixth Formers about A Level Design & Technology projects.

**Jean Scott (Head 1993 – 2001) and Naomi Greenwood (1958)** for judging the Year 7 extended learning project.

**Charlotte Cromie (2014), Tatty Theo (1990), Emma Codd, Almudena Sevilla and Sophie Penney (2013)** for speaking on panels at our Aspirational Futures Fair.

Current parents **Elizabeth Cuthbertson, Natalia Starodubtseva, Caren Gestetner, Michelle Lemerre, Tracey Turner, Ben Shaw, Eve Gabereau, Toby Goldblatt, Akshay Shah, Caroline Rivett, David Avery-Gee, Nicola Tager, Camilla Blakesley, Margarida Santos, Paul Koffel, Bridget Walsh and Kim Chua** for hosting stalls at our Aspirational Futures Fair.

**Lord Gavin Barwell and Christina Lamb OBE** for speaking as part of our South Hampstead Speaker Series.

### **Join the GDST Rungway Network**

*GDST Rungway is a safe and supportive online community that connects alumnae and Sixth Form pupils.*

When you join Rungway, you can offer advice and mentorship to Sixth Formers about important milestones such as work experience and university. Creating instant connections with like-minded women is invaluable for current and former pupils.

Join using the QR code on the right or visit [app.rungway.com](http://app.rungway.com)

*The GDST runs a number of networking groups for the alumnae community.*

Full details can be found at: [www.tinyurl.com/shhs-networking](http://www.tinyurl.com/shhs-networking)



*Individual schools host networking events and careers fairs throughout the year. Full details can be found via:*



University and careers mentoring in a closed environment.

[app.rungway.com](http://app.rungway.com)



Connections with the South Hampstead community.

[www.tinyurl.com/shhs-linkedin](http://www.tinyurl.com/shhs-linkedin)





# Technology AND Innovation



*From the World Wide Web to blockchain, the South Hampstead community is leading the way in the development and sensible use of new technology.*



## INTRODUCTION

*Our Head of Computer Science, Robert Brady, joined South Hampstead in 2020 and immediately set about developing a curriculum and clubs to embrace opportunities in technology and innovation.*

*Thanks to support from our parents and the Friends of South Hampstead, we have invested in a new coding lab, and virtual reality and robotics equipment. Mr Brady reflects on the changing the face of education at South Hampstead today.*



**ROBERT BRADY**  
*Head of Computing*

### According to the latest World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report:

*The number one macrotrend driving business transformation in the next five years will be the increased use of new and frontier technologies, for example, Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), Big-data analytics, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Environmental Technologies, Augmented and Virtual Reality, and Robotics. Nearly all of the top ten new jobs likely to be created in the next five years will be directly technology related. The following future skills will be of increasing importance: Creative Thinking, Analytical Thinking, Technological Literacy, Curiosity and Lifelong Learning, Resilience, Flexibility and Agility, Systems Thinking, AI and Big-data.*

The combination of technical skills and future skills will be essential for success in many fields. These frontier technologies have the potential to impact all industries and present a vast range of new, undiscovered opportunities. It is an incredibly exciting time to be a technologist.

To ensure that our pupils are at the forefront of these opportunities, we are developing a new Computer Science curriculum at Key

Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) which provides access to frontier technologies and supports the development of future skills. Pupils will study modules in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Data Science, the Internet of Things, and more.

The ability to design and develop software is a rich source of problem-solving and invention. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of software applications using industry standard tools, working on projects from inception to completion, often in teams. Project-based learning provides an excellent platform for the development of future skills, often requiring analysis, design, collaboration, project management, leadership and entrepreneurship. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their creative and analytical skills whilst inventing solutions to real-world problems.

The school has recently replaced its legacy ICT suite with a new open-plan Code Lab which better facilitates collaborative project work. The Code Lab provides access to a wide range of recently procured leading-

edge software and hardware platforms, where pupils can use these platforms beyond their Computer Science lessons to work independently and pursue their individual interests.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of national and internal school competitions. The next phase of curriculum development will seek to establish partnerships with industry specialists to provide context and insight into the latest developments. The department is always keen to hear from parents and alumnae willing to support and help develop our Computer Science programme.

### Women currently represent less than one third of tech sector employees globally.

We all have much more to do to empower and to encourage our pupils to consider technology careers and to demonstrate the abundance of opportunities open to them. I am therefore delighted to read so many wonderful and inspiring examples of achievement and success from within our alumnae community. Every pupil should read them.



# 4 Minutes WITH 4 Innovators

*Alumna and former Director of the Sociology Research Lab at Ohio State University, Joan Arnfield, shares her experience of the very early days of technology when the World Wide Web made global communication a reality.*

My background is in Geography and Climatology. In the late 1960s, the quantitative revolution in Geography was just beginning. I started writing programmes, teaching computing and statistics classes and learning this new technological way of working. As personal computers started to take over from main frames, the nature of my worked changed from departmental technician to computer specialist, just in time to catch the wave of enthusiasm for the World Wide Web! It was a heady time to be in computing. No longer were programmers working in a linear fashion. With the advent of the web, we saw how to branch out in lots of different directions using links and methods of programming that were unheard of before. Computers and the development of technology opened up a new way of thinking and communicating and I derived great pleasure from empowering people to solve their own problems. Computer specialists like me became teachers and helpers rather than mysterious magicians.



**#01 JOAN ARNFELD**

*Class of 1964*

The world of computing has come a long way since then. Although I 'retired' in 2000, I'm still volunteering with various charities to design, construct and maintain their databases and websites. Now, though, the field is changing so quickly that, at the age of 77, I have to take classes to keep up with advances.

I'm hoping to learn enough to understand something about Artificial Intelligence and deep learning. I believe it's important for everyone to understand how they will be interacting with computing hardware and software in the future.

We must all learn to cope with our increasing dependence on technology; dealing with the increasing threats and enjoying the increasing benefits, without putting our natural resources and environment at risk.



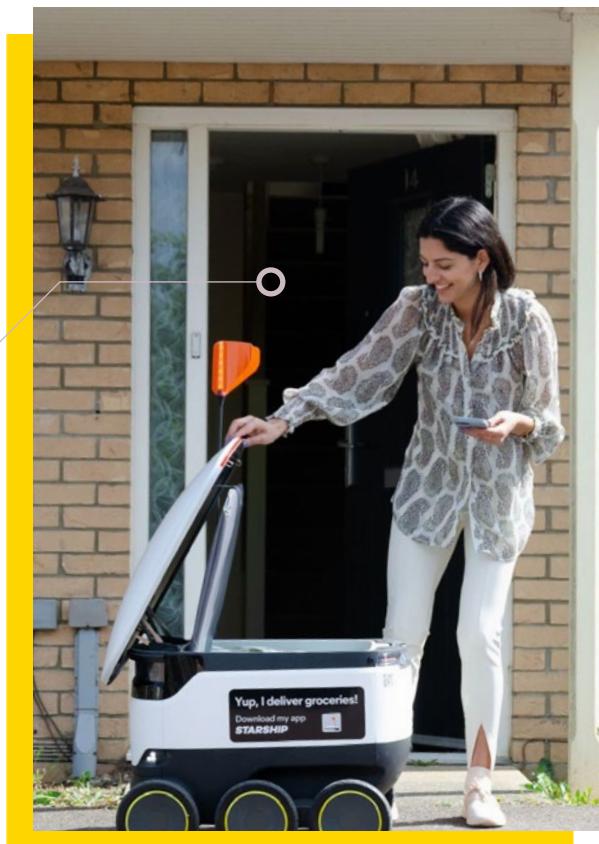
*Alumna and Growth Strategist at robotics start-up Starship Technologies, Arianna Namaki, discusses how exciting it is to be part of a brand new initiative in technology.*



**#02 ARIANNA NAMAKI**  
Class of 2013

From working at a global advertising agency to starting her own business during peak Covid times, Arianna has certainly learnt how to be resourceful. Such creativity has proven crucial to her role at the fast-developing Starship Technologies.

Arianna is a Growth Strategist at the autonomous food delivery start-up, a leading robotics delivery company. Having launched in multiple cities across the UK, and recently having hit 4 million autonomous deliveries, robotic technologies are quickly emerging as some of the most interesting initiatives in technology. Arianna credits her education for allowing her to thrive in fast-moving environments: 'South Hampstead gave me a strong foundation for my career and taught me to make strategic decisions in life.' In a time where technology feels like it is moving faster than we can keep up with, Arianna is living proof of the benefits of a secure and inspiring South Hampstead education.



Read more about Arianna:  
[www.tinyurl.com/shhs-robots](http://www.tinyurl.com/shhs-robots)

*Irene Peleteiro Paniagua joined the Sixth Form last year and was one of ten winners in this year's national Bank of England Innovation Competition.*



**#03 IRENE PELETEIRO PANIAGUA**  
Class of 2024

The aim of the competition was to look for creative technological ideas to achieve the Bank of England's mission: *to promote the good of the people of the United Kingdom by maintaining monetary and financial stability.* This year's question was how Artificial Intelligence (AI) specifically could help shape the future for the Bank of England, and the challenge was to create a five-minute video on how your ideas could achieve this.

My proposal was that AI could be used to help control inflation in two ways, by using it to calculate inflation and to predict inflation. AI is extremely efficient at handling large amounts of data and finding patterns within it. Cardholder data could be given to the AI model to calculate real-time consumer spending, which would dramatically improve the accuracy of the measure and solve some of the problems with the current way of measuring inflation, the Consumer Prices Index. When predicting inflation, a myriad of factors can be used, but some are difficult to calculate and their significance changes over time. An AI could be trained on decades-worth of inflation data (along with the other factors to consider) to create a model which can predict inflation and adjust according to new changes.

With these more reliable data calculations, the Bank of England would be able to employ more efficient monetary policy, and so achieve financial stability.



View Irene's submission here:  
[tinyurl.com/shhs-boe](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-boe)

*Director of Philanthropy, Sophie Whitworth, introduces the ground-breaking 'In the Room' video which is helping to start a conversation between our bursary beneficiaries and our supporters.*



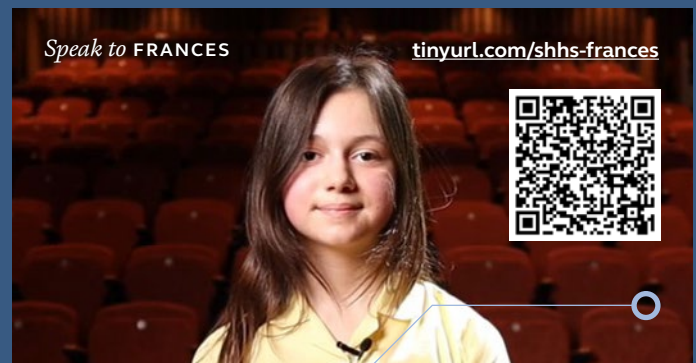
**#04 SOPHIE WHITWORTH**  
Director of Philanthropy

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 (Class of 2005).

You can now join Frances and Datshiane in a conversation about bursaries by visiting our website.

The use of AI video has created a powerful and authentic experience to promote and demonstrate the importance of our bursary programme and the impact of our community's support.





## INNOVATIVE ALUMNAE

# Dr Chloe Tartan

*Lower Sixth student and Alumnae Representative, Mira, had the opportunity to interview Dr Chloe Tartan (2007). Chloe is the Co-Founder of Women in Blockchain and is an Advanced App Engineering Manager at Accenture.*

I am fascinated by blockchain technology and leapt at the opportunity to interview alumna Dr Chloe Tartan, who is a pioneer in this emerging area. Chloe is at the forefront of promoting women to harness emerging technologies to advance our increasingly digital and interconnected world.

From an early age, I've been captivated by technology and its potential impact on our world. My initial fascination began playing Minecraft, then shifted to learning JavaScript and Python with *Girls*

*Who Code*. I've since applied my skills to develop a digital learning tool for students using recently emerging language models; most recently I've been working with OpenAI's API backend to summarise lengthy videos in an insightful way. Beyond entrepreneurship, coding and the sciences, I also enjoy the arts – singing, dance, and drama – so I hope to bring my diverse interests to solve bigger problems in the future. Chloe is a brilliant role model, as she is doing just this.



**MIRA BHANDARI**  
Class of 2024

### When did you first realise you were interested in technology and innovation?

I studied Physics at university which really fulfilled my curiosity, helping me to logically understand the way things work. I did a master's degree in Space Science and Engineering as a pathway into spacecraft technology – I think that was my artistic side being drawn to the beauty of the universe. This was how I got into engineering. What I really liked about engineering was that it brought the laws of Physics into the practical world, so you can innovate something that people can use. I merged my creative side with my Physics background and the rest is history! I get really excited when I'm at the forefront of cutting-edge technology.



### How did you first get into blockchain?

I studied for a PhD in Electro-Optical Engineering, examining liquid-crystal materials which were at the forefront of developing technology in screens. It was so interesting, but it did feel very academic and not very real world. So, after this, I went to the Brazilian Amazon for a conference and decided to stay there for a while. I remember looking around at all this beautiful wildlife, and I noticed how many people would throw their rubbish into the river. After speaking to the locals, I realised that no one knew the damaging effects of this, and that really struck a chord with me. From there, I decided I wanted to get into sustainability. I did an internship with an Environment Social Governance Consultancy for six months, but I became frustrated that I wasn't leveraging my PhD. I found a firm that was focused on the technology underlying bitcoin and its practical uses, and that's how I got into blockchain. I was so curious about how blockchain works and it opened up this completely different vision of the world. Blockchain technology is decentralised, meaning that it works peer to peer instead of via intermediaries like banks. It's a completely different way of thinking.

### How did blockchain technology come to be?

It's quite controversial, so I will discuss how the industry thinks it came about, not my personal opinion! The founder of nChain, Craig Wright, claims that he invented blockchain. However, the first paper about blockchain was written by someone called Satoshi Nakamoto, which is a pseudonym. It was speculated that this person used a pseudonym because the technology is so disruptive that it challenges the way powerful organisations operate, such as our entire banking system. This happened soon after the 2008 financial crash, and it was presented as a solution to this crash. The paper described how more transparency with our money would solve these issues, as we currently don't really know what happens with our money when we put it in a bank.

I think many organisations struggle today because of a lack of transparency – for example the healthcare system. If you don't have visibility of how decisions were made, it's really tricky to audit decisions and work out where things went wrong. Blockchain technology brings data and finance together and allows you to trade, but also use it as a database. When you think of the data that you store in the 'cloud' for example, this is very centralised – it's all in one place. Blockchain challenges this by decentralising and distributing data. The database is split across the world in 'nodes' – places where the data is stored. Rather than sending your data to cloud servers, you instead send it to the next node in the network, which sends it to the next and next etc. This means that everyone then has a copy of this information. This is really powerful because it eliminates a single point of failure, brings transparency of information, and you can encrypt personal information. It allows peer to peer connection.

### What is a practical use of blockchain?

It's really useful for financial inclusion. Sending money abroad is really expensive. If a family member wants to send money quickly and cheaply to their family in another country, blockchain provides this opportunity.

Also, supply chains are big contributors to carbon emissions. There are huge global supply chains that are very hard to track. There are ways of making this more efficient. For example, plastic waste is terrible in these chains. Someone may throw some plastic away, without realising that further down that supply chain, the plastic could be used for something. So how do we make these chains more transparent and reduce waste?

We need these processes to become more circular. Blockchain helps this because it is a block of transactions that chain together through referencing each other. This means you can look back through lots of transactions and see how and why the chain functions.

I'm very passionate about it because I see so many practical applications. I recently published a paper about the uses of blockchain in digital inclusion. During lockdown, data and hardware weren't always widely accessible; for example, online learning was not accessible to all and this was isolating. So how can we use technology for social welfare? There's so much to learn in that.

### How have you seen technology change over the years you have been involved with it?

Within my experience, what I find really interesting is how quickly new technologies appear in the home these days. Chat GPT is very popular now – you no longer need to understand why something works, you just need to know how to use it. The same can be said for blockchain – it has high value for society and you won't necessarily know why or how it works, but you can reap the benefits. Very few people know how the internet works, but we all use it!

I'm interested in how society will be able to keep up with the speed of innovation. We have to think about the long-term impact of this too. Yes, it opens up exciting opportunities, but the long-term implications of many technologies change the way we exist in the world right now and there are real human lives behind this change that may get left behind. Technology is an enabler, rather than something we should necessarily rely on for everything. We as humans are creative and nuanced, and all the things that make us human are so important.

### What challenges do you think women face in male-dominated industries such as technology, and why did you decide to start Women in Blockchain?

It's a systemic issue. Everyone needs to make an effort to ensure there is equality. There are so many challenges in the workplace. When studying at Imperial, I was one of twenty women in a class of 300. I think that puts off a lot of people from pursuing careers in male-dominated industries.

I set up Women in Blockchain for any minority group, to ensure we had a voice and were empowered. We all have unconscious biases, but the best thing we can do is bring discussions about these to life. I started Women in Blockchain to empower others to use their voices and to help bring this conversation to the table and educate others.

### What is your advice to women who want to join the field of technology?

There is no such thing as a stupid question. Don't be shy to grow your network and leverage professional connections. When I was at Oxford, we had a talk from the Head of NASA; after the talk, I went to ask her if I could visit them in the US. A few months later, NASA invited me to give a seminar on my research – I was ecstatic! It was one of the most incredible days of my life and it literally happened because I asked.

# AI in Education

*Chat GPT has taken the world by storm. A controversial topic, Adam Westwood, our Deputy Head Academic, reflects on the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence that lie ahead in education and how South Hampstead is dealing with them...*



**ADAM WESTWOOD**  
*Deputy Head Academic*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is infiltrating our lives – and education – in ways that are both exciting and concerning, signalling some seismic, long-term changes. This is a hot topic of discussion amongst our staff, and pupils.

Despite being around for quite some time, AI is still very much in its infancy – and it's already incredibly powerful. Many of our parents and alumnae work in Artificial Intelligence or its closely related cousin, Data Science, but even those less familiar already interact with AI on a daily basis: voice recognition, Google searches, facial recognition, 'smart' home devices, Amazon recommendations, 'what to watch next' on Netflix... all these interactions, analysing complex but varying patterns, have their roots in AI.

Enter ChatGPT and its cohorts. While the acronym is forgettable (Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) its impact is meteoric. ChatGPT, one of many 'chat AIs' currently available for free use, is by far the most well-known. It's been designed to process text commands and respond in what it considers to be the most useful manner. It is based on data from billions of web pages, which themselves were selected by an earlier AI that finished its work in 2021 – and it learns a little bit more every time it is given a command. As long as the question is entirely text-based, and falls within certain allowable parameters, anyone can ask ChatGPT almost anything...

Chat AIs can understand free written text, including spelling mistakes, slang and idioms, in multiple languages, and use their prodigious databases to respond to that input in an informative and useful manner. This allows people to converse with them, to generate responses that are unique and creative. You can, for example, ask one to write you a poem – or a homework essay. They can even competently convert text between languages.

Importantly, ChatGPT and its ilk are really just the beginning of what will be a progression of AIs that are accessible, easy to use, and multi-functional.

When it comes to our students, there are clearly positives and negatives. On the one hand, students now have an incredibly powerful tool at their disposal that can in many ways be beneficial to their learning. When revising they could, for example, use it to generate additional questions for them to work on – and later generate the answers to those questions. It could explain a particular concept, or quickly give them the definition of a key term. It can help them improve a piece of written work and explain the improvements so they can develop in the future. It can also help them come up with ideas for research projects, or even give careers guidance... they are potentially a great source of support and guidance under the right circumstances.

On the other hand, this incredibly powerful tool also has the capacity to do pupils' work for them – with very little effort. Text generated by ChatGPT is difficult to spot using traditional plagiarism software (although new AIs to spot the work of chat AIs are quickly being developed). ChatGPT can even give long answers to open questions, questions such as 'write an essay in the style of a 15-year-old student explaining why Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and the consequences of that action.'

Clearly this is a concern, as students using this tool to cut corners are not going to have the same benefits as those who don't. They will not build skills in, for example, research, essay writing, critical thinking and problem-solving at the same rate as their peers.



*“At South Hampstead, we have taken the decision to embrace and educate, rather than shun and ignore.”*

There is also the risk of students becoming over-reliant on AI technology, as well as the more subtle issue that the AI output will have certain biases, based on its own dataset – a dataset that could easily contain information that is incorrect, prejudicial or inaccurate, despite its creators’ best efforts. It is for these reasons that several schools are blocking the websites for these AIs and banning their use.

As a school, we therefore find ourselves at an interesting crossroads perhaps not encountered since the launch of the World Wide Web. Once again, we’re witnessing the emergence of a largely untested technology that will undoubtedly play a major role in the lives of our students – with great potential benefits, as well as obvious risks.

We firmly believe that the best course of action at this time is to allow students to explore this new technology, and for us to work as a community to determine how it can be used to best effect and start to build a curriculum that includes the prudent and beneficial use of AI. We do, however, need to consider and mitigate the risks of this new tech, and continue to educate our pupils about the pitfalls, empowering them to use websites like ChatGPT responsibly, with a healthy degree of scepticism and cross-checking.

As educators, we want our students to leave South Hampstead as curious, open-minded individuals who are confident in harnessing emerging technologies – productively, creatively, safely and fairly.



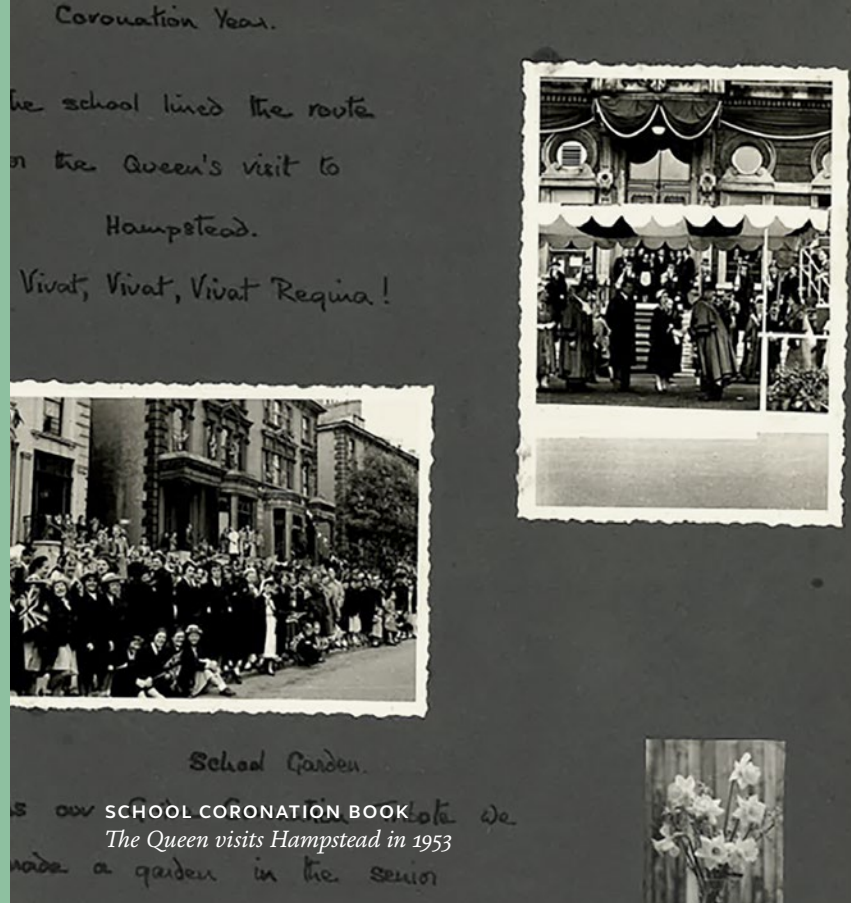
FIND OUT MORE



Read the full blog post on our website.

[tinyurl.com/shhs-chatgpt](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-chatgpt)

# Looking Back



## A ROYAL ARCHIVE

*In a year in which we marked the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III, our archivist Joanna Coates takes a look back over the school's experience of coronations over the years.*



**JOANNA COATES**

*Archivist*

### 1937

The coronation of King George VI took place in Westminster Abbey in May 1937. Staff member Doris Ashley arrived at 6.15am to take her seat in the gallery above the nave. She watched the other attendees arrive: the ladies 'with their headdresses of ostrich feathers and tulle veiling', the men in their uniforms; Indian Princes wearing 'every imaginable colour and bejewelled turbans'; Princesses, Ambassadors and Prime Ministers... Doris describes the arrival of the King and Queen as a 'dream pageant, something not of this modern and material world', as she watched the two princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, walking with coronets on their heads.

The similarities and differences from the recent coronation of King Charles III are striking. The ancient ceremony, almost unchanged for 1000 years and 'of almost unimaginable beauty', was certainly similar. The difference, however, was in the important presence of the representatives of the dominions: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, 'with status now equal to the mother country,' and 'the knowledge that the whole Empire and indeed the whole world was listening and taking part.' Today with no Empire, this is certainly different. Not to mention, in 1937, there were no celebrities invited!



## 1953

The next coronation was that of Queen Elizabeth II, in 1953. Coincidentally, this was also the retirement year of Headmistress Miss Potter, and the school magazines are full of reports on this – an even more important event as far as South Hampstead was concerned! Nevertheless, the school did celebrate the coronation.

A small group of girls, under the care of Miss Pallot, were invited to be part of the crowd watching the royal coach go past. The girls arrived at the station at 4am, but sustenance soon came in the form of ice lollies and drinks from the London County Council.

Finally, the procession of coaches got underway. First came the Lord Mayor in his coach accompanied by a foot escort of City Pikemen; then various royals in their own coaches; and lastly the Queen arrived in her State Coach, with the crowd cheering themselves hoarse.

When the procession had passed, the girls raised their banner saying 'South Hampstead High School, Finchley Road' so that it would appear on TV. Officials took the girls back to Embankment for a 'children's special' tube and they returned to school, exhausted. But that was not the end for the coronation celebrations.

A month later, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a special visit to Hampstead. Just beforehand, the girls who had not been part of the group allowed to watch the processions were able to watch the Coronation Film in the Odeon cinema at Swiss Cottage. Miss Potter came too. When the Queen arrived in Hampstead, Deputy Head Girl Hazel Chesterman took photos as the girls shouted, 'Vivat, Vivat Regina!'

The school Girl Guides thought they should celebrate the Coronation with something more permanent, so they decided to create a garden in the playground behind the gym. The girls provided their own plants and soon it was full of marigolds, cosmos, and wallflowers.

## 2022

For the coronation of King Charles III this year, a tea party was held at the Junior School, organised by the Junior School PTA. We were delighted that alumna Rosemary Wolfson (Class of 1962) continued the tradition from 1953 by sending us her own poem to celebrate the occasion; staff and pupils all enjoyed the special holiday weekend. South Hampstead pupils were delighted to be introduced to the new King on a visit to the JW3 community centre.

Read more at: [www.tinyurl.com/shhs-royal-visit](http://www.tinyurl.com/shhs-royal-visit)

## SOUTH HAMPSTEAD AND THE ROYALS

**In 1882**, Princess Louise, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and Patroness of the Girls' Public Day School Trust (GPDST as it was then known) opened the new building in Maresfield Gardens.

**In 1883**, the Prince and Princess of Wales attended prizegiving in the Royal Albert Hall.

**In 1901**, after the death of Queen Victoria, a portrait was purchased to be hung in the school hall, and a wreath was sent to her funeral on behalf of the school.

**1908**, the last great function of the GPDST at the Royal Albert Hall was attended by the future King George V and Queen Mary.

**In 1953**, pupils attended Queen Elizabeth's coronation.

**In 1988**, the new sports hall was opened by the Duchess of Gloucester.

**In 2022**, pupil and staff volunteers met His Majesty the King at a special celebratory event at the JW3 community centre.



Prefects 1957



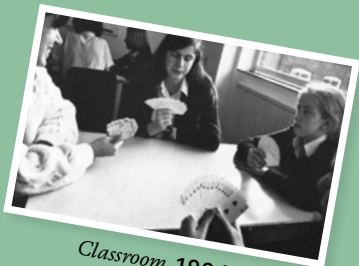
School Play 1974



Playground 1974



Whole School 1974



Classroom 1994

1948

150 YEARS

## *of South Hampstead memories*

*As we look towards our 150th anniversary in 2026, we have embarked on one of our biggest archive projects to date: compiling a list of notable events from the school's inception in 1876 to the present day, illustrated by photographs from our archive.*

1876

1928

1974



Whole School 1984



Sixth Formers 1990



Class of 1994

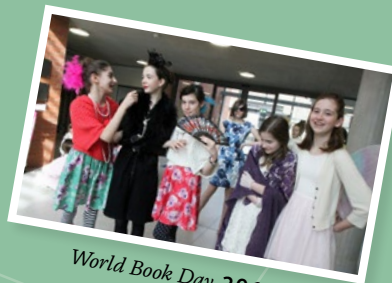


Class of 2014

1984



Sports Day 2004



World Book Day 2015

2023

2026

### PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMELINE

A timeline of South Hampstead photos will be displayed in the school atrium at events, and this year we will have reunions for the classes of 1954,1964,1974,1984,1994, 2004 and 2014. Help us put together the picture of your time at South Hampstead by sending us your photos.

Share your photos by sending them to us at: [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net)



Battlefields trip 2011



A-level results day 2019

*In September 2026, South Hampstead will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Since 2018, we have been working on our Towards 150 masterplan which is built on our values of Aspiration, Courage, Creativity, Kindness and Commitment.*

# *Opening doors, hearts & minds*

As we look towards this sesquicentennial anniversary, we assess the impact of your support, our key ambitions for the next three years, and turn the spotlight on some of the people who have had life-changing opportunities thanks to this programme.





## BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

*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 have 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

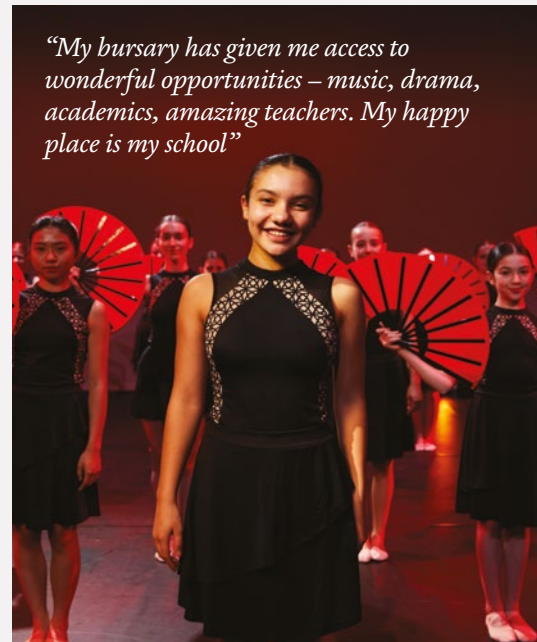
## Neve

*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](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-bursary-videos)



*"My bursary has given me access to wonderful opportunities – music, drama, academics, amazing teachers. My happy place is my school!"*



Read the Girls' Futures Report.  
[tinyurl.com/shhs-futures-report](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-futures-report)



Support our bursary programme.  
[www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us](https://www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us)



BREADTH &amp; ACCESSIBILITY

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.



## BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

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.qdst.net/support-us](http://www.shhs.qdst.net/support-us)



BREADTH &amp; ACCESSIBILITY

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?**

**Sofia 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.”



## BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

### 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.”

**Sofia 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.”

**Sofia 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?

**Sofia R** “The food in school is really good! But British food in general is... questionable!”

**Sofia 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?

**Sofia 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?

**Sofia 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.qdst.net/support-us](http://www.shhs.qdst.net/support-us)



BREADTH &amp; ACCESSIBILITY

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 opportunity 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 a lifetime.

The Minerva Circle recognises and thanks members of our community who choose to make a gift to South Hampstead 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.



## BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

*“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.”*

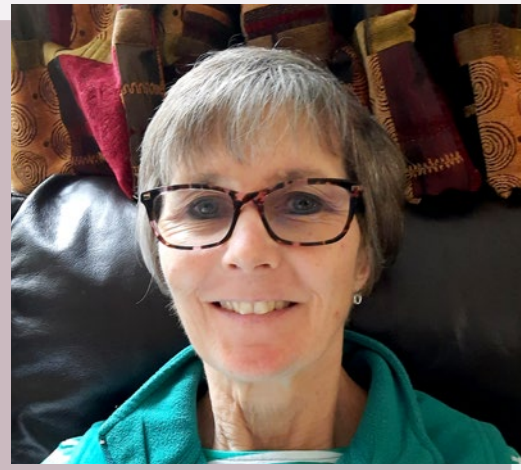
“I joined the Junior School with my twin sister Judy, in 1965. I remember we were interviewed by Miss Clark which was a bit scary at the time.

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 teaching 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](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/support-us)





COMMUNITY &amp; 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 non-selective, 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, Ms 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](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-partner)

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.



 BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

10

New bursary awards in Sept 2023

42

Senior pupils with bursary places

250+

Class of bursary contributors

1

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

 TEACHING & LEARNING

1000+

State school pupils competing in Debate Hub events

50+

Visiting speakers sponsored by your generosity

1

Mitzvah Day Outstanding Youth Achievement Award

20

Rangoonwala Prize-winners at the Bingham Debate Hub competition

 COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

100+

Mehr Licht Community events

130+

Members of the 1876 Society

3

Years continuous Carbon Neutral Certification

1

Nomination for the Independent Schools partnership programme award

 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Refurbishments



Improvements and refurbishments were carried out to both the Junior School and the Oakwood Garden.



---

*Our Mehr Licht Community brings together the many strands of our annual programme of events, lectures, concerts, workshops, careers information and courses, which are open to parents, pupils, alumnae and friends of the community.*

In the next section, we celebrate just some of the many community events held in the past year.

We hope that you will find something to engage you over the next 12 months. Look out for further details throughout the year.

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## The South Hampstead Speaker Series

We welcomed parents, pupils, alumnae and pupils from partner schools to Speaker Series events this year featuring the best-selling author and *Sunday Times* Chief Foreign Correspondent, Christina Lamb OBE and former Chief of Staff, The Rt Hon the Lord Barwell.



## Class of 2017 Reunion

2017 returned to mark five years since leaving South Hampstead. The civil service, Fintech, healthcare, fine arts and film are just some of the professions in which our alumnae are now flourishing.



READ MORE



## Towards 150 Drinks and Concert

We welcomed our Towards 150 supporters for drinks and a concert from the internationally acclaimed Leonore Piano Trio featuring Gemma Rosefield (1999).



READ MORE



## *The GDST Celebrates 150*

We joined fellow GDST schools at the Science Museum to celebrate 150 years of the Girls' Day School Trust opening doors for young women.



READ MORE



## *FOSH and the Junior School PTA*

Friends of South Hampstead and the Junior School PTA continued to run a wide range of wonderful events including the ever-popular quizzes, wine tasting, and a summer fete.



READ MORE



## *Bursary Receptions*

Parents from across the Junior and Senior Schools attended receptions to find out more about our bursary provision and the launch of our *In the Room* interactive videos.



READ MORE





ALUMNAE

# Reunion Lunch

Welcoming back over 180 alumnae and former staff for the Annual Reunion Lunch was a joy. This year, we held specific reunion groups for classes of the 1950s, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, and 2013, as well as hosting a wonderful group of over 30 former staff.

READ MORE







## Aspirational Futures Fair

Senior School pupils from South Hampstead and partner schools were introduced to a range of different pathways at a buzzing careers fair featuring many of our alumnae and parents.



## University Reunions

This year, we introduced University Reunions, a fantastic way to reconnect with and discover more fellow alumnae in your university town. Mrs Bingham went for drinks with 20 South Hampstead alumnae currently studying at Oxford University. If you would like to host a university reunion, contact us at [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net)



## A Quintet of Heads

Four former Heads came for lunch with Mrs Bingham to mark the final term of her tenure, and to celebrate all their legacies to the school.



READ MORE





## 1876 Society Meeting

A wonderful evening of thanks was held to celebrate the support of our 1876 Society members. Jenny Kleeman (Class of 1997), spoke with Lola Bursari (Class of 2005) and current Ukrainian pupil, Sofia, about the impact of the South Hampstead bursary programme.



READ MORE



## Summer Drinks & University Tea

The seventh floor was filled with laughter (and Pimms) as we welcomed back staff and over 80 alumnae from our Classes of 2017 to 2022 for summer drinks. Before the drinks, we hosted a tea party for Lower Sixth students to network with those currently studying at university.



READ MORE



## Farewell to Class of 2023

Complete with a Harry Styles cut-out on the red carpet and a DJ set from Judge Jules, the annual Valedictory Ceremony gave the Class of 2023 a real South Hampstead send-off!



READ MORE



# Views



AUTHOR AND ALUMNA

## Natasha Seigel

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*Published author and Class of 2017 alumna Natasha Siegel came to share some wisdom with pupils about following your dreams, and read some passages from her newly published novel 'Solomon's Crown'.*

---

Natasha has always had a passion for writing. Reflecting on her school years at South Hampstead, she remembers the importance of studying both English and History in planting the seed for her writing career. The unfaltering support she received from her teachers was crucial to her continued love for creative writing. Her enthusiasm for both subjects continued throughout university, where she studied for a joint degree in English and History. Today, she is in the process of completing a part time master's degree in early modern studies at UCL whilst writing her upcoming novel, *The Phoenix Bride*.

At South Hampstead, Natasha took part in creative writing groups and entered poetry writing competitions in her spare time. She also ran an LGBTQ+ society in her Sixth Form, where she and her peers fundraised for the Albert Kennedy Trust – a charity which supports the LGBTQ+ young people.

Her first novel was published in the US at the age of 24. Natasha's advice to those trying to begin a career in writing? "Allow yourself to pursue the things you love. The subjects you choose to study do not dictate your future. Careers are multifaceted and keeping an open mind is really important. I want to give people a ray of hope that a writing career is possible. If you love what you are creating and you believe in it, that is what is most important."



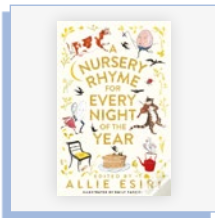
READ MORE

You can read more about Natasha on our website.

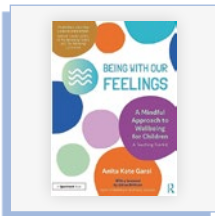
# Alumnae authors



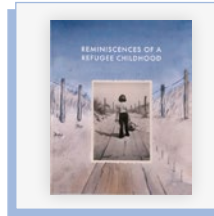
We have a talented group of writers within our community. Every year, this list continues to grow. If you have recently been published and would like to be featured, please get in touch: [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net)



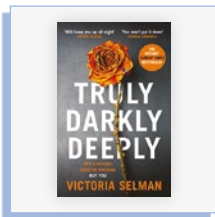
*A Nursery Rhyme for Every Day of the Year*  
ALLIE ESIRI (1984)



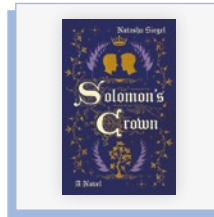
*Being With Our Feelings, A Mindful Approach to Wellbeing for Children*  
ANITA GARAI (1988)



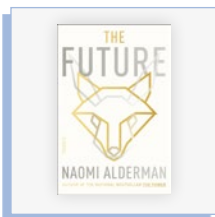
*Reminiscences of a Refugee Childhood*  
(Told by Halla's daughter Zoe Beloff)  
HALLA BELOFF (1948)



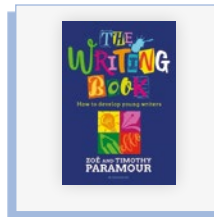
*Truly Darkly Deeply*  
VICTORIA SELMAN (1995)



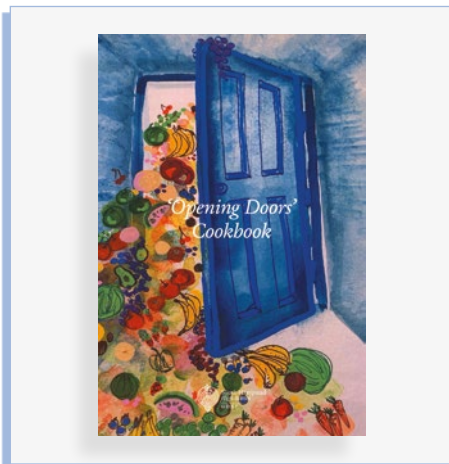
*Solomon's Crown*  
NATASHA SIEGEL (2017)



*The Future*  
NAOMI ALDERMAN (1993)



*The Writing Book*  
ZOE PARAMOUR (STAFF)  
AND TIMOTHY PARAMOUR



## The Opening Doors Cookery Book

As we look towards our 150th anniversary, our staff have also published their own book.

The first South Hampstead recipe book was completed nearly 100 years ago to help raise money for the school. The newest version is a tasty collection of 150 recipes from parents, staff, alumnae and friends. All proceeds will go to our *Opening Doors* bursary campaign.

Order your cookbook via: [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net)

Make a donation at: [www.gdst.net/donate/SouthHampstead](http://www.gdst.net/donate/SouthHampstead)



Read about our cookbooks through the decades.



FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER RESEARCH  
Bella Glanville with her grandfather

## *In the News*

**Vicky Bingham bids South Hampstead farewell in her final blog post.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/shhs-vicky-farwell](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-vicky-farwell)

**South Hampstead crowned Independent Girls' School of the Year 2022/23.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/shhs-soty-22-23](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-soty-22-23)

**Model and motivational speaker Bella Glanville (Class of 2017) continues her grandfather's fundraising for Cancer Research via TikTok.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/bbc-bella-glanville](https://tinyurl.com/bbc-bella-glanville)

**The Alan Davidson Foundation names Madeleine Kessler (Class of 2005) and Datshiane Navanayagam (Class of 2005) as finalists in the annual architecture prize focusing on the future of the home.**

Full article: [tinyurl.com/davidson-prize-2023-finalists](https://tinyurl.com/davidson-prize-2023-finalists)

**The London Library announces alumna Helena Bonham Carter CBE (1984) as its new president.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/london-library](https://tinyurl.com/london-library)

**Social activist and broadcaster Laura Marks (Class of 1978) receives a CBE in the King's Birthday Honours for services to Interfaith Relations, Holocaust and Genocide Education and Commemoration, and Women's Empowerment.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/hh-primrose-hill](https://tinyurl.com/hh-primrose-hill)

**Ice Dancer Lilah Fear (Class of 2017) and her professional partner Lewis Gibson become ice dancing world number ones.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/fear-on-ice](https://tinyurl.com/fear-on-ice)

**Mathilde Milwidsky (Class of 2013) named as one of Classic FM's rising stars, recognised for her exceptional talent as a performing musician.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/milwidsky-rising-star](https://tinyurl.com/milwidsky-rising-star)

**Sanchia Berg (Class of 1981) makes the semi-final of the Christmas University Challenge with her team mates from Exeter College, Oxford.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/berg-uni-challenge](https://tinyurl.com/berg-uni-challenge)

**Jewellery entrepreneur Talya Paskin (2001) is recognised for the success of her beautiful brand Aurum + Grey.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/paskin-aurum-grey](https://tinyurl.com/paskin-aurum-grey)

**Cosmetic dentist Simmi Daryani (2008) is interviewed about the importance of a healthy mindset and staying open to opportunities.**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/90-seconds-with-daryani](https://tinyurl.com/90-seconds-with-daryani)

**GDST Trailblazer of the Year, Grace Spence Green (2014) featured in the BBC programme Extraordinary Portraits**

Watch a clip: [tinyurl.com/spence-tv-bbc](https://tinyurl.com/spence-tv-bbc)

**Stylist Sara Parker Bowles (1991) describes how her life has changed since the coronation of Camilla**

Read the article: [tinyurl.com/bowles-camilla-interview](https://tinyurl.com/bowles-camilla-interview)

# Farewell to Staff

*At the end of this academic year, we were sad to say goodbye to a number of staff who have dedicated many years of their career to South Hampstead. As we say a huge thank you for all they have done for our students, we are delighted to welcome them into our alumnae community.*



## Sally Fanning

JOINED 2000

Sally joined South Hampstead in 2000, becoming Head of Design Technology in 2010. With a teaching career spanning 23 years, she has been one of our longest-standing members of staff. An architect by training, Sally loved the dynamic, intellectual stimulus of teaching clever-minded South Hampstead girls. Her colleagues remember her for her great sense of humour and calm, and the quirkiness and creativity she cultivated in the department. Throughout her teaching career, she has dedicated real generosity and care to students and staff alike.

Read more about Sally online: [tinyurl.com/shhs-sally-fanning](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-sally-fanning)



## Rachel Osborne

JOINED 2016

As our Deputy Head Careers, Community & Co-Curricular, Rachel certainly had a very ambitious and broad reaching brief which she managed with wonderful creativity and calm organisation. From overseeing many Aspirational Futures Fairs, to championing the co-curricular *Mehr Licht* programme and being an outstanding Physics teacher, Rachel has excelled in all aspects of her multi-faceted role. Her commitment to expanding partnerships with the state sector is marked by a recent shortlisting in the Independent School of the Year Awards for Outstanding Educational Partnerships. Rachel's legacy will live on in the many initiatives she has developed during her time at here – we wish her every success for the future.



## Sophie Somers

JOINED 2013

Sophie (2002) attended South Hampstead as a pupil and returned in 2013 to teach in the Junior School. For ten years she dedicated her energy and enthusiasm to ensuring the highest quality education for her pupils. Her general knowledge has impressed inside and outside the classroom, particularly when taking part in the ever-competitive PTA quizzes! Sophie has been and will continue to be a wonderful asset to the South Hampstead community and we wish her the very best in her new role.

## FAREWELL TO

# Vicky Bingham

2017 — 2023

*Mrs Bingham came to South Hampstead from Guildford High School and swiftly established herself as a dynamic force. Her mission was to open doors, hearts and minds and in 2018, she presented her Towards 150 strategic plan to develop and build on the key strengths of the whole school, ahead of South Hampstead's 150th anniversary in 2026.*

Aside from her ambition and vision, she will be remembered for her impressive ability to get to know every single pupil in the community. Mrs Bingham taught Philosophy to Year 7 students, as well as Latin and Greek to Sixth Formers, and particularly enjoyed chatting to our youngest Junior School pupils over lunch. She has been committed to championing pupil voice in all its forms. Rather than commissioning a professional artist for her leaving portrait for example, as is tradition, she asked one of our Sixth Form Art Scholars to paint her instead (see bottom-left image opposite).

A keen debater herself, Vicky embedded debate and discussion at the very heart of academic life. She initiated the South Hampstead Speaker Series, welcoming diverse, internationally-recognised guests, including the former Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney; the scientist, Professor Alice Roberts; broadcaster, Mishal Husain; and comedian, David Baddiel. She also pioneered an expanded debating programme, with national and international success. South Hampstead was crowned ESU Oracy Champion in 2020 and our award-winning Debate Hub initiative has promoted and developed the debating skills of over a thousand local state schools pupils; the inaugural state school debating day will be named The Bingham Debating Competition in recognition of her contribution.

Other partnership programmes during her tenure include an enterprising joint recruitment initiative with The UCL Academy (see page 29); music and language teaching at dozens of local primary schools; and forging links with charities as far afield as Calcutta, Rio and Rwanda. She also resurrected ambitious whole school community walks, with the end of term events raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity.

Mrs Bingham always led by example, encouraging pupils to find their voice. She has written numerous posts for her own blog and regularly contributed to national debates in the media. Her commitment to make annual eco-pledges hit the headlines in 2020 and she has spoken out on numerous issues, from tutoring and cancel culture to smartphone dependency. She has championed a buzzing Mehr Licht co-curricular programme and spearheaded the Waterlow Hall campaign to create a contemporary, flexible performing arts space. The award-winning hall was completed in 2020 with a festival of events and concerts – the single largest project ever funded entirely by the South Hampstead community.

As part of the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), South Hampstead was established to provide education for girls from all backgrounds, and we have a long tradition of welcoming girls on fee assisted places. At the heart of Mrs Bingham's Towards 150 masterplan was the desire to promote diversity and inclusion at the school. Alongside changes to the curriculum, and the establishment of a diversity and inclusion steering committee, Mrs Bingham reinvigorated our bursary programme. When she joined the school, just 1 in 40 pupils joining Year 7 received bursary funding. Thanks to our *Opening Doors* bursary campaign, 1 in 8 of our Year 7 pupils this year are receiving 100%+ means-tested awards.

All this has been achieved against the backdrop of some of the most challenging years in education. In March 2020, the school was forced to close its doors as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold. Mrs Bingham masterminded a seamless transition to Guided Home Learning and bolstered community well-being with her lockdown challenges, pupil/alumnae pen pal schemes, 'summer of joy' events and her own version of the 'hands, face, space' mantra: habits, plans, treats.

In 2022, just as school life returned to normal, war broke out in Ukraine. Mrs Bingham found space for eight Ukrainian pupils at the school and the funding needed to secure their places – just one example of the determination and compassion that have characterised her time at the school. Throughout her headship, Mrs Bingham has embodied values that she has helped to embed: Aspiration, Creativity, Courage, Commitment and Kindness.

Mrs Bingham never accepted the pigeonholing of South Hampstead as (just) an academic powerhouse, but aspired for excellence in all areas. Her attendance at events, concerts, sports matches, plays, art exhibitions and on trips speaks volumes about her indefatigable commitment to every aspect of school life. As the Good Schools Guide reported, she is "energetic, enthusiastic, full of ideas."

As her time at South Hampstead came to a close, Mrs Bingham's efforts and achievements were recognised with an excellent ISI inspection report, which praised the school's pervasive sense of 'joyful scholarship'; as the icing on the cake in her final year, she picked up the award for Independent Girls' School of the Year 2022/23.

**As we welcome Mrs Bingham into our South Hampstead Community as an Honorary Alumna, we wish her the very best for the future and say a huge thank you for all she has done for the whole school community. Mehr Licht!**



# Obituaries



## Dame Angela Lansbury

1925 – 2022

A Hollywood and Broadway star for more than seven decades, Angela Lansbury was best known to millions of TV viewers as Jessica Fletcher, a retired English teacher and amateur sleuth, in the long-running series, *Murder, She Wrote*.

Angela attended South Hampstead from 1934 to 1939, when she became interested in the drama of the silver screen. She pursued her passion for acting at London's Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art before continuing her training at the Feagin School of Dramatic Art in New York, after her family decamped to the US following the outbreak of war.

The Oscar-nominated actor played roles in numerous films including *National Velvet* (1944), *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), *The Company of Wolves* (1984), *Nanny McPhee* (2005) and *Mr Popper's Penguins* (2011). She won five Tony Awards, including four Best Actress In A Musical awards for her roles in *Mame*, *Dear World*, *Gypsy*, and the 1979 production of *Sweeney Todd*. Her voice also became synonymous with one of Disney's biggest animated films, as she performed the titular song to *Beauty and the Beast* (1991).

In recognition of her illustrious career, she was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Her Late Majesty in 2014. *Modern Family* actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson described the star as "graceful and witty", while *Seinfeld* actor, Jason Alexander, paid tribute to: "One of the most versatile, talented... wise, classy ladies I've ever met." She is quoted as saying: "Bringing humour and bringing happiness and joy to an audience is a wonderful opportunity in life..." – the true embodiment of our school motto, *Mehr Licht!*

Sixth Form Drama Scholar, Martha, and Director of Drama, Ms Martin, paid tribute to the legendary performer's career on ITV news. Watch it here: [tinyurl.com/lansbury-tribute](https://tinyurl.com/lansbury-tribute)





## Fay Weldon

1931 – 2022

Fay Birkinshaw was born in England in 1931; when her family emigrated to New Zealand, Fay took refuge in fairy tales and children's literature, planting a seed for her literary career to follow.



At the age of 15, Fay returned to England with her mother, where she joined South Hampstead to complete her Sixth Form years from 1947 and 1949. She was an outstanding student and, in 1948, received a prize for the high standard of her schoolwork in Latin, English and French. After achieving her Higher School Certificate from South Hampstead in 1949, Fay accepted a place at St Andrews University to study Economics and Psychology.

After leaving St Andrews, she worked as a waitress, in a hospital ward, and as a clerk in the Foreign Office. After a two-year marriage, Fay became a single mother, and a revered copywriter – her most famous ad campaign was 'Go to Work on an Egg' for the egg marketing board. Her second marriage to Ron Weldon lasted thirty years and produced three sons. It was at this time that she began to write novels, plays and scripts for television, including pilot episodes for *Upstairs, Downstairs*. Her most famous book, *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, was made into a film. Throughout her career, Weldon wrote 26 books and her collection of short stories, *Wicked Women*, won the PEN award in 1996.

Fay's life was as dramatic as her novels and plays. Her stories of revenge by oppressed women, and her interest in subjects ranging from genetic modification, house husbands, cloning and Polish nannies, certainly made her life interesting. In 2007, Fay invited some aspiring South Hampstead writers to her home in Dorset for an impromptu creative writing workshop. The students were greeted with some characteristic, straightforward honesty about working as a writer, for which they were grateful – a breath of fresh air. Her books have divided the critics, but for her fans – and as a South Hampstead trailblazer – she will be much missed.



FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)  
Rosemary Gillbard, Fay Birkinshaw, Paddy Bell,  
Shirley Austin, Jean Bradbury, Joan Woodburn,  
Jill Smithers, Frances Hedley.



## Kate Trelford

1944 – 2023

Kate Trelford was the Head of English at South Hampstead from 1976 to 1980.

**D**uring her time at South Hampstead, she supported countless students to achieve success in their A Level examinations. Her excellent teaching was valued so greatly that she often came back to teach part time cover between 1989 and 1992. We remember Kate through the fond words of her grateful pupils:

My time at school was nearly 45 years ago, so she must have made a big impression for me to remember anything. Kate Trelford had the knack of making us excited about literature. *Joy Mower (1980)*

She was a wonderful English teacher - always refreshingly herself, unguarded, and never happier than when picking out and relishing tiny, hardly noticeable nuggets in novels that moved, thrilled or simply delighted her – and me. *Zanna Cardash (1970)*

Kate worked very hard at showing me that literature was not just a solitary pursuit but one that could be enjoyed with other people. She encouraged me to take on small parts and very soon I forgot my shyness as I was swept away by her unfailing enthusiasm for performance. *Sue Ayres (1980)*

Kate was a wonderful teacher & lovely person; she made lessons wonderfully entertaining. *Jackie Collier (1979)*

Of all the teachers, Kate was the one who really treated us Sixth Formers like sentient, interesting adults with whom she could have a 'real life' conversation. *Marion Janner OBE (1977)*

Mrs Trelford was a refreshing, outstanding English teacher and was universally appreciated by all her students. *Gaby Lazarus (1981)*



## Freddie Ross Hancock

1940 – 2022

Born on 7th April 1930, Freddie Ross attended South Hampstead until 1947, before beginning an illustrious career as a marketing consultant and publicist in the UK and then the US.

**K**nown for her ambition and drive as a young female publicist in the 1960s, Freddie became very successful, representing the likes of Sophia Loren, Julie Andrews, Benny Hill and Tony Hancock.

After beginning a romantic relationship with Tony Hancock in 1957, they married in 1965 only to divorce three years later. Following Tony's tragic passing, Freddie moved to the US, where she became vice chairman of the US Royal Television Society, as well as consulting for companies such as Miramax. She also worked for the UK division of Universal Pictures, before starting her own firm.

In 1969, she co-wrote *Hancock*, a book about her late husband's battle with alcohol addiction. In 1995, she took part in the New York launch of the BAFTAs, and is associated with helping to introduce the awards into the US. In 2002, Freddie was honoured with becoming a Member of the British Empire. A fierce and unapologetic woman, Freddie will be remembered for blazing a trail in a male-dominated world.



## Jill Turner

1931 – 2023

Jill Turner's commitment to education was lifelong. Born on 10th March 1931, Jill received her education at Guildford County School for Girls, before reading Mathematics at London University.

She then began her journey into education, earning her teaching certification in Cambridge before starting to teach at Croydon High School GDST. She subsequently worked as a Government Education Officer in Kenya, returning to the UK to become Deputy Head at South Hampstead High School from 1963 to 1969.

The 1969 edition of the school magazine writes of Ms Turner's 'unwavering efficiency and sound judgment'. It continues: "The picture is incomplete without reference to her ready sense of humour, which has brought relief to colleagues and pupils, and will no doubt continue to do so."

Jill spent eight years as Head of Brighton & Hove High School GDST, followed by thirteen years Headship at Howell's School, another GDST school. During her time at Howell's, the school underwent a great deal of modernisation, including the construction of a new building with nine new classrooms, laboratories, a cafeteria and an extended library. Jill was central in preparing Howell's for the new millennium and, on her retirement, the school was in excellent order.

Jill's career was grounded in her commitment to provide education to young women and her legacy remains strong within all the GDST schools she taught in.



## Lystra Riches

1939 – 2022

"A totally charming man, with a wicked sense of humour and a keen eye for the ridiculous."

Lystra joined the school in 1990 after a career that had spanned 13 Heads and a wide range of schools, including ones in Jamaica and Madrid. He found his natural habitat at South Hampstead and immediately seemed at home amid the lively buzz and intellectual rigour.

Lystra was part of the Chemistry department, and a caring, thoughtful Sixth Form tutor. On Dr Garrett's retirement, he took over as Head of Chemistry, where he oversaw the refitting of the labs and even came to give up his beloved chalk and blackboard. Having studied for a degree in Spanish and having lived in Spain for many years, Lystra enthusiastically supported the Spanish department on their visits abroad. His love for tennis also played a role at South Hampstead, where he organised tennis trips for pupils, both abroad and in the UK.

Students and staff valued his sense of what was important in life as well as his renowned sense of fun. His extensive experience reportedly gave him the aura of a leisurely amateur, despite his scholarly prowess. He fostered a sense of curiosity, encouraging his pupils to expand their horizons and to think for themselves. His love and amazement for the beauty and power of Science was infectious, as the numerous wonderful messages from former pupils and colleagues testify.

THE

# Mehr Licht

COMMUNITY



*We run a regular programme of events for the South Hampstead community and welcome offers and suggestions of additional activities.*

To find out more about the Mehr Licht Community, visit the website [www.shhs.gdst.net/the-mehr-licht-community](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/the-mehr-licht-community) or contact us at [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)

## Opening Doors Bursary Dinner – Saturday 11th November 2023

Booking is now open for the biennial Opening Doors bursary dinner. We welcome everyone from our community for this popular event: an evening of dinner, dancing and celebration. All proceeds support our *Opening Doors* bursary campaign. Book your tickets at: [tinyurl.com/shhs-opening-doors](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-opening-doors)



## Speaker Events

The South Hampstead Speaker Series is open to all members of the community and features influential and inspiring guests. The GDST In Conversation series takes place online and profiles alumnae from across the network who have excelled in their chosen field. Throughout the year, we welcome experts in a whole range of fields to speak at events. Look out for details in the next alumnae e-newsletters.

SAVE THE DATE

## Annual Reunion Sunday 24th March 2024

The Annual Reunion is open to all alumnae and honorary alumnae – an opportunity to reconnect with old school friends and revisit the school. In 2024, we will be celebrating decade reunions for year groups ending in '4'. If this is you, and you would like to help gather your friends together, please get in touch!

## University Reunions

Have a drink on us as you bring together South Hampstead alumnae at your university. Email [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net) to find out more and elect a member of staff to join you!

## Thank You Events

Every year, we host events to thank those who support our *Towards 150* initiatives. These include the *Towards 150* reception, Annual Reunion Lunch, 1876 Society and Minerva Society meetings. To find out more, please contact [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)



## Summer Drinks

Every year, we welcome back former pupils who left South Hampstead within the past 5 years to reconnect with staff, fellow alumnae and current students. The Summer Drinks events replace the 1-year and 5-year reunions; we hope that our recent leavers will make this an annual date!

## Friends of South Hampstead (FOSH) and Junior School PTA Events

Our parents organise a wide range of parent, pupil and community events including welcome evenings and coffee mornings for new parents, wine tasting, quizzes and fetes.



## The Digital Alumnae Newsletter

The Digital Newsletter and termly Newsletters link to our next Mehr Licht Community events and features all the latest news about the community. Make sure your details are up to date on our portal so we can contact you:



[www.gdstprod.smartmembership.net](http://www.gdstprod.smartmembership.net)

## Keep in Touch [www.shhs.gdst.net/alumnae](http://www.shhs.gdst.net/alumnae)

 [alumnae@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:alumnae@shhs.gdst.net)  [@shhsforgirls](https://twitter.com/shhsforgirls)

 [linkedin.com/school/south-hampstead-high-school](https://www.linkedin.com/school/south-hampstead-high-school)

## Have Your Say!

We are always looking to improve our publications and events programme and would be delighted to hear your feedback. If you have any comments, please fill out this form.

[tinyurl.com/shhs-feedback](https://tinyurl.com/shhs-feedback)

