

Opening doors, hearts & minds

South Hampstead High School was founded in 1876 with the mission to provide education for all girls, regardless of means. Up until 1976, and the end of the direct grant system, the Girls' Day School Trust were the largest providers of free, independent school places in the country. Today we can provide only a fraction of this previous support, but we are determined to increase this.

Bursaries transform lives and can have a lasting impact on social mobility and outcomes – not just for the individuals involved, but also for the families and communities they come from. What is more, a diverse and inclusive community benefits all the girls at South Hampstead.

“When we create bursaries to widen the scope of our intake, we offer life chances to individuals and an education to all.”



LYNN FRANK

Former teacher, Governor and bursary board member

In 2026, we will celebrate South Hampstead's 150th Anniversary. We want to ensure that a South Hampstead education remains accessible to as many bright young women as possible, regardless of the financial circumstances of their family. We have committed to doubling our provision for bursaries to ensure that 1 in 10 of our pupils has access to a fully funded place by September 2026.

“My time at South Hampstead truly changed my life. It opened doors I previously thought were closed. I was encouraged to cultivate my passions and to set out on a different path. A free place was like winning the lottery.”



ALISHA O'BRIEN-COKER

Class of 2019



The Opening Doors Bursary Campaign

We are inviting everyone in our community to get involved with our mission and donate to our *Opening Doors Bursary Campaign*.

Any contribution will change a young girls' education and regular gifts help us to plan for the future and secure funding for pupils throughout their time at the school.

The 1876 Society

The *1876 Society*, named after our founding year, recognises members of our community who pledge a regular annual gift of £1,876 or more, or who donate the equivalent of a full fee place. A gift of a full seven-year bursary secures lifetime membership. Every year, the Head hosts an event to say thank you to our 1876 members, and their names are recorded in the *1876 Society book*.

DONATION PER TERM	£500
DONATION PER YEAR	£1,500
VALUE WITH GIFT AID	£1,876
VALUE OVER 10 YEARS	£18,760
LEAVERS' DEPOSIT DONATION	£1,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	£19,760