

SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

# *Opening Doors, Hearts & Minds*

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*Philanthropy Impact  
and Stories*  
2023 – 2024





*At South Hampstead High School we aim to equip our pupils for life – to develop the leaders, the thinkers, and the creators of tomorrow. Our masterplan, Towards 150 sets out some of our ambitions as we look towards our 150th anniversary in September 2026 – at the centre is the need to provide the best possible facilities to support a dynamic learning environment, and the desire to extend our education to anyone with ability and potential.*



#### TEACHING & LEARNING

Encouraging debate, creativity and scholarly endeavour.



#### BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

Extending outstanding opportunities to all girls regardless of means.



#### COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

Building sustainable and mutually enriching partnerships.



#### CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing the best possible environment for an expansive education.

*As we reflect on a year of change, the constant support from the South Hampstead community for these ambitions continues to make a difference each year to the school and our pupils.*

— CREATING LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

— SPREADING THE WORD

— GIVING GENEROUSLY

— SUPPORTING AND ENHANCING OUR BROAD EDUCATION

— BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN

— HELPING US SHARE AND LEARN FROM OTHERS

 BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

# Creating life-changing opportunities



*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.*

Widening access to education has been at the forefront of the GDST mission since the very start. South Hampstead was founded in 1876 on the principal of providing an education for all girls regardless of means, and over the years, our community has been united in supporting bursary places.

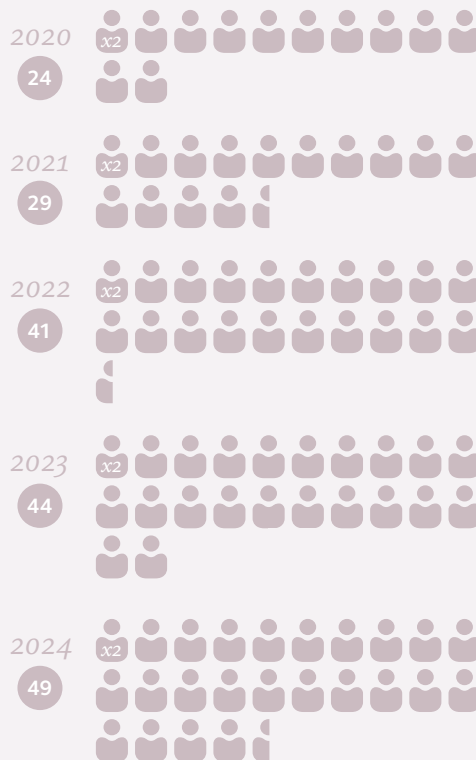
Through your generosity you have transformed the opportunities we can offer and since 2021, our Opening Doors Bursary Campaign has helped us to double our bursary provision. This September, twice as many pupils will attend the school with financial awards than at the start of the decade.

The impact on the school has been tangible and important for all our pupils. Diversity brings creativity, understanding and opportunity for all. It enhances the educational experience and prepares our students to thrive in a diverse and inclusive world.

*‘Since 2021, the change has been transformational – pupils, staff and parents have noticed such a positive difference in the diversity and sense of inclusivity of our community. Our bursary awards don’t just change the lives of the pupils who receive them but also change the life of the school around them.’*

SOPHIE WHITWORTH, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

## NUMBER OF BURSARY PUPILS



OUR AIM IS TO BE ABLE TO OFFER FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AT LEAST 1 IN 10 OF OUR STUDENTS



# Spreading the word

*We continue to encourage families who might not be able to afford the fees to consider the broader education that we can offer at South Hampstead.*

Our partnership work with local state schools and youth organisations creates vital links with bright young women who could benefit from a South Hampstead education and this year, we invited everyone in our community to become our Bursary Ambassadors. Our Head, Mrs Anna Paul, urged all alumnae at the Annual Reunion to use their own networks to promote the opportunity and introduce families who might be interested in the scheme.

*'I remain committed to widening access and championing diversity and opportunity at the school, regardless of the challenges ahead. I am unashamed in asking for your help to spread the word about our bursaries and encourage families to join us.'*

**MRS ANNA PAUL (HEAD)**

Our alumnae have spoken out about their own experiences both as mentors to our current award holders, and also to promote the campaign to others.

Alumna Chloe Tartan delivered the keynote speech to guests at our *Opening Doors* bursary dinner and then joined current pupil Neve at the *GDST Bursaries in the Spotlight* event.



Drawing on her background and subsequent career as a leading technology and sustainability expert, she reflected on her own journey at South Hampstead and the impact her bursary award has had on her life.

*"I cannot stress enough how none of my achievements – my PhD from Cambridge, my work at the NASA space centre, or my current role with Accenture – could have happened without my bursary. My place at South Hampstead gave me the opportunity to fulfil my potential and completely re-define my destiny."*

This year, we are delighted to introduce our first pupil Bursary Ambassador. Zarin joined South Hampstead in September 2023 with an award from the Black Heart Foundation and the Class of 2023. She is a proud advocate for the scheme and a wonderful example of someone who is embracing every opportunity. Earlier this year, she was elected as the Youth MP for Camden:

*"Being awarded a bursary place at South Hampstead has provided so many opportunities and really enabled me to fulfil my potential – on a personal and academic scale. My teachers have equipped me with lots of the knowledge I need as Youth MP – from understanding political issues to speech-writing – and taking part in school debating competitions has really helped to improve my public speaking skills."*



BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

# Giving generously



*Alongside means-tested bursaries, our community has been extraordinarily generous in supporting those who have faced difficult circumstances.*

It was emotional to say goodbye to three of our Ukrainian students at the end of the summer term. South Hampstead has embraced and supported these girls through a very challenging time:

*“I am so grateful to everyone who has supported me. When I joined the school, I had no idea how lucky I was to end up here. My experience has been so different from many of the other Ukrainians I speak to, and it has really helped me to understand how remarkable South Hampstead is and how wonderful the teachers are. I have done everything I can to try and make the most of my experience. South Hampstead will be in my heart forever.”*


SOFIIA, YEAR 13

The Junior School Hardship Fund was set up and is run thanks to the generosity of our parents and the GDST hardship fund continues to support families already at the school who find themselves unable to meet the fees. As a community, we will continue to strive to look after students who have had their lives disrupted through tragedy, illness or even war and we are well aware that over the next few years, more of our current families may need our help.



**WE CONTINUE TO HELP FAMILIES FACING HARDSHIP INCLUDING THOSE FROM UKRAINE**



 TEACHING & LEARNING

# Supporting and enhancing our broad education



*We invited all our parents to meet our new Head, Mrs Paul, over breakfast this year. She asked them to share what they love about South Hampstead, what they would change and what they would create.*

It is clear that the warmth of our community comes very high on the list of things they love, equally important, is our far-reaching education, beyond the curriculum and exams.

*“It is the broad education at South Hampstead that makes the difference. The variety of co-curricular experiences and the sense of being free to pursue and excel at whatever you are good at means that pupils stride out with confidence into the wider world.”*

SIXTH FORM PARENTS

## ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR

This year our community has helped us to fund a range of academic and co-curricular projects including the introduction of dynamic interactive maths desks and specialist teaching. Our *Experts in Residence* have included cricket coaches and debating masters who provide specialist support to our staff and help enhance education beyond the curriculum. We are excited to be welcoming a new Coder in Residence in September thanks to generous sponsorship from our community.

As we look to the future, it is these acts of generosity that help us continue to provide an environment which, in the words of a Junior School parent: ‘allows exploration beyond the curriculum and promotes female empowerment, confidence and self-belief.’



**WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN OUR OUTSTANDING EDUCATION BEYOND THE CURRICULUM**

1300

downloads of our DebateHub podcast



150

1876 Society members committed over £1 million to bursaries



27

families joined the Class of 2024 bursary



THE BLACK HEART FOUNDATION

# Inspiration in Action



8

new girls joining in September with financial awards



25

State Schools participated in our Debate Hub programme



5

Year 1 pupils raised money for bursaries

36%

of our parents donated to Towards 150 projects







£300,000

*raised at our  
Opening Doors  
bursary dinner*

250+

*donations  
made via ParentPay*

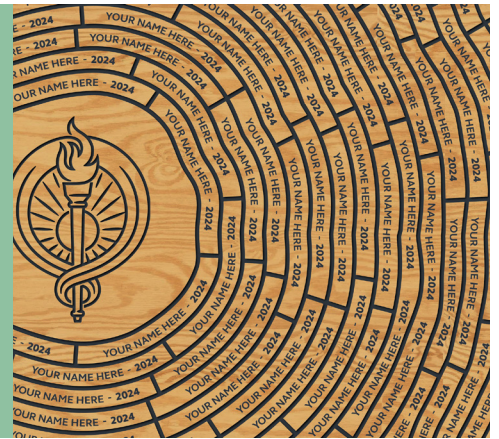


4

*New members  
joined the  
Minerva Circle*

270

*alumnae contributed  
to year group bursaries*



5

*partner schools  
took part in our  
Oxbridge programme*



1000+

*alumnae have connected  
this year*



**South Hampstead  
Alumnae**

30

*pupils from nine  
state primaries joined  
Saturday Sparks*

Thank you

Thank you to everyone  
who has contributed to our  
Towards 150 projects this year.





## COMMUNITY &amp; LEADERSHIP

# Helping us share and learn from others



*Our partnerships with local schools and organisations create genuine opportunities for us to share best practice and for our pupils to mentor others and learn from their peers in different situations.*

## DEBATE HUB

The importance of communication and oracy skills in education has been highlighted as a priority by the new government. Our award-winning Debate Hub programme has already been running for three years and is funded entirely by our community.

This year, more than fifty schools and hundreds of children have joined our workshops, competitions or benefitted from the resources that are available on our website.

Our community doesn't just fund this programme but gives time and expertise to support it; we have been delighted that alumnae have returned in their university holidays to help run events including the Bingham Debating competition, our state school event.

*"We thought it was a totally fabulous event, so full of energy and vitality. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found it a hugely valuable experience."*

EMMA, PARENT AND TEACHER  
AT ST STEPHENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are now offering corporate training as part of sponsorship opportunities so that companies can help us to extend our Debate Hub programme to more young people, and benefit from the training themselves.

*"My colleagues are a discerning crowd, but they really rated the training. There was a great balance of listening, engaging and doing and they took away some brilliant tips."*

VICTORIA FOX (1994), CEO OF AAR GROUP



**TEACHING OUTREACH AND SATURDAY SPARKS ENRICHMENT**

The Saturday Sparks enrichment programme for local state schools offers our pupils and staff the opportunity to volunteer and work with talented Year 5 pupils from local primary schools.

Thanks to funding through our partnerships programme, our staff are able to extend their own teaching in Classics, Modern Languages, Music and Sciences at partnership schools across London and beyond, not only benefitting the pupils involved but also enriching their own teaching practice.



*“Teaching Latin at UCLA is hugely enjoyable as the students are keen to contribute what they already know about the ancient world. They are enthusiastic about making the links between Latin and English vocabulary, something which I have now carved out more time for in the classroom at South Hampstead.”*

**ROSIE TURNOR, CLASSICS TEACHER**

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE AND ENRICHING PARTNERSHIPS**



 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

# Bringing the outside in



*Project Zero is a pupil-led initiative to promote environmental responsibility, a love and respect for nature and create a culture of sustainability and wellbeing within the school.*

As part of this mission, we aim to make our very urban campus as green as it can be; making the most of all our outdoor spaces and where possible, bringing the outside into the school.

Thanks to support from our parent organisations, Friends of South Hampstead and the Junior School PTA, we have been able to re-design of the Oakwood garden for our Sixth form students and fund a Forest School for the Junior School pupils. This year we are excited that, thanks to a generous donation, we have also been able to plan and implement the first part of what has become known as our ‘Seventh Heaven’ project:

*‘I am passionate about the outdoor world; ironically, I find myself in one of the most urban schools in the country, but we now have a unique opportunity to re-design and re-purpose our seventh floor to create a wonderful environment for education and wellbeing which seamlessly blends the outdoors with the inside.’*

MRS ANNA PAUL, HEAD

Our new indoor garden will be installed over the summer holiday and the Sixth Form Eco-committee is now working on a project to redesign our 7th floor roof garden. Their plan is to evolve and enhance the use of this space with a focus on increasing the biodiversity and creating an environment for nature-based education and wellbeing.

*‘We want the roof garden to become a collaborative project so that our whole community has a stake in the design and everyone is involved in making it a reality’*

OLIVIA, SIXTH FORM



**WE RECOGNISE THE IMPACT OUR SURROUNDINGS HAVE ON EDUCATION AND WELLBEING AND CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT**



# Inspiring Stories

IN 2023-2024

More than £300,000 is raised at our Opening Doors Bursary Dinner



Inspirational students speak out about their bursary awards



Alumnae return to mentor our pupils



250 parents shared their thoughts at our Love it, create it, change it breakfasts



Win, win as we offer Corporate Training to our Debate Hub sponsors



1876 Society Members enjoy an evening 'In Conversation' with Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe



Our Black Heart Foundation Scholar Zarin is elected as the Camden Youth MP



Direct Grant Scholar Patricia (1959) takes the spotlight to explain why she has joined our Minerva Circle



Year 1 pupils donate their birthday money to our bursary programme



Bursary recipient Alisha (2021) shares her motivational tips



The Rings of Recognition are launched to recognise and celebrate alumnae who have supported bursaries





# Join us in our mission

Our community help us in so many ways. By volunteering in our partnership work, organising events, offering careers guidance, supporting pupil initiatives and by donating to our Towards 150 projects.

## 1876 SOCIETY

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

Every year, the Head hosts an event to say thank you to our 1876 Society members, and their names are recorded in the 1876 Society book. This year, members were welcomed as our guests to a reception followed by the 'In Conversation' with Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe.



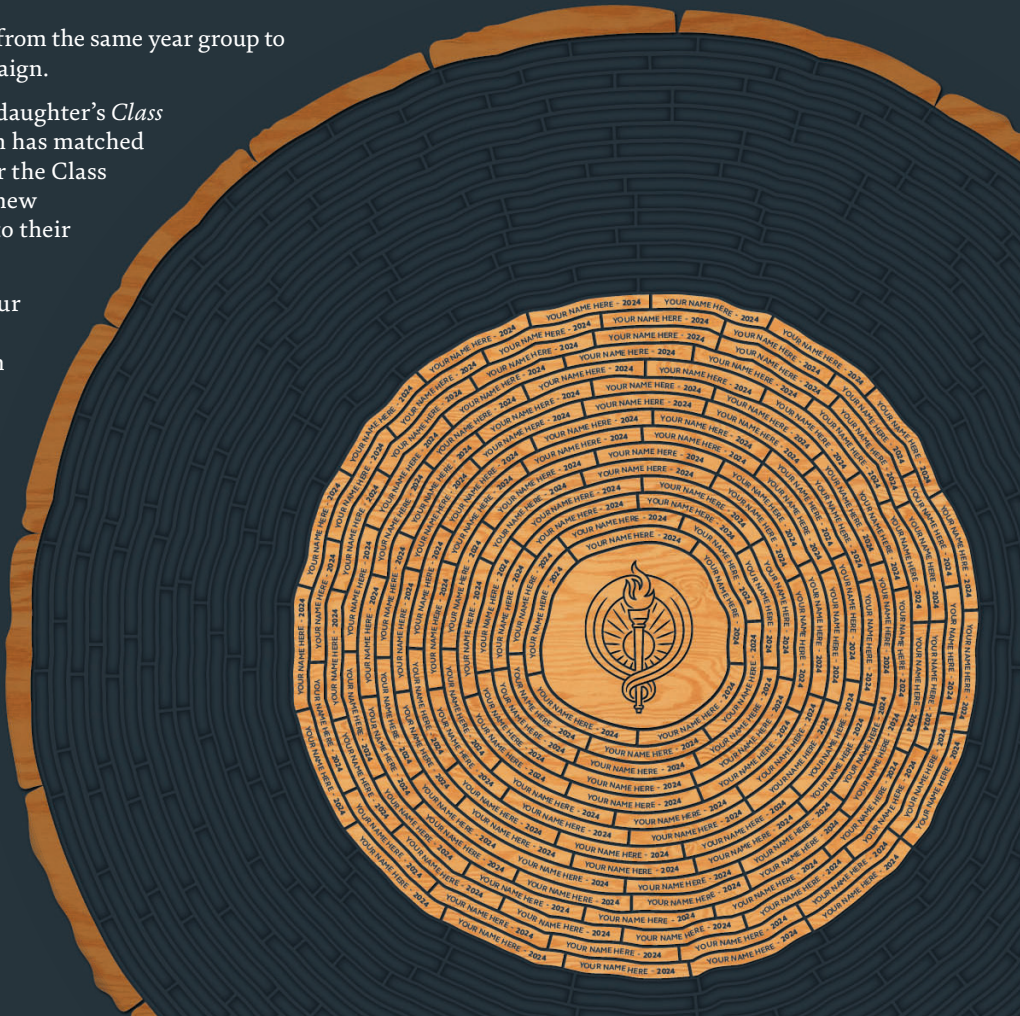
**TOWARDS 150**  
To find out more about our Towards 150 projects, please contact [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)

## CLASS OF BURSARIES

The Class of Bursaries bring together alumnae from the same year group to help support our Opening Doors Bursary campaign.

We invite leaving parents to donate to their daughter's Class of bursary fund. The Black Heart Foundation has matched any contributions from parents and this year the Class of 2024 have funded a full fee bursary for a new sixth form entrant. It is a wonderful legacy to their daughter's time at the school.

We were delighted to share the designs for our Rings of Recognition with alumnae at the annual reunion tea. These will be installed in the school to recognise all our alumnae who have pledged a regular gift to our Class of Bursaries, including the daughters of parents joining the leavers' bursary. If you are interested in adding your name or finding out more, then please do contact us.





**SUPPORT US**

To make a donation, please detach and complete this form and email to [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net) or mail to Philanthropy Office, SHHS, 3 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 5SS.



**South Hampstead**  
High School  
G D S T

Name .....

I would like my donation to go towards

- Opening Doors Bursaries  Speakers  Project Zero  Partnerships  Unrestricted

**SINGLE DONATIONS**

I would like to make a single donation of £ ..... via

**BANK TRANSFER**

**Account name:** GDST Annual Fund  
**Account number:** 84552549  
**Sort code:** 60-04-04  
**IBAN number:** GB79NWBK60  
**BIC/Swift:** NWBKGB2L  
**IBAN number:** 040484552549

**CHEQUE**

Please enclose a cheque made payable to 'Girls' Day School Trust'.

**PARENTPAY**

For current parents only. Please log-in to ParentPay.

Please reference your name followed by SHHS (e.g. SMITHSHHS)

**DONATE YOUR DEPOSIT** (for leaving families only)

I would like to donate the balance of my registration deposit.

**REGULAR DONATIONS**

I would like to make a regular donation of £ ..... starting on **DD** / **MM** / **YYYY** and, afterwards on the same day  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually  Until further notice, or until  ..... payments have been made.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

**SERVICE USER NUMBER**

6 8 5 3 8 9

**NAME OF ACCOUNT HOLDER(S)**

.....  
.....

**REFERENCE**

.....

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society: Please pay the Girls' Day School Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with the Girls' Day School Trust and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

**BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY A/C**

.....

**BRANCH SORT CODE**

.....

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY**

To: The Manager **NAME OF BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY**  
Address  
Postcode

Signature(s) .....

.....

Date .....



In order to Gift Aid your donation, you must tick the box below to indicate your agreement with the two following statements:

I want to Gift Aid this donation, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to the Girls' Day School Trust and/or GDST Academy Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax that the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**COMPLETE FOR YOURSELF AND PARTNER (IF APPLICABLE)**

Title (1)..... (2)..... First initial(s) (1)..... (2).....

Surname (1).....

Surname (2).....

Postcode ..... Date **DD** / **MM** / **YYYY**

Signature .....

*Please notify the GDST if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.*





South Hampstead

High School

G D S T

*“I am so grateful to have been able to learn more about myself within this incredible institution. I am lucky to have developed strong friendships and I have watched my friends turn into my role models; Young women for whom I have the utmost respect because of their confidence in themselves and their talents, their ability to hold their own, and their strength to stand up for what they believe in.”*

DUHA BILAL

*Class of 2022 – Bursary recipient*

#### CONTACT US

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

020 7435 2899  
[development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)

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