

SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

# *Opening Doors, Hearts & Minds*

---

*Philanthropy Impact  
and Stories*  
2024 – 2025



*‘What this incredible school gave me was a path to equality. It gave me the opportunity to fulfil my potential and to completely redefine my destiny. It is no coincidence that South Hampstead alumnae are strong-minded, independent, and successful women who believe in giving back.’*



**DR CHLOE TARTAN**  
Tech Innovation Strategist, PhD,  
Bursary Ambassador

## From the Head

### *Towards and Beyond our 150th Anniversary*

Each year, we compile a *Philanthropy Review* to evaluate and celebrate the difference your generosity has made over the past 12 months.

South Hampstead has a long history of community support and involvement and our 150th Anniversary Ring of Recognition is full of references to Jubilee and Centenary Appeals, bursary initiatives and futures campaigns dating back to the early 1900s. There is hardly an area in the school which has not been touched by the generosity of those that came before and I have been humbled by how strong the culture of philanthropy is in our community and how many people have supported us this year.

Thanks to you, we've continued to broaden opportunities, enrich every student's experience, and deepen our shared sense of purpose. From the classroom to the concert hall, through our bursary programme and outreach initiatives, your philanthropy has created meaningful and lasting change.

This year alone, more than 50 young women have been able to join or continue their education at South Hampstead through our *Opening Doors* Bursary scheme. This is not just a financial achievement – it's a powerful affirmation of your belief in the potential of future generations. The growing network of bursary mentors, pupil ambassadors and alumnae champions shows just how deeply support and solidarity are now woven into the fabric of our community.

As you'll read in the pages ahead, your involvement has opened doors to transformative experiences. You've enabled pupils to explore, create, debate, discover, and flourish – and helped build a vibrant, inclusive school community which is redefining the hallmarks of truly innovative education for girls.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share plans for the 150th Anniversary campaign which will take us into the next chapter. With a focus on expanding access to our outstanding education through bursaries and developing key areas of the Senior School, our aim is to honour our heritage while strengthening our vision for the future.

To everyone who has contributed time, energy, expertise, or funding – thank you so much. Your commitment helps ensure South Hampstead remains a truly special place where young women thrive. I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

*Mehr Licht!*



**MRS ANNA PAUL**  
Head, South Hampstead High School



***Piper** got busy writing in Python with the help of our Coder in Residence.*



***Cordelia** climbed mountains thanks to her bursary travel grant.*



***George** learned to speak out with thousands of other state school pupils at Debate Hub events.*



# The Philanthropic Year

*You committed over £750,000 to a whole host of mind expanding opportunities – bursary awards, partnership work, Debate Hub, expert teachers, garden projects, speakers.*

***Mitchel** mastered maths at our Saturday Sparks enrichment camp.*



***Sara** found a serene, quiet moment in our garden oasis.*



***Ruby** added her name to our Rings of Recognition by joining her Class of Bursary.*



***Bernice** was able to bang her own drum thanks to her music lesson award.*



***Hester** explored Homer with our Latin outreach teachers.*



Your support across all our Towards 150 initiatives this year has had far reaching benefits.

For the difference you have made to all pupils, both at and beyond South Hampstead

*Thank you*





## BREADTH &amp; ACCESSIBILITY



*Since 2018, we have more than doubled the number of bursary awards we can offer each year. This September, fifty young women will be taking new opportunities at South Hampstead thanks to our Opening Doors Bursary scheme. This achievement has only been possible thanks to the generous support of our community.*

*Financial contributions are of course vital, but the involvement of volunteers who work as ambassadors, advocates, role models, and mentors to our pupils is of equal importance.*

## Listening

### OUR BURSARY MENTORS

Each year, we invite current bursary award holders to meet up with some of our alumnae who have also benefited from financial support.

Our Bursary Mentors provide wonderful role models for our current pupils and are brilliant examples of the impact a South Hampstead education can have. This year, pupils met a trio of former bursary award holders: Datshiane, a broadcast journalist; Nadia, the founder of The Storygraph; and Lola, a university lecturer and writer.

In an informal discussion, pupils – past and present – were able to share their own experiences of life at South Hampstead and discuss some of the challenges of joining the School from different backgrounds and cultures. Our mentors remarked on how important it is to hold informal

events such as these, where pupils feel empowered to speak their mind, and are supported by their peers.

These sessions form part of our overall Bursary Mentoring Scheme, which aims to create a supportive pastoral environment for award holders throughout their time at South Hampstead and beyond. Before our Year 7 pupils join us each year, we visit each of them at their primary school to learn more about how best to help them settle in. We continue to support all our award holders throughout their educational experience; when they leave us after the Sixth Form, many become Bursary Ambassadors themselves, assisting the next generation of trailblazing young women to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

## Sharing the Conversation

### SOUTH HAMPSTEAD IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to be part of the GDST mission to offer educational opportunities to all bright young women regardless of means; and to be part of a nationwide movement to widen access to independent schools.

This year, we have shared our experience at the International Development Professionals in Education (IDPE) conference where we spoke about engaging bursary students and alumnae to support the programme; we have spoken at the Girls School Association conference about the importance of creating a whole school mission around bursaries; and shared a panel with Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation to talk about transformative educational opportunities.

We are also part of the London Fees Assistance Consortium alongside other leading independent schools.

## Speaking Up

### OUR BURSARY AMBASSADORS

Last year, we appointed our first pupil bursary ambassador to help to explain and promote the benefits of the scheme to the community.

Zarin (2025) joined South Hampstead for the Sixth Form and has been a brilliant contributor to the School, and a passionate advocate for bursaries. We wish her the very best as she moves on to university in September and we are delighted to welcome our new pupil Bursary Ambassador, Sahar (2026).



Sahar is studying Chemistry, Maths and Physics for A-Level. She will act as a role model and mentor to some of the younger pupils and speak about the impact of our bursary awards to supporters. We asked her to reflect on her experience so far.



*'Before joining South Hampstead, my life was very different. The prospect of attending a school as welcoming, accepting, encouraging and prestigious as this one was just a dream and reaching out to get a bursary felt impossible. But, I can honestly say that joining this school was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The teachers truly care about your well-being, your peers are bright and always supportive, and the pastoral care is phenomenal. I will always be grateful to the school for helping me to get back on my feet, encouraging me to seize new opportunities and teaching me to value my own worth as a student who belongs here. I have gone from just existing to flourishing. I can say with full confidence that my experience at South Hampstead has changed me for the better and I really look forward to helping ensure more girls can benefit from the scheme.'*



## Speaking Out



GIULIETTA (2024)



AADYA (2024)



JESS (2024)

### THE 2025 TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN

*In July, three South Hampstead graduates, Aadya, Giulietta and Jess, took to the phones to speak to alumnae as part of the GDST telephone campaign.*

*As they connected virtually with women from across the generations, they uncovered a rich network of inspiring stories, bold career changes, and a shared sense of curiosity and connection. They also linked up with fellow alumnae callers from GDST schools across the country, supporting and encouraging one another throughout the campaign.*

**We caught up with Jess to hear more about what the experience meant to her.**

#### What motivated you to take part in the alumnae telethon?

I thought it would be a lovely way to connect with other South Hampstead alumnae – and it really was! Hearing what everyone's been up to, both in their careers and during their time at South Hampstead, was so rewarding. Some of the conversations were long and friendly, and I ended up making genuine connections that turned into valuable networking opportunities.

#### Were there any stories that really stood out to you?

Absolutely. I found it especially inspiring to hear from alumnae who've made big career changes. It reminded me that it's totally okay to shift direction in life as your interests evolve. One story that really stuck with me was about a woman who had been a full-time creative for years. She had no political background at all, but she became so frustrated with the state of the world that she decided to join a political party – and ended up being incredibly successful. It just goes to show how powerful it is to care deeply about what you do.

#### What did you learn about the school itself through these conversations?

I joined the Junior School in 2010, so it was fascinating to hear what South Hampstead was like before that – how class sizes,

buildings, and even the daily routine have changed. But what really struck me was how many alumnae, no matter when they attended, spoke about the same things: high-quality teaching and close friendships. It's clear that while the school has evolved over its 150 years, its core values have stayed strong.

#### How has this experience impacted you personally?

I've definitely improved my communication skills. Speaking to so many new people helped me get better at starting interesting conversations and really listening. More than that, I've started thinking differently about my own future. A lot of alumnae said their best piece of advice was to follow your interests and try lots of different things – and that really resonated with me. I've also come away with great contacts I can reach out to for advice or work experience. It's something I'll carry with me, and I'll definitely be taking more opportunities to connect with the alumnae community in the future.

**Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to talk to Jess, Aadya and Giulietta and for your generous support of our bursary scheme. As a result of this campaign, we are able to fund another young woman through her education at South Hampstead this year, and we look forward to adding your names to our Bursary Ring of Recognition.**

You can find out more about the transformative impact of bursaries and how you can get involved on our website.



## Reflections on Recognition

*At the alumnae reunion in March we inaugurated our Rings of Recognition – a new installation celebrating the legacy and contribution of our alumnae to South Hampstead.*

Situated on the seventh floor, the installations face the beautiful honours boards that proudly record the achievements of previous generations of pupils. Crafted from wood and shaped like tree rings, they embody themes of longevity, strength, and growth. Each ring tells its own story – together, they represent the deep roots and wide-reaching branches of our alumnae community.

### A LIVING TIMELINE

The first ring commemorates key milestones in the school's rich history, beginning in 1876 and winding its way toward our 150th anniversary in 2026–2027. A few spaces remain, reserved for upcoming moments that will shape the next chapter of South Hampstead's story.

### INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNAE

Our alumnae community is filled with trailblazing women who have forged new paths across countless fields. The second ring celebrates just a few of these inspirational figures – torchbearers whose achievements you can explore in the Looking Back section of this magazine, or by visiting the Inspirational Alumnae pages on our website.

### SUPPORTERS OF OPPORTUNITY

The final ring honours those who have generously supported opportunities for future generations by contributing to their Class of Bursary and funding transformative awards. Currently, 120 alumnae are named here – and next year, they'll be joined by supporters from the Telephone and the Class of 2025 Leavers' campaign who together have funded a full Sixth Form Award for a new pupil starting in September.

### A SWEET CELEBRATION

To mark the inauguration of the rings, we held a ceremony, complete with three beautiful cakes baked and donated by current parent Mrs Grochola. Her daughter, Frances (2029), is one of our current award holders and alongside Chair of Governors Amanda Dewinter (1982) and School Archivist Jo Coates, she helped cut the cakes to officially welcome the rings into South Hampstead life.

It was a moment to pause and reflect on the strength and generosity of the South Hampstead family. From millennium bricks lining the Sixth Form garden, to named seats in the concert hall, to the sparkling stars and the musical notes at the entrance to Waterlow Hall – signs of gratitude and recognition are woven throughout the school. They are lasting reminders of the belief, trust, and support that have helped shape South Hampstead into what it is today.







## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT



## Opportunity

*“When we create bursaries, we offer life chances to individuals and an education to all.”*

Lynn Frank  
Honorary Alumna & Bursary Board Member

Means-tested bursary awards change lives. Our aim is to support at least 1 in 10 of our Senior School pupils through our *Opening Doors* bursary programme.



To find out how you can support our 150th Anniversary Campaign, contact [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)



South Hampstead  
High School

*In 2026/27, we will mark South Hampstead’s sesquicentennial anniversary. As we prepare for this milestone, we’ve been engaging with our wider community to understand what our priorities should be to help shape a new strategic plan for the years leading up to – and beyond – our 150th year.*

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our consultations through surveys, meetings, telephone interviews, and conversations. We are excited to share some of our plans for the future, based on your feedback.

### OPPORTUNITY

Since its foundation in 1876, South Hampstead has been committed to empowering young women through education, regardless of background or means. That founding mission is more relevant than ever, and your feedback has made it clear that broadening access and increasing diversity must remain a central focus for the school and the wider GDST community.

Supporting bursary awards through the South Hampstead Opening Doors Bursary campaign creates life chances for the

An outdoor classroom with a flexible layout for teaching and gathering

Biodiverse planting aligned with Camden’s Beeline initiative and the school’s sustainability goals

Sensory features such as water elements and tactile planting

Shade to protect existing classrooms and create quiet areas for reflection and emotional regulation



pupils who receive the awards and enhances the education of all at the school. This will remain a key priority and, by our anniversary year, we hope to be able to offer at least 5 new means-tested awards through your continued support.

### WELLBEING

Alongside access, you have championed a renewed emphasis on wellbeing – both physical and emotional. We know that the academic success of our pupils is closely tied to health and happiness. Enhancing our facilities to support holistic development, mental health, and the inclusion of all pupils will be a vital part of our future.

You can read more about how pupils from across the school have contributed to developing these plans in our *Resplendens* magazine. Thanks to their input, we are now finalising designs that could transform the Senior School building, from top to bottom.

### REIMAGINING THE ROOF GARDEN

Situated at the very top of the school, this outdoor space has the potential to become a vibrant learning area and a haven of peace for pupils and staff. Our plans aim to bring nature into the everyday rhythm of school life, creating new spaces for outdoor learning, sensory exploration, relaxation, and creative connection.



## Wellbeing

*“Green space and exercise have so many benefits for physical and mental health.”*

Ms Hardy  
Director of PE & Sport

Our aim is to re-purpose spaces at the top and bottom of the Senior School to enhance biodiversity and wellbeing.



To find out how you can support our 150th Anniversary Campaign, contact [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)



South Hampstead  
High School



Equipment for individual exercise and fitness

A studio space for yoga, Pilates, dance, and mindfulness sessions

A calming environment to help manage stress, especially during exam periods

Wellbeing resources for both pupils and staff



#### REPURPOSING FOR A GYM AND STUDIO

On the lower levels of the school, underused changing rooms are set to be transformed into a modern gym and wellness studio. These new facilities will support physical activity beyond traditional sports, offering flexible and accessible options for all students.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

This autumn we will share our new strategic plan and begin preparations to deliver these initiatives around opportunity and wellbeing.

We hope to reach out to our whole community through a 150th Anniversary Campaign and seek your support for these transformational projects so that together, we can bring them to life in time to mark our 150th anniversary year in 2026/27.

As the countdown begins, the 150th Anniversary Campaign will offer more than a chance to honour South Hampstead's past – it will encourage commitment to a future where every girl has the opportunity and the space to become a torchbearer for the future.

As we prepare to write the next chapter in South Hampstead's story, we hope everyone in our community will join us in ensuring that our mission for the next 150 years is every bit as powerful as it has been for the last.

If you would like to learn more about our 150th Anniversary Campaign projects or explore how you can support opportunity and wellbeing at South Hampstead, please contact: [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)



## Thank You

*Our community supports us in so many meaningful ways: by volunteering with our partnership programmes, organising events, sharing their career journeys, supporting pupil initiatives, and donating to our Towards 150 campaign. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and engagement.*

#### THE 1876 SOCIETY



Named after our founding year, the *1876 Society* honours those who make a significant philanthropic commitment to bursaries. Members pledge an annual gift of £1,876 or more, or donate the equivalent of a full-fee bursary place. Each year, the Head hosts an event to thank our 1876 Society members, whose names are also recorded in the 1876 Society book. This summer, we welcomed our members to a summer supper at the sports ground, with special guest speaker Jim Carter OBE.

#### CLASS OF BURSARIES

The *Class of Bursaries* initiative brings together alumnae from the same year group to support our *Opening Doors* Bursary Campaign. Every year, we invite our departing families to contribute and thanks to the generosity of the Class of 2025, we have been able to fund a full Sixth Form bursary.

Donors giving or pledging £500 or more are recognised on our Bursary Ring of Recognition – one of the many ways we celebrate our community's impact.

#### THE SIR NAIM DANGOOR AWARDS



Named in honour of the late businessman and philanthropist Sir Naim Dangoor, a passionate advocate for education, these awards represent a significant step in widening access. We are delighted to welcome our first award holder in September 2025, made possible through the generous support of the Elixarch's Foundation.

#### THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

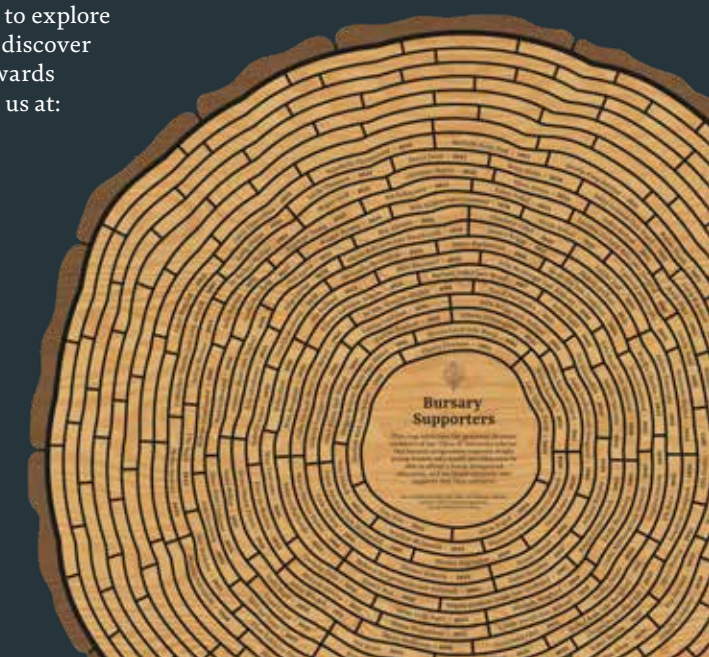
As we look ahead to future projects, we invite you to be part of our continued story. If you'd like to explore recognition opportunities or discover how you can support our Towards 150 campaign, please contact us at: [development@shhs.gdst.net](mailto:development@shhs.gdst.net)

#### DEBATE HUB SUPPORTERS



We are immensely grateful to the Rangoonwala Foundation, which has supported our Debate Hub programme for the past four years. Their funding has enabled us to expand this award-winning initiative to thousands of pupils in schools beyond our own.

This summer, we were pleased to award the Rangoonwala Debating Prizes at our state school only Bingham Debating Competition, a celebration of young voices and critical thinking.





SUPPORT THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

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
- ☐ 150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECTS (Roof Terrace and Gym)
- ☐ PARTNERSHIP + OUTREACH
- ☐ Where the School needs it most

SINGLE DONATIONS

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

☐ BANK TRANSFER

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

☐ 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)

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

NAME OF ACCOUNT HOLDER(S)

BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY A/C

BRANCH SORT CODE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

To: The ManagerNAME OF BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

Address

Postcode

SERVICE USER NUMBER

685389

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.

Signature(s)

Date

giftaid it

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.

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.

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 .....







South Hampstead

*High School*

---

G D S T

#### 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)

#### SUPPORT US



[shhs.gdst.net/support-us](https://shhs.gdst.net/support-us)

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