SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

Your Impact

2025–2026

Opening Doors,
Hearts & Minds

Inspirational Alumnae who benefitted from financial support



ANN KIRK (1946)

WORLD WAR II REFUGEE
Political Activist



EVA FRANKFURTHER (1946)

WORLD WAR II REFUGEE
Artist



MARGARET GILBERT (1961)

DIRECT GRANT
Philosopher



BARONESS FEATHERSTONE (1970)

DIRECT GRANT
Politician & Businesswoman



JOANNA MACGREGOR CBE (1977)

DIRECT GRANT
Musician & Composer



AMANDA DEWINTER (1982)

ASSISTED PLACE
Writer, Former Chair of Governors



LARA FEIGEL (1998)

ASSISTED PLACE
Professor & Writer



DHATRI NAVANAYAGAM (2007)

BURSARY AWARD
Strategy Consultant



ZITA JESSOP (2004)

BURSARY AWARD
Oncoplastic Surgeon

Our alumnae community is packed full of inspirational women.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE AND OTHER INSPIRATIONAL ALUMNAE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

From the Head

Our 150th Anniversary Year

As we embark on South Hampstead's Anniversary year, it is the perfect moment to celebrate the School's achievements. For 150 years we have provided outstanding opportunities to generations of young women, much of this enabled by philanthropy from our community. I am therefore delighted to share a report on your support in the past year and reflect on its impact over the last decade.

This has been an exceptional year. The power and impact of a South Hampstead education has been highlighted by our record-breaking A-level results, with 49% of all grades being A* and 97% of grades being A*-B. Thanks to the generosity of our community, 51 pupils have been supported with bursaries this year and 97 pupils have benefitted over the last decade. Today, one in every twelve Senior School pupils benefit from bursary support, compared with one in twenty-eight in 2018.

Our results and this remarkable progress open up extraordinary opportunities for our girls and reflect our shared commitment to ensuring that a South Hampstead education is accessible to talented young women, regardless of their background.

Your support for our 150th Campaign means that bursary awards have been secured into the future and that our wellbeing projects will be completed for our anniversary year. My personal highlight of the campaign was the whole community giving day, an energised 36-hour period of action when it felt as if every member of the South Hampstead family was invested in our mission.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Sophie Whitworth, whose vision and dedication over almost a decade have transformed our philanthropy, fundraising and bursary programme and helped make major wellbeing projects, including our new rooftop terrace and gym, possible.

As we look ahead, we hope you will join us for some of our celebration events in the forthcoming year, culminating in our grand finale celebration at the Royal Festival Hall where all proceeds will go towards securing a full fee bursary award for a future pupil. Moving *Beyond 150,* we look to create future impact in a fast-changing world. Our ambition is to grow a lasting culture of philanthropy that will support the School through the next 150 years.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the school this year either by sharing their time and experience with our pupils or by supporting one of our philanthropic initiatives. Your commitment helps to ensure that South Hampstead remains a truly special place where young women thrive.

Mehr Licht!





MRS ANNA PAUL
Head, South Hampstead High School

A Decade in Figures

In 2018, we embarked on the Towards 150 *Strategic Plan, founded on four key areas. As we reach our 150th anniversary milestone, we want to thank you for the huge contribution your support has made in helping us to achieve our* Towards 150 *goals, over the last eight years.*

TEACHING & LEARNING

Encouraging debate, creativity, and scholarly endeavour.

100s

of pupils have joined educational trips thanks to community funding.

20

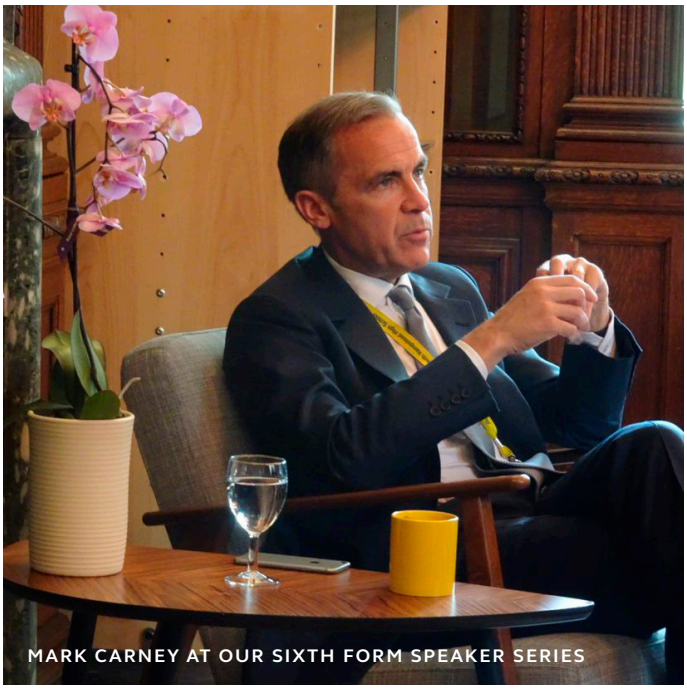
interactive maths desks were given to thank the department for their outstanding teaching.

1000s

of guests have been welcomed to the South Hampstead and Sixth Form Speaker Series to share knowledge, expertise, and invite academic debate.

5

experts in residence have been funded; including coders, artists, poets, theatre technicians, and SEND specialists.



MARK CARNEY AT OUR SIXTH FORM SPEAKER SERIES



JENNY KLEEMAN INTERVIEWING BURSARY STUDENTS AT AN 1876 SOCIETY MEETING

BREADTH & ACCESSIBILITY

Extending outstanding opportunities to all girls regardless of means.

97

pupils have been supported with bursary awards.

1:12

Senior pupils are now bursary award holders, compared to 1:28 in 2018.

173

families have joined the 1876 Society by committing to an annual contribution of £1876 or more to support bursaries.

350

alumnae have added a name to our Ring of Recognition by joining their Class of Bursary and helping to support a pupil through the school.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

Building sustainable and mutually enriching partnerships.

365+
people donated during our very first Community Giving Day.

1000s
of state school pupils have joined our Debate Hub programme, which is wholly funded through philanthropic support.

£1m+
has been raised through four biennial gala dinners.

3
partnership programmes – outreach teaching, Saturday Sparks and debating events – have been possible thanks to your support.



BURSARY AMBASSADOR, SAHAR, AT THE OPENING DOORS DINNER


YINKA SHONIBARE'S MAYFLOWER, ALL FLOWERS IN THE BURGESS ROOM

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Providing the best possible environment for an expansive education.

£3.2+
million was given to create the award-winning Waterlow Hall.

2
new artworks were installed in the Burgess Room as it was returned to glory and enhanced as a centre for free speech and Sixth Form learning.

52
plants were placed in five stunning pots to create our indoor garden oasis.

£1m+
was given to our 150th Anniversary projects, and we look forward to welcoming you to our rooftop garden and gym next year.

£8.5m+
given and pledged to support our *Towards 150* goals.

1,139
people from our community have made a financial contribution, and many thousands more have got involved and supported the school.

Thank you for your support!

Our *Beyond 150* Masterplan outlines our vision for the next decade.

If you would like to be part of the South Hampstead story and support our future plans, please contact development@shhs.gdst.net or make a donation here.

A Culture of Philanthropy



Sophie Whitworth joined South Hampstead as the first Director of Philanthropy and Alumnae in 2018. As she steps down from her role after nearly a decade, she reflects on the history and impact of your support.

From a philanthropy perspective, I stepped into some very elegant shoes when I joined South Hampstead. A succession of headmistresses had somehow managed to garner funds for all sorts of areas across the school whilst also running it – and doing so in high heels (though definitely not Miss Benton, who was known for her sturdy footwear)!

I was very lucky to join a school that has always been surrounded by a very supportive community. However, I was advised never to approach the alumnae for money, as I would quickly be rebuffed.

It is hardly surprising that our alumnae are an exacting audience. The school encourages its pupils to think critically, speak out, scrutinise arguments and expect meaningful results. It was therefore clear that South Hampstead alumnae and parents would be discerning supporters, and that we needed to shift our efforts from occasional appeals to nurture a culture of philanthropy through a strategic, long-term approach founded on lasting impact. Over the last decade, our community has certainly kept us to account, but it has also been immensely fair and, most importantly, wonderfully generous in every sense.


SIXTH FORM BURSARY STUDENTS

What I have witnessed is the profound impact that philanthropy can have. Through the *Opening Doors Bursary Programme,* we have more than doubled the number of means-tested awards we are able to offer each year. Every bursary recipient is an exceptionally bright young girl, but what South Hampstead provides is a safe environment where they can focus on learning. The school opens up opportunities and ambitions that may previously have felt beyond reach, and our teachers then support them in achieving those aspirations.

Elsewhere in this publication, we reflect on the profound effect that the Direct Grant and Assisted Places schemes had on social mobility. It is heartening to see that the *Opening Doors Bursary Programme* is now helping to shape confident young women who are determined to make a difference and who recognise their responsibility to contribute to society. Perhaps most importantly, they inspire those around them to do the same, making the future just that little bit brighter for everyone.

But it is not only our bursaries that have a transformative effect. GDST schools are not heavily endowed; they have always been founded on careful stewardship and thoughtful investment. It has been a privilege to be involved in projects that demonstrate the profound influence that place can have on education. Waterlow Hall has created an environment that actively nurtures musical and theatrical exploration, alongside creative expression more broadly. Since its redevelopment was completed in 2020, the breadth and quality of the music, drama, dance and debate

Philanthropy Timeline



1912

Building Appeal to improve facilities.



1926

The Jubilee Fund for a new wing containing gymnasium, library and laboratory.



1968

Appeal for the new Science Block.

1976

Bursary Appeal in response to the abolition of the Direct Grant.



1986

The Building Appeal for the purchase of Marten's Garage and building of a new block with sports and assembly hall, theatre, common room, laboratories and cafeteria.



BURSARY ALUMNA MATHILDE MILWIDSKY PERFORMS IN THE WATERLOW HALL

it has hosted has been outstanding. It has inspired both staff and pupils to be ambitious and brave.

Our new seventh-floor garden oasis, funded entirely by a generous supporter, was designed as a space for listening and reflection. It has become a haven for some of our quieter pupils, although I suspect all of us benefit from this green, calm and restorative space from time to time. I am equally confident that the rooftop classroom, garden and gym, completed for our anniversary year, will have a similarly positive impact on the wellbeing of our whole community.

Ultimately, however, the real measure of what has been achieved is the young women themselves. I was both surprised and deeply touched when two pupils stood up in the final assembly to speak about my role in philanthropy. Maddie, our Pupil Bursary Ambassador, and Aurelia, this year's Philanthropy & Community Representative, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the impact your support has had across the school, as well as genuine gratitude. In doing so, they represented not only their fellow pupils but also the generations who have come before them.

And so I add my thanks to theirs. Everyone who has attended an event, spoken about our mission, mentioned the school in passing, taken a moment to reflect on their own experience, or recognised the impact that a South Hampstead education has had on them, on their daughters and on wider society, has supported us. It has been a privilege to be part of this remarkable community, and I hope your involvement will continue well into the next 150 years.



BIOPHILIC GARDEN OASIS









1997
Minerva Bursary Appeal in response to the end of Assisted Places.

2010
The new School building appeal.

2014
The Futures Fund to support bursaries and buildings.

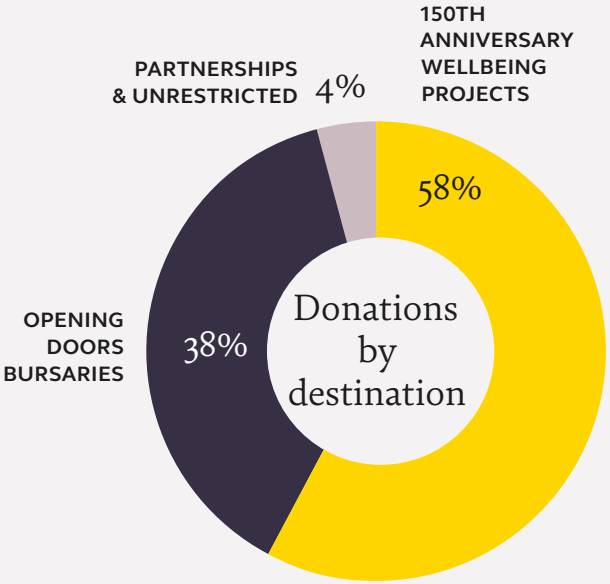
2018
The Waterlow Hall Campaign to develop a new performance hall.

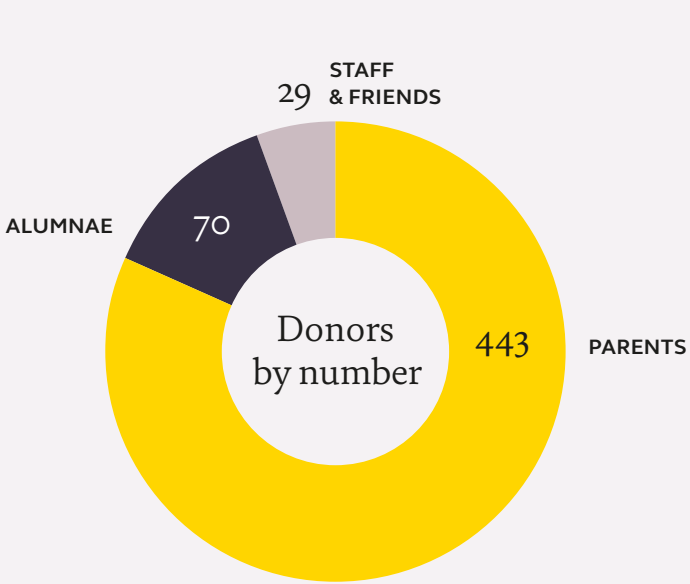
2021
The *Opening Doors Bursary Campaign.*

2025
The 150th Anniversary Campaign to support opportunity and wellbeing.

Celebrating your support this year

Thank you for contributing over £1.66m this year and making pledges for the future to support bursary awards.







BURSARY AMBASSADOR

Maddie (Class of 2026) was appointed as our new pupil bursary ambassador this year and has already made an impact speaking at our 1876 Society meeting and in a whole school assembly.

'When applying for South Hampstead, I couldn't have anticipated the way in which this school would impact me and my future. Before joining, I was worried I would feel that I didn't belong or fit in. However, I have met the most amazing people, both teachers and friends, who have helped me to feel truly confident and deserving of my place here. I have had the opportunity to study new languages and travel with my peers. I have gone from feeling out of my depth to fully believing in my abilities. I am beyond grateful for my time here at South Hampstead and I can't wait to help others benefit from this experience as much as I have.'



1876 Society Drinks

Named after our founding year, the 1876 Society honours those who make a significant contribution to bursaries through a regular annual gift of £1,876 or more or a one off donation. The names of all our members (past and present) are recorded in the 1876 Society Book and each year, the Head reports to them on our progress and says thank you.

Minerva Circle

The Minerva Circle recognises all those who have chosen to leave a gift to the School in their will. Our South Hampstead Minerva Circle members were invited to join us for the *Mehr Licht* Lunch in May and the annual GDST tea party.





Class of Bursaries

Just a small regular donation (the cost of a cup of coffee each month) from every member of the same year group can change a young girl's life. Each year we invite our alumnae and our departing families to contribute to a new Class of Bursary. We were delighted to add 51 new names to our Bursary Ring of Recognition this year and look forward to including new names from the Class of 2026 in the autumn.

Bursary Board Dinner

Our bursary board is made up of members from across the community who have supported the *Opening Doors Campaign* and are working with us to create a sustainable bursary programme for the future. We celebrated five years of their involvement with a thank you dinner this summer.



As we embark on our 150th Anniversary year, we invite you all to become involved with our Opening Doors Bursary Campaign and support our Beyond 150 vision.

The 150th Anniversary Campaign

To support opportunity *through bursaries and* wellbeing *through two development projects, our aim was to raise £1.5 million – £500,000 for our Opening Doors Bursaries and £1 million to fund a new outdoor classroom, garden and gym. These are just some of the highlights from the campaign:*

We held a series of ***consultation meetings*** *to craft our case for support and secure early commitments*



One of our families committed to ***sponsor all the equipment*** *in the wellbeing gym*

A trio of acclaimed actors – Dame Imelda Staunton, Jim Carter and their daughter Bessie Carter – joined a special ***VIP reception and Speaker Series*** *to launch the public stage of the campaign*



Recognition opportunities *were outlined to all our supporters with the chance to 'plant a tree', 'offer a branch' or 'sow a seed'*



We held our very first ***Giving Day,*** *and pupils and staff raised an astonishing £315,000 for bursaries, the projects and partnership charities*



*We sent our **campaign brochure** to everyone in the community to explain the vision and ambition and seek support*





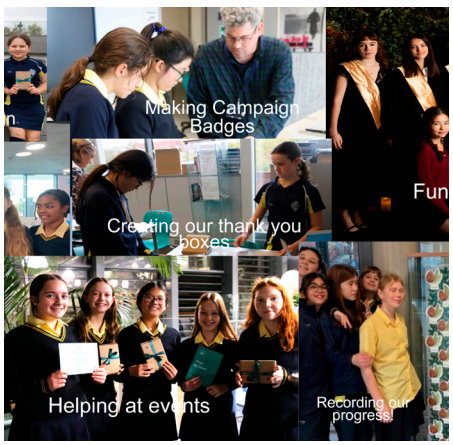


*With 75% of funds in hand, we were able to appoint a contractor, and Jim Carter OBE returned to help us **celebrate and break the ground***

*Our **Opening Doors Dinner** raised a record-breaking £415,000 and was matched by a donation of £200,000 for our wellbeing projects*

*Pupils joined the **Campaign Club** and got involved in all sorts of ways – from postcard competitions to our eco-friendly totaliser, they ensured we kept the campaign in everyone's sights*





*We reached our target for the wellbeing projects and **work started** as the school ended for the summer holiday*

To date, we have raised over £1.8 million through the Anniversary Campaign, securing new bursary awards for pupils joining the school in September and allowing us to complete all the elements of our wellbeing projects.

Thank you

150 YEARS OF SOUTH HAMPSTEAD **150** FUTURES SECURED

For 150 years, South Hampstead High School has helped girls discover their potential, find their voice and shape their own futures.

THE ANNIVERSARY BURSARY

For our anniversary year 2026-27, our aim is to secure an additional full fee bursary award to support a young girl throughout her education at the senior school. Across the year, we will be seeking contributions, culminating in our grand finale event to be held at the Royal Festival Hall at the end of the summer term.

LEAVE A LEGACY. SHAPE A FUTURE.

A legacy gift is a powerful way to ensure that the opportunities you have valued at South Hampstead continue for generations to come. If you decide to make a gift in your will, regardless of its size, you will support a like-minded community dedicated to the education of young women, who enjoy their academic interests and who are determined to earn their place and make a contribution in the decades to come.

"South Hampstead holds a very special place in my heart. It was a place where I was encouraged to see possibilities, challenge my assumptions and grow in confidence, which has supported me through all the unexpected twists and turns of my career. Leaving a legacy gift is my way of saying thank you and helping to support the School's future for generations to come."



VICTORIA RENNOLDSON
Class of 1996

As we look ahead to the next 150 years, our ambition is to secure 150 legacy pledges to create a sustainable fund that will support bursary awards into the future. If you would like to find out more, please contact development@shhs.gdst.net

WAYS OF GIVING

We welcome all types of contributions from our community. You can get involved by volunteering, organising events, offering careers guidance and supporting pupil initiatives, or by making a donation.

As a member of the GDST, South Hampstead is covered by the registered charity status (no. 306983). There are significant financial advantages if you choose to make a donation to one of our funds.

- If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim Gift Aid which will boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Please sign the Gift Aid declaration when you make your donation.
- If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you will also be eligible to claim back tax paid on your gift from the Inland Revenue.
- If you choose to donate shares or property, you can save 40% capital gains tax and deduct the full value of the shares or property from your income for tax purposes.
- Legacies left in your will are free from inheritance tax.

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 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, we host an event to say thank you to our 1876 Society 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 ten years	**£18,760**
Leavers' deposit donation	**£1,000**
Total contribution	**£19,760**

DONATE ONLINE
shhs.gdst.net/support-us

CLASS OF BURSARIES

The Class of Bursaries bring together alumnae from the same year group to help support our *Opening Doors* Bursary campaign. Regular donations quickly add up and allow us to plan for the future, but any support is welcome and will make a real difference.

Class of Bursaries

Average size of class	**80**
Monthly donation	**£20**
Value with Gift Aid	**£25**
Annual value	**£300**
Potential class contribution	**£24,000**

We invite leaving parents to donate their original registration deposit to their daughter's Class of bursary fund, creating a legacy to their daughter's time at school.

Anyone joining this initiative can have their or their daughter's name recorded on our bursary Ring of Recognition.

Leavers' Class of Bursary

Average size of class	**80**
Registration deposit	**£1,000**
Value with Gift Aid	**£1,250**
Potential class contribution	**£100,000**

SUPPORT US

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

South Hampstead *High School* GDST

Name .....

I would like my donation to go towards

◯ Opening Doors Bursaries ◯ 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
BIC/Swift: NWBKGB2L
IBAN number: GB79NWBK60 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 D.D. / M.M. / Y.Y.Y.Y. 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

BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY A/C ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

BRANCH SORT CODE ☐☐☐☐☐☐

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.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

To: The Manager NAME OF BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

Address

Postcode

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.

COMPLETE FOR YOURSELF AND PARTNER (IF APPLICABLE)

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

Surname (1).....

Surname (2).....

Postcode ..... Date D.D. / M.M. / Y.Y.Y.Y.

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.

'I would like to say a huge thank you, on behalf of the many award holders at South Hampstead, for all of the contributions to support the school and your commitment to making these opportunities and this outstanding education accessible to girls from every background.'



MADDIE (2027)
Pupil Bursary Ambassador

1876–2026
CELEBRATING
150
YEARS
Mehr Licht!

CONTACT US

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SUPPORT US

shhs.gdst.net/support-us

South Hampstead
High School

GDST

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