

Highlights

GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2019



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Keep in touch!

We would love to know where you are and what you are doing! Whether you have got married, had children, taken a new direction at work or gone abroad on an adventure, your news and photos will be warmly received for inclusion in the next magazine. Charity events, invitations and obituaries can also be included in the news section on the website. Please see below how your contributions can be shared.

1. WEBSITE: ALUMNI NEWS



2. NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



3. ALUMNI MAGAZINE



4. REUNIONS & EVENTS



All news articles and photos should be sent to: alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk

In order to keep your details up to date, please complete the necessary information on our alumni database via our website: www.guildfordhigh.co.uk/alumni

EDITOR'S LETTER



pastoral care. We have also included special features about former GHS students who have been inspirationally successful in their careers.

In addition to producing this magazine, we hope to take advantage of the way we can now make better use of the new school website, keeping you up to date with school events and important alumni news, such as obituaries, on a more regular basis. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to visit the designated alumni section; it is intuitively easy to negotiate, which will hopefully be reassuring for those who feel technologically challenged!

It's hard to believe that I have been working with the Marketing team (above) as the Alumni Liaison Officer for over a year now. During that time, I have helped to compile newsletters, represented the school at local and regional alumni events and hosted milestone reunions, all of which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Every day when I sit in this office, I am reminded of the reason why, after 22 years of teaching at GHS, the school has become a very special place to me personally: you!

I appreciate that I am lucky to have followed a rewarding career in education that has clearly suited my personality and aptitude. But most of all, I feel privileged to have spent much of my time at GHS, rather than anywhere else. It has been such a joy to be part of the enthusiastic, friendly and vibrant community that makes up this school, from Reception through to Year 6, Year 7 to Sixth Form, University and beyond, as well as the wonderful, eclectic selection of 'older Old Girls' I have had the pleasure to meet, some of whom passed through GHS over 50 years ago!

This magazine has been compiled therefore with care, thought and a great deal of pleasure. I hope its colourful photography and interesting articles will reach every corner of the globe, making it an enjoyable read for you all. We have covered current topics of interest in drama, music and sport, as well as highlighting achievements in other areas, such as

I hope you will continue to feel proud of being part of an institution that continues to go from strength to strength. As Mrs Fiona Boulton, Headmistress, has now started her prestigious role as Chair of HMC, you are likely to see occasional mention of GHS in the press over the next year! Her first speech was an impressive and honest account of the challenges facing the educational sector. She stood up for choices in education and the right for all children to receive the best possible standard of teaching regardless of background and wealth.

“ *Like branches of a tree,
our lives may grow in different
directions, yet our roots remain as
one.* ”

I have really loved the opportunity to engage with you and realise that as a teacher, there is no better reward than seeing how a pupil can grow, develop and fulfil their amazing potential after they leave school. Even more fulfilling is seeing the power of friendship that continues to bind everyone's experiences and opportunities together and realise that I have not only played, but continue to play a very small part in that journey.

Mrs Louise Stone, Alumni Liaison Officer

FRONT COVER: Alumnae at the 10-year GHS & RGS Joint Chamber Choir Anniversary Concert.

WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



that students should think about their strong qualities, not appearance. Elke Edwards gave a talk about 'what you put into the space between you and your parents' and randomly picked a few girls to give their answers from which normal, negative teenage emotions of frustration, anger, irritation and disdain were the common thread. One student, however stood up and said, 'I put in love and gratitude', and you could have heard a pin drop. It was one of the most poignant moments of my year.

Our challenge as a group of teachers is to enable pupils to thrive in an ever-changing world. So, we always have our eye on the curriculum and continually review its position; is it relevant and is it as up to date as it needs to be? We recognise that in many ways, A Levels are narrow outcomes and we have to keep the big picture in mind. The current education system is often criticised for suppressing creativity and breadth, but as I read through the pages of this magazine, I am awestruck by the magnitude of talent and the variety of interests that our GHS alumni have continued to show after leaving here.

At the Rodin Museum in Paris, there is a sculpture called La Cathedrale. As you approach this work of art, it looks like two hands clasped in prayer, immortalised in stone. It is only as you get closer that you realise the statue is of two right hands, reaching out tentatively, one person to another person. It is about humanity, about the need to reach out to others for friendship, love and support.

It appears to me that there's a wonderful network of friendship, kindness and loyalty that stretches across the entire GHS alumni community, enhancing University life, career opportunities and social occasions. I hope that GHS continues to provide the strong educational foundation on which you can all build happy, successful and fulfilling lives, in any direction you chose to travel.

Mrs Fiona Boulton

As I look back over the last three terms, it has been another year packed with so many wonderful moments, another year to feel immensely proud of all that we have achieved. It is a great privilege to be Headmistress of GHS and to be surrounded by bright, enthusiastic, agile minds on a daily basis. You are all lucky to have been educated in an environment where aspiration is so high and where you all have the belief that anything is possible through a powerful mix of hard work, talent and aptitude.

Every year at Prize Giving, we celebrate achievement. We see that excellence has percolated into all areas of school life. As teachers, we want you to enjoy learning and to enjoy your subjects, not because you have to pass exams but because you are inspired by them, you are intellectually curious and have a thirst for knowledge, for finding out new things and seeing interconnections.

Through our Inspiring Girls programme this year, pupils listened to Simon Armitage, the new Poet Laureate, read his poetry and Clare Balding came in to give an afternoon's lecture in which she suggested

CLASS OF 2019: A THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Class of 2019: Even though we are very excited about all that lies ahead of you, it was absolutely heart-breaking to lose you. You are my North Star year group.

“ *In the galaxy of stars that is GHS, you shine so brightly and so distinctly; I honestly believe that when you leave us you are going to have an impact on the world.* ”

When you exploded into Year 7, there was an energetic shift in the school. You were noisy, full of vitality, fun and high energy...and you still are.

You have formed deep and lasting friendships along the way that are likely to see you through life beyond University years and you were amazingly successful in every area of school life. A heartfelt thank you, from all the teaching staff to each and every one of you for all that you contributed and achieved during your time at GHS.

We see and hear negativity all around us on a daily basis, but I think those that publish and spread negativity are missing the point; people are drawn to light. People want something to fight for, not against. This is the time to inspire harmony. And so, to my North Stars, go out and shine brightly and be a guiding light in this world.

Mrs Fiona Boulton

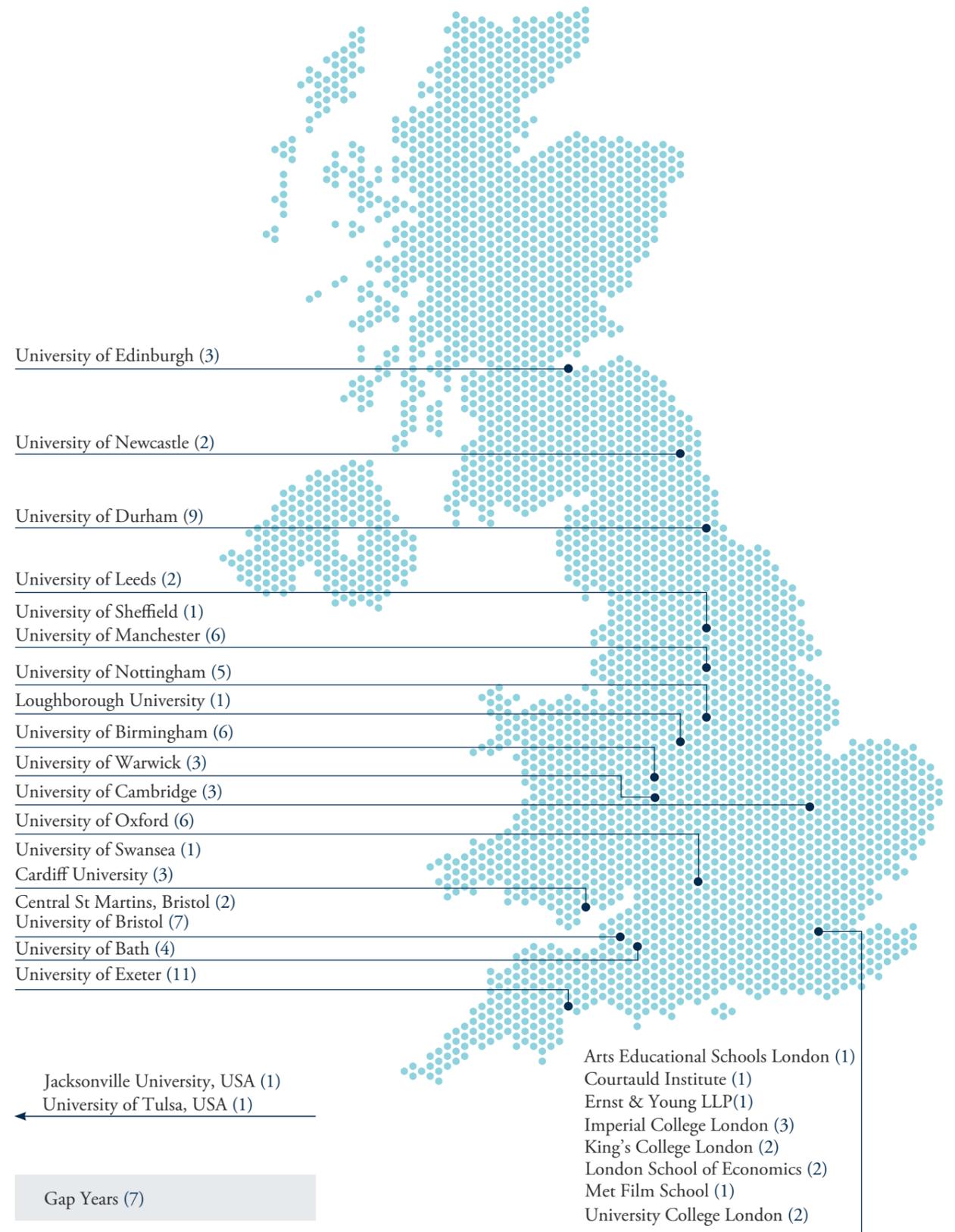


A LEVEL RESULTS 2019

SUBJECT	ENTRIES	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-C
Art and Design	5	80%	100%	100%	100%
Biology	32	50%	88%	94%	100%
Chemistry	42	40%	76%	98%	98%
Classical Civilisation	5	20%	80%	100%	100%
Product Design	6	67%	100%	100%	100%
Drama	5	80%	100%	100%	100%
Economics	12	8%	67%	83%	100%
English Literature / Language	7	14%	43%	86%	100%
English Literature	17	65%	100%	100%	100%
French	6	50%	100%	100%	100%
Geography	14	43%	93%	100%	100%
German	4	25%	100%	100%	100%
Greek	2	50%	100%	100%	100%
History	13	23%	62%	100%	100%
Latin	7	86%	100%	100%	100%
Mathematics	45	40%	82%	91%	98%
Further Mathematics	15	33%	40%	73%	87%
Music	3	100%	100%	100%	100%
Physical Education	2	0%	100%	100%	100%
Physics	13	62%	100%	100%	100%
Politics	16	19%	69%	100%	100%
Psychology	12	25%	50%	75%	100%
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	8	50%	75%	100%	100%
Russian	1	100%	100%	100%	100%
Spanish	8	50%	75%	88%	100%
TOTAL	300	43%	80%	94%	99%



2019 LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS



STAFF RETIREMENTS

Four treasured members of staff retired this year, all of whom epitomised the school motto 'As One that Serveth'.

Miss Kathy Buckley

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Kathy Buckley retired in December 2018 after 25 years at the helm of the Sixth Form. She was the interface between school and university as she launched students off onto their chosen paths and over the years, she must have overseen more than 2,000 personal statements and references!

Kathy always saw students as individuals, allowing them to grow, develop and be themselves. She was never directive nor judgemental in her guidance: she always let students find their own way, exuding integrity, warmth and kindness in doing so. She has a sharp intellect and dry wit, but it was her ability to remain completely calm and objective, however traumatic the situation, that set her apart. We wish Kathy a very happy retirement to travel, read, cook and go to the theatre amongst all her other pursuits.

Mrs Jo Ayshford

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Jo Ayshford was our Senior Laboratory Technician for 25 years and retired in July 2019. Apart from her usual day job of facilitating every practical in Chemistry lessons, she was also an amazing backstage supporter of all school Drama productions. She will always be remembered for her warmth, funny sense of humour and heart of gold.

Mrs Kate Denny

HEAD OF MATHEMATICS



Kate Denny taught Maths at GHS for 22 years and retired in July 2019. Not only was she Head of Department, but she annually accompanied Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and numerous other school trips. With her cheery smile and distinctive voice, Kate became something of a legend, particularly when handing out Kangaroo awards in assemblies!

Mrs Karen Nanson

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT



Junior School pupils and parents showed a great deal of love and appreciation in their farewells to Karen Nanson, Head of Junior School Sport, who retired after 20 years of teaching at GHS in July 2019. During that time, Karen created a wonderfully inclusive sport-for-all programme, as well as raising standards in competitive sport, making GHS one of the top sporting prep schools in Surrey.

LONG SERVING STAFF LEAVERS

The following four wonderful and very popular members of staff left GHS last summer. We wish them the very best of luck for the future.

Miss Catriona Coutts-Wood

PE DEPARTMENT

'Coutts' spent eight years at GHS, during which time she qualified as a new teacher and progressed to becoming Head of Opal House and Assistant Head of Year 7. She has now gained a well-deserved promotion to Director of Sport at Wimbledon High School. She was an extremely popular member of staff who will certainly be remembered for her huge smile and caring manner. Her teaching and coaching skills were particularly outstanding in Netball, Tennis and Badminton.



Mr Tom Helliwell

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

During his eight years at GHS, Tom became an outstanding chemistry teacher and made a wonderful impact on the extra curricular and pastoral life of the school, most notably becoming Acting Head of Year 8 last year. Tom was always a fun-loving member of staff, getting involved in a wide range of activities including coaching hockey and starring in the Year 7 Pantomime. He is now at St John's Leatherhead as their new Head of Year 7.



Miss Katelyn Hoffman

PE DEPARTMENT

Originally from the USA, 'Hoffi' joined GHS after coaching Lacrosse at two other schools. During her six years at GHS, she gained UK teacher status and coached both Scotland and England at two successive Lacrosse World Cups. She also became Head of Ruby House. Katelyn is now at LEH, having taken up the post of Head of Lacrosse and Assistant Director of Sport (covering maternity leave). She will be sorely missed, particularly by her lacrosse teams and 'special' group of Goalkeepers!



Mr Glyn Groom

HEAD OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Glyn Groom came to GHS eight years ago, initially as a parent helper to assist with the coaching and development of Indoor rowing; however, after his interview he was offered a full time job! This included Duke of Edinburgh, climbing, rowing, sailing and skiing, all of which thrived under his leadership. Glyn is a passionate, world class rower who has continued to train and compete internationally. Several of his protégés have gone on to row and earn their Blues at university.



GHS AWARDED 'BEST SCHOOL FOR PASTORAL CARE'

We were thrilled to have been awarded 'Best for Pastoral Care' by The Week magazine's Independent Schools Guide in September 2018. Our pastoral team is led by Mrs Karen Laurie, Deputy Head Pastoral. Mrs Laurie's dynamic leadership has resulted in a holistic approach to wellbeing and she is supported by our experienced Heads of Year, Form Tutors, nursing team, school doctor and school counsellor. Pupils achieve highly when they are happy and supported and I have to pay tribute to Mrs Laurie for her vision and energy that are so key in the winning of this award. Wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do in school and it is wonderful to see this recognised at a national level.

Mrs Fiona Boulton



A FRESH NEW LOOK FOR GHS

At Guildford High School we inspire others to be the best that they can be. With roots dating back to 1888, our challenge is to strike the right balance between modernity and heritage in the way that we represent our school. We are therefore very excited to announce that over the summer we launched our new school website and updated the school branding. As part of this project Mrs Louise Stone and I took the opportunity to review the Old Girls' Association.

accurately reflect our members.

“ *The new school website hosts a dedicated alumni area where you can now read the latest news as well as keeping your personal details up to date.* ”

“ *Some of the feedback we have received from former students suggests that they do not like being called an 'Old Girl'.* ”

The new site offers a much improved experience and we look forward to developing it further to suit everyone's needs. In response to the positive comments we have received about the new website and last year's Old Girls' Newsletter, we are really excited to launch this year's edition. Aptly renamed 'Highlights', the magazine will focus on key stories across GHS and the alumni community.

In conjunction with this, the association has a growing population of ex-staff members, many of whom are male, and we felt perhaps it was time for a change. A decision was therefore made to rename ourselves the Alumni Community to more

Miss Abbie Voice

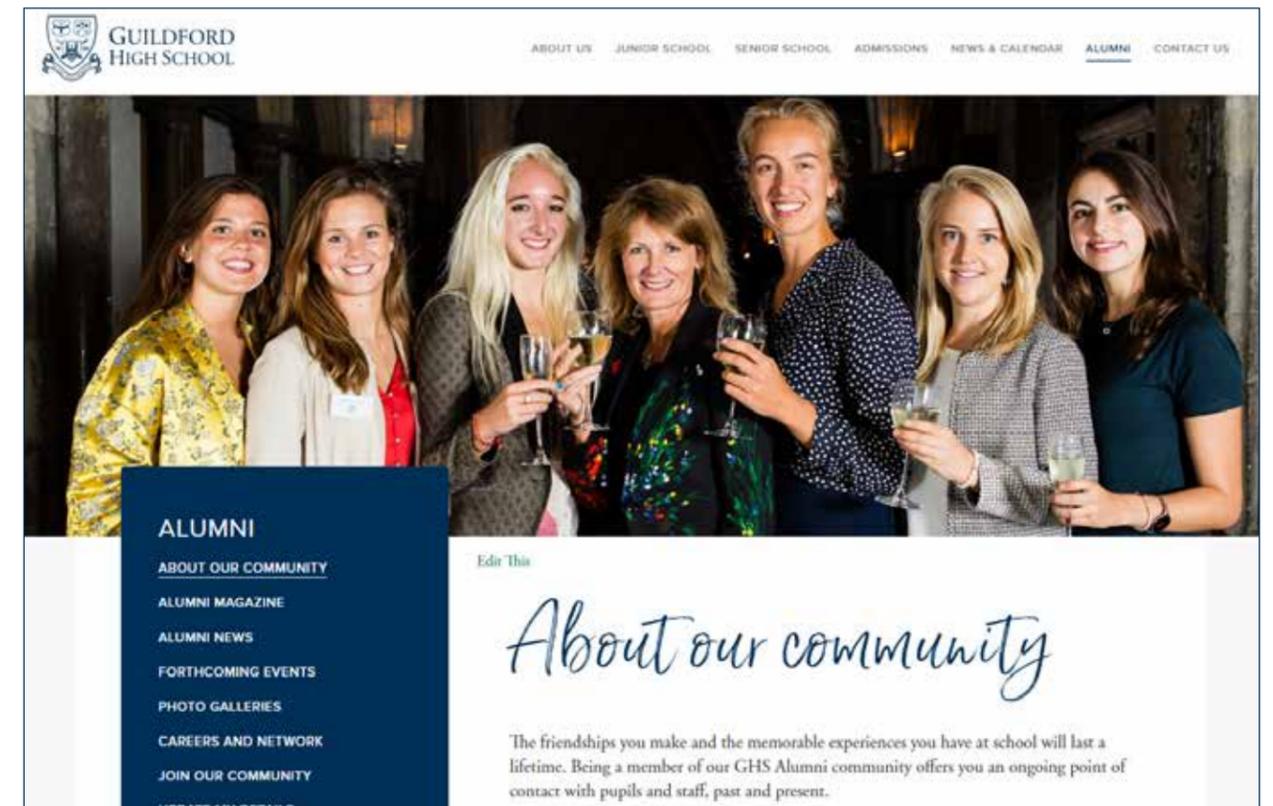




IMAGE: Sir Michael Morpurgo MBE and the GHS English Department.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM SIR MICHAEL MORPURGO MBE

We were delighted to welcome Sir Michael Morpurgo as guest speaker at our Prizegiving this year. Speaking at the event in GLive, he provided sound advice to our leavers, entertained us with witty anecdotes from the earliest days of his writing career and even surprised the audience with a song!

I remember a Year 7 pupil saying to me “please could you recommend a book I’ll love as much as *Private Peaceful*?” It’s a tough question to answer, but a wonderful question to hear. I know that many children would name one of Sir Michael’s books as their favourite book. His books are able to transport us into different worlds; they create that magical intersection between reality and imagination in which a story feels alive to us and something fictional helps us better understand the world in which we live. We were thrilled that Sir Michael was able to join us to celebrate many successes of our talented pupils.

Miss Jemima Kettle

“*Sir Michael Morpurgo is one of Britain’s most well-loved authors and has been a friend to Guildford High School for many years.*”



AN AFTERNOON WITH CLARE BALDING OBE

Author, journalist, broadcaster and multi award-winning sports presenter, Clare Balding, visited GHS in December 2018.

Clare read English at Newnham College, Cambridge, before becoming a leading amateur flat jockey and Champion Lady Rider. She later became a trainee with BBC Radio, before progressing to television, firstly as a presenter in horse racing and then developing her broadcasting career in many other sporting areas. She has since reported from six Olympics, four Para Olympic Games, The Boat Race, Wimbledon and Crufts, as well as hosting other TV and Radio shows, including 'Countryfile', 'BBC Sports Personality of the Year', 'Good Morning Sunday' and her own sports chat show called 'The Clare Balding Show'.

With her journalist's hat on, Clare has written columns for numerous publications, whilst as an author, she has written two books to date. Her autobiography 'My Animals and Other Family' reached Number One in the Sunday Times Bestseller list and won Autobiography of the Year 2012. In 2014, she published her second book 'Walking Home: My Family and other Ramblings'.

Clare has received numerous awards for her wide and varied work, amongst which she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to broadcasting and journalism.

“It was a great privilege for students and staff to listen to Clare talk about her life, from childhood to where she is today.”

The Sixth Form sports captains were invited to drinks and had the wonderful opportunity to chat with Clare before the lecture took place with the whole school in the audience. Clare was compelling and engaging, answering questions from the girls with topics ranging from confidence and body image to resilience and learning to fail. Her wealth of amusing anecdotes and sheer passion for her profession made her an excellent choice as a speaker for one of our 'Inspiring Women, Inspiring Girls' talks.

Mrs Louise Stone

TOP: Clare Balding with the School Sports Captains.
BOTTOM: Clare Balding with the GHS PE Department.



INSPIRING AND ASPIRING ATHLETES AT GHS



As many alumni will appreciate, Sport at GHS forms a central part of school life and is one of its main strengths. All our sports teams continued to aim high this year and yet again, for the fifth consecutive year, we found ourselves named top girls' school for sporting attainment in the 'National School Sport Magazine'.

“The secret of our success is simple. GHS pupils enjoy competing in sport with a depth of passion, commitment and determination that is plain to see. They embrace their sporting journeys at all levels of competition, with an enthusiastic desire to win and the overall effect is extraordinary consistency across the board.”

In her Prizegiving speech, Mrs Fiona Boulton described the leaving Class of 2019 as her North Star year group because in the galaxy of stars that is GHS, they shone brightly and distinctively. Last year's Upper Sixth were certainly trail blazers in Sport; they exuded sporting talent and Sport defined them. They represented the school in a wide range of activities and proved themselves to be outstanding role models as captains, players and supporters. They were the first year group to give Cricket, Football and Hockey a higher profile in the extracurricular programme and they comprehensively proved that it is possible to blend the pursuit of excellence with a well-balanced 'sport for all' mentality. Similar to the North Star, they maintained a steady position, providing an orbital source of excellence around which younger teams and players of all ability gravitated. It is of note that an impressive number of these graduating students represented their country in Sport, leaving a bright legacy for younger shooting stars to follow: Isabelle Adams in Climbing, Katia Boulton, Lucy Devine, Anya Devon-Berry and Zoe Macrae in Lacrosse, Millie Cox in Netball,

Emily McKeown in Underwater Hockey, Celeste Savage in Cheerleading and Katherine Stenning in Rowing. This is only a cluster of a larger collection, including younger girls who have already gained regional and national honours, who will continue to represent GHS at the highest level in the future. It is hoped that all these girls will follow in the footsteps of the many, talented alumni who have left and gone on to become extremely successful sportswomen at university and beyond.

“We have started a dedicated programme to help these aspiring athletes during school time, which is intrinsically linked to our pastoral care programme, now called ASPIRE, rather than PSHE.”

Over 70 extremely talented pupils receive monitoring from our dedicated Head of Sport Performance, a new role set up in September 2018, led by Mrs Laura McHale. As a highly regarded and experienced national lacrosse player who captained England at the last World Cup, Laura is a wonderful role model and suitably qualified expert to help these pupils realise their ambitions.

Laura provides tailored, individual support to help balance elite athletes' workloads alongside training, whilst also focusing on areas like strength and conditioning to aid injury prevention.

Workshops with external professional experts are also organised to give additional guidance in nutrition, mental strength and wellbeing.

Mrs Louise Stone





A SUMMER OF LACROSSE

Last summer, three major international events took place, showcasing the depth and talent of lacrosse at GHS.

Firstly, in June, recent alumna Anya Devon-Berry (Class of 2019) was selected for the U23 England team, winning silver at the European Prague Festival.

During the next month of July, the U19 Women's Lacrosse World Cup was held in Canada (Peterborough, Ontario). Three GHS alumnae, Liv Schellekens (Class of 2018), Lucy Devine and Zoe Macrae (both Class of 2019) represented England in this event, whilst a current sixth former and one of the current school Lacrosse Captains, Georgia Weeks, played for Scotland.

Several other girls from GHS also travelled out to play in the U18 World Festival that was held alongside the main event. These included Katia Boulton (Class of 2019) who captained the Welsh Dragons team and the two other school Lacrosse Captains, Alice Hawken (also Head Girl) and Dylan Whittington who represented England. Millie Cant, currently in Year 11, played for her club, Centaurs.

Mrs Laura McHale, (otherwise known as 'Merrifield', top midfielder and Captain of the Senior England team) was really proud of the way all the GHS girls

played. As Head Coach of the U19 England team, she had the privilege of coaching Liv, Lucy and Zoe, who helped their team through to the semi-finals, (losing a tough battle to Australia), but she also took a particular interest in the other GHS players in her school teaching role as Head of Sport Performance, in charge of the Aspiring Athlete programme. At the end of the tournament, Liv was awarded the Most Valuable Player award for her robust goalkeeping, particularly evident in the early group stage match against Australia.

These amazing lacrosse players have achieved lacrosse scholarships at top Universities. Lucy has followed Liv to Durham, both having won Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships for sport in their respective years, whilst Zoe is now at Jacksonville University, USA, on a full academic and athletic scholarship to study and play Division 1 Women's Lacrosse. Anya is thoroughly enjoying her first term at Nottingham University and Katia (one of last year's Head Girls), is currently taking a gap year, to focus on her post A Level UCAS application.

Many congratulations to all these girls and others who have represented their country and good luck for the future!

Mrs Louise Stone

**KATIA BOULTON
(CLASS OF 2019)**



I captained the Wales U19 Dragons Squad in the World Cup Festival which ran alongside the World Championship tournament. It was a great opportunity for younger players to experience international competition. We played against Ontario, Minnesota, Nova Scotia and Israel, as well as other familiar teams from the UK, such as Godolphin and Centaurs. The physicality and skill of the US teams in particular, meant it was the highest standard of lacrosse many of us had experienced. The Festival organisers tried hard to make the tournament as close to the World Cup as possible. We sang the anthem proudly and had international officials. My U19 team also enjoyed a skills session with Remington Steele, the Wales Senior Women's Head Coach.

Playing with Junior Wales has been a great opportunity, particularly in Canada where we had the freedom to play creatively and fix problems on the field ourselves. It was a great step up from school and club lacrosse in terms of independence and the standard of the opposition we faced.

**ZOE MACRAE
(CLASS OF 2019)**



After the U19 Lacrosse World Cup in Canada, I managed just a week of rest and recuperation before heading to Jacksonville, Florida, where I will be spending the next four years of my life.

Being part of the JU WLAX team has given me a second family with over 40 members, each of whom have contributed to making me feel less homesick. Jacksonville University has become a home away from home; the campus is stunning and peaceful, the weather is always pleasant (disregarding the occasional torrential downpours), the students are very friendly, and the beaches are only 30 minutes away.

Currently, we are in our 20-hour training weeks and friendly matches in preparation for the start of the 2020 season. There are so many faculty members and students that are supporting the freshman class, hoping for us to succeed as much as we want ourselves to succeed. This extensive support system is overwhelming as well as greatly appreciated, especially as an international student who has come to the US with absolutely no idea of what to expect. One of the lacrosse team's core values is "We choose to be positive," which creates such an amazing team environment I didn't even dream of before joining JU. The mere thought of having to leave this place in four years makes me sad, and it encourages me to live every day to its fullest. I have already been pushed out of my comfort zone and cannot wait to see how much I have developed, both on and off the pitch, by the end of my time here at Jacksonville University.

SIXTH FORMERS PERFORM AT EDINBURGH FRINGE

During the summer of 2019, the Upper and Lower Sixth Theatre Studies groups travelled up to Edinburgh to perform in the world-famous Fringe Festival. Despite the train cancellations, broken air conditioning, inebriated women who tried to rope us into a karaoke version of *Sweet Caroline*, and missing our connection, morale was unwaveringly high. Our arrival in Edinburgh was followed by a 'middle of the night' technical rehearsal and early in the morning we began flyering and promoting our shows. The Lower Sixth production of 'Antigone', reinterpreted by the amazing, Splendid Productions, featured songs, dances, audience participation, and most importantly - clowns, all of which proved very useful in the advertising process. 'Medea', on the other

hand, performed by the Upper Sixth, employed the premise of a group of grannies acting as narrators, putting a 'hilarious' twist on Euripedes' classic tragedy. The plays were both very well received, with 'Antigone' receiving a glowing four star review from critic, Richard Stamp, and 'Medea' being highly praised across social media. Any free time during the week was spent watching the seemingly infinite array of shows on offer. These ranged from hard-hitting theatre, to musicals and comedy sketch groups. Overall, it was a fantastic experience, and we couldn't be more grateful to the school for allowing it to happen.

Dora Black, GHS Upper Sixth student



ABOVE: Dora Black, Isobel Lovatt, Elcisha Harvey and Emma Pollock

YEAR 7 PUPIL STARS IN THE WEST END SHOW 'MATILDA'



Last year, whilst in Year 7, Sadie Lim undertook three months of gruelling rehearsals in the West End whilst continuing to study at GHS full time. Sadie was lucky enough to have been cast as Lavender Brown in the hit musical 'Matilda'.

“ Sadie has performed in over 150 shows, including a special performance to her peers who travelled to London to watch her in action. ”

When sharing her experiences with the school, Sadie said the journey has taught her about true professionalism; how to perform to the best of her ability in every show, because every audience deserves the best, most magical performance of Matilda. Her favourite part of being at the theatre was spending time with all the wonderful people she met; her fellow actors, creative directors, hair stylists, stage managers and many others. We wish Sadie the best of luck for the future as we have no doubt she will be taking to the West End stage again.

Ms Ashley Fenton

10 YEARS FOR THE GHS & RGS JOINT CHAMBER CHOIR

On 11 September, the pupils from this summer's GHS & RGS Joint Orchestra and Chamber Choir tour, together with alumni musicians from both schools, joined forces for a special concert at Holy Trinity Church. This was a tremendous occasion as the Joint Orchestra and Chamber Choir - including those who left the Upper Sixth in July - reprised the repertoire recently performed on tour in Tuscany.

The alumni musicians joined with the current choir and orchestra to perform 'Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen' by Brahms; the 'Kyrie', 'Gloria' and 'Agnus Dei' from Mozart's Coronation Mass; and Charles Wood's unaccompanied gem, 'Hail Gladdening Light'. The combined forces melded brilliantly to produce the most tremendously thrilling (and, when required, powerful!) sound. The musicians were clearly lifted by the sight of a packed church, with nearly 300 in the audience.

Mention must be made of the current school pupils for whom this was also their post tour concert; it was the opportunity for their parents to hear the music performed in Florence, San Gimignano, Pescia, Lucca and Montecatini Terme.

The GHS & RGS Chamber Choir was in tremendous

“As September 2019 also marks the 10th Anniversary of the Joint GHS & RGS Chamber Choir, it was a delight to be able to invite back former choristers to reunite and sing once again.”

TOP ROW: from left to right, Gemma Wills (Class of 2014), Olivia Perrett (Class of 2015), Ellen Brunet (Class of 2014), Helen Tudor (Class of 2018), Leoni Hughes-King (Class of 2018) and Helena Bayley (Class of 2018)
BOTTOM ROW: from left to right, Nicola Raeside (Class of 2011), Eleanor Bray (Class of 2015), Mr Grayson Jones (Director of Music), Sophie Thompson (Class of 2018) and Anna Thomas (Class of 2018)



form, delighting the audience with Harris' unaccompanied gem, Faire is the Heaven, before performing - with orchestra - Handel's great Coronation Anthem, The King Shall Rejoice.

“The balance, blend, intonation and nuance was evident throughout.”

The Joint Orchestra (superbly led by Amy Collis), brought out all the required drama and tenderness in pieces by Rossini and Sibelius, whilst the roaring finale - Walton's Crown Imperial - was especially impressive from this ensemble of highly talented players.

The strength of the choir is such that the soloists for the Mozart mass were all drawn from current pupils and they were simply outstanding. Particular mention must be made of the soprano soloists Lydia Parkes (Kyrie), Beth Yates (Gloria) and Hannah Dienes-Williams (Agnus Dei), and the contralto Georgie Durie (Gloria); there were also superb countertenor, tenor and bass soloists from the RGS.

For the audience and performers alike, this was an exhilarating and memorable evening. Thank you to all alumni that attended the event, it was lovely to see you all again!

Mr Grayson Jones



'CALL ME LOOP' - GEORGIA'S FLOURISHING MUSIC CAREER



I have seen many girls pass through the corridors at GHS onto excellent careers, but it is not very often that I reconnect with one that has had a musical career like this one.

She has supported artists like Nina Nesbitt and Jonas Blue on tour and has performed at Belfast Vital in front of 20,000 people, sharing the stage with chart toppers Zara Larsson and Martin Garrix.

When asked about her musical career, Georgia said:

“*Georgia Buchanan (Class of 2009), studied Drama at Exeter University and since then has been pursuing a music career and has cumulated over 35 million streams to date.*”

Known by the stage name 'Call me Loop', Georgia has been releasing music independently since April 2016, and since then, has released numerous singles and two EPs through Spotify, Apple Music and iTunes. Her most popular song *Give n Take* has over 15.5 million streams on Spotify, as well as featuring on TV shows such as 'The Only Way is Essex' and playing on regular rotations in high street shops, Topshop, Zara and H&M. Her popularity spreads internationally, as her music has reached numerous countries from Spain to Australia and even Japan!

“*I call my music 'sassy, emotive pop' and a lot of it focuses on relationships and breakups. They are all fun songs that channel a message of female empowerment. I now have a new single out called Self Love, which is about reclaiming your independence, and is a big summer song. I am proud of what I have achieved so far and just wanted to share this with you as I love the idea of current GHS pupils listening to my music.*”

Recently named as one of The Official Chart's 'One To Watch' artists, Georgia's career continues to flourish and has received wonderful press write-ups from the likes of Elton John on his Beats 1 show 'Rocket Hour' which is incredible to hear.

We wish Georgia the best of luck in her future career and look forward to hearing more of her music.

Mrs Louise Stone



A CAREER IN THE ARTS

Kate Varah (Class of 1997) is the Executive Director of The Old Vic, an independent not-for-profit theatre in London that is considered a world leader in creativity and entertainment, with a strong social mission.

Now in her early 40s, Kate speaks passionately about her school-days at GHS and in particular, about an amazing, inspirational teacher whose encouragement led her to Oxford and set her up for all that followed.

It was during her Sixth Form years, studying English, History, Music and Religious Studies at A' Level, that Kate was given a life changing opportunity to visit Oxford University on a school trip, organised by her RS teacher, Mrs Hutton, who had been an Oxbridge theologian herself. Inspired by the whole experience, Kate was successful in her UCAS application to study Theology at Keble College, an achievement she attributes to the close supervision and support she received from Mrs Hutton.

“ I had never particularly been on the Oxbridge track but Mrs Hutton gave me confidence to believe it might be for me. It really was a transformative relationship and I remain profoundly grateful to her for the nurture and encouragement that she gave. ”

At school, Kate enjoyed music and drama, directing and writing the Sixth Form pantomime with several teachers in excellent cameo roles. During her time at Oxford, Kate pursued this school interest in drama, eventually becoming the President of the Oxford Dramatic Society, producing a number of shows and completing an internship at Arts Council England.

Whilst on her internship at ACE, Kate was given an opportunity to talk to the Secretary General at the time, Mary Allen. Her advice was not to come back

“ GHS was not just an academic experience for me; it gave me an attitude to life, and an approach that has stayed with me throughout university and still informs how I engage with opportunities and challenges today. ”

and work in the ACE press office, as Kate initially thought; but instead to go out and gain some business acumen because – Mary suggested – we needed more of it in the arts. Then come back, she said, and bring those skills with you. Kate took this advice and went to law school, then magic circle City firm Linklaters to complete a training contract in London and Hong Kong, before qualifying into the employment department. During her time at Linklaters, Kate worked on secondment to investment bank JPMorgan and qualified as a Solicitor Advocate, so she was able to conduct her own advocacy in court and tribunal defending clients.

Kate didn't forget her early pledge to return to the arts, and, towards the end of her time at Linklaters, moved into the firm's Community Investment department. She conducted the firm's pro bono work and input into the arts sponsorship programme alongside her employment law practice. Six years in, when Kate was ready to progress forwards in her career, a colleague suggested that she type into Google her perfect, ideal job title. 'Chickenshed job' returned an advert for Business Director at Chickenshed, an inclusive theatre group for young people and adults; a job that she attained and enjoyed until taking a year's pause to have twins.

During that time she continued with consultancy and trustee work until she serendipitously bumped into an old GHS friend who remarked that she should meet her mother, who was about to leave The Old Vic and may be interested in Kate as a successor. She got the job, and in 2009 began a 10-year career when the twins were nine months old, taking on the



role of Business Director, then COO. Promotion came in 2015 to move to a leadership position as Executive Director, working closely with Artistic Director Matthew Warchus' to deliver his artistic vision for the theatre, a job she still pinches herself that she has to this day.

Last summer, The Old Vic was home to 'A Very Expensive Poison', written by alumna Lucy Prebble (Class of 1999), now a highly regarded and successful playwright. It had been nearly seven years since the staging of Lucy's last play 'The Effect' and over ten years since her Olivier-nominated smash hit 'Enron' made its claim to be the best new play of the century so far.

A decade on and Lucy was offered the opportunity by The Old Vic to adapt Guardian journalist Luke Harding's book, a complex new work about the assassination of Russian defector Alexander Litvinenko. Directed by BAFTA-winner and Tony-nominee John Crowley, 'A Very Expensive Poison' ran at The Old Vic until early October of this year.

It is absolutely wonderful to see how successful these two alumnae have been since leaving GHS.

They are both following very different, creative paths in the arts sector and yet brought together this year in a brilliant collaboration of writing and production.

Kate's advice to current students and alumni is to expect a career that is a mixture of part preparation, part luck: so grab any opportunity that comes to you (even if you don't feel ready or skilled enough).

“ Don't be limited or constrained by a linear career path. You will find you have gained transferable skills in your previous roles that will often give you a more rounded approach to a new situation or challenge. ”

Feel confident in the depth and range your skills bring and enjoy bringing a different perspective to the table.

Mrs Louise Stone

'MEET ME ON THE RIVIERA'

Felicity Pritchett (Class of 1998), who writes under her maiden name as Fliss Chester, has just had her third novel published by Orion.

“Full of one liners, humorous situations and naughty clinches, all three books in her French Escapes Series are greatly enjoyable; especially if you're in the mood for something light-hearted and not overly complex.”

These are fantastic 'holiday books' when you need something that's an easy read, will help you relax and most importantly, that will make you smile!

This first series of Fliss's will certainly satisfy any appetite for light, romantic stories, with sinfully seductive heroes. Her first, 'Snowballs! Winter Fun on the Slopes' introduces her main characters; six old university friends who set off for a wintry week of fun, fondue and frivolity on the glamorous slopes of Val d'Argent. On the agenda: flirting, drinking, dancing – and a bit of skiing along the way. Book two in the series, 'Summer at the Vineyard', starts where Snowballs! left off. Our main character Jenna and her friends (and frenemies) are together again in the south of France, but whilst planning the party of the century, a suave new love interest appears for our heroine and things go awry. 'Meet Me on the Riviera' is the third and most

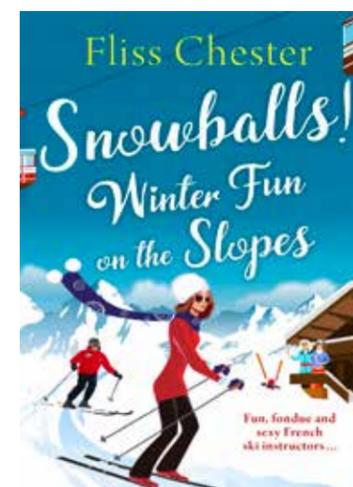
recently published novel, set in the Cote d'Azur, amongst the glitz and glamour of millionaires. Fliss reliably tells us that all the anecdotes – some of them quite shocking! – which feature in the books are real stories she picked up while doing her research among the Monte Carlo yacht community!

Before becoming a novelist, Fliss worked on magazines, writing and editing articles about lifestyle and interiors. By her own admission she was an early adopter of the now more common 'portfolio career', and her other jobs have included being an interior designer, a brief foray into finance, and Head of Gin (yes, that's a real job). Fliss is married to local wine merchant Rupert Pritchett of Taurus Wines near Bramley and they live back near Guildford in the beautiful Surrey Hills.

“Look out in late 2020 for her next series of novels – 'The Fen Church Mysteries' – which will be published by Bookouture.”

Fliss will be swapping romance for revolvers as her 1940s heroine, Fennella Church, solves murders in these exciting post-war whodunnits. 'The Fen Church Mysteries' will be available to pre-order on Amazon later next year but Fliss's French Escapes Series books are available to order now from Amazon and Waterstones.

Mrs Louise Stone



A 'CREATIVE WELL' OF MEMORIES

- INSPIRATIONAL WATERCOLOUR DESIGN

After a gap of nearly 40 years, it was a pleasure to welcome ex-Junior School pupil Kerry Whistlecroft (née Le Gray) back to GHS this year.

“Kerry now runs a successful freelance graphic design agency and spends much of her spare time painting and crafting in various mediums.”

Leaving the Junior School in 1980, Kerry went to study at St George's College before completing her Art Foundation at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts (now Camberwell College of Arts). Before starting a family, Kerry was Head of Design and Marketing for Hogg Robinson Group and founded Creative Well in 2010, providing graphic design and creative communication services to UK and global businesses.

Kerry was commissioned by GHS to create a painting of the school, a print of which our newest alumni would be able to cherish as part of their welcome packs. As many of you who have returned to visit the school over the years will realise, a key challenge for Kerry in painting this image was how to marry the myriad of architectural styles into one harmonious composition. Victorian chimney pots, 21st century glass atriums and 1960s classrooms all

sit together on our site but provide something of a challenge aesthetically! Kerry worked from detailed photos of the school buildings to create several Photoshop montages, highlighting key features such as the clock tower, Morton House, the original Victorian buildings and of course, the wonderful Alice in Wonderland statue, installed in 2016 that takes pride of place in the courtyard. Once a preferred image was chosen, Kerry set to work replicating the design with watercolours, adding definition with pen and ink. The finished painting now hangs in pride of place in Mrs Fiona Boulton's office and we are thrilled to be able to showcase the talents of our alumna.

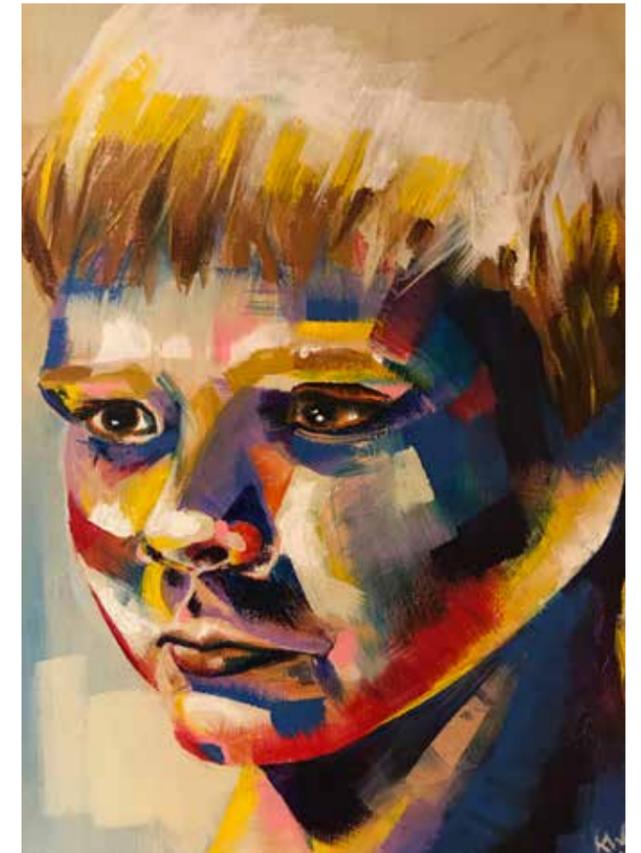
“It was important that I captured both the look and feel of GHS in my painting. The blue and lilac tones running through the image are important school colours and the mix of old and new buildings reflect the school's ongoing evolution.”

If you would like to find out more about Kerry's work please visit her website: www.creativewell.co.uk.

Mrs Helen Moffat



OPPOSITE: Kerry's illustration of Guildford High School
BELOW: Examples of Kerry's work



400TH ANNIVERSARY PORTRAIT

In 1922, a House system was introduced at GHS, with the four Houses named after local figures: Abbot, Carrol, Haig-Brown and Watts.

“ *One of these prominent figures was George Abbot, who was born in Guildford and later became the Archbishop of Canterbury.* ”

He resolved to devote some of his wealth to the benefit of the poor, elderly residents in Guildford by founding The Hospital of the Blessed Trinity in 1961, now known as the Abbot's Hospital. Situated at the top of Guildford High Street, the hospital is a Jacobean Grade 1 listed building and contains significant historical collections, such as the Hospital's Charter, granted by James I in 1622. It had not been Abbot's intention to provide a hospital, in the modern sense of the word, but rather a place of shelter for the poor and elderly (twelve men and eight single women), under the care of a resident Master.

Nearly four centuries later, Abbot's Hospital continues to offer city centre accommodation for local, elderly people who need a sociable and supportive environment in which to live. It also regularly

opens its doors to tourists and hires out venue rooms for Receptions and Corporate events. To mark the 400th Anniversary since its foundation, the hospital hosted the 'George Abbot's Gift to Guildford' exhibition in October, showcasing some of its treasures that trace the lives of its residents.

“ *As part of the exhibition, Jane Allison (Class of 1975), was commissioned to complete a large portrait (40 x 84 inches), of the Residents, the Master and Warden of the hospital.* ”

Prior to painting the actual piece, Jane carried out individual life drawing studies, in order to replicate the characters and history of the place. The whole process took her over a year and during that time she developed a great affection for the hospital and its people, including the dogs! Jane framed all her studies in one unit, painting a central panel depicting the Gatehouse, to add to the story for future generations.

Miss Abbie Voice

BELOW: Abbot's Hospital, Guildford





ABOVE: the Wells family. From the left: Agnes, Mary (great-great-grandmother), Emily, May and Alfred. Circa. 1910.

THREE GENERATIONS AT GHS

When Guildford High School was founded in 1888, my great-great Grandpa Alfred Wells was a farmer at Tuesley Farm in Godalming where he lived with his wife Mary.

“ Their family grew, first with Agnes (my great Grandma), born 1890, and then May, born 1892. Both girls attended GHS where Agnes excelled in Art and Music, particularly the piano. ”

However, times were different then for girls. Agnes had to choose between pursuing a career in music or marriage. She chose the latter and married Frederick “Nimmie” Mitchell in 1914 but retained a love of music throughout her life. They moved to Guildford where Nimmie worked in Lloyds Bank in the High Street. May volunteered for the Red Cross during the first World War but sadly never married as the war had taken its toll on the number of eligible men returning.

Agnes and Nimmie went on to have two daughters; Jean was born in 1916 and Alison (my Grandma) in 1921. Again, to follow family tradition, both went to GHS where Jean was the academic one and Grandma the sporty one. Jean passed her Schools Certificate

and married Geoffrey Bacon in 1935. They moved away from Guildford, first to East Horsley and then Reigate where Geoffrey worked as a bank manager.

“ Grandma represented the school at hockey and lacrosse. She admitted to frequently trying to get others to do her school work. ”

However, the story that she always recounted with the most amount of glee was the time she got sent to Coventry – she decided to walk along the very small ledge outside, what is now the maths corridor, which you will note is not a ground floor corridor. She was very smug as she successfully completed this task without any damage to herself or the school building, much to her classmates’ amazement, until she came face to face with a Prefect as she clambered back through the classroom window.

It was while at school that Grandma met (most probably behind the school bike sheds by Nightingale Road as she told me) a boy from the Royal Grammar School. She and Douglas Terrill were married in 1940 when Douglas was a flying instructor for the RAF. Tragically, Douglas was killed in 1943 when the aircraft he was flying as a test pilot crashed.

After the war, Grandma met and married Derek Stott (my Grandpa) who was then a tutor at the Guildford Law School, now known as the University

of Law. They moved away to Midhurst in West Sussex where Grandpa worked as a solicitor. Grandma and Grandpa had a son, Graham (my Dad) in 1955. With Dad failing the gender test and being an only child, this family story skips a generation.

Mum and Dad moved to Guildford in 1982 and I was born in 1989. In 2000 I became the fifth member of family to go to GHS. It is said I followed more in my great Grandma’s footsteps than Grandma’s. In fact, without my knowledge, both my great Grandma and I both painted water scenes when we were both in our final years at GHS. I won the school Art Prize in 2007 and went on to gain a distinction at Wimbledon Art College. I studied Art and Psychology at the University of Reading where I met my now husband, James Beldham. We were married in 2015 in Farnham and our wedding was greatly attended by alumni.

“ This story has now come full circle as we now live in Godalming, just like my great-great Grandpa. ”

Who knows, in years to come our future daughter may well be attending Guildford High School just like the three generations before her.

Caroline Beldham (nee Stott), Class of 2007



ABOVE: from left to right, Caroline Beldham and her father visiting GHS in September and Agnes, Jean and Alison. Jean is wearing school uniform, 1926.



MISHA'S CHARITY COLLABORATION



One of GHS's main goals is to provide students with an environment in which they can think and learn creatively and collaboratively. It is so rewarding, therefore, to hear when former students move on to thrive in careers that take them down a creative, collaborative route.

“ Misha Nonoo, a member of our alumni community who left the school in 1999, has established a high-profile career as a fashion designer in New York. ”

Misha won industry recognition when she became a finalist for the 2013 CFDA/ Vogue Fashion Fund and was named one of Forbes '30 Under 30'. Since then, she has used her innovative concepts to defy the status quo and is the first designer to use social media as a venue for fashion shows.

Misha is now working with her long-time friend Meghan Markle, The Duchess of Sussex, who is the

royal patron of Smart Works, a charity that helps British women to get back into employment, by offering them sessions in personal styling and interview training.

The Duchess has launched an ambitious new project, bringing together key players in the fashion world (Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and Partners, Jigsaw and Misha Nonoo) to produce a 'Smart Set' collection of clothing, including a dress, suit, shirt and tote bag. For every item sold, each retailer will donate a like-for-like item to the charity. In Misha's case, this involves her 'perfect' white shirt, which is made with truly inclusive sizing and dart placement to suit every woman's figure.

“ The collaboration has attracted global attention for what the charity is trying to achieve; enabling women to feel more confident and presentable for interviews that might change their lives. ”

BELOW: Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, embraces designer Misha Nonoo as she launches the Smart Works capsule collection on September 12, 2019 in London, England. (Photo by Mark Large - WPA Pool/Getty Images)

In June this year, Misha brought her eponymous brand to London and made her UK debut with a pop-up shop in London's Marylebone Village. The reputable designer executed the innovative concept to exhibit mindful shopping with a key focus on sustainable fashion. The pop-up shop presented Misha's newest collection alongside a plethora of other sustainable beauty, lifestyle and accessory brands including Aurelia Probiotic Skincare, EYM Naturals and Silou London.

Since then, Misha's pop-up shop has made its American debut with an aesthetic black and white chic store in New York where the walls are populated with empowering actions that Misha lives by, such as "Women who wear black lead colourful lives."

“ These pop-up shops really capture my belief in a sustainable future and showcases elements that are important to me. ”

Her mission is to make this store a permanent feature in the city.

We not only wish Misha the very best of luck in this forward-thinking enterprise but also hope that her charity work continues to go from strength to strength.

Mrs Louise Stone



OPENING MINDS

Once public exams are over, there is always a new and exciting focus for the Lower Sixth. Students are suddenly propelled into the overwhelming world of UCAS applications, writing personal statements and thinking about the possibility of a gap year. Some have already decided upon a career path, whilst others flounder in a myriad of internet and soul searching investigation. Diaries become crowded with Open Days and seeds of thought are sewn about Oxbridge, without the confidence of knowing how well exams have gone to confirm future grade predictions!

“ It then seems no time at all before each cohort takes their giant leap onto the springboard of life after GHS. ”

Where will they go, what will they do next? As Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton, always says at the start of the UCAS journey: ‘It is important to discover what it is you love, the subject that sets you on fire – we can then support and educate you in pursuit of your dream’. It is therefore incredibly important that we open students’ minds to imagine what is out there and what is possible for them, with their very individual set of talents and interests.

“ For this reason, we appreciate the time and effort taken by alumni who come and visit, to chat through their experiences and give valuable advice, reassuring a captive audience that life after school will work out! ”

At our Careers Forum in March on ‘Pathways from English’, we were delighted to welcome back seven past students who have studied English, or a related degree, and are now pursuing wide-ranging careers. The women spoke about their roles in journalism, theatre, media, law, marketing and recruiting. Current GHS students were enthralled by the speakers’ experiences and were keen to take advice from them informally after the talks.

We were also delighted to welcome three representatives from Cubiks, in Guildford, who came to talk to interested students about their careers in technology as part of the company’s International Women’s Day celebrations. They spoke about their various roles in quality assurance, software development and project management.



ABOVE: From left to right - Tara de Klerk, Jessica Falworth, Sophie Twine, Elysia Ratcliffe, Josephine Johnson, Sophie Ledsome, Alex Lavan, Briony Randell and Anna Goatley (All Class of 2018)
 BELOW: Maria Pointer (Class of 2018)
 OPPOSITE: ‘Pathways from English’ talk, from left to right - Pip Sloan, Victoria Bak, Suze Mottley, Annie Waugh, Melissa Lawford, Lucinda Sainsbury and Amanda Lamble

In June, it was a real pleasure to catch up with some of our Class of 2018 who had just completed their first year at university. The Lower Sixth couldn’t help but feel inspired by hearing about their experiences of applying through UCAS and there was plenty of opportunity for them to chat informally and pick their brains for advice on the application and interview process.

Ex Head Girl, Maria Pointer, also spoke about all the different opportunities a gap year after A Levels can bring.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped us to inspire others this year. If you feel you can help us in this way, please contact us. Your contributions are always hugely beneficial and cannot be underestimated; in some situations, they can be life changing!

Mrs Louise Stone



A CLASSICAL EVENING WITH GHS ALUMNI

BELOW: From left to right - Anna Chatakondou (2019), Eleisha Harvey (current Upper Sixth), Sofia Robson (2019), Patrick Finglass, Genie Morris (2015), Sophia Slater (2018) and Sophia Chatakondou (2017).



On Wednesday 9 January, Professor Patrick Finglass joined us to celebrate our second Classics Evening. Patrick took his undergraduate and doctoral degrees at the University of Oxford from where he went on to hold important roles at the University of Nottingham. He is now the Henry Overton Wills Chair of Greek at the University of Bristol and Head of the Department of Classics and Ancient History where, to date, he has taught two GHS alumni.

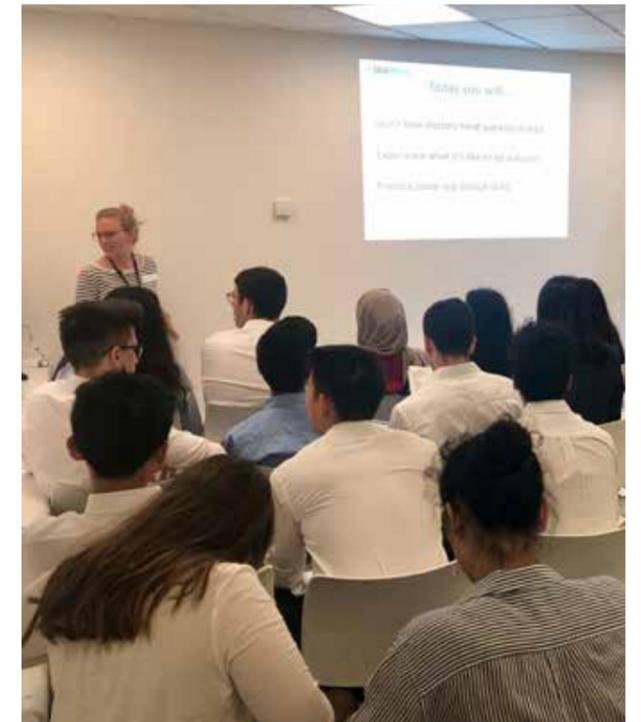
Patrick is a pre-eminent scholar and a captivating and entertaining public speaker. He introduced us to the Greek lyric poet Stesichorus, who lived in Sicily in the first half of the sixth century BC. Although only fragments of Stesichorus' work have survived, Patrick explained that recent discoveries are adding to our understanding of his artistry. In his account of Heracles confronting and killing the three-headed monster Geryon, it seems likely that Stesichorus was putting his own spin on an existing mythological framework and interacting with the works of Homer.

“After Patrick's fascinating talk, we heard from four of our alumni who kindly joined us for the evening.”

Having graduated from Bristol University with a degree in Ancient History, Katie Shaw is now undertaking a Master's in Management. Genie Morris graduated last summer from Cambridge University with a degree in Classics and is now doing a Law conversion course. Sophia Chatakondou is in her second year at Exeter University studying Classics and English. Sophia Slater is in her first year at Cambridge University studying Classics. It was a delight to see how they have progressed since leaving GHS and they spoke with striking confidence and humour, conveying beautifully their love of Classics.

Mr Andrew James

ENTREPRENEURIAL SZEPIETOWSKI SISTERS



In 2017, two former students of Guildford High School launched their organisations aimed to help those looking at careers in Medicine and Law.

“Sisters, Olivia and Virginia Szepietowski founded the businesses UniMed and UniLaw to provide medical and legal work experience, for students wishing to pursue careers in Medicine and Law.”

The inspiration for the venture arose after identifying a deficiency of university application support for students from all backgrounds, aiming to get into Medicine and Law at elite Universities. Dr Olivia Szepietowski (Class of 2011) studied medicine,

obtaining a PhD from the Imperial College London in Bariatric Surgery; whilst Virginia (Class of 2012) studied Law and French Law at Exeter University and L'Université de Rennes. She is currently training to be a Solicitor with BDB Pitmans LLP.

Through UniMed and UniLaw, the sisters have successfully guided hundreds of students into their first choice universities by providing continuous support to help finesse personal statements and prepare for interviews and Aptitude Tests.

As they continue to develop their organisations, they are now branching into international student support in the UAE through philanthropic and commercial ventures.

We wish Olivia and Virginia the best of luck in their future business endeavours and careers.

Mrs Louise Stone

WHAT'S STOPPING GIRLS FROM INVESTING?



Francesca Ritchie (Class of 2011) has enjoyed an interesting career in investment, firstly with Goldman Sachs and now with a newly launched UK charity called GAIN: Girls Are INvestors.

“Having attended a ‘Sixth Form Girls Day’ at Goldman Sachs when she was at GHS, it was no co-incidence that in 2015, after graduating from Cambridge (where she studied Engineering), she started with the company.”

Whilst at school, Francesca remembers feeling that all doors were open for whatever she wanted to study

and ultimately pursue as a career. She firmly believed anything was possible.

Looking back, she realises girls probably tend to ‘profile’ themselves early on and count themselves out of exploring certain subjects and ultimately different careers. Her career in investment has been an incredibly interesting and rewarding one, but it was not a pathway she had thought or expected to follow!

Now that she is in the workplace, she has seen a stunning lack of gender diversity within the investment management community and female application rates continue to significantly lag behind their male counterparts. Part of this is because there’s still a significant drop-off rate as women progress through their careers, and according to McKinsey,

“In percentage terms, only 6% of Private Equity decision makers are women, with a mere 9% in Hedge Funds, Asset Management and Real Estate.”

they lose ground to their male peers at every stage of promotion.

There are many fantastic initiatives in existence to help promote the interests of women already working in investment roles (The Diversity Project, Level 20, and 100 Women in Finance to name a few); however, this is only half the picture. Surveys have indicated that, on average, female applications for entry-level investment roles account for just 20% of the total. This is where GAIN comes in. Their objective is to raise this number to 50% in 10 years’ time.

Having surveyed 16-21 year old women across state and private sixth forms and universities, as well as recent graduates, GAIN found a striking lack of understanding of what investing is and how it shapes our society. The charity has therefore been founded

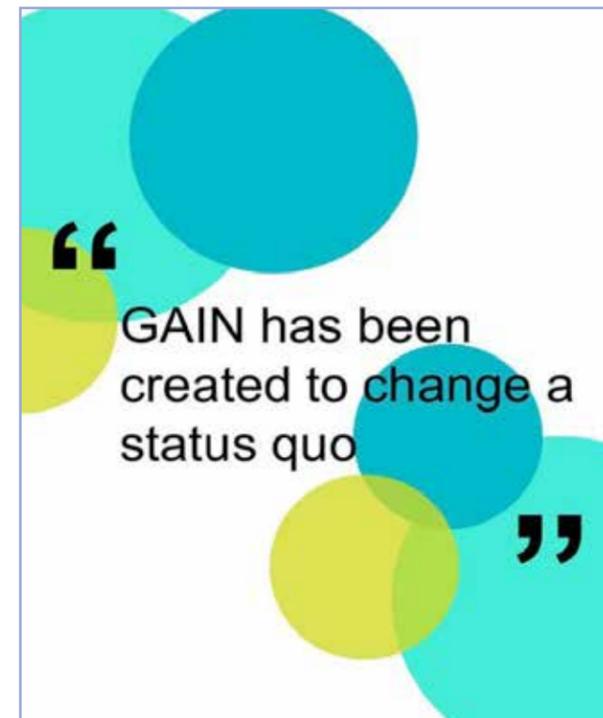
to tackle this issue from the ground up, hosting a series of talks, delivered by female investors, at schools and universities across the UK. These talks, along with their social media presence, aim to demystify the subject of investing, providing useful information and inspiring role models.

Hopefully, the benefits of the initiatives are likely to stretch far beyond GAIN’s initial remit.

“Being engaged in investment extends beyond a career. It is important for girls to know how to invest and ultimately how to manage and grow their own wealth.”

If any alumni are currently in investment management and would like to explore how to become involved and give the next group of girls a hand, or are interested in moving into the industry, please get in touch with Francesca via GHS.

Mrs Louise Stone



CLASS OF 1964: A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



ABOVE: From left to right, top row with maiden names - Penny Brock, Stella Shackle, Janet Davidson, Andria Charlton, Patricia Lee, Sue Browning, Wendy Bruce, Rosemary Collingwood and Hilary Fogwill. Seated - Cherida Scott Gardener, Jenny Higgins, Jane Rogers, Angela Charlton, Mary Cullen and Candida Pickering.
BELOW: Alumni from the Class of 1964 at 16 years old!

On Saturday 8 September 2018 several of us met up for a lovely lunch party to celebrate our 70th birthdays. This was quite an achievement as some of us started from scratch to seek out those who'd been in our class and left at the age of 16. Lots of research led us to find approximately 20 of them and 15 of us met at Jenny's house in Elstead, near Godalming, for a delicious lunch provided by us all. We were delighted to welcome everyone including those from the United States and Australia and, of course, we were surprised to find how geographically close some of us live in the UK!

A wonderful afternoon was had by all and we certainly hope to repeat the event.

Janet Wright (née Davidson)



CLASS OF 1970: WEST COUNTRY GROUP



Once again, we were blessed with lovely weather and were able to sit outside all afternoon, catching up with the latest news from everyone's lives and enjoying the many and various items of food and drink that everyone had brought. During the afternoon, we discussed the 50 year celebration we are planning for 2020. This will be taking place on 26 and 27 June. On the afternoon of Friday 26 June, GHS have kindly invited us into school for tea and a tour of the school, and on Saturday 27 June we will be having lunch at the home of Sally Lingard (née Furse) in Guildford.

On Sunday 12 May 2019 the annual get together of the 1970 leavers West Country group took place, this time at Pam Motum's lovely home in Somerset. This group also includes those who left after the fifth form in 1968 or after the Lower Sixth in 1969.

Please contact me via the the school by emailing alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk if you would like further information about these events.

Gill Strange (née Thomas)

CLASS OF 1974: A TRIP TO CORFU

In June 2018 – six old GHS friends, who were members of the class of 1974, spent a glorious week in a huge villa in Corfu to celebrate our 60th birthdays. A big thank you should go to Gill for organising this wonderful holiday as it took some arranging! The six of us are in constant contact via WhatsApp and/or email and meet up regularly.

We are all delighted that we are still in touch and have been friends for so long. It is amazing to think that, with the exception of Jane who started in the Senior School, the rest of us started at GHS at the tender age of five!

Jane Ship



CLASS OF 1976: RETURN TO GHS AFTER 50 YEARS

Of the Class of 1976, 22 celebrated their 50 years since starting at GHS in 1969 by meeting at the school for a lunch and tour on Saturday 12 October. We were delighted that two members of staff, Marilyn Holmsted and Judy Gorrie, who taught us PE were also able to join us.

Alumni Liaison Officer kindly gave up her afternoon to host us and she led us on a tour of the school taking in the now state of the art facilities for teaching, performing arts, sport, art, languages, sciences and the acquisition of neighbouring houses.

We were all very happy to see that our “state of the art” Sixth Form Common Room in 1975 was still there but is now the Careers Room! Marilyn was happy to be reacquainted with her PE cupboard under the stairs! Not sure what she found in that... but not netballs and bibs!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable three hours and I would encourage any other year groups to go back and visit...it really is a school full of warmth, innovation and is “Inspiring Girls” to be anything they want to be...just fantastic. Thank you to all those that came and roll on our next reunion! When we’re 64?!

“We were treated to an amazing buffet lunch whilst we had a catch up....most of us had met five years ago to celebrate 40 years since ‘O’ levels but this was the first time the majority of us had been back to GHS and what a change there’s been!”

Louise Stone, the Executive Director of Sport and

Vicky Henry (née Reading)





CLASS OF 2009: 10-YEAR REUNION

What a lovely day! The sun shone and the day became more and more cheerful as familiar faces arrived to enjoy a glass of bubbles in the Atrium of the 2016 Hall.

“10 years may seem a long time, but on these occasions, days, weeks, months and years melt into a timeless pot of memories.”

The interesting part for me, was discovering how far they had travelled and what they had achieved during that time. Girls may look the same after ten years, but their lives have cruised along a fascinating variety of divergent paths, from medics to pop stars and the whole shebang in between!

It was a delight to show the girls around the school but staggering to realise how many structural changes have been made since they left. Apart from the obvious new build, incorporating the wonderful 2016 Hall and prominent courtyard setting around the Alice in Wonderland statue, new and innovative facilities now include the intimate Sixth Form Science lab, CAP Room (Current Affairs and Philosophy) and a very modern looking House Hub (both of which have replaced old ICT rooms). A recently equipped Strength & Conditioning Suite, to enhance fitness facilities for girls on our Aspiring Athletes programme, now makes better use of the mezzanine balcony area over the school gym. All the school corridors appear smarter and tidier, with glass hot boards for exhibiting artwork, notices and posters, whilst classrooms are freshly decorated and furnished, with stylised quotations written on the ▶

BELOW: From left to right, top row - Dr Jane Boyd, Izzy Davies, Emma Noble, Jen Wilson, Mrs Louise Stone, Alice Bruynseels, Sarah Brown (née Young), Phili Wellman (née May), Henrietta Dillon, Rhianna Netherton and Mrs Gail Scott.

From left to right, bottom row - Mrs Sarah Glyn-Davies, Hera'a Ahmed, Jo Ward, Georgia Buchanan, Camila Beeston and Frankie Harrington

CLASSES OF 1973-80: A RECENT GET-TOGETHER

Earlier this year we held a get-together near Guildford with five of us from the 1973 - 1978/80 year group.

“*Philippa was Head Girl and Louise & I shared the role of Vice Head Girl and we have kept in touch all these years.*”

Apart from Louise who is no longer teaching, we are all still working in our chosen careers of GP Medicine (Philippa), Physiotherapy (Jane), HR (Kate) and Architecture (me).

We last met up with more of our year group a few years ago, at a reunion organised by Sarah (née Shepley) and are looking forward to meeting up for a 40th reunion next year.

GHS have kindly invited us into school for tea and a tour of the school. Please contact me via the school by emailing alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk if you would like further information about this event.

Nicky Chew (née Johnson)

ABOVE: From left to right - Louise Alban (née Jenkins), Nicki Chew (née Johnson), Kate Sarama (née Mallory), Jane Crowley (née Rule) and Philippa Chapman (née Bunting).





► walls, rather than blue-tacked homework displays. The garden area that has been extended around 1, Nightingale Road and Harper House next door, gives the school a valuable and attractive green space for pupils to enjoy, in addition to the terraced patio outside the renovated, contemporary library.

In the old, original wing of the main school building, Room 1 is no longer, having been converted into a much-needed cloakroom and the Drama Hall has been refurbished with retractable tiered seating and LED stage lighting. The corridor outside the staffroom has been renamed for its purpose of Health & Well-Being, as it now houses the Medical Centre (moved from its inconvenient position upstairs) alongside the Pastoral Deputy Head's Study and the Heads of Year Office suite (which used to locate Mrs Clifford's PE kit shop!).

Finally, I took the group to see the Marketing and Admissions Suite which has been built over the front reception area and then eventually down to Stocks Hall, the base-layer of the main school building, that is now furnished with large round tables and chairs, rather than old-fashioned refectory style benches. The school has adapted and re-modelled itself to keep inspiring pupils of all ages and interests. All

these changes made me feel proud to still be working at GHS.

“ Year on year, GHS remains at the top of the league tables, yet the alumni community proves without question that GHS pupils' achievement extends far further than the echelons of high academic success. ”

The main-stay web of the institution continues to be woven by new threads, producing a glorious fabric of different designs and colours that ensures the wonderful diversity of paths to follow, when students leave GHS. Many thanks to all the Class of 2009 who came and made the day so enjoyable and worthwhile: Hera'a Ahmed, Camila Beeston, Sarah Brown (née Young), Alice Bruynseels, Georgia Buchanan, Izzy Davies, Henrietta Dillon, Frankie Harrington, Rhianna Netherton, Emma Noble, Jo Ward, Phili Wellman (née May) and Jen Wilson.

Mrs Louise Stone

TYING THE KNOT

TOP: Gemma Ives (née Ellse, Class of 2007), and GHS alumni (Class of 2007) - Katie Pateman-Jones (née Forbes), Kat Burnside, Rosie Shapland, Laura Walker (née Sweet), Imy Bland, Ellie Nicholson-Thomas, Susie Stewart, Gemma Ives (née Ellse), Julia Gasson, Alex Robinson, Phil Davies, Jess Moseley (née Kimpton), Flik Richardson, Caz Beldham (née Stott) and Thea Gardner.
BOTTOM LEFT: Amy Garcia (née Gasson, Class of 2005) with husband Juan Garcia and Julia Gasson (Class of 2007).
BOTTOM RIGHT: Sarah Thomas (née Betts, Class of 2010) with husband James Thomas.



TOP: Sarah Brown (née Young, Class of 2009) with GHS alumni (Class of 2009) - Annabel Little, Clare Bourke, Izzy Davies, Lizzie Louis, Frankie Harrington and Emma Noble.
MIDDLE: Emily Dally (Class of 2009) with GHS alumni (Class of 2009) - Alice Bruynseels, Annabel Little, Jennifer Wilson, Charlotte Howell, Georgia Buchanan, Eleanor Joyce, Camilla Beeston, Olivia Matthias, Charlotte Houston, Millie Roberts, Felicity Liew and Sophie Butler-Manuel.
BOTTOM: Philippa Wellman (née May, Class of 2009) with GHS alumni (Class of 2009) - Charlotte Thomas, Amanda Plowman, Lucy Preston, Emily Frost, Henrietta Dillon and Alice Bruynseels.



THE WONDERS OF WORKING ABROAD

I was sitting in an Upper Sixth graduation ceremony earlier this year and whilst looking at the 2019 balloons, I was reminded that I was doing exactly the same thing 10 years ago. My 18 year old self would never have guessed what I would be doing aged 28; I have been on quite a journey!

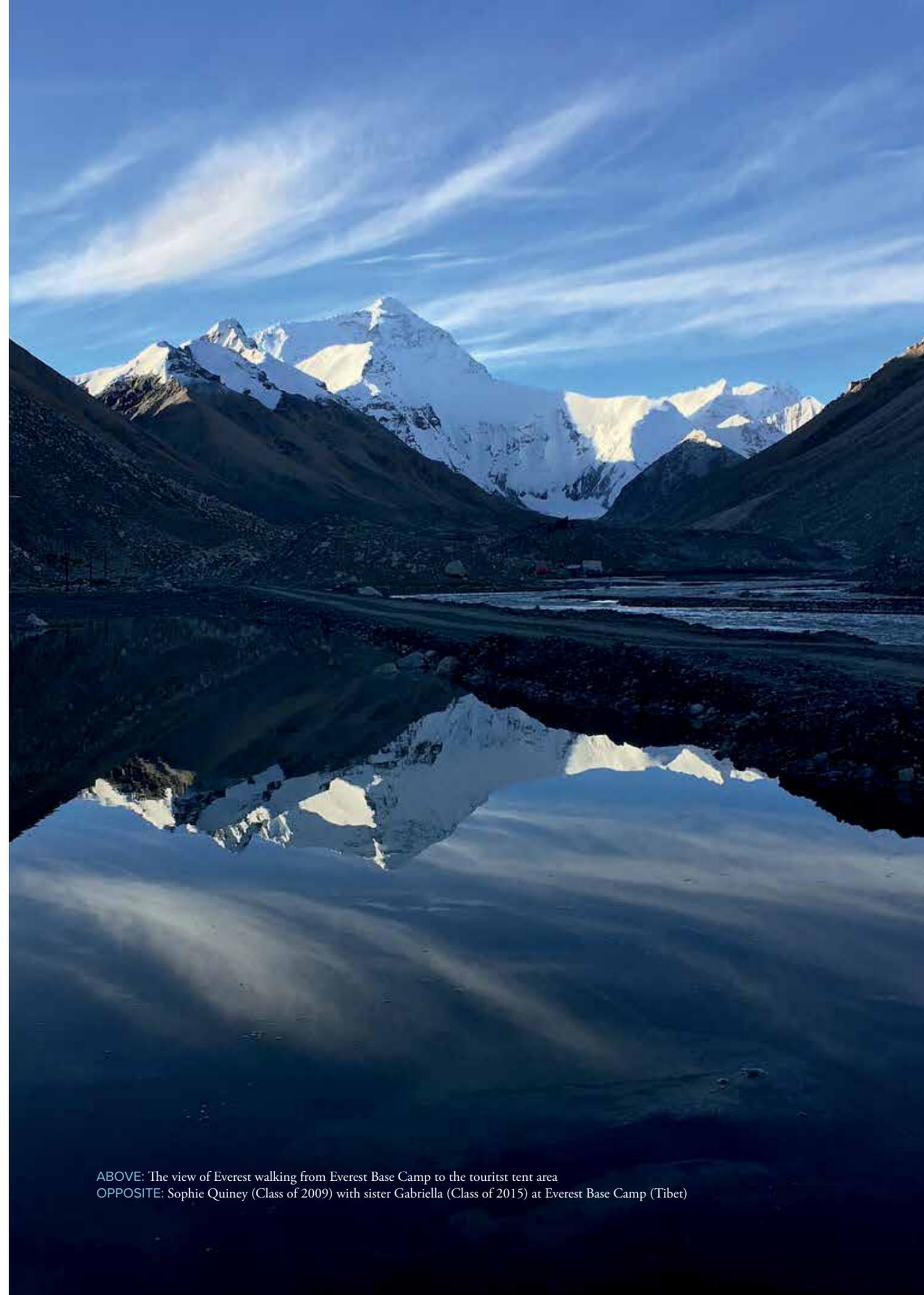
I left school in 2009 with the idea of going to medical school after a gap year of working, completing skiing and sailing instructor courses and spending two months in the Arctic. Four years later, June 2013, I graduated from Nottingham University with a degree in Biochemistry and no plan to do medicine. I was lucky enough to be given an opportunity to try teaching at a local school and I enjoyed this so much I decided teaching was for me. I completed my teaching training and NQT year at GHS, adding another two years to my 14 years there as a student!

During this time I realised that I had a strong desire to see more of the world and explore other cultures. When I got the job offer from Harrow, Beijing I had absolutely no clue about China. I had never been and

did not speak a word of Mandarin. Undeterred, I moved to Beijing in August 2016 to start as a Biology teacher and Housemistress for a Prep (Year 6-8) girls' day house.

I started Mandarin lessons when I arrived and threw myself into Chinese culture, visiting as many of the famous sites as possible. The climate was a challenge. I hadn't realised that Beijing was so close to the desert and is very dry all year. In the summer (May-October), we have temperatures around 30 degrees, but up to 45 degrees at its peak. In the winter (November-March), the temperature can get down to -20 degrees. The humidity never really rises above 30% (unless its August or is raining) and this is something that still takes some getting used to. It also hardly ever rains; a great plus.

As you can imagine, living in Asia opens the door to a lot of travelling opportunities. In my three years in Beijing, I have visited a number of places in China, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand. ▶



ABOVE: The view of Everest walking from Everest Base Camp to the tourist tent area

OPPOSITE: Sophie Quiney (Class of 2009) with sister Gabriella (Class of 2015) at Everest Base Camp (Tibet)

BELOW: from left to right, the Great Wall of China and the view of the Forbidden City from Jinshan Park (Beijing)



► My sisters both visited Beijing in my first summer and we travelled to Shanghai and Hong Kong together. Unfortunately, Naomi had to go back to work (as a junior doctor) which left Gabriella and I with 3 weeks of summer to fill. We visited Yangshuo (very similar to Ha Long Bay but in China) and Chengdu (the home of the Pandas) before boarding a train for 48 hours to Tibet. I had heard great things about Tibet and it did not disappoint. It has been a dream of mine for a long time to visit Everest (Mt Qomolangma) and having finally decided I was unlikely to climb it, I wanted to visit Base Camp. Even at 5200m, Everest towers over everything else. I don't know how anyone climbs that mountain without oxygen supply; we struggled at Base Camp. Seeing its beauty emerge during sunrise (see photo on the previous page) is a sight that Gabriella and I will never forget. I do, however, wish to forget the toilet situation and the amount of yak we ate. After a week of it at every single meal, Gabriella and I were delighted to see a Burger King in the airport!

Whilst Tibet will always be my favourite, my second most memorable trip was to Indonesia. I fell in love with Bali and Lombok early in my second year and persuaded my sisters we had to visit. Last summer (2018) was a perfect year, as Gabriella had University holiday (she is studying medicine at Brighton) and Naomi had finished her job.

As most people know from Geography lessons, Indonesian islands are called the 'Ring of Fire' because of the likelihood of earthquakes and volcanoes. We,

like everyone else didn't think it would happen to us, but unfortunately it did! We started in Bali for a couple of days before heading to Lombok and then to Gili Air on August 5th, looking forward to a week of relaxation, sunbathing and snorkelling, but Mother Nature had alternative plans.

The earthquake hit at about 19:50 whilst we were at dinner. The island and everything on it shook for about a minute and a half, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale; the epicenter was just below us. Aftershocks (shorter earthquakes) continued for the next two days whilst we waited to leave the island. We learned that we had a lucky escape because most of the hotels on our island were made of bamboo. The hotels made out of concrete had been completely destroyed and the scene in northern Lombok was heart breaking. The islands in Indonesia are beautiful and I am sure I will go back again in the next few years to explore further.

Naomi moved to New Zealand just before Christmas 2018, working as a Junior Doctor in Hamilton hospital. She is greatly enjoying life in NZ and is moving to a beach/surf area soon. Gabriella is studying medicine at Brighton University and has just completed her third year.

If anyone fancies a trip to Beijing or is stopping by please do let me know. There's great shopping, foodie places and sites to see.

Sophie Quiney (Class of 2009)

CYCLING FOR CHARITY

Susanna Speirs *née Thompson*

GHS 1991-1998

In August, I completed the Prudential Ride London 100 mile sportive to raise money for Sands, the national baby loss charity, of which I have been a Trustee for three years now. Prior to this, the furthest I had cycled was about 25 miles so this was definitely a challenge for me! It was incredible to be able to cycle through London and Surrey on closed roads though and the support was amazing. It was a great event to be part of, although two broken chains meant that I've already applied for a place for next year's event to try to improve my time!

I wrote a blog about my training and the event, as well as my work with Sands and experience of losing a baby: <https://susannaspeirs.blogspot.com/>. If anyone would like to donate, my fundraising page is at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SusannaSpeirs>.



Gemma Ives *née Ellse*

GHS 2000-2007



I left GHS in 2007 and went to study veterinary medicine at the University of Cambridge. After six years of study and making some wonderful friends, I put off entering the real world for another couple of months by volunteering for a veterinary charity in the Cook Islands!

I spent the next five years working as a small animal vet in Essex then Hampshire. While one may expect a certain level of stress in many jobs, the daily stresses and strains of life in general practice left me feeling overwhelmed and detrimentally affected my mental health. It was this which redirected my career path away from clinical veterinary work and into my current role as a veterinary technical advisor for a world leading nutraceutical company. It's not a path I would have foreseen when leaving school, or even university. However, it's taught me that nothing is fixed and it's okay to make decisions to look after yourself. I love my current role; I use my veterinary degree on a daily basis, as well as spending time learning and teaching.

Unfortunately veterinary surgeons experience a suicide rate four times higher than the national average; not long after leaving my last job an old colleague of mine ended her life. It is for this reason that I choose to speak openly about my own experience...To share with others that it is ok not to be ok and that there is light at the end of the tunnel if you ask for help. This May I cycled the length of the country (from Lands End to John O'Groats) in memory of Rita. Our challenge #RideForRita raised over £8,500 for VetLife - a charity which provides support to members of the veterinary profession struggling with mental health or financial issues.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Ann Copeland *née Greenhill*

GHS 1945-1948



I must be one of the oldest alumna, having started in the Upper First in 1945 almost as soon as the war ended. Our Form Mistress, Miss Hughes, was a lovely lady but we spent our breaks trying to prove that she was a spy. Unsurprisingly no such proof was forthcoming but spies were all the rage at that time!

I still remember many of the girls in my form and should Deirdre Francis, Diana Butler, Gillian Trubshaw, Fiona Levitt, Ruth Tinling, Jane Hardy, Hazel Grenside, Alison Page, Margaret Scrivener or Diana Shelley read this, do contact me via GHS. The school has changed a lot since the 1940s but one thing remains the same – GHS is still a happy school and a kind one too. I was a nervous child what with the bombing and family disruptions but I don't remember a sharp

word from any of the staff and allowances were made for my inadequacies (for example in needlework I was allowed to make another stuffed toy rather than attempt a blouse along with the rest of the class).

The only shadow on my days at GHS was the dinners. They were execrable. I bet they are better nowadays. Despite the endless beetroot and over boiled cabbage, I was really sad when my family moved house in 1949 and I had to change schools.

Wendy White *née Green*

GHS 1946-1952



My husband and I moved to Monmouthshire 56 years ago. I had a very interesting career in Primary (5-11 year olds,) Education, ending as Head of a school with over 400 pupils. I have been a widow for 19 years, but I have been very blessed. I have one son, who is the Vicar of Merthyr Tydfil, two married grandchildren each with two children. Sadly they live in St. Helens and Canterbury, but we text and visit. I trained to be a Methodist Local Preacher and still take services twice a month in Churches as far apart as Monmouth and Newport. I am also President of the Chepstow Methodist Women's Fellowship. I keep in touch with Audrey Brown (*née James*) and Joan Martin (*née Smith*) in America. I would love to hear from anyone with fond memories of Miss Reid or is visiting South Wales.

Ann Dunford OBE *née Tunnell*

GHS 1943-1953



I try to stay as active as possible and am still involved with Girlguiding nationally, the Ipswich Institute as it's President, our Church Diocese and St Edmundsbury Cathedral. I continue to stay in touch with several GHS alumnae, occasionally in person but more usually by emails and Christmas cards. My grandsons are now aged eleven and eight and are keen on sport like their father before them! New challenges await as the eleven year old starts High School this autumn.

Through extensive Family History research, which I found very rewarding, I was lucky enough to make contact with a previously unknown cousin Jeff; we share a common ancestor born in Yorkshire in 1756! Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of showing him around Ipswich in Suffolk (my nearest town) where his great grandfather worked and his grandmother was born. Small world! He had never been here before, so it was a special day for both of us as ▶

▶ you can see from the photo. Every best wish to all at GHS for a very successful new School year.

Elizabeth Johnson *née McIntyre*

GHS 1953-1963



On reading last year's newsletter, I was fascinated to see amongst the past girls, the Class of 1958, several names I can remember from when I was at school, particularly one Hilary Guest (now Hardman) looking extremely glamorous! She lived in Horsley and I remember travelling with her on the train. However, my main contact with her was in the equine world because she accompanied me to Pony Club rallies.

In those days, we rode everywhere as the roads were safer and very few of us had any other form of transport; so, we just got on and rode for miles for the privilege of being shouted at by some ex-army instructor or more often, a hairy lady in tweeds and brogues! Although Hilary was five years my senior, she was always very helpful; it was therefore lovely to see her featured. I also remember most of the others in that group. I was a journalist in my former career, but still very involved in the equestrian industry.

Candida Winteler *née Pickering*

GHS 1958-1965



I live in Leeds now with three of my family and five grandchildren. The children keep me busy, which helps as I am a widow.

Jenny Hay organised a meeting in September in her garden, for all of our year group, for our 70th birthdays. It was good to meet up with my school friends. I now see people whenever I can when I visit "the South".

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS 2020

If you have felt inspired and you would like to feature in next year's edition, keep in touch with GHS and the alumni community by sharing your latest news with us via email at alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Anna Broom

née Anne Martindale

GHS 1964-1969



After ten years working in business in Petworth, my husband and I, plus two young children, left the United Kingdom and moved to New Zealand in 1988. We live in Tauranga which is situated in the Bay of Plenty, 200km South East of Auckland. It has a sunny temperate climate and boasts magnificent beaches not to mention many other outstanding natural attractions.

For the last twenty years of work, I was a manager in a large residential care facility, but we are now both retired and with a daughter in London a yearly trip is on the calendar. Hobbies include: hand embroidery, cooking, walking, travelling and yes, I do like to shop in the UK! Keeping in touch with friends and family is important to me, so I would love to hear from anyone in the alumni community, particularly from my year.

Diana Bouscarle *née Patterson*

GHS 1967-1974



My husband, Philip, and I are now settled in Suffolk after moving from our family home in Hertfordshire 10 years ago. We are both retired and spend a substantial amount of each day in the garden or walking our very active eight year old spaniel. I also cycle, try and get to the gym regularly, and do one day a week of voluntary work in the cancer centre at Ipswich Hospital, having trained as a therapy radiographer, a job which I always enjoyed. The day I was eligible for my NHS pension was very exciting!

We have two children, a boy and a girl, who both work and live in London; Tim now runs his own business of reusable water bottles and coffee cups, and Jenna is a Speech and Language therapist. I am still very close friends with three other GHS girls: Dawsy (Christine Dawson-Shepherd) Mags (Margaret Baughan) and Katie (Catherine Hallas). Over the years our families have met regularly twice a year with ever increasing numbers of children and we are all delighted that our offspring have formed their own friendships and meet up together, without us. We girls have a holiday together every year, which is now sacrosanct, and we begin planning the year ahead soon after we get back. Next year will be our twelfth break away together - I look forward to these trips immensely as I know we will just slip back into our old ways and will laugh for most of the time.

I look back at my time at GHS with great fondness and will be forever grateful for the grounding it gave me, for helping me choose my career, and for the very precious friends I made there.

Rebecca Craies *née Caroe*

GHS 1972-1983



I became an active athlete and rower after leaving GHS and now live in New Zealand. I joined the Henley Royal Regatta commentary team for the first time at the 2019 regatta and was delighted to find one of my first assignments was a race between a New Zealand crew and London Rowing club. It ended in a dead heat, which is amazing since the crews race over two kilometers!

Eleanor Blagbrough

GHS 1987-1994



I am currently on a 'year off' from private equity, where I invest in entrepreneurial fast-growth businesses, following the birth of my second child. Henry (3) and Athena (1) keep me busy and we're enjoying family life in Wimbledon.

Heather Macrae

GHS 2008-2015



I attained a First Class Honours BSc in Sports Science in July this year. After graduating I also learned that I achieved the best academic performance in the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences in my final year exams and courses and was awarded a Loughborough University Scholarship for Academic Excellence. I am now coaching the Loughborough Ladies Lacrosse teams 1-4, as a player coach, alongside working towards an MSc. I now have added respect for all my teachers and coaches at GHS!

Julz Weller

GHS 2009-2016



Having finished my first two years at Exeter University, my third year was set to be a completely different experience. My degree meant that I would embark on a whole year in Portugal. The first half of my year abroad was spent studying Language and Culture at Porto University. Learning about 17th Century Brazilian Literature in Portuguese alongside native speakers posed a huge challenge for me! Through both my course and events organised by Erasmus, such as surfing lessons, I met so many different people. My semester at Porto Uni was so much fun, I made friends for life from all over the world and I will definitely be back to visit in the future as Porto is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited.

The second half was more intense as I completed a 3 month internship in the Human Resources department of KPMG Lisbon. This drastically improved my language skills as I spent 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, either speaking to my colleagues, writing emails, or reading contracts in Portuguese.

I gained invaluable employability skills through working in one of the top accountancy firms. I did also find time on the weekends to explore Lisbon (another amazing city to visit) to find all of the hidden gems that being a tourist simply doesn't give you enough time to discover!

To anyone who is considering doing a year abroad or simply anyone who wants to improve their language skills, I would tell them to go abroad if they get the opportunity. It pushes you to learn more than just what is taught to you in the classroom and is an unforgettable life-changing experience. I am very much looking forward to my final year at Exeter playing more hockey as elected Chairwoman of the Ladies Hockey Club and also completing my degree!

Jess Falworth

GHS 2004-2018



After 14 years at GHS, university certainly seemed a scary prospect, however, these fears quickly diminished when I realised how well GHS had prepared me for life beyond school. Pre-season lacrosse training gave me the perfect opportunity to meet new friends before the term started - I am even living with some of them this year!

After the whirlwind that was 'Freshers Week', my lectures started, and I subsequently got back into the swing of working. I chose to study a BA in Geography which I found particularly interesting, with topics ranging from migration to international trade and globalisation.

Despite this, lacrosse was without a doubt my favourite aspect of my first year. I was always busy, making so many new friends and competing against other universities. I have absolutely loved my first year and cannot wait to continue with the rest of degree.

A TRIBUTE TO EMILY OLIVER, 1997-2019



It is always very sad to hear about the passing of one of our GHS alumni, but when an innings is cut so short, as in the case of Emily, the depth of feeling is yet more devastating.

“Emily was in the Class of 2016; a very special year group who started in Reception during the same year that Mrs Fiona Boulton became Headmistress.”

The 2016 Hall is incidentally named after them, because despite their wide-reaching talent in music and other extra-curricular activities, they were not at school long enough to see the new building opened or enjoy being taught in it.

Emily had musical talent, playing the trumpet and saxophone, as well as the guitar. But she made a name for herself playing the bagpipes.....or at

least, convincing everyone she did so! The truth of the matter is that she tricked her Form Tutor into posting her name on the Recognition Board for passing Grade 8. Mr Grayson Jones, Director of Music, stopped Emily in the corridor and marvelled at her fantastic news, saying he hadn't realised she played the bagpipes, until Emily gave him a broad smile and admitted her mischievous hoax!

“This was Emily to a tee; a larger than life personality, happy, excitable and always explosive in energy, vitality and enthusiasm.”

Miss Katrina Sloan had a special rule for Emily in her history lessons: a 2-bottom-cheek rule, which only allowed her to answer a question if both parts of her bottom were sitting on the chair. This didn't really work as Emily continued to jump out

of the chair whenever she wanted to answer, often causing all the items on her desk to go flying in the process! Miss Sam Buxton, Emily's tutor on Year 10 and 11, wrote 'what a whirlwind she was, never failing to brighten up everyone's day with her constant chatter, even if it meant it took a while to actually take the register!'. It is no surprise that she lived up to her nickname; affectionately known as ELMO, for her initials Emily Louise Melissa Oliver.

“During her time at GHS, Emily excelled in sport and her contribution to the extra-curricular programme was outstanding.”

She represented the school to a high standard in several teams and was one of the few girls who managed to earn their Amalgamation Colours in Year 11, by continuing to play Badminton, Lacrosse, Netball, Tennis and Rounders. Emily was also one of the founder Golf Club members, starting the sport as a comparative beginner in Year 8. Alongside her peer group friend 'Woolly' (Emily Woolcott), the two Emilys gave the new Golf Club credibility in

the early days, often winning their matches against other schools and acting as trail blazers for others to follow.

At the end of last season, Emily came to watch a lacrosse match at school; apparently it was on her bucket list of things she wished to do. The 1st and 2nd lacrosse teams put on a great performance and then treated her to match tea. By this stage, Emily was chair-bound and all physical movement, including speech, was difficult for her. It was an emotional, heart-breaking occasion, but an incredibly inspiring and uplifting one; in typical Emily-style, she was able to knock into touch the dreadful curve ball that had been bowled to her, staying determined, positive and cheerful throughout.

Mrs Fiona Boulton was given the honour of speaking at Emily's Memorial Service in September. In her parting words, she said: 'Emily had an infectious sense of fun. She always made me laugh; she was beautiful to the very end, gracious, warm and kind. So, wherever you are now Emily, I hope you are still singing at full volume and perhaps, you are finally learning to play the bagpipes.'

Mrs Louise Stone

EMILY'S STORY

From the Brain Tumour Charity website, we have taken the liberty of including Emily's own story in this magazine as there may be some of you who would like more information about how to donate to her worthy cause...

In January 2018 I was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumour. Sadly, this type of tumour is rare and aggressive and due to the fact brain tumour research is highly underfunded and little is known about cures and treatments, this means hundreds of people diagnosed are forced to look elsewhere across the globe in order to find an answer. I have set up for my 21st birthday the Emily Oliver Fighting Fund to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. The Brain Tumour Charity offers many services such as providing detailed information about the various tumour types and most importantly undergoes vital research into all aspects of tumours to help find new treatments and provide hope. I particularly want to raise money to fund research into my type of tumour, a high grade glioblastoma, as this area has received little funding in the past. There are very few known risk factors and little we can do to alter lifestyles to reduce the chances of developing a brain tumour. There have been no new treatments in almost 50 years, so donations are vital to fund research and help find effective treatments as research offers the only real hope of dramatic improvements in the management and treatment of brain tumours. Over £500m is spent on cancer research in the UK every year, yet less than 2% is spent on brain tumours. So please, no matter how small the sum, I would love to raise as much as I can to enable more research to be done in order to help those in my situation. So far I have raised over £12,000 through birthday pledges and my dear friend Kevin raised over £8,000 when he rode in the Prudential London Ride 100.

OBITUARIES

Following feedback from last year, we realise obituaries are important pieces of news for some of you. If you would like to inform us of the passing of an alumni and would like us to communicate it to the wider community, we are very happy to post details on the alumni section of our website immediately as well as including it in our next magazine.

Irene Harriss

GHS STUDENT IN 1940s

Irene Harriss, a pupil of GHS in the 1940s, died this year at Farnham Hill Nursing Home. She had been disabled since suffering a stroke three years ago.

After studying at the Chelsea College of Physical Education in Eastbourne, she taught first in Petersfield, then for six years at St. Catherine's School, Bramley, before moving to the Henrietta Barnett School in North London. Within a few years she became Head of the PE department there, and later Deputy Headmistress.

Irene retired in 1990 and moved back to Guildford, becoming an active member of the local branch of the Conservative Party and an enthusiastic participant with friends on cruises to many parts of Europe.

Irene will be sadly missed by her friends and family.

Carolyn Weatherstone

GHS STUDENT 1948-1956

Carolyn Weatherstone (née Hind) was a former student and studied at GHS from September 1948 until July 1956. She passed away last October.

Her close friend Jean Vanek (née Laxton) also attended the school between 1948 and 1955 and speaks of their memories fondly: "Carolyn and I were friends before we joined the school and met up regularly ever since."

Carolyn went on to work as a dental nurse prior to training as an occupational therapist. She married her husband John Weatherstone in 1967 and moved to the Isle of Wight where John was already living and working. There was not any occupational therapist vacancies at the time, so Carolyn managed the books for John's art and gift business until they both retired. She will be sadly missed.

Janet Matthews

GHS STAFF 1958

Janet Matthews, (née Wilkinson) died in March this year. She began teaching her first post at GHS in 1958. She had many gifts, among them Dance and Music, so it wasn't long before she jointly produced 'Dido and Aeneas', the first opera ever performed by the school. Janet and colleague Mary Whittle were inspired by the fact that Caroline Friend was a promising Soprano and the perfect Dido. The school choir and the dancers entered the production with enthusiasm.

With Monica Hubner, Janet and Mary took the first ever group on a skiing holiday in Austria. The three colleagues were known as 'the three penguins', when they acted as 'The Advertisements' dressed in academic gowns at a staff entertainment the year ads first appeared on ITV. They all kept in touch until the present, and Janet is sadly missed.



Inspiring Girls

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