



GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter 2020



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WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

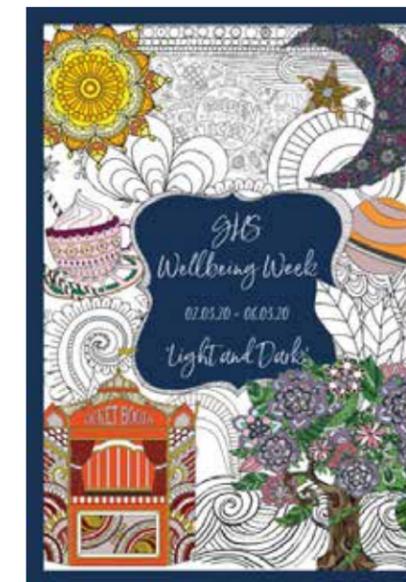
Our strapline 'Inspiring Girls' continues to guide us in everything we do at GHS and this has never been more evident than now, during these rapidly changing times, when our incredible school community is pulling together to prepare and support each other for an uncertain path ahead. As we embark on a different style of teaching and learning over the following weeks and possibly months, I am confident that staff and pupils will continue to build and inspire a strong educational environment for all concerned.

Our past term has, as ever, been action-packed with activity and success; the highlights of which have been captured in this newsletter for you to appreciate. From the exquisite beauty of our joint GHS & RGS choirs at Choral Evensong, St. Alban's Cathedral, to a collection of superb drama productions and the outstanding results attained in multiple sports, we have shown that yet again, our inspirational excellence continues to run as broad as it is deep.

We have enjoyed not one, but three themed curricular weeks this term. The Modern Languages department led a week of entertainment, blending 'Linguavision' world cuisine, music and creativity. During Science Week that followed, our laboratories buzzed with excitement of hosting lunchtime experiments, dissections, quizzes and ice cream making, whilst another welcomed Wellbeing Week centred on the theme of 'Light and Dark', providing us all with time to look after and care for ourselves as well as each other.

I hope you can all enjoy a wonderful Easter with your families and despite the inevitable changes of plans and limitations on where to go and what to do, your homes will still be full of love, happiness and inspiration.

Mrs Fiona Boulton



FRONT COVER IMAGE: *GHS Fashion Show 2020*

GHS FASHION SHOW 2020: ‘FASHION WITH COMPASSION’

This year’s school Fashion Show, ‘Fashion with Compassion’, was an evening of sustainability, style and elegance. With our impact on the world being such an important global concern, we wanted to demonstrate how fashion can exist without compromise to the environment. Highlights from the show included our activism walk, featuring handmade protest signs, and the repurpose walk, where pupils from Textiles club designed and produced seasonal evening wear from recycled fabrics. We also showcased vintage styles which are just as chic in the modern world of fashion and sustainable too!

The evening raised just over £4,000 in aid of the Alice Ramsey Trust, a teenage cancer charity established by a former Head Girl’s parents; thank you to our audience and sponsors who kindly donated to this very worthy cause. Planning the show and our performance was great fun and we would like to thank everyone involved for making the evening such a huge success. We hope the show will have proved to be thought provoking when considering the environmental impact from our everyday lives.

Belle and Eloise, LVIW & LVIE



MUSIC SCHOLARS' CONCERT

This term's Music Scholars' lunchtime concert featured five musicians from Years 10 and 11. Each soloist chose a piece of her choice and not only was the programme exciting and interesting, but the quality of playing was simply outstanding. The audience comprised the general public - who perhaps noticed the posters on the High Street and so stepped inside the church - as well as parents, friends, and musicians from Years 7-8. This was a thrilling way to spend a lunchtime and the five soloists – Emma Stent (violin), Eve, Kim, Christina and Rhi – fully deserved the adulation and praise that the audience offered at the end!

Mr Grayson Jones



INFORMAL CONCERTS

This term's Informal Concerts on Tuesday 11 February once again involved pupils from across the Senior School in Years 7-Upper Sixth. The two back-to-back concerts, each with a different programme and a different group of musicians, allowed the pupils to perform a piece of their choice to the supportive audience; and although those who signed up were predominately soloists (strings, woodwind, brass, piano as well as singing), it was also lovely to hear some small ensembles and duets. Congratulations to everyone who performed!

Mr Grayson Jones



CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Even by the usual standards at GHS this was an incredibly impressive concert. The eight ensembles – trios, quartets, sextets and the larger brass ensemble – were in sparkling form, demonstrating eloquence and passion, with outstandingly cohesive ensemble playing. It seems invidious to make special mention of any one performance, but it was wonderful to see and hear the younger Year 7 and Year 8 players perform so majestically and to consider that the future of GHS Music will be largely shaped and led by musicians such as these. Equally, it was thrilling (if not a little poignant) to experience the performances from the Upper Sixth musicians playing in their final Chamber Concert. They played with such authority, creating masterful interpretations of their chosen pieces whilst adding subtlety and nuance to every phrase. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all 44 performers and, of course, to colleagues who have coached the ensembles this year.

Mr Grayson Jones



GHS & RGS SING AT CHORAL EVENSONG, ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

The Joint GHS & RGS Chamber Choir made its first trip to St Albans Cathedral on 2 March. After time to explore the town and eat lunch, we were given a most fascinating guided tour of the cathedral, which allowed the group to learn something of the history and architecture of this amazing ancient building. The main purpose of the visit was to sing at Choral Evensong, with music by the English composers William Byrd and Henry Purcell. The choir made the most glorious sound - full-blooded when necessary yet beautifully tender at other times, as the music and text demanded. The Dean was full of praise afterwards, urging the choir to make a return visit!

Mr Grayson Jones



SENIOR PLAY: 'BLACK COMEDY'

In February, audiences were in fits of laughter with the farcical senior production of 'Black Comedy' by Peter Shaffer, produced under the superb direction of Miss Whiteman.

The play follows the story of a young artist named Brindsley (Emily) who has invited a rich collector to his flat to view his work on the very same night that his uppity fiancé, Carol (Scarlett), plans to introduce him to her 'monster' of a father, Colonel Melkett (Helena). Complications arise when Brindsley's neighbour, from whom he had 'borrowed' furniture to impress the collector, turns up unexpectedly as well as his jealous ex-girlfriend (Dora).

A pitch-black stage marks the start of the play as two lovers have a conversation at home, moving about as if the lights were functioning. When the woman (Carol) turns on the record player, the lights go out, and at that exact moment, light floods the stage and we see their living room. From then on, the audience sees what the actors cannot. When a player strikes a match or switches on a flashlight, the stage goes 80% dark.

The fearless physicality and timing of all the actors involved was exceptional and entirely believable. They moved about the stage like anyone would in pitch darkness, tripping over furniture, cursing, fumbling in the dark and bumping into one another. The skilful acting and commitment of the entire cast, whereby they did not react to each other's actions because they could not see what was happening, resulted in a punchy, fast-paced and utterly hilarious show.

Miss Rebecca Hawley



SENIOR PLAY: 'THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING'

'Have you got anything for a large cast? Is there anything with strong female roles?'

'This Changes Everything' has both and much more besides. "The play is not set here, but not far from here. It's not set now, but not far from now." Its closeness to 'now' made it unsettling and prescient with its talk of a pandemic and civil disruption.

The striking and innovative set, designed by Mr Brown, in black barrier fencing, brilliantly depicted the claustrophobic and, ultimately, the dark and destructive nature of The Community whose idealistic visions become ones of betrayal and deceit. It is a female 'Lord of the Flies'.

All bar one of the cast wore grey boiler suits to convey the sense of belonging in the group: 'The Community is the individual, the individual is the Community'. This was a powerful piece of theatre; a triumph of ensemble acting where an individual's character was conveyed not only in words, but with the movement of a foot or the lifting of a hand. COVID-19 meant the evening performances had to be cancelled, but Thursday's lunchtime one (without the opportunity for a dress rehearsal) was a very special theatrical experience, especially as it was the last performance for the Upper Sixth members of the cast. The absence of two members of the cast meant Ms Fenton had to become a member of the Community, and Esme and Jess took on extra roles. Congratulations to Ms Fenton for directing with consummate skill and sensitivity, and to the actors who all impressed with their calm, professional approach.

Mrs Fiona MacKay



LOWER SIXTH FRENCH TRIP TO PARIS

Vendredi 7 février, sept élèves de français (en première) sont parties de l'Angleterre et de la tempête Ciara et nous sommes arrivées à Paris. Après avoir trouvé notre hôtel (à côté de l'Arc de Triomphe!) nous avons voyagé à travers Paris: Montmartre, le Louvre en regardant le coucher de soleil, et enfin la Tour Eiffel la nuit. Le lendemain, nous nous sommes levées tôt pour aider dans un magasin caritatif, Emmaüs, où ils voulaient que nous travaillions aux caisses et bien qu'il ait été difficile, c'était une très bonne expérience d'apprentissage. Le soir, nous avons regardé une pièce d'Ionesco bizarre, La Cantatrice Chauve. Nous avons terminé notre voyage par une promenade en bateau et une balade sur les Champs Elysées. C'était un week-end incroyable!

Constance, LVIJ



YEAR 9 ART & CLASSICS VISIT TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

On Wednesday 12 February, Year 9 visited the British Museum to gain an insight into a range of cultural landmarks and achievements. We examined a selection of Greek vases, considering their artistry and the narratives that they depict. We imagined the original impact of the Parthenon sculptures when they stood on the Acropolis in Athens, embellishing the famous temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. Your daughter should now have formed a judgement on whether the marbles should stay in London or be returned to Athens. We compared Norman Foster's stunning architecture in the Great Court with the ancient works elsewhere in the Museum, and ended the trip by analysing artefacts from the ancient world grouped by theme. Year 9 worked with enthusiasm and were excellent ambassadors for the school!

Mr Andrew James



YEAR 9 DANCE VISIT TO NEW VICTORIA THEATRE, WOKING

On Thursday 6 February, Year 9 went to Matthew Bourne's amazing production of 'The Red Shoes'. The extremely talented ballerinas and the phenomenal music created a sensational atmosphere. The captivating storyline left the audience hooked and on the edge of their seats throughout the whole performance. The ballet was thought-provoking and has helped to influence our own choreography, which we have been working on in our dance lessons. We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance; and thank you to the PE staff for the opportunity to witness this astonishing spectacle.

Sophie, 9GR



YEARS 8-10 GERMAN PLAY 'DAS SCHLIMMSTE HOTEL'

Girls in Years 8-10 who study German were treated to a play called 'Das Schlimmste Hotel' by the Onatti Theatre Company. Emily (Year 10) and Dhuwaraka (Year 9) were roped in to help create promotional material for the hotel, before chaos erupted when the owners feared the wanted man on the news was the man who had just checked in. Luckily Phoebe (Year 9) was on hand to help the police catch the actual criminal!

Mr Tom M'Clelland



VISIT TO SEE 'THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE'

On 9 January, Drama students in Years 10-Upper Sixth travelled to London to watch an innovative performance of the much loved story 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. It was a spectacle featuring giant puppetry, balletic aerial sequences and exciting dance numbers. In the midst of the January blues it was wonderful to relive our early childhood dreams and be transported into the magical world of Narnia. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all as we laughed, smiled and I may have even spotted some tears of joy at the ending from the teachers!

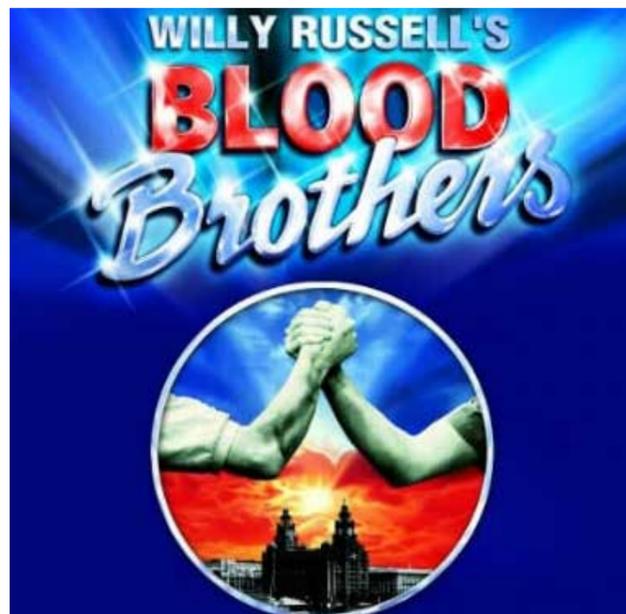
Eloise, LVIE



VISIT TO SEE 'BLOOD BROTHERS' IN BRIGHTON

Years 10-11 visited the Theatre Royal in Brighton to see 'Blood Brothers' on 4 February. We were completely captivated by the incredible technical elements throughout and the amazing performances of all of the actors. The first half was absolutely hysterical yet the second half moved every one of us to tears. This performance was so powerful and engaging regardless of the tears shed! We would like to thank the spectacular Drama Department for organising this superb trip.

Georgina, 11SW & Bea, 11GH



UPPER SIXTH GERMAN AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

Upper Sixth German students were lucky enough to see a performance of their A Level set text, 'Der Besuch der alten Dame', at the National Theatre on 31 January. The play brought the grotesque Claire Zachanassian to life and showed how quickly a community can turn on one of its own.

Mr Duncan Peel



UPPER SIXTH GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO DEVON

The Upper Sixth geographers travelled to Westward Ho! in North Devon in early February to carry out fieldwork for their A Level coursework. Students enjoyed investigating an eclectic range of issues, from the factors affecting beach morphology to the importance of benches as a form of social space, and from the effectiveness of coastal defences to the role that the senses of smell and sound play in shaping the identity of a place.

Mr James Partridge



SIXTH FORM CLASSICS VISIT TO TROY EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

On Wednesday 22 January, some of the Sixth Form classicists visited the 'Troy: Myth and Reality' exhibition at the British Museum. This was an exciting opportunity because two of our set texts for Classical Civilisation, the 'Iliad' and the 'Aeneid', centre around the Trojan War. The exhibition brought together iconic depictions of this famous war, some of which dated from 2,500 BC, showing how these stories have captured people's imagination for millennia. Highlights for us included an Etruscan wall painting of the contest of the golden apple with Aphrodite flashing her leg at Paris, the beautiful manuscripts and the breath-taking marble statue of Achilles by Filippo Albacini. We are grateful to Miss Channing for organising this trip and for bringing these texts to life for us.

Eleisha, UVIK



CLASSICS LECTURE WITH PROFESSOR MICHAEL SCOTT

It was a tremendous privilege to welcome Professor Michael Scott to school in February, where he gave an absorbing and memorable talk about religious life in the ancient Greek world. Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Warwick, Michael has accrued countless accolades but is perhaps best known for the television and radio documentaries that he has presented. Ten of our senior classicists eagerly took up the opportunity to meet him before the talk to ask questions and discuss their studies and interests. The talk itself was mesmerising, giving a fascinating insight into the all-pervading presence of the gods in Greek life, the role of oracles, and healing cults, and he even taught us how to enlist the help of the gods to curse our enemies!

Mr Andrew James



LATIN AND GREEK READING COMPETITION

Earlier in March, 25 pupils represented the school in the Reading Competition, an annual celebration of spoken Latin and Greek popular with schools from across the region. For the second consecutive year, the Year 6 team won for their lively performance of a scene about a theft at some Roman baths. The team was comprised of Niamh, Marikit, Chloe, Julia, and Isobel. They read the Latin beautifully despite not yet having embarked upon their study of the language. Pupils in Years 7-9 performed dialogues in which they combined their linguistic dexterity with theatrical flair. In Year 7, Millie and Erin came second in their category. Danya and Ariana won the Year 8 category, and Rebecca and Katie were highly commended. In Year 9, Karina and Sarah came third. In the senior sections, Pippa won for her moving rendition of an extract from Ovid's 'Metamorphoses'. Jemima and Ayeda also won for their performance of an amusing scene from a comedy by Plautus. We are extremely proud of every pupil who participated in the competition: they showed commitment and enthusiasm during rehearsals, and on the day, were good company and exceptional ambassadors for the school.

Mr Andrew James



MEDIEVAL DAY FOR YEAR 7

Our annual Medieval Day was held in January and provided Year 7 with a real insight into life during this period. As well as dressing up as lords, ladies, knights and peasants, pupils were able to make items to allow them to join a guild, prepare Black Death remedies and find out about the use of leeches in medicine.

Miss Katrina Sloan



MODERN LANGUAGES WEEK AT GHS

In the second week of February, everything possible at GHS had a linguistic twist as our pupils and staff celebrated our annual Modern Languages Week.

The week consisted of activities at lunchtime as well as a breaktime treat from a different country every day. From badge making and mug decorating to a Piñata and treats including Churros and Pains au chocolat, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The five different cuisines in Stocks were a big hit, with great musical accompaniment, and even live salsa dancing on the Thursday! A highlight of this week was undoubtedly Tuesday evening's Linguavision, comprising 24 acts performed in nine languages, involving pupils from Years 5-Upper Sixth.

It was a brilliant week to celebrate cultural diversity and a special thanks must go to our Modern Languages Department for their enthusiasm and hard work this week.

Mrs Róisín Watters



'HEROES': GHS POETRY FESTIVAL 2020

The Poetry Festival took place on Tuesday 25 February, with the theme 'Heroes'. The Festival had a wide variety of subjects, ranging from firefighters to more personal heroes, and even an ode to Greta Thunberg. The selected handful from Years 7-9 all read their own poems with passion, to an appreciative audience. Our Poet in Residence and judge, Rachel Long, explained in great detail how wonderful all of the poems were, and how proud we should be of ourselves. The Year 7 winner was Erin, with her moving poem about courageous firefighters, rescuing koalas from the flames. The Year 8 winner was Faye with a poem about a simple smile from a stranger with red boots and a yellow raincoat. The Year 9 winner was Andrea, with a rich poem that embodied childhood and growing old. Lastly, the overall winner was Savannah from Year 9, with a short but beautiful and touching poem about grief and moving on. We would all like to thank Rachel for coming to judge, and for inspiring us, and of course, the wonderful English Department for organising the event, and supporting us along the way.

Faye Safiullah, 8SP

Year 7

Best Reader: Emmeline

Runner Up: Millie

Winner: Erin

Year 8

Best reader: Charlotte

Runner Up: Isabeau

Winner: Faye

Year 9

Best reader: Ria

Runner Up: Fatoumatta

Winner: Andrea

Overall winner:

Savannah



A letter to my hero

To my hero,
I promised myself when you escaped,
That I wouldn't sit and wait,
For the grief to come and drape over me.

Instead, I wear it like a cape,
To let it shape,
The life that awaits me.

Savannah, 9CD



ENGLISH WORKSHOP: 'DR FAUSTUS'

As a Theatre Studies and English Literature student, I thoroughly enjoyed the Splendid Productions' interpretation of 'Dr Faustus'. They included most key soliloquies, but used their own methods of conveying the story, some of which I had a chance to learn in the subsequent practical workshop. The production itself was very funny and broke the fourth wall straight away; the actors got many of the students involved in their 'temptation' as devils by offering different items to the audience and making people race to get them. The workshop was also great fun, as well as educational, teaching some of the techniques developed by Splendid. We learned to physicalise and personify inanimate objects and worked towards a short, comedic devised performance at the end in small groups. The acting tips, warm-ups and theatrical techniques that I learnt from the workshop were extremely helpful and watching another interpretation of an otherwise classic and naturalistic text enriched my understanding of 'Dr Faustus'.

Ashaanya, LVIW



ARTICULATION – DEPUTY HEAD GIRL QUALIFIES FOR GRAND FINAL IN CAMBRIDGE

This year's ARTiculation winners of our internal heats at school were Ria and Sienna. Ria spoke about the historical and contemporary colourisation of photography and Sienna focused on the representation of Disability in Fine Art based on a Portrait entitled Gloria (Swim II) by Chris Rush. Both students spoke beautifully at the regional heats at The Quarterhouse in Folkstone. Ria was awarded third prize on the day and was commended on her skilful and intellectual structure with excellent comparisons and explanations. Sienna was awarded first prize with a presentation that was considered lucid, engaging and hugely important to a subject that is all too often sidelined. This was judged by Dr Andrea Schlieker, Head of the Tate Modern. Sienna qualified to the grand finals at Clare College, Cambridge and was awarded third place nationally. Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of the Arts Council Britain, praised Sienna for her confident, appealing delivery and how she dealt so well with the history and connections of artists over time. He was impressed with how her presentation allowed us to talk about ourselves and our relationships in a personal and wider context. Both students are to be congratulated on these superb achievements!

Mrs Sue Kew



ALUMNI TALK ABOUT LIFE AT CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS

Alumni Molly Morgan and Emily Feigen-Toner spoke to Year 9–Upper Sixth Art pupils about their experience on the Art Foundation course at Central Saint Martins. Molly has specialised in Graphic Design and Emily in Fine Art and they have relished the exploratory approach that the Foundation course has provided. We were encouraged by the level of drawing they had undertaken, with sketchbooks bursting with every style of sketching. They both felt fully prepared through their study of Fine Art at GHS and have hugely inspired our pupils with their stories and outstanding portfolios.

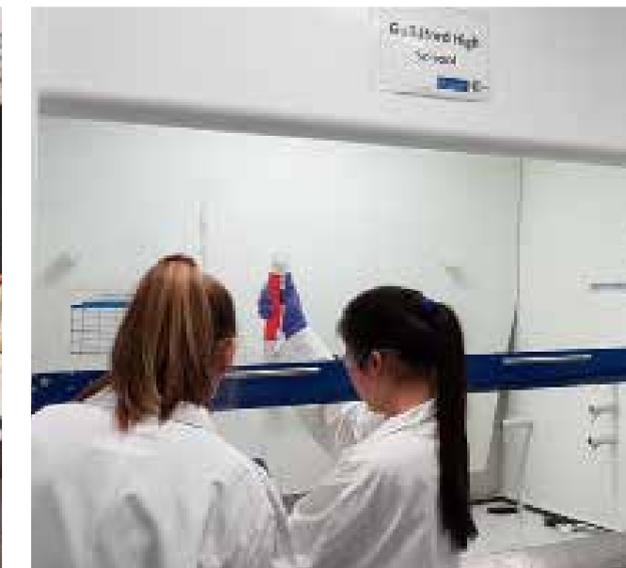
Mrs Sue Kew



RSC SCHOOLS' ANALYST COMPETITION

On 3 March, we participated in the RSC Schools Analyst Competition at Queen Mary University. This involved completing three experiments and calculating results, under timed conditions, including titrations, colorimetry and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). We particularly enjoyed learning about and using HPLC, something that cannot be done in a school laboratory. After the competition, we were led on a tour of the campus. It was a great experience, and gave us a valuable insight into laboratory work at university.

Katharine, LVIT, Nicola, LVIM & Constance, LVIJ



RUNNERS-UP IN SATRO PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION

On 12 February, three teams of six students from different age groups travelled to George Abbot to compete in the SATRO Problem Solving Competition. We refined our engineering skills through the techniques we utilised and in true GHS spirit, the teams worked with enthusiasm and determination. The U14 and U18 teams achieved runners up in their respective age categories, allowing them to progress to the next round in late March. Bring on the next challenge!

Annabel, LVIA & Harriet, LVIC



SCIENCE WEEK 2020

Science Week was enthusiastically attended by Years 7-Upper Sixth, with pupils competing in the annual House Science Bowl, the inaugural House Task Master competition, making slime, ice cream and colour changing stickers, as well as joining in with a full rat dissection. This year during Science Week we also ran a competition to assign a female scientist name to our Sixth Form Teaching Laboratory. A number of Sixth Form students proposed prominent scientists and engineers including: Jennifer Doudna, Jean Purdy, Frances 'Poppy' Northcutt and Henrietta Swan Leavitt. Following a whole school vote, the laboratory will now be named the Northcutt Laboratory. Thank you to everyone who got involved this year.

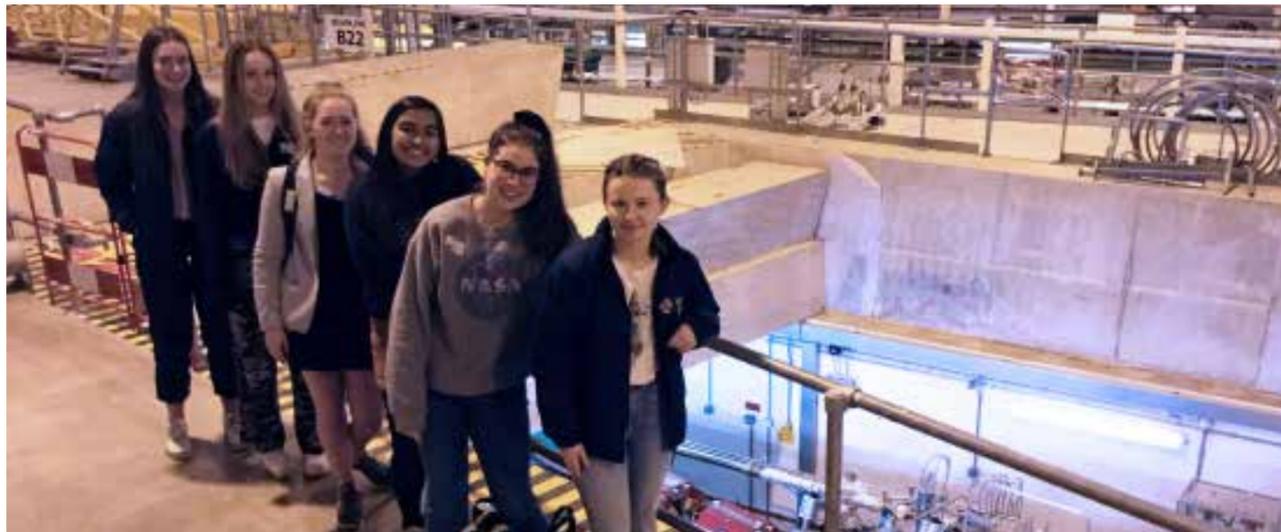
Mr Will Hack



PARTICLE PHYSICS MASTERCLASS AT RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY FOR LOWER SIXTH

On Thursday 12 March, a group of Lower Sixth physicists went on a trip to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) for a Particle Physics Masterclass. Our day started with lectures on the basic principles of particle accelerators and the standard model, some much needed revision of our AS syllabus! Following this, we had a workshop where we learnt about the images produced by proton collisions from the ATLAS experiment, taking place in the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. We interpreted a set of images to decide the type of particles produced by various collisions; we even discovered the elusive Higgs Boson. We took part in a live stream with engineers working at CERN, and were able to ask questions and see the LHC. In the afternoon, we started with another lecture; an in depth explanation of how particle accelerators work, particularly the LHC. We then had a tour of their £450 million Diamond particle accelerator and learnt how electrons are used to study a wide variety of things, from fossils and chocolate to viruses. We then had a final talk about the alternative, more practical uses of particle accelerators helping to solve real life problems, including the treatment of sewage sludge. Overall, we had an amazing day, learning lots about particle physics and its applications outside of scientific research and in the wider world.

Emma, LVIO



FINALISTS IN COMPUTATIONAL THINKING CHALLENGE

As part of their Computer Science lessons, Year 7 pupils have taken part in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. GHS have had brilliant performances in previous years however this year Gabriella, Aashna, and Erin were invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford as finalists in the competition. Reaching the final of the Juniors (10–12) age group is an impressive achievement, as 79,986 pupils entered the first round for this age group in the UK. Gabriella, Aashna, and Erin were among the top 61 highest achieving pupils invited to the final round in their age group, and were presented with their finalist's certificates at a prizegiving ceremony at Hertford College.

Mr Javier González Abia



INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

An astounding 300 pupils from Years 9-11 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge in February. This paper is a test of problem-solving and lateral thinking and we were delighted with how well everyone took to the challenge. Half of our participants were awarded certificates and of those 22 qualified for the Grey and Pink Kangaroos, which are simply amazing numbers. This follow-up competition is both exciting and mathematically demanding and we wish all our qualifiers the best of luck!

Mrs Laura Celiker



PI DAY AT GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Alongside our traditional pi recital competition, pupils were challenged to unleash their mathematical creativity for Pi Day this year, creating poems, artwork and cakes. Congratulations to all who entered, and particularly to our winners in each category: Jemima for her outstanding poem, Sophie for her ingenious artwork depicting the pi symbol using dots to represent the digits, Karina for her delicious chocolatey spheres, and last but not least to our mysterious and anonymous Year 9 pi recital champion, who reeled off 181 digits with apparent ease!

Mr Martin Holtham



CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

This has been a busy term in the Careers Department and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us by giving up their time to come in and speak and share their experiences, as well as the numerous parents and pupils who came along to the different events.

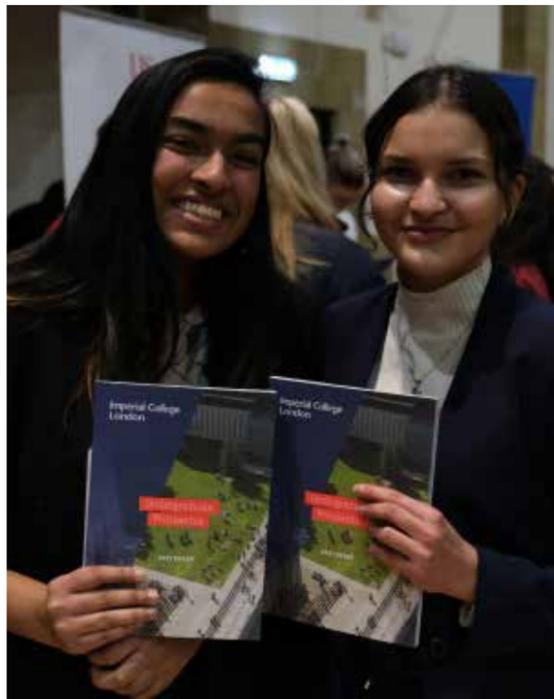
In January our Friday afternoon talks were very well attended; pupils from a range of year groups came along to hear about careers in the army and opportunities for sponsorship at university for some specific roles. It was also great to see Jasmine Murdoch (Class of 2017) come back to share her experiences of both studying at Bristol University (Cellular and Molecular Medicine) and her current industrial placement year with Glaxo Smith Kline. She gave current sixth form students, in particular, plenty to think about in terms of whether they would like to do a course with a year in industry.

In February it was fantastic to welcome a group of our 2009 leavers who talked about their different career paths including Marketing, Investment Banking, the Civil Service, Medicine and Management in the NHS. One of our alumni was very pleased to be approached by a current pupil who introduced herself and said that Dr Philippa May had been her anaesthetist at Royal Surrey! We were delighted that so many pupils across the year groups, especially in Years 9 and 10, came along with a view to understanding a range of different career pathways.

The week after Half Term we held our Higher Education Fair when representatives from over 15 of the universities our students regularly apply to came to visit us in Guildford. Lower Sixth chose to attend a talk from either Exeter, Birmingham or Dundee and then had the opportunity to chat to all the representatives in the hall. We also had four GHS alumni who are currently working at PWC, as well as a gap year travel company. The Lower Sixth thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and many of the university representatives were extremely complimentary about our students.

The Careers Forum on 'Pathways from Modern Languages' was also well attended. Again, we were pleased to welcome a group of our alumni who had studied languages at university and were now following different paths. The speakers offered lots of advice about studying languages as well as telling some interesting stories about their years abroad. Career paths included a barrister, a solicitor, someone running their own tutorial business, accountancy and someone working as a TV presenter. It was an extremely interesting and worthwhile evening.

Dr Jane Boyd



POLITICIAN GINA MILLER VISITS GHS FOR 'INSPIRING WOMEN, INSPIRING GIRLS' LECTURE

Guildford High School hosted a talk by Gina Miller this term as part of our 'Inspiring Women, Inspiring Girls' series. Gina was joined by three alumni, Harriet Gordon (Class of 2013), Francesca Kolar (Class of 2011) and Natasha Wilson (Class of 2018) who introduced the session and talked to our parents, pupils and staff about studying Politics at GHS, their degrees and career paths to date.

After a short break, Gina gave an inspiring and passionate speech about caring for the person next to you, calling things out when you think something is wrong and taking responsibility for our future. Gina spoke briefly about her time growing up and her profound respect for her father; having studied a law degree and become a successful Barrister, he taught her the importance of law and justice. She believed her parents never hid themselves from her and introduced her to the real world with real people, lives, policies and politics.

From an early age Gina remembers being obsessed with history, politics and the law and could not understand why people who worked in politics could appear to lack a real passion for it. She described how, for her, politics is a vocation and is fundamentally about caring for others.

Gina encouraged our pupils in the audience to get involved in politics in their everyday lives by, for example, voicing their opinions or attending their MP's surgery. She claimed that we are in a society today where we tend to forget to care and be responsible. Gina also advised our pupils on how to deal with disagreements with peers and suggested they combat these situations with grace, confidence and humility. She stressed you should always stick by your own values.

She brought her speech to a close by emphasising that politics is not always about being a leader; it takes a team whether that is being the person that brings people together, the person writing speeches, the campaigner or the policy maker. She left us with one message to take away from the evening; take responsibility and do not shy away. She said the world would be a lesser place if we did.

The evening concluded with a Q&A session where topics discussed included the climate crisis, ethical products, the media and accountability of companies vs. individuals.

Miss Abbie Voice



GHS TALENT SHOW 2020

The GHS Talent Show proved to be a wonderful way to close this term's Wellbeing Week. The acts included dancers, musicians and singers. There was even a rap version of the children's classic tale, 'The Gruffalo'. Every act was warmly applauded by the large and enthusiastic audience and the Show was hosted with great flair by Emma Pollock and Dora Black. The Show raised £350 for charity, so a huge thank you to everyone who performed and attended.

Mr Will Saunders



ROUND-UP: HOUSE EVENTS THIS TERM

The Houses have had another fun-packed term. We invented a House version of the TV show 'The Chase', which was enjoyed by everyone who dared test their general knowledge against the chaser. We also held a rather chaotic pancake day race, whilst pupils also tested their archery skills in House Cupid's Arrow, held on Valentine's Day and won by Amethyst. Ruby won the Easter egg decorating contest; Sapphire won the Bob Ross Art challenge; Opal won Science Week Taskmaster; Topaz the Easter card test. At the moment Emerald are holding a narrow lead over the other Houses but the main thing is that there have been a lot of laughs along the way!



Mr Will Saunders



A GREAT TERM FOR CHARITY FUNDRAISING AT GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

As a Charity Committee we have been very busy this academic year. To date we have raised funds for several charities including the Marine Conservation Society, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Young Minds, the Little Princess Trust, The Brain Tumour Charity, Great Ormond Street and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. So far we have raised an amazing £2,160.49 from the various school events and activities. Thank you to everyone who has helped us achieve this result and we look forward to increasing this number for the rest of the year.

GHS Charity Committee



GHS HOSTS SECOND YEAR OF SCHOOL ECO-FAIR

On Wednesday 11 March, GHS held our second Eco Fair. The event was once again organised by the Green Team and gave pupils and staff the opportunity to learn about the types of sustainable products available in a bid to reduce our plastic waste. It was a great success, with stalls being continuously full and it was wonderful to see so many people there. Pupils particularly loved the Lush stall but equally made a lot of purchases at the many businesses who joined us for the afternoon. A massive thank you to the Green Team for hosting yet another fantastic event!

Miss Megan Williams



LIGHT AND DARK: WELLBEING WEEK 2020

This year's Wellbeing Week theme was 'Light and Dark' and the weather certainly supported the theme with glorious sunshine one moment and horrendous rain the next! Nevertheless, the pupils enjoyed a range of activities from glow in the dark Zumba, flower arranging, silent discos, bubble displays to gratitude sunshine stickers and, of course, a visit to the ice cream van! There was even a chance for pupils to meet and stroke our Wellbeing Dog; Dougal the Cocker-Poo! Our pupils lead such busy lives; it is brilliant to have an opportunity to remind them to take some time for themselves and look after others.

Mrs Karen Laurie



GHS ASPIRING ATHLETES PROGRAMME

It has been a fantastic term and we would like to congratulate the following pupils on their exciting achievements.

- **Archery** - Louisa has had another busy term in which she shot a second World & European Record at the Guildford Spectrum in January! She has also just returned from competing as a senior out in Spain where she ranked fifth.
- **Badminton** - At the start of March, Emily entered the U16 Singles Aldershot and Camberley District Badminton League and won all nine of her matches to take first place.
- **Fencing** - Congratulations to Imogen, Isabeau and Eva who were in the Southern Region Cadet Women's Epee team and became the national winners of the Cadet Winton Fencing Championship. Eva was also named the best women's epee fencer of the championship, winning all her fights! Well done to Imogen and Georgia who have been busy representing GB this term travelling to Poznan, Rome and Paris.
- **Judo** - At the start of March, Amelia travelled to Izegen to compete in the Belgium Open in the U40kg category. She won all five of her matches with full scores and went on to win Gold.
- **Lacrosse** - Congratulations to Camille, Isobel, Alice and Millie Cant who have been selected for the U19 England squad for Home Internationals in April. Well done also to Charlotte and Emily who, for the same competition, have been selected to represent Wales.
- **Netball** - Well done to Marlene and Chloe who were selected for the U17 Surrey Storm squad to play against Mavericks, helping the team secure a win, 51-42.
- **Skiing** - Ella has been selected to represent Great Britain in the La Scara Youth International FIS Races in Val d'Isere in April. The La Scara races will have representatives from over 30 nations and are widely regarded as the unofficial junior world championships.
- **Swimming** - Good luck to Darcy who has met qualification times for the British Swimming Championships in April, which is when Olympic selection will take place. Darcy will be competing in the 50m freestyle.



In February we welcomed Dr Emma Ross, Head Physiologist at the English Institute of Sport, to speak to our Aspiring Athletes, their parents and coaches. Dr Ross managed and led the delivery of the national strategy for physiology services during Team GB's most successful Olympic and Paralympic cycle. Her research has since looked at how females are grossly under-represented in sports science, such that training programmes, exercise regimes, dietary guidelines and injury prevention delivered to elite athletes are all largely based on men. Her workshop identified how we can understand the female athlete, better serving to improve body literacy and empower girls and women to do great things.

Mrs Amanda Whybro

CUPS AND RECORDS GALORE FOR GHS SWIMMERS THIS TERM

It has yet again been an absolutely amazing season in the swimming pool. The squad have won an array of trophies and we have remained unbeaten in inter-school galas.

The Bath Cup brings together the top swimmers in the school. Nicole, Megan, Helena, Darcy and Harriet competed against top independent schools from the British Isles held at the London Aquatics Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. As always, our pupils swam superbly, finishing second in the Freestyle relay and fourth in the Medley relay.

At the Surrey Individual gala our Junior team of Kara, Amelie, Scarlett, Robin and Arabella dominated and won the overall points cup.

The future looks very bright for swimming at GHS!

Mrs Rachel Byrne



EXCELLENT RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL JUNIOR INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 28 February, the school's four Indoor Rowing teams travelled to the Copper Box Stadium at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, to participate in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRC). The two younger teams comprising Year 8 pupils, fared well for their first experience of this extremely intense and exciting competition, whilst the older teams achieved excellent results in the Senior Girls Boat Race Relay. The A team came fourth after an exhilarating contest in which they just missed out on the Bronze medal position, whilst the B team finished in a highly commendable sixth place. Interestingly, the three podium positions were attained by rowing club teams, rather than school teams like ours, making the GHS teams' results even more impressive.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part and a special thank you to the two outstanding captains, Lucy and Neena, who have worked so hard to maintain the standard of Indoor Rowing this season.

Mrs Louise Stone



THE GREAT BIG DANCE OFF - REGIONAL HEAT

On Monday 13 February, two GHS Dance teams took part in the regional heats of the Great Big Dance Off in London. Both teams presented thought-provoking lyrical pieces, with the junior team choosing the particularly relevant topic of climate change, whilst the senior team chose to explore domestic abuse. For many of our pupils, this was their first dance competition, and despite this, both groups performed beautifully. Congratulations to the senior team who came 10th overall and well done to all who participated!

Liv, UVIW



FREYA DANCES TO SUCCESS IN TOURING EVENT

Congratulations to Freya who will represent her home town in 'Can you Dance?' events around the country. Freya was crowned a "dance star" after impressing a panel of experts which included the Strictly Come Dancing director as well as other notable choreographers and dance educators. The tour of events will conclude with a performance in front of thousands at The M&S Bank Arena in Liverpool in October. Well done Freya!

Mrs Amanda Whybro



SEMI-FINALISTS AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Before Christmas, the U14 and U16 Badminton squads competed in round one of the National School's Badminton Championships. Both teams convincingly qualified for the county round. The U16 team started this tournament with a tough first match against Woking High. Despite many close games, Woking High took the majority so won overall. Gaining new energy from their mascot, 'Colin the Caterpillar', the U16s went on to comfortably win their next matches. This placed them second overall, a fantastic achievement.

Having spent several months training together, the U14s produced a very strong performance, winning all of their matches, and not losing a single game. They were therefore very excited for the regional round of the competition, where they knew they would face some strong opposition and a high level of badminton. The players started the group stages superbly, winning confidently in both their doubles and singles. This secured them a place in the semi-finals against Walthamstow Hall. Despite close games, Walthamstow clinched the win and went on to become overall winners. Pupils should be very proud of their performance and how far they have made it in the competition.

Miss Stephanie Webb



U14A TEAM CHAMPIONS AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Schools Lacrosse Championships took place at Aldershot Garrison in March. The 1st team played some wonderful lacrosse before unfortunately being knocked out in the quarter-finals by the eventual winners, Wycombe Abbey. The 2nd and 3rd teams were very dominant in their respective groups and both also made it to the top eight teams in the country, with the 3rds narrowly missing out in the second period of golden goal overtime. The 4th team faced tough competition in the 3rd team tournament, but played some brilliant matches in the group stages. The U15A team had a fantastic tournament, overcoming challenging opposition to reach the final. In a nail-biting last match, they lost 3-2 to a strong St Catherine's team, finishing as runners up. The U14A team started the day feeling confident after a strong season, and fought hard throughout some close matches. Their teamwork and resilience payed off when they came through to dominate in the final to become National Champions. Well done to everyone involved!

Ms Matilda Foster



CUP AND PLATE FINALISTS, RUNNERS-UP AND CHAMPIONS AT THE SURREY LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS

The U14, U13 and U12 squads continued to enjoy competitive and fun lacrosse at their respective Surrey lacrosse tournaments this term. The U14s had a fantastic tournament with the B team making it to the Plate final, narrowly losing to Caterham's A team. The A team were unstoppable all day and finished overall champions with a confident win over St Catherine's.

The U13s continued their strong performances from the season with both the A and B team making it through to the Cup competition. The Bs were knocked out by the A team in the semi-final. The A team finished runners-up, narrowly losing to a strong Caterham side.

U12s were very excited for their first county tournament and were treated to a beautiful day of sunshine. All three teams qualified for the top eight positions and made it through to the Cup competition. The B and C teams were outstanding but were knocked out in the quarter-finals by A teams. Despite an excellent performance the A team were knocked out in the semi-finals. Overall, a very promising start for our new generation of lacrosse players.

Mrs Stephanie Webb and Mrs Keely Harper



GREAT PLAY BY ALL AT THE BENENDEN NETBALL FESTIVAL

Despite inclement weather, we saw fine performances from all of our teams at the Benenden Netball Festival. Our U12D team played some fine netball throughout the day but narrowly missed out on a play-off match whilst the U13C and D teams topped their groups to meet each other in the final! After a highly competitive game the C team narrowly edged ahead and went on to win. U14C and D teams also dominated their groups and again faced each other in the final. This time the game finished as a draw with fantastic play from both teams. Our U15C team played brilliantly in difficult conditions to win their competition and the U15Ds finished fourth overall. It was a fantastic effort by all of those taking part.

Mrs Harriet Burton and Mrs Amanda Whybro



U13A TEAM REACH QUARTER FINALS AT THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL'S NETBALL CUP

This season, the U13A team participated in the Independent School's Netball Cup. Pupils played some high intensity and exciting matches over the duration of the tournament and had fantastic wins over a number of schools including Walthamstow Hall and Berkhamsted. The team should be proud of their performances which led them to the quarter-final - a great achievement in this national competition. Congratulations to all players involved!

Miss Sarah Gill



U15A TEAM WIN AT LINGFIELD NETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the U15A netball team who endured a wet and cold afternoon at the Lingfield Invitational Tournament in January. Despite a nervous start, they found their momentum and came through to win. Well done to all pupils involved.

Mrs Amanda Whybro



NATIONAL NETBALL FINALS: U16 TEAM CROWNED NATIONAL CHAMPIONS U14 TEAM AWARDED BEST DEFENSIVE RECORD CUP

Following successful tournaments in November and January, the U14A and U16A Netball teams won their way to the National Netball Finals played on 14 March. With over 600 players in attendance and more than 200 matches scheduled, it is England Netball's largest event. The U14s had a difficult section with many of their matches having close score lines, but GHS managed to pull ahead to win, eventually finishing top of their section and qualifying for a semi-final place, where they faced Berkhamstead. Despite a credible performance, Berkhamstead (who were the eventual winners) nudged ahead in the closing minute of the game. The U14 team finished in fourth place but, at the end of the tournament, were jointly awarded with the Best Defensive Record Cup; out of 54 schools representing all three age groups, they averaged only 5.4 goals against them to receive this accolade. The U16s took significant wins against Millfield and Leeds Grammar School to comfortably win their section and also make it through to the semi-finals. Winning this, they faced The Grange in the final. The team were full of self-belief and won the match 18-11 to become National Champions 2020! A truly astonishing achievement. Well done to all players involved.

Mrs Amanda Whybro and Mrs Rachel Byrne



SURREY NETBALL FINALS: U14 AND U16 TEAMS BECOME SURREY CHAMPIONS U19 TEAM RUNNERS-UP

Once again, GHS had all six senior school teams qualify from the preliminary rounds to earn their place at the Surrey finals. The U12s and U13s played valiantly to earn semi-final places, but neither team managed to progress to their finals. The U14s triumphed throughout the day, winning matches with incredible score lines and going on to win the final. They were therefore crowned Surrey Champions for a second consecutive year. The U15s struggled to find their usual momentum at the tournament and, despite playing some excellent netball, they were sadly unable to finish in the top two for a semi-final place. The U16s and U19s both went on to win places in the final; the U19s finished runners-up and the 16s won, which is a fifth consecutive county title for this team! Congratulations to all pupils involved and thank you to parents for all the support they have shown throughout the season, helping their daughters to achieve this.

Mrs Amanda Whybro and Mrs Rachel Byrne



GHS SKI RACERS BECOME BRITISH SCHOOLGIRLS' CHAMPIONS 2020



At the end of January, the GHS ski racers returned from an incredibly successful trip, competing in the annual British Schoolgirls Ski Races that are organised by the Ladies Ski Club in the French Alp resort of Flaine. Weather conditions were extremely challenging, with Sunday's training taking place under clear, sunny skies, but snow blizzards and high winds disrupted proceedings and increased the difficulty on the following two race days, which tested even the most advanced skiers.

Our top GB skier, Ella, who had travelled directly from international representation in the Czech Republic, led the way in the U16 age group, winning Monday's Grand Slalom event and finishing second in Tuesday's Slalom, whilst older sister Georgia, GHS team captain, convincingly won all categories (including those for best non-registered skier) in the U21 age group. With a magnificent performance by our third A team member, Katie, the three of them also won the coveted Dual Parallel Slalom, a very exciting contest, which saw the GHS team progressing through four rounds to beat local rival, Reeds, in the eventual 'best of three' final.

The B team also contributed enormously to the almost overwhelming, overall collection of trophies won by our pupils at the final Prize Ceremony. Freya medalled in all the U21 races and joined her teammates Alicia and Saskia (with Bea as reserve), onto the podium as winners of the combined B team Grand Slalom and Slalom categories.

Ski Racing has been a developing sport at GHS for well over a decade, with the current group of pupils proving largely responsible for the rise in standard to the final echelon, finishing in top ten places over the last three years. This year's spectacular achievement, becoming British Schoolgirls Ski Racing Champions, is rich reward for the dedicated time and determination these pupils have put into their personal training, following national pathways of competition, as well as competing in other school (ESSKIA) and club events.

Many congratulations and thanks to our amazing skiers!

Mrs Louise Stone

GHS DECLARED TOP GIRLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR SPORT 2020 FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR IN A ROW

In January each year, School Sport magazine reveals the country's top schools for sport, in terms of national achievement. Their list honours those schools that take competitive sport seriously and is based on 20 different sports and more than 120 different national competitions. To this end, a few schools can be congratulated for their consistent achievement, particularly the top two: Millfield and Whitgift. Guildford High School has not only maintained its record of featuring in the top five, but also kept its title as the top all-girls school for sport, for the seventh year in a row.

A few years ago, School Sport asked me about the secrets of our success and I often ask myself the same question. How do we do it? I know for certain that a winning formula requires a great deal of passion, dedication and determination from both staff and pupils, with the additional, essential support of parents. We have learnt that success does not always come easily, and it often takes years to achieve good results at national level. We also work incredibly hard to create and facilitate a broad and varied extracurricular programme that encourages sporting excellence in every area. Every type of sport is valued, supported and recognised so that GHS pupils can successfully compete, either as an individual or as a team member in one of our mainstream team sports. Last year, more than 20 pupils represented their country and this year, our Aspiring Athlete programme is now mentoring and supporting over 70 talented pupils who are following elite sporting pathways.

We all know how important it is for pupils to feel recognised and valued in a school community and success in any sport can have a tremendous impact on a young individual's personal confidence and self-esteem. The benefit of increasing opportunity and pursuing excellence in competitive sport is therefore huge and to this end, it is incredibly rewarding to receive national recognition from School Sport, showing that GHS is continuing to lead the way.

Mrs Louise Stone





Inspiring Girls

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