

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS  
GUIDE  
2021

SOUTHEAST  
INDEPENDENT  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL  
OF THE DECADE



GUILDFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

# Winter Newsletter 2020





CHRISTMAS AT GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL



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OPPOSITE: Top from left to right - pupils enjoying the snow machine on the front steps of the school, Year 8 enjoying their Christmas lunch in Stocks and Senior Prefects decorating the GHS Christmas tree. Bottom from left to right - Senior Prefect Team greeting pupils on 1 December in fancy dress, a form room door decorated by pupils and Year 8 visiting the school grotto.



## WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Christmas at GHS is very special. Perhaps the most challenging question of the term has been how to give that full-on Christmassy GHS experience whilst complying with Covid-19 regulations. On 1 December, the Christmas music was set to full volume on the front steps of the school, the snow machine blasted out, the Senior Prefects dressed up and danced and we ‘stepped into Christmas’ in style. We not only cheered up the GHS community, but the pedestrians, cars, buses, lorries and even a blue light ambulance that went past - waving and tooting their horns in appreciation.

The planning for Panto began in the summer. The entire production was written around our Year 7 class bubbles. Rehearsals began and it quickly became clear that we would not be able to stage a live production. We moved over to daily recording slots to create a full length feature film which was shown to the school in their class bubbles, with 800 bags of popcorn distributed!

The Senior Prefects have swept us along with The Twelve Days of Prefectmas, every year group has had their Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, and their very own Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church. Particular thanks go to our musicians, Mr Grayson Jones, Mrs Julie Shopland and Reverend Cannon Robert Cotton for giving us a poignant and beautiful end to the term.

I am absolutely delighted and very proud that Guildford High School has been named The Sunday Times Southeast Independent School of the Decade. The Sunday Times awards are some of the most prestigious awards in UK education and this is a wonderful achievement. 2020 has been a very challenging year for the whole school community. This award is a lovely way to end the year and it recognises the efforts of everyone connected with the school – pupils, parents, staff, alumni and governors. Thank you all for your wonderful support.

I wish you all peace and happiness this Christmas.

**Mrs Fiona Boulton**

## GHS NAMED THE SUNDAY TIMES SOUTHEAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE DECADE



Guildford High School has been named The Sunday Times Southeast Independent School of the Decade by Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2021. Parent Power is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country’s best schools and identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK. Guildford High Junior School ranked first in the national preparatory school league tables and our Senior School has ranked in the top 10 for each of the past eight years.

Announcing the award, Alastair McCall, Editor of The Sunday Times Schools Guide, said:

“There are very few schools that can match the consistent excellence of Guildford High. Children of all ages thrive, and high academic standards run through the age groups... Academic success tells only half the story, however. Under the outstanding leadership of Fiona Boulton, pupils flourish both inside the classroom and out, encouraged to pursue their extracurricular interests – from Music to Sport, Debating to Drama – at the highest level. Pupils leave confident of their place in the world and ready to embrace the challenges it throws at them. For sustained brilliance, Guildford High School is a richly deserving winner.”

### SIR JON COLES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF UNITED LEARNING, MARKS THE AWARD



Over the past ten years, under the leadership of Fiona Boulton, GHS has grown from being a very strong academic school to being at the forefront of what 21st century independent education should comprise and how leading independent schools should behave in working alongside others. It is no surprise that this is reflected in the award of Southeast Independent School of the Decade from The Sunday Times as GHS has consistently been in the top three highest achieving girls schools in the country over the last ten years. However I am very pleased that this award also commends the school’s wider contribution to its pupils’ lives. Across sporting and artistic endeavours, pupils at GHS are routinely representing their region and country in national and international events; reaching the highest echelons in their chosen fields and going on to continue their learning and enjoyment at the best global universities. As a school within our Group, Guildford High School plays a vital role in our United Teaching training programme and in sharing its resources, best practice and expertise with staff and pupils across United Learning. Never shy to admit where it has learnt from our academies and other schools and always generous in its willingness and time to work with others, GHS repeatedly demonstrates how the best of the independent sector can work in partnership with the best of the state sector to deliver outcomes that no school could achieve on its own. Above all, this award is testament to a highly dedicated team of colleagues and generation after generation of ambitious, resilient and altruistic young women who attend Guildford High School.

## WRITING AND DIRECTING THE YEAR 7 PANTO: 'LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD'

We hope you all enjoyed Panto this year and that it brought some Christmas cheer to you, despite its differences from the normal experience! This year, because of Covid-19, when we were emailed that we were Directors, we immediately hopped on Teams to start writing and planning, knowing how much of a challenge faced us. We had to cast the Year 7s from audition videos they sent without ever seeing them in person. Unfortunately, after half a term of rehearsals, it became clear that a live audience would not be possible, so we decided to film the panto. Instead of eight weeks to produce it, we had only three weeks to prepare every costume, prop, and Year 7 before filming started. The Lower Sixth crew and teachers really pulled together and perhaps the best example of their dedication was one rehearsal in which five of the eight heads of acting were Teamsing in from home! Filming the panto provided the most arduous task. From arriving early every morning to filming scenes over and over again, our filming crew quickly became essential in our panto journey. The professional camera equipment and extravagant sets from the Yvonne Arnaud made the experience 10 times more exciting for the panto cast and crew. After a busy three weeks of crazy costumes and even crazier singing, acting, and dancing, the Panto filming came to an end. Thank you everyone for being a part of Panto 2020, whether you were a part of the crew, the cast or watching it from home!

**Marina Charman, Arya Puranik, and Jemima Freeman (2020 Panto Directors)**



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: FILMING A PANTO IN LOCKDOWN

After the October Half Term, we (the GHS Media and AV team) were approached by the Sixth Form Panto Directors to assist with translating a stage production into a 'Netflix style' feature-length film. With only one capable camera, our first task was to source and invest in some extra film-making equipment. We brought a 4K broadcasting camera along with a tracking dolly and gimbal. These would allow us to scroll alongside the Year 7 actors through a scene. We also invested in a counter-weighted crane; this allows the camera to move in any direction in a single fluid movement. Next, we tackled the set. Most of the filming was to take place in the Main Hall. We hired three large backdrops from the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and installed a green screen. We set up a small stage opposite the main stage so that we were able to socially distance from the cast and were at the same level. The main challenge was with the audio. Due to Covid-19 we were not able to mic everyone up individually and stage mics were not going to pick up the sound. Two of our Media and AV members therefore held a boom mic over each pupil as they said their lines. Chorus and solo numbers were recorded separately as were the orchestra. Thank you to Mr Michael Walden who worked closely with the Sixth Form Band to mix the sound. The filming schedule was also a challenge as we only had a couple of hours at a time with each Year 7 bubble. There were multiple pupils playing duplicate roles and we had to work around absences from those unwell or isolating. The filming took place every day from 16 November – 4 December and then we were tasked with producing the final cut to be shown to the whole school just one week later. Each scene took an average of two to three hours to edit and we had to sync the separately recorded audio with the shots we took. The final film lands at approximately 1hr 45mins. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with the Sixth Form Directors and Year 7 pupils on what has been our most challenging project to date!

**Mr Conor Brown, Miss Georgie Elliott and Mr Steve Simpson**



## POPCORN AT THE READY: YEAR 7 PANTO PREMIERE

Every year, the Lower Sixth write and produce the annual GHS Pantomime to be performed by the new Year 7s. This year's Directors, Marina Charman, Jemima Freeman and Arya Puranik, produced an entertaining and original adaptation of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Instead of year groups spilling into the Main Hall to watch the stage production on the last Friday of term, pupils gathered in their form rooms to watch the film with popcorn. It was an fantastic afternoon for all.



## CAROL SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The Carol Service is considered by many of us here at GHS to be the highlight of the Christmas period. For some, the descants of *Once in Royal* and *Adeste Adeste Fideles* are the cherished moments, others enjoy the refinement and excellence of the choirs and Chamber Orchestra, whilst others bask in the crisp solemnity of the sacred readings. This year, each of these moments was multiplied seven times over with a full day of separate services for each year group from Year 7 to Upper Sixth at Holy Trinity Church. The choirs sang Christmas carols and pieces, from John Rutter's *Angels' Carol* to Mr Hadfield's arrangement of *Carol of the Bells*, the wind band and string orchestras played energetic and rousing pieces from *A Jazzy Christmas* to *Sleigh Ride* and each year group's speakers spoke with excellence and assuredness. The sense of gratitude, of community and of shared music-making never felt stronger after this most special of days; a wonderful way to end the term and mark Christmas in this most unique of years.

Mr Jack Laphorn



## YEARS 7-9 RECORD INFORMAL CONCERTS LIVE

We have been delighted with the pupils' positive responses to the creation of single year group wind bands, string ensembles and choirs. We were especially thrilled with the response from lower school pupils to the idea of putting on, and recording, individual year group concerts for soloists. The invitation went out to everyone in Years 7, 8 and 9 and it was marvellous to host three separate year group concerts on consecutive days. It is easy to forget that the vast majority of pupils had not performed in front of an audience since February (apart from Zoom performances to wider family during lockdown!) and many had not performed solo pieces with piano accompaniments since 2019. It was, therefore, heartening to see and hear such talent on display again. Each pupil performed a solo piece, with the addition of one ensemble performance in the Year 9 concert; the musicians also formed an enthusiastic audience for each other. The concerts included singers and pianists, as well as string, woodwind and brass players; but it was the consistently high quality of playing and singing that was especially memorable. All three concerts were recorded (live) and are now available to view on the GHS YouTube channel. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

**Mr Grayson Jones**



## YEARS 9 AND 11 MUSIC AWARD HOLDERS' CONCERTS

The Music Award Holders' Concerts, normally held at Holy Trinity Church in front of an audience, this year moved to the 2016 Hall and were performed to camera. They have been one of the musical highlights this term. Nine performers from across Years 9 and 11 gave some beautifully accomplished performances in a wide variety of styles which ranged from Bach to the present day. Congratulations to all who performed.

**Mrs Emilie Forrest-Biggs**



# THE BIG DRAW 2020: BLACK HISTORY

This term GHS held the Big Draw Festival, a KS3 Art competition, and the theme for 2020 was Black History. Pupils came up with some thoughtful and creative interpretations to not only celebrate black achievement but the use of the Apple pencil, as all submissions were digital. We were so impressed with all their entries, congratulations to everyone who took part.

Mrs Sue Kew

## YEAR 7 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

- Ottie Broome
- Elise Christian
- Emelie Daniel
- Florence Datta
- Emiliya Kuteeva
- Jaya Mangat
- Ella McCormick
- Malena Tolentino
- Evita Troman

## YEAR 7 RUNNERS UP

- Third - Zainab Mahmud
- Second - Lily Patel

## YEAR 7 WINNER

Olivia Longhurst



## YEAR 8 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

- Rishona Bandi
- Carlota Hall
- Lily Teo

## YEAR 8 RUNNERS UP

- Third - Anya Digby
- Second - Eva Huang

## YEAR 8 WINNER

Ella Needham



## YEAR 9 HONOURABLE MENTIONS

- Charlotte Allen
- Emma Bowerman
- Samantha Good
- Danya Griver
- Veronika Koch
- Millie Liu
- Karma Meyer
- Kara Muller
- Taisiya Tikhonova

## YEAR 9 RUNNERS UP

- Third - Grace Hammond
- Second - Milly Joseph

## YEAR 9 WINNER

Jess Harmer



## SINGER INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PRIZE 2020

This year, two thirds of the Upper Sixth submitted essays for the Singer Independent Research Prize and the standard was outstanding. Students chose to write essays on topics as diverse as Gut Bacteria, the Harlem Renaissance, Sustainable Flight, Adrenaline use in CPR, and Should the Western Classical Canon Change?

This year's winners were Amy Bowler, Constance Jordan, Ria Mann, Nicola Yeung and Jessica Pun Lai Yuen, and there were highly commended entries from Holly Brooker, Mia Grant, Divya Kartik and Jasmin Kelliher. The winners presented their research to members of the Sixth Form in front of Mrs Sue Singer (ex-Headmistress); a highly informative symposium!

**Mr Andrew Hadfield**



## CLASSICS OVID MYTHOLOGY COMPETITION

Several Year 7 pupils entered the Classics Ovid Mythology competition before Half Term, and, after we narrowed them down to five finalists and sent their entries to the University of Cambridge to enter the competition. The finalists were Marikit Akiwumi, Alana Amankul, Adele Kenenbayeva, Olivia Kraus and Charlotte Mansi, and between them they entered the categories of performance, artefact and creative writing. The finalists then attended the Prizegiving event on the afternoon of Tuesday 1 December over Zoom. It was a really engaging event allowing the pupils to learn more about the ancient world, including a performance from the prestigious storyteller and poet Hugh Lupton, a montage of the 60 incredibly high-calibre entries from across 16 different schools, and an interactive quiz about Ovid's stories, in which we came second! We are delighted that Alana came first in the artefact category with her fantastic interpretation of Baucis and Philemon. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon, and hopefully have furthered their interest in Classics and Mythology. Well done again to all those who participated!

**Miss Amy Channing**



## FOUR YEARS OF ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GHS PUPILS

Many congratulations must go to Annabel in the Lower Sixth who has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering scholarship for her Sixth Form years. Arkwright scholarships are awarded to talented students who have the potential to be leaders in engineering, following a rigorous application process which included a challenging aptitude exam. Annabel's success is particularly impressive this year, since the number of scholarships is lower than usual. Annabel is the fourth GHS student to be awarded an Arkwright scholarship. Isabelle Morrison-Clare was our first Arkwright scholar; she is now studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Bath. Isabelle relished the work experience opportunities that came with her scholarship and enjoyed having an engineering mentor. Harriett Cooper was our second Arkwright scholar; she completed her A Levels last summer and is now applying for engineering courses at university. Harriett said "having an Arkwright scholarship gave me many opportunities to improve myself and my teamwork abilities. For example, the RAF Leadership Residential allowed me to gain a strong understanding of what it means to be a leader and how to get the most out of a team. I have come away from my scholarship with increased confidence and it has been an invaluable experience." Connie, our Upper Sixth Arkwright scholar, is currently applying through UCAS for engineering courses. We hope that the success of Annabel, as well as our other budding engineers will inspire other GHS pupils to consider a career in engineering and to apply for the Arkwright scholarship scheme in Year 11.

**Dr Jane Boyd**



Alumna Harriett Cooper with other scholars at RAF Benson



Alumna Isabelle Morrison-Clare, our first scholar



Annabel awarded Arkwright scholarship this term



Connie, our Upper Sixth Arkwright scholar

## EXTRACURRICULAR ROUND-UP

Extracurricular clubs and activities have continued this half of term for pupils. The single year group wind bands, string ensembles and choirs have been busy rehearsing, netball and lacrosse teams have been out on the pitches and our food technology rooms have been filled with some lovely treats! Pupils have also taken part in the Design Museum's 'Design Ventura' competition where, working in teams, they design a product for the Design Museum Shop and have to consider the whole process of design, from initial ideas to manufacturing and budgets to marketing and branding.

**Mr Will Saunders**



## GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Gold Duke of Edinburgh is a tough challenge meant to take place in 'wild country', however this year there was a slight difference. Our team of six (Imi Bulman, Katharine Farr, Izzy Ibeson, Connie Jordan, Katie Wright and myself) was ready to complete our expedition in the depths of the Brecon Beacons, climbing Pen-y-Fan, but instead we were faced with the challenge to walk around the Surrey Hills. Although not walking in Wales, Welsh weather seemed to follow us; on day three it rained heavily, testing our wet weather gear as we walked through streams and bogs which the day before had been footpaths. The rain did not dampen our spirits as ABBA medleys and lots of good snacks kept us going throughout the day. As we were not camping, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were all able to enjoy a hot bath and a cooked meal at home each evening. We still faced a challenge, even if not in Wales; in the four days we walked 90km and climbed 1600 metres (twice the height of Pen-y-Fan). The trip, although not what we expected, was great fun and has provided us with a huge sense of achievement. Thank you to Dr Lockett who organised the trip brilliantly in trying circumstances and to our assessor Phil from Learn Outdoors, it was definitely a challenge that we will never forget.

**Charlotte Hook, Upper Sixth**



## GHS CONTINUES TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Our pen pals in Years 7-8 are still exchanging letters with local elderly residents and in ASPIRE lessons, Christmas cards have been written to them all. Many residents have enjoyed watching and listening to our recent musical performances and they are looking forward to CDs of Christmas carols arriving soon. Mia and her sister Milly raised money over lockdown and used this to gift a Christmas tree to Stoke Hospital, where Mia's penpal, Rosemary, lives. She was absolutely delighted! In September, Sixth Formers from local secondary schools joined us virtually for Professor Mark Green's lecture. Our relationship with Loseley Fields continues to flourish; our teachers have been sharing subject knowledge with theirs. GHS also rehomed some of our redundant printers to local charities and organisations which, not only ensured they were reused, but also had the wonderful upside of introducing us to charities who we look forward to working more closely with in the future. Thanks to your incredible generosity, our Christmas Games Appeal has been a wonderful success. We have been able to give a game to all the vulnerable children in the local primary schools we are working with. The Junior School girls crafted and wrote beautiful cards to go with them. Thank you!

**Mrs Jenni Hall**



## CELEBRATING KINDNESS AND CONNECTION AT GHS

Earlier this term, Guildford High School participated in Anti-Bullying Week and our Senior School chose to focus on kindness and connection. Deputy Head, Mrs Karen Laurie, launched the week with an assembly video from the pastoral team as you have never seen them before – Lego characters! The whole school participated in Odd Socks Day, part of a national effort to represent individuality and the fact that we are all different. This was a great success. All pupils arrived on Monday morning with mismatched legs, providing a very colourful start to the week. Understanding the ripple effect kindness can have, became the central theme for the week. Cookies and hot chocolate were enjoyed by all with money raised supporting local charities. No homework was set on the Wednesday with all pupils being given a bath bomb and encouraged to enjoy a bath, read a book and go to bed early. Pupils were also given herbal tea and asked to ‘connect over a cuppa’ - to take a mindful moment and enjoy a cup of tea and chat with someone at home. At a time when it is harder to be together, finding innovative ways to connect as a community and making the time to be kind to ourselves and each other has never felt more important. Start a ripple, create a wave!

Mrs Amanda Whybro



## ASPIRING ATHLETES SUCCESS THIS TERM

Many of our athletes have accomplished some great sporting achievements this term.

Louisa Piper is chasing her Olympic dreams as a GB Archer, in the midst of a full training load as she strives to secure her place for Tokyo. We wish her every success at this exciting time.

At the beginning of term, Alice Goldsmith was selected by the Royal Yachting Association to become a member of the Regional Training Group, Topper. Alice’s selection for this recognises her potential to progress within the British Sailing Team with the aim of gaining a place in one of their UK youth squads. This is a stepping stone towards reaching the Olympic Development Programmes. We are very proud of Alice and wish her all the best for when she gets back on the water.

Natalie O’Hara has moved to Spelthorne Gymnastics Club where she has been selected as a member of their elite acrobatics squad. She is training hard and aiming to compete in international competitions next year.

Surrey Storm is Guildford’s local super league netball team and the players provide our pupils with vital role models as well as the inspiration to play at the top level. We had a number of players trialling for their junior academies in what is always an extremely competitive process. We are incredibly proud of the following pupils who have made the Surrey Storm squads and County teams:

### STORM U17

Abi Barnett  
Sabine Coombs

### STORM U19 LONG SQUAD

Hope Campbell  
Marlene Lange\*  
Chloe Swan

\*Marlene Lange has also been invited to attend the U19 England netball trials. We wish her the best of luck with this exciting adventure!

On the lacrosse field we have had an all-time high number of pupils invited to the England Academy. The programme starts at the regional level moving through to the national academy. We also have a number of pupils who have made the U19 Wales squad. Well done to all of those involved.



At county level, representation has been very strong this term, across a number of our sports:

NETBALL	CRICKET	HOCKEY
<p><b>SURREY COUNTY ACADEMY</b></p> <p>Anita Panov Gabby Roberts Isabel Secrett Arabella Wilson</p>	<p><b>SURREY CRICKET</b></p> <p>Olivia Tufts Mia Mason-Bailey Ellen Clarke</p>	<p><b>SURREY HOCKEY</b></p> <p>Lucy Morris Emily Hook Emilia Morgan</p>
<p><b>SURREY SATELLITE ACADEMY</b></p> <p>Emmeline Orbell Anya Stannard Maya Citakovic Elise Christian</p>		
<p><b>BERKSHIRE COUNTY</b></p> <p>Sophia Rodzianko Ceci Tallis</p>		

With restrictions placed on the amount of training that has been allowed this term, I have been incredibly impressed with all our athletes and their motivation to maintain their fitness levels. Many of our top athletes have been completing Zoom training sessions with their teammates and coaches, focusing on different elements of their sports to keep developing and progressing. It is all about grasping opportunities and not letting barriers hold our pupils back.

**Mrs Laura McHale**

## TOP 20 ALL GIRLS SCHOOL FOR CRICKET

For the first time, The Cricketer Magazine has included a ranking for all-girls schools for cricket in its Schools Guide 2021. We are thrilled to announce that Guildford High School has been featured in the top 20.

A record number of schools submitted entries this year. The Cricketer worked alongside former England player Lydia Greenway to select the top 20 all-girls schools. Guildford High School was recognised for its fast-growing cricket department; within the past six years we have produced 14 teams with more pupils attending extracurricular practices every year. This is a wonderful achievement for our Sports department.

Thank you to our cricket team: Mrs Keely Harper (Senior School), Miss Georgie Dustin (Junior School), Mr Ben Collins (GHS cricket specialist) and Katherine Robson (visiting Surrey cricket coach).





# Inspiring Girls

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