

Highlights

GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2020



WHAT'S INSIDE

WELCOME

2020 ISSUE

- 05 Editors' Letter
- 06 Welcome from Mrs Fiona Boulton, Headmistress

GHS NEWS

2020 SNAPSHOT

- 07 Class of 2020
- 08 When the Walls Came Down
- 12 Priyanga at Prizegiving
- 14 Staff Leavers and Joiners

CREATIVE ARTS

- 16 Art Exhibition 2020
- 18 ARTiculation Grand Final
- 19 DT Exhibition 2020
- 20 Fashion with Compassion

DRAMA & MUSIC

- 22 Pupils Star in BBC's Modern Take of an Enid Blyton Classic
- 24 Pupils Pick a Pocket or Two in 'Oliver' Production
- 26 Black Comedy
- 27 'Tartuffe'
- 28 Music Kept Alive During Lockdown

SPORT

- 30 Staying Strong in Sport
- 32 Top Independent Girls' School for Sport
- 34 From Snowplow to Slalem Success

GHS FEATURES

- 38 "How Long is Forever?"
- 42 GHS Etymology
- 46 21 Year Legacy of the Ceiling Tiles

ALUMNI COMMUNITY

ALUMNI FEATURES

- 48 A Little Love from GHS
- 54 Frontline Fortitude for Four
- 56 Headlines and Deadlines
- 58 Shooting for the Moon
- 60 Escape to the Country

CAREERS AND NETWORK

- 62 'Inspiring Women, Inspiring Girls'
- 64 Higher Education Highlights
- 66 A Pigment of the Imagination

ALUMNI NEWS

NEWS FEATURES, WEDDINGS & OBITUARIES

- 67 A Wild and Windy Wing Walk
- 68 A Picture Perfect View of the Polar World
- 72 Paused by the Pandemic
- 74 Fundraising Fisher
- 76 Tying the Knot
- 77 Staying in Touch
- 82 A Tribute to Miss Dutton, Headmistress 1977-1991
- 86 Obituaries

Meet the team



MRS LOUISE STONE

ALUMNI LIAISON OFFICER /
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Louise has been at GHS for 23 years and was appointed Alumni Liaison Officer in 2018. She is responsible for the organisation of alumni events and liaises with other departments, particularly Careers, to invite alumni back for talks and other social occasions. Louise writes the majority of the features in the annual magazine and enjoys connecting with those in our community. She is looking forward to 2021 when she will become a grandma!



MRS ABBIE BLEASBY-VOICE

MARKETING MANAGER

Abbie works closely with Louise and Emily on alumni communications. She designs the annual magazine with the support of the Marketing Assistant and led the project to update the magazine format in 2018. She also looks after the new alumni website pages and monitors the alumni inbox and LinkedIn group. Abbie is adjusting to married life after bringing her wedding forward by two months due to Covid-19!



MRS EMILY KIRBY

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Emily returned to GHS earlier this year after a period of maternity leave with her second child. She has recently joined the GHS Alumni Office and will be monitoring the alumni inbox as well as providing support with future events and the annual magazine. Emily is looking forward to hearing from the GHS Alumni Community.

EDITORS' LETTER

REFLECTION ON AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

2020 will certainly go down in history as a strange and difficult year; an unprecedented time, when a 'new normal' way of life emerged, disconnected from any spontaneity. After larger gatherings were banned, online meetings, booking systems and the rule of six transformed the way we lived and socialised. Lockdowns, social distancing and PPE changed our behaviour and outlook on the world. Hospitals, supermarkets, emergency and delivery services were heroically projected to the front line, whilst the nation's economy was left to flounder in the wake of Covid-19 destruction.

“ When we published Highlights 2019, we were excited to hear your feedback and thrilled by the significant increase in alumni joining our fold. Your lovely comments gave us an encouraging indication of the magazine's success. ”

On the downside, we were concerned about how we could do better this year, particularly after the pandemic caught hold in March; however, our fears proved completely unfounded. The compilation of this year's magazine has been an absolute pleasure and we feel rewarded in producing a well-balanced read that blends current school highlights with fascinating alumni stories and vibrant artwork to match.

GHS is a very special place. In this edition, we look back to our roots with an etymology of the school crest and an explanation of why our Alice in Wonderland statue takes centre stage. We have covered our main successes in Sport, reviewed our wonderful drama

productions and reported on pupils' talent in music and the creative arts.

“ Lockdown may have closed our doors for a lengthy period, but as you will see, it did not stop the flow of educational opportunity that continued to thrive. ”

And we have loved the stories about YOU: the way some alumni have braved the storm of Covid-19 that wreaked the world, working in the NHS or helping in other key, front line roles. We have also enjoyed all the other news and feature-length articles about incredible career journeys, fundraising adventures and explorative research.

Our aim is always to inspire; to inspire our current pupils who are aspiring alumni, but most importantly to engage with 'old girls' who have led or are leading inspirational lives. The variety of topics, career choices and philanthropy embraced in this edition is remarkable, yet we have only offered a snapshot of what we know is going on out there. Please keep writing to us, so that we can continue to tell your stories and produce an interesting magazine for all.

“ Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter. ”

BRIAN SOLIS

We hope you enjoy reading our 2020 'highlights'!

FRONT COVER: Headmistress and Prizegiving Guest Speaker Priyanga Burford (GHS Head Girl 1990)

WELCOME

FROM MRS FIONA BOULTON, HEADMISTRESS



Over the summer term, we designed and wrote new enrichment courses for our Year 11 and Upper Sixth to prepare them for the next steps in their education, we looked after key worker children and we taught all our lessons remotely. In planning for September, we organised a whole new way of delivering the curriculum, with safe distancing measures and newly constructed bubbles. For example, we deconstructed the timetable and rebuilt it, moving from an eight period day to an 11 period day, so that year groups could arrive and leave at different times to maintain bubble integrity. We risk assessed and risk assessed as we prepared for the return of all pupils and staff. We did all this whilst simultaneously working out exam cohorts' CAGs and rankings and dealing with the subsequent fallout from U-turns and last minute changes.

Without access to cloakrooms and lockers to store bags, books and coats, we had to think again. We invested in Apple pencils and dispensed with exercise books. Pupils who are absent continue to attend lessons remotely via Microsoft Teams. Pupils love the way they are being taught. They are sharing and interacting with such a wide range of resources and they feel in control of their own learning. Pupils have realised that learning really is a partnership. Staff can view and annotate individual iPad screens in lessons whilst maintaining safe distancing. As for storing coats, with all the windows open for increased ventilation – the coats are being worn! We have had to find new ways of connecting as we are all in the same buildings, but our paths do not cross.

Since September, it is fair to say that despite how well everyone did during lockdown, the joy of being back in school is tangible. One pupil commented that 'each day feels like a gift.' A good school should engender a love of learning, a common purpose to achieve, to enjoy life, to grasp opportunity and to make a difference. In lockdown, we were all apart but in many ways we had never been more together.

I hope that 2020 has been kind to you. I hope that you have been healthy, that you have remained connected with friends and family and that you have experienced moments of unexpected pleasure.

I love this magazine. I have to thank Mrs Louise Stone and her team for all their hard work in putting it together. Thank you to all of you for writing your articles and sending in photos, updates and stories. Thank you to those of you who have come in to speak to pupils, or taken time to run mock interviews or talk through your career experiences. The connections just bring joy!

January 2020 seems a lifetime ago. We were busy going about our everyday school lives as tales of Covid-19 began to dominate the news, and the scale and the seriousness of the situation began to hit home. From the moment a lockdown was mentioned we began to mobilise and the years of prioritising investing in IT infrastructure paid off. Each pupil was equipped with a leased iPad and staff had the resources to teach from home.

CLASS OF 2020

THE YEAR WHO NEVER GOT TO LEAVE

Our 2020 leavers have been a wonderful year group. The announcement of the cancellation of A Levels and the sudden closure of schools was incredibly tough, but pupils responded with characteristic kindness, good humour and great resilience.

Collectively, we saw how hard they worked, particularly over the last few months, to embed their skills and knowledge, and we saw the amazing progress they made. Whilst their GHS career may not have ended as they had anticipated, we saw them in concerts, drama productions, sporting events, debating and the Panto, Talent and Fashion Shows. We valued their contribution to the Houses, to school assemblies and to the community at large. From the moment they joined the school, individual talents, abilities and efforts were recognised.

At the end of the Trinity Term, we had a virtual Prizegiving, an event that should have taken place at Guildford's G Live; a mass gathering of pupils, staff and parents, celebrating with handshaking, clapping, speeches, orchestral music and singing.

Instead, the school was closed and most of us were at home, glued to a technological world of video screen.

In her speech, Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton, gave a message to the Class of 2020 that was both touching and poignantly clear:

“ We have been so proud of all you have achieved, not just in academic terms. We are proud of the people you are, and we believe in you. You are an extraordinarily talented year; you are my 'Carnival Year', the year who never got to leave. ”

To the Class of 2020, we say a deep and heartfelt thank you for your hard work and creativity. You have been an inspiration to us all.



WHEN THE WALLS CAME DOWN



“On 20 March 2020, we lost the walls of our school. Pupils disappeared into their homes and took GHS with them on their iPads.”

In her Prizegiving speech at the end of the Trinity Term, our Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton, spoke about how the school changed when the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, forcing the country into lockdown. She described how each subject rose to the challenge of designing and creating a new virtual education for all age groups.

“ *Whilst uniforms were stuffed into the back of wardrobes, timetables did not change; staff and pupils logged into each live lesson via the Teams app from Day 1 of lockdown.* ”

Everyone had to learn to be agile and to adapt: two qualities that were needed to continue thriving and achieving excellence, whilst working remotely in changing surroundings.

Art lessons made use of coffee, turmeric and beetroot in the absence of paint and iconic loo roll tubes became canvases. Pupils visited galleries around the world from the comfort of their own homes.

The Design and Technology department launched an exciting entrepreneurial project in collaboration with 7billionideas in which each pupil was asked to come up with an idea that they think would ‘positively change the world’. Ideas included machines that would recycle pollution into useful energy, a device to help protect our endangered elephants from poachers and even an app where young designers can share their great ideas via an online platform!

With limited access to fabric and sewing machines, Textiles pupils used tea towels, old dusters and J Cloths as well as up-cycling old worn clothing. They researched 20th century fashion designers and designed innovative garments including a 2021 Olympic tracksuit inspired by Vivienne Westwood and a Coco Chanel inspired school uniform. Food Technology lessons became the highlight of many families’ week! Even when flour was scarce, pupils were led by their teacher in her kitchen,

making a whole range of gorgeous food from enchiladas to Cornish pasties.

“ *In Drama, the cast of the Lower School play, 'James and the Giant Peach', continued to rehearse remotely, whilst the Year 9 girls wrote and performed their own radio plays in groups, using script and audio extracts from the BBC Radio 4's 'The Archers'.* ”

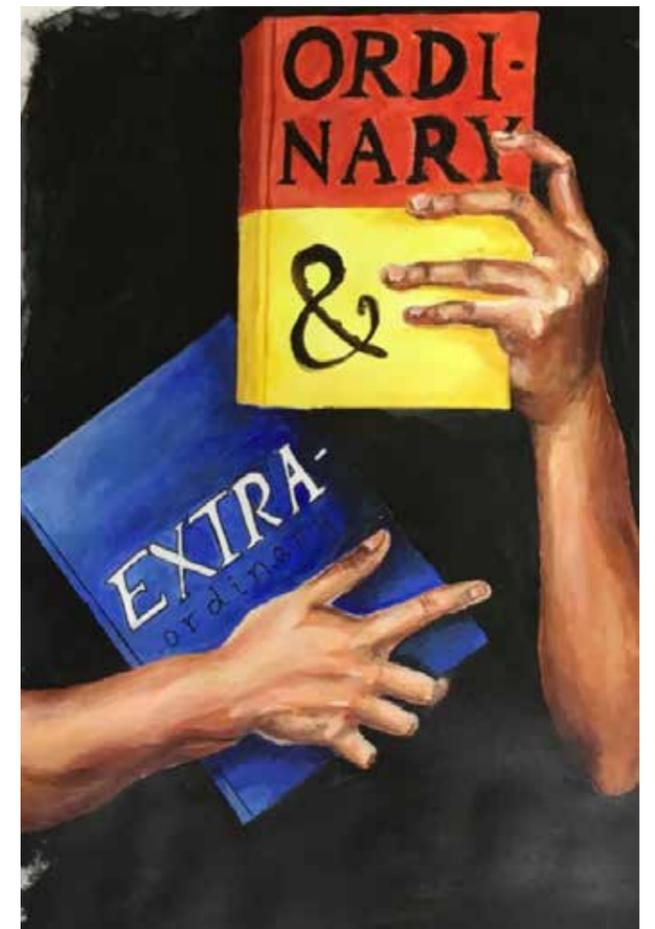
Their teacher happens to play Phoebe in this show, so she proved an expert coach in how to create acoustic sound effects from within the house!

The Music department remained as lively and productive as ever, with instrumentalists, singers and soloists practising and performing online, whilst the PE department continued to run a full programme of activities and extra-curricular competitions, indoors and out, to suit every domestic space, garden or local park available (you can read more about both of these stories later in this magazine).

In Modern Foreign Languages, lessons delved into the cultural delights of food and cinema. Pupils followed recipes in each foreign language to create delicious, regional dishes to share with their families, whilst making an iMovie in the process! Pupils ‘virtually’ visited foreign regions to learn of their gastronomical delights and practised ordering deliveries of food, in readiness for their next trips abroad. They also developed their curiosity for European cinema, entered essay competitions, read in French, ▶

OPPOSITE: pupil working remotely during lockdown with her GHS iPad

BELOW: artwork completed during lockdown lessons





ABOVE: Top - Junior School pupil set-up her own GHS office at home. Bottom - an engineering challenge using STIXX

► German and Spanish, as well as completing online learning modules.

Our classicists conducted some undergraduate-style research and gave sensational presentations on their findings, on topics including Athenian democracy, the plague of Athens, tragedy, gods, art, love and luxury. Geography pupils explored global patterns of gender equality, by playing lockdown top trumps through the Microsoft Teams. The Economists adapted their application of theories to the current Covid-19 context, by applying concepts of game theory and behavioural economics to explain why people felt the need to stockpile items and to consider if the behaviour was rational. In Religious Studies, pupils were able to move into areas of study that are not covered in the curriculum, with fascinating discussions on topics such as 'Prosperity Theology' and 'The Caste System in India'.

“ A stimulating debate was also held on the motion ‘Discrimination is never fully understood by those who don’t experience it.’ ”

Never before has Science been so prevalent in our general discourse in society; but during lockdown, it became commonplace for us to have briefings from scientists in our daily news cycle. Science teachers exemplified the ability to work with flexibility, ensuring that our pupils were still able to access a wide ranging and rich curriculum, with practical work adapted for completion at home. It was also arranged for them to participate in live online tours with experts in their fields of research at the Boulby Underground Laboratory.

Without walls, fresh opportunities arose. As a flagship Teaching School for United Learning, GHS has taken a prominent role in leading a National Alliance, where pupils and teachers from academies in the United Learning group have been able to visit and physically attend lessons at GHS. In return, our staff, particularly young trainees, have gone out to spend time teaching and learning from them.

Suddenly, however, and impressively, without the need for months of planning, GHS was able to open the ‘virtual doors’ of its classrooms, enabling pupils from northern academies and local schools to attend a full timetable of lessons online. In reflecting on their experience, one of these guest pupils wrote to thank GHS afterwards, saying "I have learnt from this opportunity what a flourishing education looks like. I have taken away a new drive for success, which means I want to further my education to achieve my aim!"

“ It is important, therefore, that we do not see this as a one-off moment in history, but as the lifting of a lid, where the possibilities for sharing and engaging are endless. It is important that these walls stay off. ”

Since September, GHS pupils have been back to school fully; but, zones, bubbles, one-way systems, sanitising stations and social distancing rules now dictate a ‘new normal’ way of life. Instead of the usual day to day busyness, noise and vibrancy of a big school community, there is often an eerie silence in the corridors. Staggered timetables and lunchbreaks have tempered the hustle and bustle of peak times and both online assemblies and meetings have replaced all large gatherings.

But at least our walls are back!

“ A school without walls allows for creativity and innovation, but we came to a point where I recognised that we needed our physical walls and to welcome our pupils back into the classroom. ”

Extracts taken from the Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton's, Prizegiving speech, July 2020

PRIYANGA AT PRIZEGIVING

FORMER HEAD GIRL RETURNS TO GHS

We were delighted to welcome Priyanga Burford as guest speaker at our unusual Prizegiving this year. Due to Covid-19, Prizegiving was unable to go ahead in our usual venue at G Live; instead we held a virtual Prizegiving and created a pre-recorded video for pupils, staff and parents to watch. The theme for this year's Prizegiving was the need to be adaptable and agile as individuals and as a community, and Priyanga's life and career experiences epitomise this idea entirely. Priyanga is a successful actress, writer and director – many of you will recognise her from a wealth of film, TV and theatre appearances. Amongst many roles, she appeared on our small screens recently in the BBC series 'Press'. On stage,

she has played Hermione in The Globe Theatre's production of 'The Winter's Tale' and if you are a Star Wars fan, Priyanga played a resistance medical officer in the 2017 film 'Episode 8: The Last Jedi'. All of these credentials would be reason enough for GHS to welcome Priyanga as our Guest Speaker, but Priyanga is 'one of our own' as she was our Head Girl in 1990.

We were thrilled to welcome Priyanga back to school to record her address, where she joined us to celebrate the many successes of our talented pupils.

Ms Ashley Fenton

"Priyanga imparted such wise and inspirational words in her Prizegiving speech. We are sure that hearing about her journey from GHS pupil to successful actress will serve as great inspiration for many of us. Priyanga's message about the importance of imagination could not have come at a better time. After having our lives on hold for the past few months, unable to enjoy many of the things we had been looking forward to, she provided a much needed reminder that now, more than ever, is the perfect time to let our imaginations run wild and envisage all the exciting experiences still to come in the future.

Her words should give us confidence that there is no conventional path to success and demonstrates the benefit of keeping an open mind as to where our future lies. We are often told that we should choose our head over our heart, but Priyanga is a perfect example where the heart leading the head results in something even more magical."

ALICE BATHURST AND ALICE HAWKEN, HEAD GIRLS 2019-20



“ Priyanga reminded us that ultimately, the recipe for success and happiness is based on so much more than statistics and academia. We must also relish more abstract qualities such as resilience, creativity, courage and imagination. ” HEAD GIRLS 2019-20

OPPOSITE: Priyanga Burford (Class of 1990) looking at the Head Girls' Board in School with Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton

STAFF LEAVERS AND JOINERS

STAFF RETIREMENTS



Mrs Wendy Bengoechea

HEAD OF YEAR 7

As Head of Year 7, Wendy has nurtured all our pupils through their first year at GHS. She has overseen our famous GHS Panto for many years and as Head of our Design and Technology Faculty, Wendy's creative flair has inspired us all. Wendy's refreshing sense of perspective, her boundless energy, enthusiasm and good humour mean that she will be greatly missed. Thank you to all those who emailed in their memories of Wendy; we have included some of your lovely comments below.

"I have such fond memories of Mrs Bengoechea...I had the good fortune to have Mrs Bengoechea and Mrs Bancroft for my A-Level in Food & Nutrition. To this day I don't know what possessed me (other than my love of the teaching staff), to take this A-level, as I am an utterly dismal cook and always have been. By some small miracle I managed to get an A grade which surprised us all on the day! It is still a source of great pride to me, and mirth to my family who occasionally have to endure my terrible cooking."

JO PINSON (NÉE JONES, CLASS OF 1999)

"Mrs Bengoechea, I still have the bag we made in Year 7!! Congratulations on an amazing career and a big thank you from me (in my capacity as an old girl, governor and (soon to be) parent!) for your loyalty to GHS, and all your hard work, enthusiasm and belief in GHS girls - may your retirement be full of rest and relaxation. All the best."

ZIP JILA (NÉE COLLEY, CLASS OF 2002)

"Mrs Bengoechea, you inspired so many of us in your years at GHS – you were one of the best!...I always think back to how much I loved Textiles lessons. They were so calming at a time when everything else was so stressful, and that was all thanks to you. Thank you for all your support, encouragement and advice – I owe a lot of where I am today to your guidance back then."

IMMY SHEPPARDSON (CLASS OF 2013)

"Wendy has been an inspirational teacher at GHS...when she joined the school it was immediately evident that her talents in Textiles were superb, her quality finish in her personal garments were admired by all. These high standards have been passed on to the girls, inspiring them to always strive to achieve their best outcome in all their practical work. They are life skills which I'm sure generations of girls are now putting to good use. I was thrilled when Wendy joined me in the pastoral department as Head of Year 7...Wendy's empathy towards the new Year 7 girls made their transition into the school as smooth as possible, from meeting them in their junior schools to carefully placing them in forms and then encouraging their complete involvement in the finale of their first term - the wonderful Year 7 Pantomime."

JILL BANCROFT (HEAD OF FOOD AND TEXTILES & HEAD OF YEARS 10-11, GHS 1989-2009)

Mrs Val Callaghan

HEAD OF FRENCH



Val retired at Christmas 2019 after 16 years at GHS. She left behind a most wonderful legacy as Head of French. Passionate about French, the French way of life and culture, she ran many trips to Paris with Lower Sixth and Lille with Year 9, organised theatre trips and for French plays to be held in school for younger year groups. With her wealth of teaching experience and expertise she supported various academies within the United Learning group in her role as Senior Leader in Education.

As a teacher, Val was energetic and fun, always revolutionary, trying new ways to help students grasp French grammar and pronunciation. You could often hear "all your problems are masculine but don't worry, your solutions are feminine" coming from M3 in Morton House, as she planted gender reminders. She shared her practical tips and creativity on ideas that were easy to implement but paid genuine dividends, making great impact on learning. As a colleague, Val was our mother hen, our voice of reason, our comforter and confidante; she was a ray of sunshine, always warm, kind and generous with her time. She despaired at times at how we often found ourselves doing what was urgent but unimportant rather than the other way around. She has an infectious laugh, a wicked sense of humour, she is down to earth and has a strong moral compass; she is a dear friend to us all in Modern Languages. She was one of the funniest and most fun to be around members of staff and we, staff and students, will miss her greatly.

Mrs Róisín Watters and Mrs Audrey Lewis

WELCOME BACK DR LAURIE!

Dr Ewan Laurie

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



Many alumni will remember Ewan Laurie who first arrived at GHS in 2005. He quickly established himself as a charismatic teacher of Geography, happy to throw an air-filled globe across the classroom to his pupils, to keep them alert and ready to answer questions! He fully immersed himself into the extracurricular life of the school, helping with lunchtime sports practices and accompanying trips abroad, as well as playing his part in whole-school events, such as the annual Year 7 Pantomime. When the new House system was introduced, Ewan became the first Head of Ruby. In 2009 Ewan left GHS to take on the role of Head of Geography and Head of House (equivalent to a Head of Year position) at King's, Wimbledon, before gaining further promotion to become Head of Sixth Form. A year later, he married Miss Karen Tromans, who is now our Deputy Head Pastoral, having met and courted her whilst at GHS! In 2018, Ewan moved to St. John's, Leatherhead to become Deputy Head in charge of pastoral care, discipline and boarding, but when the opportunity arose for him to return to GHS this year, to take on a new and exciting academic role as Director of Research, he jumped at the chance. GHS is now lucky enough to have the whole Laurie family firmly ensconced at GHS, as their two young daughters, Hazel and Iris, are also happily placed in the Junior School!

ART EXHIBITION 2020

A SENSATIONAL SHOWCASE OF ARTWORK



It has been a phenomenal academic year for our Art department.

We would like to congratulate all of our Year 11 pupils on completing their Art GCSE in these unprecedented times. They worked diligently throughout the course, producing some outstanding pieces of artwork that challenge a plethora of issues we face today.

“ From cultural inequality to self-evaluation, they showed sensitivity and artistic talent at every turn, impressing us with their flair and originality. ”

We are so proud to have been their Art teachers for the past two years and we wish them every success as they begin a new chapter in their education.

The Upper Sixth Art students have also been an outstanding year group, impressing us with their artistic talent and thought-provoking work. Sienna Lakin presented her ARTiculation presentation in the Grand Final at Clare College,

Cambridge and Olivia Charles and Hannah McGowan both secured places at the prestigious University of Arts, Camberwell to undertake their Foundation Diploma.

“ They were resolute in continuing their work during lockdown despite the huge challenges this posed for a practical subject. We are hugely proud of our Art students and we wish them the very best of luck as they begin new and exciting chapters. ”

Both our Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students were denied their end of year exhibition where they would normally have celebrated their beautiful artwork. We will be curating an online exhibition in the next academic year in place of this, which perhaps is fitting for the remote and digital world we now find ourselves immersed into.

Mrs Susan Kew



ARTICULATION GRAND FINAL

SIENNA'S SUCCESS AT CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



ARTiculation is the Roche Court Educational Trust's nationally acclaimed public speaking initiative, designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of visual culture. This year's ARTiculation winners of our internal heats at school were Ria Mann and Sienna Lakin (Deputy Head Girl). 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 pupils progressed and 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 for 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.

Further to her success at Clare College, Sienna Lakin has been head hunted to work for London Art Studies, the world's first online arts subscription platform, providing accessible and informative art lectures since 2011. Georgina Adam, who has spent more than 30 years writing about the art market through her own publications and the Financial Times, saw Sienna's presentation and quickly recognised her natural talent as an orator. We are delighted that Sienna will continue to impart her artistic knowledge. Both students are to be congratulated on these superb achievements!

Mrs Susan Kew

DT EXHIBITION 2020

Creativity, character and collaboration. These are three words that immediately spring to mind when thinking about our GCSE and A Level pupils this year.

Their detailed analysis of the design context, technical drawing skills and ability to rise to every problem-solving challenge made them a standout year group. While we know pupils were disappointed not to have had our annual design exhibition to showcase their work, one of the benefits of the subject is that

they can still take away and share their products, which encapsulate all of their hard work and effort throughout the course.

Their resilience, commitment and passion for the subject continued to shine through despite the way in which the year ended. We are so proud of each and every one of them. We now wish our A Level students the very best of luck; they have been a pleasure to teach.

Mr Chris McGhee & Mrs Wendy Bengoechea





FASHION WITH COMPASSION

Sixth Formers make a valuable contribution to the wider school community in their various leadership roles, some of which involve directing and organising events that are incredibly important for charity fundraising. One of these is the annual Fashion Show, a hugely popular, whole-school extravaganza in which pupils demonstrate their talents in a range of areas, including production, lighting, choreography, costume and music. The evening often works to a theme and is full of lively, exciting and meaningful performances.

“ This year’s show, entitled ‘Fashion with Compassion’, focused on sustainability, style and elegance. ”

The organisers, Belle Beyer and Eloise Gregory, were keen to direct a thought-provoking production, questioning the environmental impact on our world and everyday lives, as an important global concern. They demonstrated how fashion can exist without compromise to the environment, showcasing vintage styles, which proved to be just as chic in the modern world, yet sustainable too! Other highlights included

an activism walk, featuring handmade protest signs, and a repurpose walk, where pupils from the school’s Textiles club designed and produced seasonal evening wear from recycled fabrics.

“ Planning the show and our performance was great fun and the evening was a huge success, raising over £4000 in aid of the Alice Ramsey Trust. ”

FASHION SHOW DIRECTORS 2020

Over the last two decades, proceeds from the annual event have been donated to vital teenage cancer research led by Professor Brada, originally at the Royal Marsden Hospital, but more recently at the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity Centre. The parents of a former Head Girl, Alice Ramsey (Class of 1996), established a trust in her name, after sadly losing their daughter to the disease soon after she left school, when she was studying at Cambridge University. The first GHS Fashion Show supported their cause and subsequent years have followed suit, each time contributing a significant sum.



PUPILS STAR IN BBC'S MODERN TAKE OF AN ENID BLYTON CLASSIC: 'MALORY TOWERS'



ABOVE: GHS pupils Saskia Kemkers and Danya Griver with the cast of 'Malory Towers'

It is highly likely that everyone in the GHS community, past and present, has been an Enid Blyton fan in their early years of reading. It was, therefore, exciting news to find out that two of our current GHS pupils, Danya Griver (Year 9) and Saskia Kemkers (Year 11), were cast for the filming of BBC's recent production of 'Malory Towers'.

Many of us will have fond memories of the classic novels on which this series is based, set in Cornwall in the late 1940's. The original six books follow the adventures of a 12-year-old Darrell Rivers, as she leaves home to attend an all-girls' boarding school and give an indication of what life was like in post war Britain, particularly concerning the roles of girls.

The modern adaptation, released on BBC iPlayer earlier this year, brings together a delightful family

viewing series that focuses on charming stories of lasting friendships and justice being served. In each of the 12 episodes, one enters a nostalgic world of midnight feasts, pillow fights, lacrosse matches, a mystery ghost and other schoolgirl pranks. The girls keep an eye on each other and, like a family, are forever connected by their shared experiences. Danya plays Gwendoline who is spoiled, egotistical, shallow and lazy, whilst Saskia plays Emily, the kind-hearted girl who blends into the crowd but is eager to help any of the girls when they need a hand.

'Malory Towers' certainly has our recommendation! Its portrayal of a universal story is one the BBC hopes will appeal to grandparents, parents and children alike, whether they have read the Enid Blyton books or not. Look out for our two GHS girls who are both congratulated on their fine performances.

“ *The show is both aspirational and inspirational, having been given a contemporary twist, telling a story of universal experiences such as shifting cliques, FOMO, bullying, crushes, peer pressure and self-doubt.* ”

MS ASHLEY FENTON, HEAD OF DRAMA



“ *I am such a big fan of Enid Blyton's books, so to be in this series was a dream come true.* ” DANYA GRIVER, GHS PUPIL



“ *I have learnt a great deal about resilience, boldness and giving it your all. I am beyond grateful for the experience I have been blessed with.* ” SASKIA KEMKERS, GHS PUPIL

PUPILS PICK A POCKET OR TWO IN 'OLIVER!' PRODUCTION

From the moment the lights rose on the Lower School musical 'Oliver!', the first strains of the famous Overture filling the hall and a procession of ashen-faced workhouse boys emerging onto stage in mournful unity, any question of 'is it worth the waiting for?' was met with a resounding 'yes'.

“ *This production was, quite simply, superb; at turns hilarious, raucous, menacing and profoundly moving.* ”

Watching the show it was hard to believe that this was anything less than a professional piece – truly testament to the exceptional direction of Ms Fenton and Mrs Forrest-Biggs, the brilliant choreography of Miss Walrond, and the talented cast of over 60 actors and orchestral musicians.

One of the most striking features of this production was its immaculate level of attention to detail. The wonderful set, music and costumes transported the audience to the heart of Victorian London, with precisely choreographed ensemble scenes capturing the bustle and vitality of the Dickensian original. As Oliver arrived in London to be cajoled into life as a junior felon, it was clear that this was a cast who were delighting in every moment of being on stage.

All the while, the orchestra played seamlessly, displaying exceptional talent, dedication and energy in their superb performance throughout the evening. As the audience left the show, humming the tunes (and even dancing a turn or two), it was clear that everyone who had watched glorious 'Oliver!' considered themselves exceptionally fortunate indeed.

Mrs Elisabeth Ravenscroft



'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 Burch) who has invited a rich collector to his flat to view his work on the very same night that his uppity fiancée, Carol (Scarlett McRoberts), plans to introduce him to her 'monster' of a father, Colonel Melkett (Helena Richardson). 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 Black).

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



'TARTUFFE': A PLAY BY MOLIÈRE

Once more this year, oh what a treat,
 The senior play was such a feat,
 Of madness, mayhem, revelry,
 We knew that it could only be,
 The real deal, the true McHogg
 and once we saw right through the fog
 Of rhymes and couplets, two a pair,
 It's fair to say we were ensnared
 By cowboy hats, quite fancy free
 and dying bees, sweet eulogies.
 Molière was there, in a rare twist
 And despite his best efforts to insist,
 "They are not going to mess
 With my play", I guess
 In the message didn't sink,
 For after just one swift blink,

Dorine was making snide comments,
 They kept raining down in torrents,
 To warn her master
 Of an impending disaster
 The terrible "Tartooth", the sleuth,
 But finally we uncovered the truth.
 Jack was out of the box.
 After a few too many knocks,
 The quarrelling lovers came together
 Again, no more under pressure
 But united in their vehement stance
 To stop Tartuffe from meddling in France.
 The actors must be applauded,
 And their skills so rightfully lauded;
 It takes such an art, to be just a part,
 Of a company so full of heart.

Miss Sophie Oakes





MUSIC KEPT ALIVE DURING LOCKDOWN

One of the consequences of lockdown was that the Upper Sixth were not able to leave on a musical high, as the G Live Concert was cancelled three days before we were due to perform Mozart's *Requiem* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the combined forces of 450 performers from GHS, RGS and the Parents' Choir. Lockdown also meant we lost the Lower School Concert in March, when we had very much looked forward to hearing music from 'Wicked' with the choirs and a one-off band.

For the Upper Sixth, a year group of so many outstanding musicians, their disappointment was further compounded with the loss of the May Concert for the bands and orchestras (when Sophie Kauer would have performed the first movement of Haydn's *Cello Concerto* with the Chamber Orchestra), as well as the July Croatia Tour.

“ To the leavers, we wish you every success and happiness for the future. Thank you for your fantastic involvement in school Music. ”

Live rehearsals, where musicians can hear others and perform with them in time, is impossible via video conferencing. (Dragon's Den, anyone?!) This is a world-wide frustration for musicians because of the wifi lag (or latency) issue. However, we have been delighted with the response to the creation of virtual ensembles from pupils and the wider school community.

The process is this: the pupils are sent a pdf

copy of the music as well as a piano accompaniment or backing track, or a video of one of the teachers conducting the piece. The pupils then record themselves at home on one device whilst, at the same time and wearing headphones, using another device to listen to the given backing track/accompaniment, or to watch the conductor: this ensures each pupil sings/plays in time. After saving and uploading their solo recording to OneDrive and emailing the link to the teachers, my colleagues and I have been able to build up the sounds by multitracking the audio recordings, mixing and balancing tracks to create a virtual ensemble.

“ It has been wonderful to hear and see the pupils continue with their singing and playing this term, and the final mix for each virtual ensemble is superb! ”

It has also been wonderful to put together an online concert of solo pieces, performed from the living rooms of some of our Music Scholars and Exhibitioners. Bravo, GHS musicians!

OPPOSITE: GHS Consort (a virtual choir recording)

BELOW: Top - GHS Big Band. Bottom - GHS Brass Ensemble

Mr Grayson Jones



STAYING STRONG IN SPORT

The Army has a saying: 'Time spent on reconnaissance is seldom or ever wasted'. We believe this has been absolutely true for everything that has been done and achieved at GHS during the war against Covid-19.

From the moment a lockdown was mentioned and seriously thought about, combat planning took place by the advance party.

“ *All departments prepared for a virtual education, deploying ideas that had previously been employed during winter snow days and developing new ones.* ”

The rear guard of our wonderful IT team tirelessly supported the entire school in communications, setting up Teams and other apps to guide staff through the maze of online teaching with fresh, innovative resources. For the practical based subjects, Arts, Drama, Music, PE and Technology, operations became increasingly ambitious in their creativity, but in true GHS style, staff involved in all these areas quickly designed and delivered an outstanding education for pupils, through the overlay of a virtual platform.

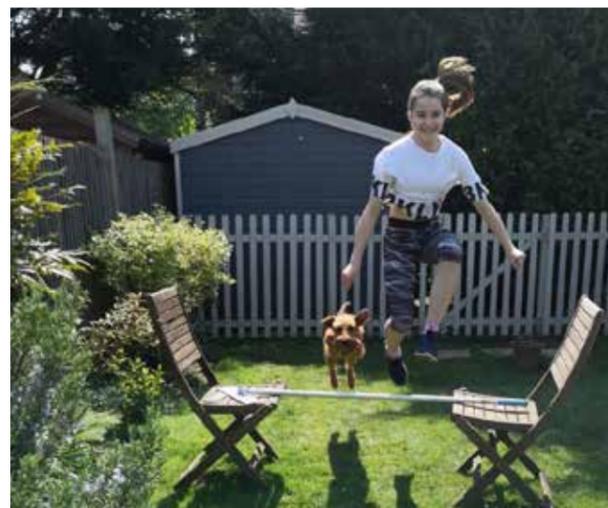
BELOW & OPPOSITE: pupils taking part in PE lessons and activities from home



Throwing itself wholeheartedly behind the Government's effort to prioritise one hour's worth of physical exercise per day, that encouraged everyone to cycle and take part in online fitness sessions, the PE Department brainstormed how school Sport could continue at home, without all the normal lesson equipment and facilities, such as school fields, courts, sports hall and swimming pool! Inspired by current events, loo roll challenges and self-interpretations of Joe Wick's workouts were popular, whilst online Zumba sessions led by a willing group of PE staff provided amusement for all involved.

“ *Virtual PE lessons extended pupils' interests to a different level, engaging them in an arena of fun and relaxation with the mission of both collaborative and competitive endeavour to enhance both their mental and physical wellbeing.* ”

For each pupil, lesson activities took shape with individual flair and adaptation, catered to indoor



and outdoor space available in their homes, gardens and local parks, as well as varied and imaginative use of furniture and props that replaced the usual athletics and games equipment, such as hurdles, bats and balls.

“ *Pupils videoed and posted their work on Showbie, often casting their helpful pets and siblings in starring roles!* ”

Cricket lessons focused on bowling, batting and throwing techniques, with competitive games carried out in virtual groups (using Teams), including 'Hit Sessions', 'Snakes and Ladders' and 'Alphabet Cricket'. Both track and field events were covered in athletics; all events being taught by video demonstrations. Pupils then performed and recorded their results to contribute towards a virtual Inter-House Sports Day at the end of term. Throughout the whole period, the most important message was for them to enjoy taking part and do their best according to their own personal circumstances.

Exercise not only changes the body, it changes the mind, attitude and mood, so the only bad workout or lesson activity was the one that did not happen!

In addition to the full programme of lessons (including academic GCSE and A Level), a flank guard of extracurricular competitions was organised online, including a 2.6k challenge (to honour the

cancelled London Marathon) and two virtual inter-school athletics matches; the first against Bradford Grammar School, Perins in Alton, Priestlands School in Lymington, RGS Guildford and Weydon School in Farnham and the second against Croydon High, Putney High and Tormead.

Whilst the emphasis was emphatically inclusive, encouraging every willing pupil to take part, GHS unsurprisingly excelled in terms of results! The competitive spirit has played a huge part in making GHS what it is today.

“ *The curve ball of an enforced lockdown, tossing us into a virtual world, cannot diminish our enthusiasm and passion for sporting success!* ”

Since September, the school has remained in a hangfire, amidst an unsettled future of unanswered questions about how, if and when normal inter-school, competitive Sport can return. The Covid-19 war is a cold and invisible one, but when we eventually look back, we are likely to reflect on a revolution that has given rise to many positive outcomes. Whilst battling to provide a continuous and valuable education in every area of academic, pastoral and physical learning, the school can feel exceptionally proud of the way it has victoriously infiltrated and broken its line of resistance.

TOP INDEPENDENT GIRLS' SCHOOL FOR SPORT



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 us about the secrets of our success and we often ask ourselves the same question. How do we do it? We 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.

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, showing that GHS is continuing to lead the way.





FROM SNOWPLOW TO SLALEM SUCCESS

My first experience of the British Schoolgirls' Ski Races (BSSR) took place in January 2006 when I travelled out to Flaine to watch my daughter Alex (ex GHS Junior School pupil) compete for her school, Millfield. I was amazed at the number of other schools involved, many of whom we often played against in lacrosse, e.g. Benenden, Downe House, LEH, St. Swithun's, Wycombe Abbey and Cheltenham College. It was, therefore, something I definitely wanted GHS to be a part of too!

The following year, I collared an enthusiastic parent to accompany me with a group of six skiers, including her daughter, Becky Rosenberg (Class of 2009), Francesca Peters (also Class of 2009) and Kate Dear, Ellen Heddle, Charlie Moseley and Harriet Welch (all Class of 2008). Unfortunately, I was struck by a sickness bug during the first 24 hours, which was pretty gruesome, and the standard of our hotel was dire, but we got through it all intact and the girls enjoyed themselves, despite finishing in 47th place

(basically last!). Well, participation is always more important than winning, isn't it?

“ I realised at this point that if Ski Racing was to become a viable Sport at GHS, I had a great deal to learn, but we were then thwarted by the hard-hitting arrival of the 2009 Recession. ”

This made it difficult to raise a team over the next few years as parents were prioritising their finances on educational trips abroad. In 2011, however, Glyn Groom joined the PE department, primarily to run the DofE programme, but also to co-ordinate other outward-bound activities, in his new role as Head of Outdoor Education. As a keen skier himself, Glyn took little persuasion to add Ski Racing to his list.

In 2012, therefore, we embarked on a second BSSR attempt, resulting in an equally disastrous overall result and several 'nightmare' scenarios, including lost skis at the starting gate. Our greatest accolade was that of Charlie Jones (Class of 2014) winning the main raffle prize at the closing ceremony. Whoever said that 'winning isn't everything' is wrong!

“ Over the next few years, Glyn and I climbed a steep learning curve in how to organise the trip, realising that investment was the key to improving results. ”

We found more spacious, self-catered accommodation (my role simultaneously changed to becoming a

glorified Chalet host!) and we hired a professional race instructor to provide much needed expertise for gate training, course inspections and proficiency on the start line. We also splashed out on a set of turquoise, 'flower-power' team catsuits, which caused quite a stir at first, but later became our trademark look; regardless of how well we skied, we aimed to stand out from the crowd.

In addition, we gained a few secret weapons: Catrin Fluck (Class 2017) and a very young Georgia Weeks (Class of 2020) who were both registered ski racers, regularly competing for their external club, Sandown. Other skiers, such as Natalie Twine (2018), Lauren Meldram, Sam Sebo and Annie Higgs (all Class of 2017) were also developing their competitive standard, enabling us to enter two teams, which automatically raised our profile amongst the other long-standing contenders. ▶



► During the next three years of competition, our A team steadily moved up through the rankings to within reach of the top 20 and our B team made a strong advance, sometimes beating a few of the aforementioned rival schools.

“ In 2016, history was in the making, when Georgia climbed the podium to receive a bronze medal in the U14 Grand Slalom category. Raffle prizes were no longer needed; in true GHS style, national success was underway! ”

In 2017, Georgia's younger sister, Ella, joined the team, bringing hopes of reaching an even higher standard, as she had already proved herself at prep school to be one of the country's top skiers in her age group. However, ski racing is a most unpredictable sport at the best of times, and we suffered a few setbacks, including several injuries that unfortunately prevented us from achieving a coveted top ten place until 2019, when we were thrilled to finish seventh overall. It was no coincidence that by this time, we had gained a few more, talented skiers to the fold and Mrs Tara Oxley was adding her expertise to the staff team. Ella was now regularly representing GB in events abroad, whilst younger girls including Katie Hart, Alicia Langley and Saskia Kemkers (current Year 11 pupils), were also competing

to a high level in English Schools Skiing events. This year our A team, consisting of the two Weeks sisters and Katie, won all three team event categories: Grand Slalom, Slalom and the prestigious Dual Parallel Slalom, with both Ella and Georgia also winning individual prizes in their respective age groups. Our B team, including Freya Lupton (Class of 2020), Alicia and Saskia, also contributed enormously to the almost overwhelming collection of trophies won by the girls at the final Prizegiving Ceremony, when they outstripped all our lacrosse rivals, taking both Grand Slalom and Slalom B team titles.

“ Many congratulations and thank you to all the alumni who have been involved in this journey over the last decade. ”

I look forward to the BSSR in Flaine trip every year and I couldn't be prouder of what we have now achieved. It's a wonderful privilege to spend time with amazing GHS girls, in a 'family-style' setting with competitive sport at its heart. And whilst participation has always been the most important aspect, I have to admit that whilst reflecting on all the trials and tribulations of starting at the bottom of a pile and working our way to the top, I secretly treasure the feeling that sometimes, just sometimes, winning is everything!

Mrs Louise Stone



I recently contacted Becky Rosenberg (Class of 2009) and was delighted to hear that skiing has continued to be a main focus in her life since leaving GHS. She wrote:

I'm glad that Guildford High girls are going to the ski competition and I hope that they are doing well. That initial trip with you to France was fantastic and I still remember the piece of advice from the French instructor that I still try to apply in my skiing.

I did two gap year training programs during my year off between finishing my A Levels and starting at university. I passed my BASI II and CASI III (Canadian system). I then started working in Haute-Nendaz, Switzerland as a part-time alpine ski instructor, called an 'auxiliaire' (literally, a helper; an instructor who teaches during the peak holiday weeks). I worked as an instructor during my undergraduate and postgraduate studies, and also when I lived and worked in France for two years. I taught mainly in French but I also had English, Spanish, Dutch and Flemish clients (I took a year of ab initio Dutch at university, which has come in handy, although most of what I can say is related to bending your knees and how to hold poles). I love instructing and particularly helping under-confident and adult skiers. This season (2019-2020) is the first in a while when I have not instructed, as I am in the final stretches of my PhD and I need to focus (skiing is a bit of a distraction for me!). I ski predominantly in Switzerland in Les Quatre Vallées but I have also skied further around Switzerland, France and Austria. I also completed the Haute Route ski tour from Chamonix to Zermatt with my father and sister.

On trawling through my archives, I stumbled across the following amusing account written by Harriet Welch (Class of 2008). I was reminded of our amateur naivety that first year in comparison to the professional ambition we now apply to the sport.

After a chilly night we awoke bright and early, enthusiastic about the snowy slopes we could see from our rooms. Down at breakfast we were greeted only by Mrs Rosenberg and were told that Mrs Stone had been ill during the night and would not be joining us on the first day's skiing. Whilst eating breakfast we noticed a considerable number of other teams going for runs around the village, we thought it was far better to watch others run around than take part in such activities ourselves. We were soon out on the snow and met our instructor for the day – Serge. His first question to us all was what racing qualifications we had all gained – blank looks all around. Once we had firmly established that we had no snow race experience amongst us, we headed towards the cable car to the top of the slopes. The first part of the morning was spent finding our snow legs before heading towards a practice GS course in preparation for tomorrow's race. The drag lift to the top of the course left many of us feeling shaken with its drastic 70% gradient and sudden jolts and when finally at the top of the course we were all surprised about the steepness of the course and the abilities of the other teams – all donning their cat suits. We all practiced down the gates and gradually began to speed up as we gained in confidence; our instructor failed to see our inner racers and continuously asked Charlie if she thought she was on holiday, due to her laid back approach – her answer being 'yes'. With a successful morning's skiing we headed to lunch where we were disappointed not to find Tartiflette but with our mountain appetites, settled for mountain favourites such as spaghetti bolognaise and chips. The afternoons skiing continued with GS practice with Charlie still in her holiday stance and as the afternoon went on we wondered if and when we were to practice 'special slalom.' We asked our instructor this and his reply consisted of laughter and 'good luck' – from this we had identified we would have no practice and due to our lack of experience would struggle with the more technical aspects of ski racing. At the end of training we returned to the hotel to find the team of three racers would be: Rebecca Rosenberg, Francesca Peters and Kate Dear. The three GHS racers headed to a pre-race meeting before the big day and apart from a slight run in over the size of Kate's t-shirt, kept their heads down in awe at the seriousness of some racing teams. Exhausted by a long day skiing the group went to dinner and bed before the big day dawned.

"HOW LONG IS FOREVER?"

ALICE STANDS AFFECTIONATELY FOR AVA ANTHONY

Since 2016, the Nightingale Road playground has looked a very different place. The newest building, called the 2016 Hall, is befittingly modern in both appearance and purpose. It is home to the Music department, for lessons, rehearsals and concerts, but also provides an important meet and greet facility in its atrium, as well as giving the school an additional lecture theatre space.

Outside, the old playground adjacent to Nightingale Road is now an attractive plant-lined courtyard with a beautiful statue of Alice in Wonderland taking centre stage. Photos of Alice are often used in marketing material as she has become a lovingly poignant symbol of the school's mission to be creative and curious in both teaching and learning.

Whilst Alice's history at the school is only four years in the making, the background to her story goes back 29 years in the first instance and then a further century before that!

Many alumni will fondly remember Mrs Gina Stead who worked as the school's Bursar. When she

joined GHS on 1 May 1985, she was made aware of two important letters that were locked in the safe, which she later framed for display.

These had been written by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, more familiarly known as Lewis Carroll, to a Miss Dora Abdy a former pupil of GHS.

Gina also found confirmation of Dora's registration, on 16 November 1872, in one of the school's old leather-bound Admissions books. The inscription and framed copies of the letters can be seen in the photographs on the next page.

Lewis Carroll's association with Guildford is well documented. He first came to the area as a young 36-year-old clergyman, in search of a home for his six unmarried sisters, who had become his responsibility after the death of his father. A house called 'The Chestnuts', situated next to the Guildford Castle ruins, provided sufficient room for them all and enabled the sisters to carry out various parish and charitable activities, mostly in connection with the nearby St. Mary's and St. Nicholas churches.

OPPOSITE: Alice statue in the old Nightingale Road playground

BELOW: a print of GHS given to school leavers that depicts Alice and the school buildings



TOP: framed Charles Dodson letters to Miss Dora Abdy

BOTTOM: original GHS Admissions book



► Interestingly, amongst their friends, was a Dr Merriman, the Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School. Lewis Carroll did not live in Guildford himself, but continued life as a don and mathematical lecturer at Christchurch, Oxford. His book, 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', had been written three years earlier, but he visited Guildford regularly and wrote his second Alice book, 'Through the Looking Glass', during one of his stays in 1871. He was a great walker and would often tramp over the downs for 20 miles or more, thinking nothing of hiking to Farnham across the Hog's Back. It was on one of these walks that he conjured up the idea for his nonsense masterpiece 'The Hunting of the Snark'.

Lewis Carroll died in January 1898 after spending Christmas with his sisters and contracting influenza. He was buried in the cemetery on The Mount. Apart from the Guildford Museum's memorabilia, there are two other Alice in Wonderland statues in the area; one in the Castle grounds and the other by the river in Millmead (opposite Debenhams).

With an established connection to Lewis Carroll, it was fitting to commission an Alice in Wonderland statue when the need arose to commemorate a past Year 9 pupil, Ava Anthony, who tragically died on the 18 June 2015. This is the reason why the plinth bears her name.

“Ava's year group, Class of 2019, have now moved on, but memories of their friend will always remain where Alice stands affectionately at the heart of the school; a popular place for pupils to gather and spend quality free time during their breaks from lessons.”

BELOW: The 2016 Hall and Alice statue in the courtyard, which used to be the old Nightingale Road playground.



GHS CREST ETYMOLOGY

THE LOGO WE ARE
PROUD TO WEAR

Alumni may have noticed the recent changes to the school branding. The crest has been simplified and all marketing material has been re-designed to give a fresh, vibrant look. The school's new website is highly accessible with dynamic content, whilst the strapline, 'Inspiring Girls', continues to provide a central theme pertaining to everything that goes on in a school where curiosity and creativity are considered fundamental qualities to maximise the quality of teaching and learning.

“ Guildford High School is a remarkable place where curiosity thrives. Our one thousand pupils enjoy exceptional facilities and inspired teaching. ”

During lockdown, I enjoyed the privilege of having my son at home. He had been living his dream in New York, performing on Broadway, but Covid-19 brought a sudden halt to his acting career. He was, therefore, back in the UK with plenty of time on his hands!

As he had previously carried out extensive research of our family's heraldry, I challenged him to investigate the history of the GHS coat of arms. I have always felt very proud to wear the school logo embroidered on my PE kit, but have never known much about the crest's intricate design or meaning, despite the fact that our motto, 'As One That Serveth', is firmly engraved on my soul!

Before reading Max's findings, it may be worth paying a quick visit to the 'Our history' page on the school's website. This gives a very clear timeline and potted summary of events that shaped the development of GHS since it first opened in 1888.

At the outset, Max is keen to point out that he was not able to carry out a complete analysis of the coat of arms, due to limited resources. He also wishes to emphasise that, although the crest is peppered with Christian symbolism, the religious values signified can quite comfortably translate to all religions. Using the same emblem today, therefore,

should not raise any concern about isolating pupils, parents or members of the GHS community from different religious groups.

“ We now live in a society with a plurality of religions and are accepting of all, but in 1888, the year GHS was founded, Britain was fundamentally a Christian country. ”

Max identified four separate parts to the GHS crest, as depicted in the diagram on the next page. The etymology has certainly brought to life a number of interesting facts that have put the meaning of the crest into perspective for me (as well as explaining why we have a local pub in Guildford called the Woolpack!). The crest has a long history and the motto is, perhaps, a little old fashioned in its language, but the ethos is equally appropriate for today's society. There is no doubt that it still genuinely serves the school as it was originally designed and intended to do.

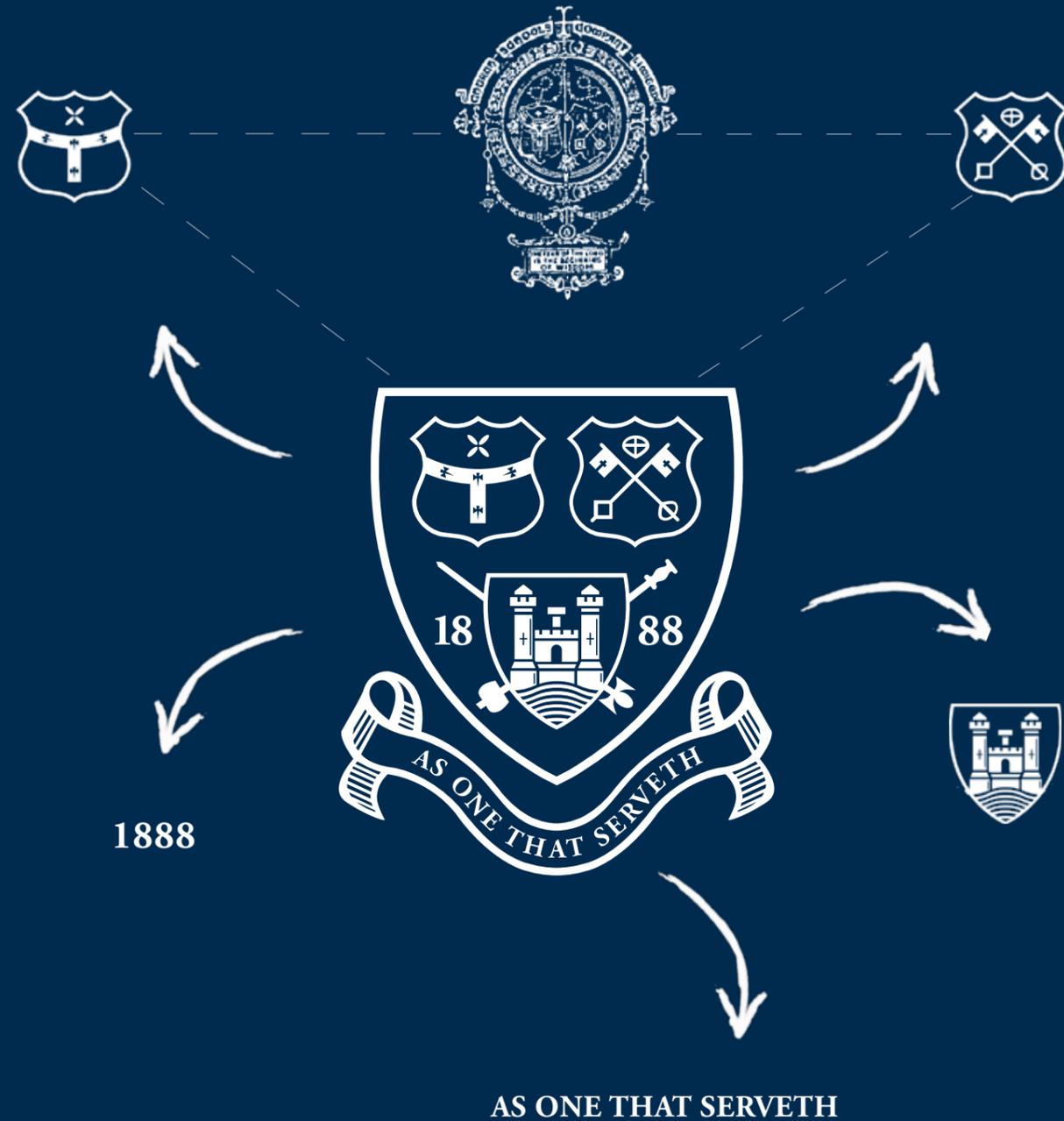
“ GHS has always been a serving community, fully committed to caring, helping and supporting others, in a positive, collaborative way. ”

Mrs Louise Stone



ADJACENT: old GHS crest pre-2019

“ The top two escutcheons both originate from the original crest of the Church Schools Company. ”



“ In the early days, the school’s mission was to specifically promote the education of girls, but nowadays, GHS willingly serves others in the local community as well as supporting a broad range of charitable causes worldwide. ”

OPPOSITE: updated school crest and its various parts used for GHS marketing

**THE LEFT ESCUTCHEON:
THE COAT OF ARMS**

The top-left escutcheon represents the Archbishop of Canterbury’s coat of arms, but this was surprisingly hard to research because multiple remodellings of the school’s logo have altered its look over the years. The Archbishop’s azure blue shield surrounds an archiepiscopal staff in pale Or (light gold), surmounted on an argent-fringed pall (a cloth), which is charged with four Crosses pattée fitchée. These crosses, with long, spiked bodies were used by Crusaders, to thrust into the ground whilst conquering lands in Jerusalem. In the GHS crest, the head of the staff now appears like a saltire, rather than the Canterbury cross, whilst the four Cross pattée fitchée look more similar to labryses, i.e. double headed axes, which are symbolic of female empowerment. This is, perhaps, a very apt and clever re-interpretation for a crest representing an all-girls school!

1888 A SCHOOL WAS BUILT

Quite simply, the date denotes the foundation of the school in 1888 by the Church Schools Company.

**THE BOTTOM ESCUTCHEON:
GUILDFORD COAT OF ARMS**

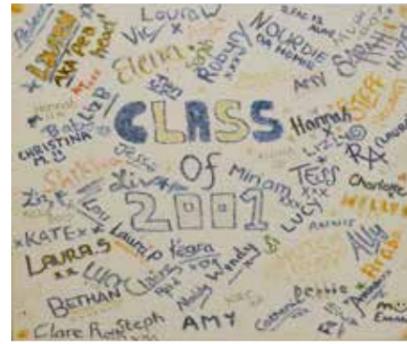
These arms were officially recorded at the Visitations of 1623 and 1662-3. The traditional Guildford coat of arms is a Sable on a Mount Vert, over a base of Barry wavy Argent and Azure, which in layman terms means a black background with a green hill over silver and blue wavy water. In the process of making the GHS coat of arms, these colours were unified to blue. Sitting on the green hill is a castle with three argent (silver) towers. This depicts the Norman castle of Guildford, the ruins of which now stand in the park adjacent to the city centre. It was built out of Bargate stone from the Godalming area, shortly after the Norman conquest of 1066. The castle stands between two Woolpacks, which used to be two filled-in rectangles on either side of the castle (see older version of crest). These Woolpacks represent what was formerly the town’s staple trade and the waves at the castle base refer to the River Wey. The escutcheon is backed by the Royal Sceptre and Sword of State, both of which signify royal authority.

**THE RIGHT ESCUTCHEON:
THE KEYS OF HEAVEN**

The top-right escutcheon has two keys crossed in saltire form, one of the most recognised Christian symbols, being the emblem of St. Peter who held the keys to the gates of heaven. They have come to signify guardianship, knowledge and dominion. In St. Peter’s emblem the keys are surmounted by a Bishop’s Mitre, denoting his being the first Bishop of Rome. This may seem strange, as the Church Schools Company was resolutely Anglican, whereas St. Peter is unequivocally tied to Catholicism, given that he was the first Pope. The answer was revealed when realising that the understandable simplification of the GHS logo for modernising purposes accidentally hides the fact that the keys are not surmounted by a mitre but instead by a crown. This may seem trivial but in actual fact it holds the key to deciphering its providence. In 1397, the Diocese of York, which was then (along with the rest of England) under the guidance of the Catholic Church, had a coat of arms comprised of St. Peter’s Keys and Mitre. However, after Henry VIII’s excommunication and the Break with Rome in 1534, the coat of arms was quietly changed to a royal crown in keeping with its sudden new denomination and its hot-headed monarch. The top-right escutcheon, therefore, is actually the coat of arms of the second highest churchman in the land, the Archbishop of York, Primate of England.

AS ONE THAT SERVETH

The motto “As One That Serveth” is a reference to a biblical passage; specifically, The Last Supper (Luke 22:27), in which we learn about a dispute arising amongst the disciples, as to who was the greatest amongst them. Jesus’s interjection stunned the room into silence. A modern translation of his response, from the International Standard version of the Bible, reads: “...who is greater; the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? It is the one at the table, isn’t it? But I’m amongst you as one who serves.” Jesus was declaring that a necessary ingredient of leadership was humility. When the school first opened, Miss Morton, the Headmistress, was supported by the Church Schools Company. In choosing this verse as their motto, the CSC were proudly sharing the values they looked to instill in their pupils, the leaders of tomorrow. The school has enjoyed a long tradition and desire to serve others ever since.



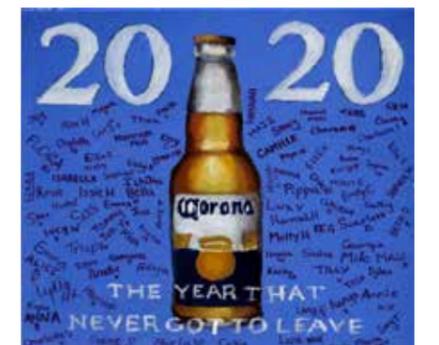
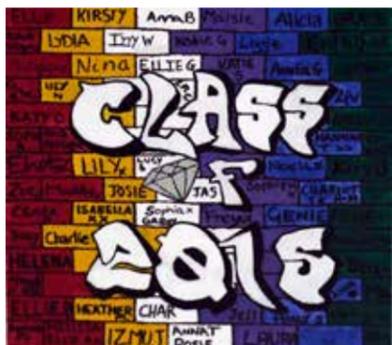
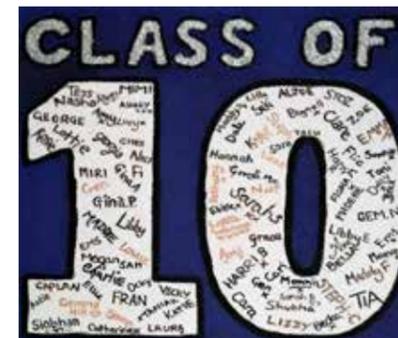
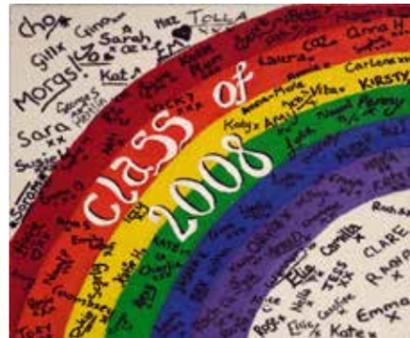
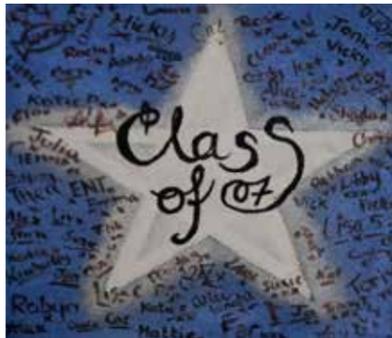
21 YEAR LEGACY OF THE CEILING TILES

This summer, the outgoing Class of 2020 left their mark in the Sixth Form Common Room in Morton House: the 21st ceiling tile to be decorated and inlaid as a lasting memory of their year group's time at GHS. Not much is known about how or why the first tile was painted in this way, but it was the initiative of the Senior Prefect Team in 1999 when Sally Bakewell was Head Girl. Miss Kathy Buckley, who was Head of Sixth Form at the time, presided over the celebration of the first 19 tiles until her retirement in 2018. She wrote:

“ I'm not sure there is much of a story attached, but like all inspired GHS ideas, it became a cherished tradition! Each tile has its own individual, artistic style and each one, bearing the names of the whole year group, is such a lovely memento. ”

Since the first occasion, subsequent Sixth Forms have all been intrigued by the idea and have loved adding their contribution as a fitting celebration to their last days at school.

“ I think it says a lot about the sense of belonging engendered in the GHS school community and the way in which each individual has made her mark. The only question is: what happens when they run out of space?! ”



A LITTLE LOVE FROM GHS

It is not often that we are physically forced to stop, with time to assess our everyday lives and all the goings-on we normally take for granted, such as visiting family and friends, dining out at restaurants, drinking coffee in a local café, going shopping, enjoying sports and fitness activities or just getting out of the house for a walk. Yet without much warning, all these simple social pleasures came to a grounding halt. We had to stay at home, to protect the NHS and save lives. Our foot was taken off the pedal and we were steered into a quieter, more thoughtful existence where we were able to reflect on our priorities and evaluate what was important to us as individuals, as communities and as a nation.

It was not long before we realised how many businesses and key workers were essential to our health and livelihood, for the country to remain operational through the lockdown period, whilst other trades and industries were forced into furlough. The importance of NHS personnel, nursing home carers, supermarket staff, delivery drivers, teachers, cleaners, police and rescue services, to name but a few, came to the fore.

Members of these professions bravely and tirelessly gave of themselves, to serve the nation on the front line of the Covid-19 war. The rest of the public responded with heartfelt appreciation, clapping on their doorsteps and balconies every Thursday evening to show their immense gratitude.

“ At GHS, we reached out to our alumni, to give particular love and thanks to anyone in a key working role and were delighted to receive a wonderful collection of replies, each one with a different, fascinating and personal story to tell. ”

It has been truly inspiring to read about their magnificent efforts and we hope you will enjoy browsing the following pages that have been dedicated to them.



Coronawar by Christine Shepherd

CLASS OF 1968

There is a front line.
It is not here, among woods and blossom
In gardens where we hear the birds shouting
In the clink of glasses as we isolate together.

If this is war, it's phoney.
Out there are the trenches and dug-outs
And the fight for ammunition. And the truth
Is as ever the first casualty.

We 'keep calm,' we 'carry on'
Cautiously stepping out enjoying silence.
Not cowering in bunkers, but
Looking up at a clean sky in its blue splendour.

A virus cannot frighten me,
Says my German cousin, who remembers
The assaults of Allied fighters.
(He was 4 in '45).
I'd rather this than bombs.

Those who know what real war is
Or was, they make no mistake.
But shuddering, and silent, do their duty.



Back upon my bike I go by Georgie Eastell

CLASS OF 2012



These times indeed I must;
Daily tube rides no longer wise,
Nor sitting upon a bus.

My journey now is much more swift;
But sightly, not so fair.
With busy roads and cycle lanes,
And somewhat hazier air.

I pedal fast from West to East;
Across the London Bridge,
With iconic views on either side,
Through the central bank district.

I lead my steed into Whitechapel;
A sorrier town of poorer,
Where out of the dust, and into the blue,
The Royal London Hospital stands taller.

Proudly I don my NHS kit,
To join the nation's fight.
The fight against sickness and sorrow and loss,
As we live through this modern day plight.

Let's join together and beat the bug,
We all can do our bit.
Let's listen in and stay informed,
As we face the biggest hit.

Please be safe and avoid the crowds,
Symptoms won't always show.
I promise I will do the same,
On my bike, from now on, I shall go.

A heartfelt thank you!

I am a consultant clinical oncologist working in Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust. I specialise in treating lung cancer patients with systemic therapies (eg. chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted treatments) and radiotherapy.

I also work at the medical school leading the Personal Tutor programme for the medical students as well as teaching. As lockdown was looming, we were concerned about how we would manage as this was like nothing any of us had experienced before. I have fantastic colleagues and everyone was calm and professional as we discussed how to keep the cancer patients safe and continue treatments.

We had to reorganise our working week regularly to meet the demands of the service. I was in charge of our ever changing oncology oncall rota and as the hospital became busier our junior doctors and specialist nurses were redeployed. Cancer treatments continued during the first wave and we switched the majority of outpatient appointments to telephone wherever possible to keep patients safe and out of hospital. I contacted my patients individually to discuss the risks and benefits of continuing treatment so that we could agree on the best course of action for them.

Sadly, a second Covid-19 wave looks to be coming. At the moment I'm working with Susanna Slater in Brighton - we discovered we'd both been to GHS on a ward round, though our paths probably only crossed by one year so that made me feel old!

JOANNA STOKOE (CLASS OF 1994)



I am working at University College London as an ENT surgeon and our role in Covid-19 is working in ITU and providing a tracheostomy service to try and get people off ventilators. Lydia Jones was in my year and is working in anaesthetics and is in ITU looking after ventilated patients in Bristol.

ALI CARTER (CLASS OF 2003)



I've been on the front line at Southampton General Hospital looking after people who don't get into intensive care. I usually do diabetes and endocrinology so it's quite a change. We've been kitted out with hoods and I have been told that I look like a nun with a hive of bees! (See picture). In some ways it's been exhilarating being fully immersed in the Covid-19 response, but it's been harrowing work. My wonderful GHS friends have kept me going during the dark times with zoom parties and endless encouragement. Bansky has been decorating the corridors which was a nice surprise and I've grabbed a selfie with his latest.

LOUISE CURTIS (NÉE KITTOV, CLASS OF 2004)

I am an Early Years Practitioner in a nursery in Aberdeen (where I've been since Guildford High) and the day my Head Teacher came to tell me that the school would be closed from tomorrow and that they are looking for volunteers to work within the emergency key workers schooling I immediately said yes and was grateful to be able to contribute in this way since. Together with a number of new colleagues from across the city I have been working with a group of Nursery - Primary 7 (Year 6) children from schools all over Aberdeen which have all demonstrated the amazing strength, flexibility and resilience that children have. They have adjusted so well to the new faces and have been fantastic in supporting one another. That's not to say that there haven't been tears and negativity at times, but there have been so many positives I've observed during my time at the 'hub school'.

A few simple but poignant memories for me so far are: The creativity that they have demonstrated - creating a huge house, brick patterns and all, from cardboard boxes and paint. Having never picked up a badminton racquet - to asking me to play impromptu matches indoors and out, proud of their new skills. The older children helping the younger children with their schoolwork, their snack, organising circle games and role play with them. Children who were reluctant to dance or perform are now active participants in Zumba and may even take the lead for a move!

Although this schooling has been brought about for a very negative reason I have found the experience to be a very positive one which I hope is bringing some ease to the key worker families of these children and is an experience which the children can look back upon with joy rather than sadness.

The greater challenge has in fact been (as I know all teachers across the country are finding) working with my usual colleagues attempting to provide education from home (especially a nursery education!) and the uncertainty about how long it will be before we return to normal schooling. All pupils will of course be returning to a new school year however it is of a particular impact to us knowing that our Preschool age children are unlikely to ever return to nursery again and will be going to Primary 1 without experiencing the remainder of their time in nursery and the transitions that would normally prepare them.

MADELINÉ DEACON (CLASS OF 2008)



As the only one in my family not working as an NHS professional on the front-line, as I now only do locum work on surgical wards, having moved out of surgical training into healthcare consultancy in 2017, it has felt very odd not to be in the hospitals where colleagues are doing an incredible job day in, day out under immense pressure. However, my career move was prompted by aims to improve the delivery of healthcare across the globe and certainly with Covid-19 and life post-Covid, that need is highly relevant.

In my role with IQVIA (the leading global human data science company globally) I work with healthcare providers such as hospitals, general practices, specialist disease associations, pharmaceutical companies and sometimes health ministries, to design solutions for challenges or innovations in the delivery of healthcare treatments. In early March, as Covid-19 began to spread across Europe, priorities unsurprisingly shifted and my usual workstreams were on hold, instead focussing on using my medical insight to support healthcare equipment and medicines supply planning for the Middle East and South America who had not yet experienced a widespread outbreak. Swiftly, focus turned to the significant problems being faced at home in the UK. It's probably the GHS spirit in me that made me go hunting for a challenge, so since then my work has primarily shifted to developing strategic partnerships and collaboration between organisations on evolving care for patients with specialist diseases (namely in cancer and cardiac), as we adapt to life following the height of Covid-19 in the UK. Out of office, I would say that's a fancy way of saying bringing the right heads and powers together to find safe tracks through the post-Covid-19 health jungle. Thus far, it has been encouraging to see incredible innovation, fuelled by a real drive for improvement in how healthcare is delivered, both in the NHS and healthcare systems across the world. Although Covid-19 has seemingly changed everything as we know it, there are glimmers of light that I'm sure will grow and make long-lasting positive changes.

All the while through this, I'm very thankful for my GHS friends keeping spirits up - whether it's our fortnightly group quiz (of course more difficult by far than the others I have partaken in!), virtual catch-ups and make-shift hen weekend for my wedding!

SORAM PATEL (CLASS OF 2008)



I don't really count myself as a key worker as I'm not a doctor or a nurse etc. or saving lives!!! But I have been working at Sainsbury's for the past two months 04:00-08:00 doing all the online shopping picking. Not exactly the most glamorous or impressive job (especially in terms of being a GHS alumna) but nice to be keeping busy and doing what I can at this time. I've officially got myself a place at Britannia Royal Naval College, where I will be starting my journey as an officer in the Royal Navy. It's been the best part of two years from applying to now having passed all the rigorous assessments and interviews...many bumps along the road but I've finally got myself in- and to perhaps arguably the most competitive branch of warfare.

I've definitely found that after years of education and getting a degree that now is the time to go and do something a bit more exciting...so I'm off to go and learn how to drive and command the naval ships, and really be on the front line! So although now I find myself thinking that a supermarket job is a bit of a cop out in terms of being on the front line, I know that the next chapter of my life really will be spent giving back to the nation!!

EMILY WOOLCOTT (CLASS OF 2016)



I was in the Class of 2011 and I am a junior doctor having studied at Imperial College Medical School. I am currently training to be an anaesthetist, and during Covid-19 I was redeployed from anaesthetics to work in intensive care. Our hospital (East Surrey Hospital) was the hardest hit hospital for Covid-19 in Surrey, Sussex and Kent. It was certainly a trying and difficult time.

NICOLA RAESIDE (CLASS OF 2011)



I'm currently in my third year studying medicine at Cardiff University. Obviously uni is postponed at the moment, and I was getting bored at home so I tried to find work. I've ended up training to be a Healthcare Assistant (HCA) at the Royal Surrey. The normal three week training that's required was condensed to three days for those of us that are med students or had previous HCA experience. I'm working in one of the Covid-19 wards and it's all very surreal but I'm happy to be helping!"

FREDDIE ST JOHN (CLASS OF 2017)

FRONTLINE FORTITUDE FOR FOUR: CLASS OF 2012

Four alumni who were a close-knit group of friends in the Class of 2012, have not only shared their schooldays' experiences but are now supporting each other in their careers as well. All four entered the NHS after finishing at university and qualifying in different areas of medical need. Here are their stories.

Emily Bourne - Psychologist



When lockdown hit, I was three months into a new position working as a psychologist in a community mental health team in London. Covid-19 has had a massive impact on a lot of people's mental health and our clients have been no different. The doctors, nurses and psychologists in our team have all gone out of their way to find new and creative ways of supporting people during this incredibly stressful time; this has ranged from travelling to client's gardens for socially distanced therapy sessions, to a brief spell of wearing see-through face masks before both my clients and I agreed they were too creepy to continue using!

As well as supporting our clients, psychologists within our service (and many others all over the country) have been volunteering any spare hours in their day to offer telephone support to our colleagues on the frontline. Whilst my day to day work has been extremely up and down over the last four months, one thing has remained the same; I am in awe of my wonderful colleagues in the NHS and am incredibly proud to work amongst them.

Francine Cheese - Junior Doctor



For me, the pandemic arrived just as I was due to be moving from my job as a Junior Doctor on a busy 48-bed ICU (Intensive Care Unit) onto my next rotation in Acute Medicine. Along with all Junior Doctors, I was asked to stay on in order to continue the work I was already doing, as well as to help train new members of the 'mega-team' who joined as extra hands to help with the added workload of Covid-19.

Despite the very difficult circumstances, there have been many positive and uplifting times. I have loved working with my team and will miss them hugely. We have shared so many moments; from making Easter bunny PPE visors, to crying together with emotion when receiving videos and letters from ICU patients when they finally return home to their family members. The last eight months have taught me so much, and I will certainly take forward the practical experience I have gained as well as the pride I have from working with such dedicated and caring colleagues.

Georgie Eastell - Physiotherapist



Life as a paediatric physiotherapist at the Royal London Hospital was business as usual until the Covid-19 pandemic hit. It felt like the world was tipped on its head and the NHS was scrambling around trying to gather everything back up. Suddenly the not-so-glamorous NHS worker was labelled 'The Frontline Hero', showered in messages of love and support from family, friends and even strangers.

I had just started in a new role supporting children with disabilities at home with respiratory physio, with the main aim of keeping their chest clear to avoid infections and admission to hospital. One month in and after a strange calm before the storm, I was told I would be moving to the adult critical care service to help the efforts on the expanding Covid-19 intensive care units. My job involved everything from chest physio for those on ventilators, to rehabilitation of those who were on the mend but very weak from long periods of sedation.

I have to say these were some of the most challenging months of my career, and most probably my life so far. There were moments I would pinch myself (through all that PPE), because what I saw couldn't be real. But what really amazed me was the sense of unwavering camaraderie and determination of every staff member to step up to the challenge. A challenge that was brand new to everyone. It was truly inspiring.

Despite initially feeling fearful of a very new, very daunting clinical setting, I now feel confident in treating more complex patients and have found new interests within physiotherapy which will no doubt shape my career ahead. Overall, I feel grateful I had the opportunity to help in some way and very proud to work for the NHS.

Bex Lees - Paediatric Nurse

I work as a paediatric nurse caring for children with a wide range of complex renal conditions at Evelina Children's Hospital, part of St Thomas' Hospital, in London. It quickly became clear that as a central London hospital we would rapidly need to increase our intensive care beds, which in turn would require a redeployment of medical and nursing staff.



I was moved to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), caring for critically unwell children from across the south. As other PICUs around London and the south closed to provide a larger adult intensive care capacity, we expanded the number of paediatric intensive care beds to meet the increased demands. Fortunately children, on the whole, were less affected by Covid-19. However, due to us rapidly expanding the number of children we cared for on the unit, the pressures and varying caseload meant that we had to use our skills to adapt continuously. This caused it to be an extremely demanding time for us. Settling into a new environment, spending 12.5 hour shifts in full PPE and caring for critically unwell children was physically and mentally exhausting but the unwavering support from my team made these difficult times so much easier and I am truly proud to be a nurse in the NHS.

HEADLINES AND DEADLINES

Hannah Nathanson (Class of 2004) is Features Director of ELLE where she commissions, writes and edits features in both the magazine and online.

Hannah was recently asked to take part in a project for ELLE and the Department of Education in which she had to choose a teacher who had been particularly inspiring.

“ *It took her less than a second to decide on Ms Gordon, her English teacher from Year 9 to Lower Sixth.* ”

As part of the project she had to recall what Ms Gordon had taught her. Top of the list were: excellent grammar, a love of words and an unexpected interest in the poems of John Betjeman. It's all these qualities that have helped Hannah establish a career in media over the past ten years. Even now she can still picture Ms Gordon's enthusiasm as she bounded around the classroom, arms flailing, teaching pathetic fallacy and the power of assonance in poetry.

Hannah's love of words wasn't limited to the English language though. A keen linguist she took Italian and Spanish A Levels and went on to study Italian and

Linguistics at Oxford University's St Peter's College. There, rigorous GHS teaching stood her in good stead as her language degree was very literature-heavy, with texts ranging from Italo Calvino's 'Periodic Table' to Dante's 'Divine Comedy'.

She also put her lacrosse skills to use and captained the University Mixed Lacrosse team in her second year, earning herself two half blues (and two wins at Varsity), as well as a lot of fun weekends spent travelling around the south of England in a minibus with her teammates.

“ *It wasn't until her fourth year of university that she decided she wanted to work in the creative industries and maintain her passion for words and storytelling.* ”

After two weeks of work experience at The Saturday Times Magazine she decided magazine journalism was where she wanted to be and despite a lot of people telling her this was the most competitive part of the industry, she didn't let that stop her.

After a lot of hard work, and some shifts in the fashion



OPPOSITE: Hannah Nathanson (C) Victoria Adamson

ABOVE: Hannah Nathanson (C) Sonder & Tell

cupboard, Hannah got her first job at ES Magazine, the weekly supplement with London's Evening Standard newspaper. Having London as your subject was an incredibly fun first job and Hannah was in charge of the (still going) Party Pages: attending three parties a night and interviewing celebrities for soundbites.

“ *During this time, she managed to annoy Elizabeth Hurley, corner Kate Moss at a Topshop launch and dance all night at Elton John's house.* ”

This kind of gung-ho approach meant Hannah never became celebrity-shy, which has helped her go on to

become Acting Commissioning Editor of VOGUE and then Features Director at ELLE. During her time at these two iconic fashion magazines, Hannah has done everything from interviewing the author of *Girl on the Train*, Paula Hawkins, for VOGUE to doing cover interviews with Hailey Bieber and Florence Pugh for ELLE. Both have been dream titles to work on and if you'd have said to her 17-year-old GHS self that that's where she'd be working, she might not have believed it.

The message she'd like to convey to all aspiring young journalists is that "with hard work, determination, creative flair and a bit of luck thrown in, you can make it in the industry. People will tell you it's competitive, but if that's where you really want to be, then my advice is someone's got to get those great jobs, and it may as well be you!"





SHOOTING FOR THE MOON LANDING AMONGST THE STARS

Alex Aljoe left Guildford High School a decade ago (Class of 2010) and is now a sports presenter and reporter. In her own words, "It's my dream job. Often it doesn't feel like work because I love everything I do...every day is different."

“ Alex’s career path to sports journalism began at GHS where she was inspired to pursue her love for Languages, Sport and public speaking. The combination of those three passions was going to shape her career. ”

She studied Spanish and Italian at Durham University and on her year abroad she worked at Real Madrid TV. This work placement sparked Alex’s interest in sports broadcasting - she knew it was the career for her. After finishing her university degree in 2014, she went on to achieve a distinction in her Television

Journalism Masters at City University and while completing her MA, she landed a role at Chelsea TV presenting their news show ‘Blues News’, which was broadcast daily on Sky. In 2016, Alex returned to Madrid, spending four more years at Real Madrid TV. During this time she presented live news and chat shows in English and Spanish, and hosted live pre and post-match shows pitchside for every game at the Santiago Bernabéu. She also did live matchday commentaries and travelled with Real Madrid to cover their pre-season tours to North America. Reflecting on her time in Madrid she said:

“ I often had to pinch myself... sometimes I felt like I was about to wake up from a good dream...for example, when I was flying around America on a private jet with Cristiano Ronaldo sitting in the seat in front! ”

Alex returned to the UK last summer after being offered a job presenting and reporting for the Premier League, where the three daily live shows are broadcast worldwide (with a potential reach of 214 million households globally).

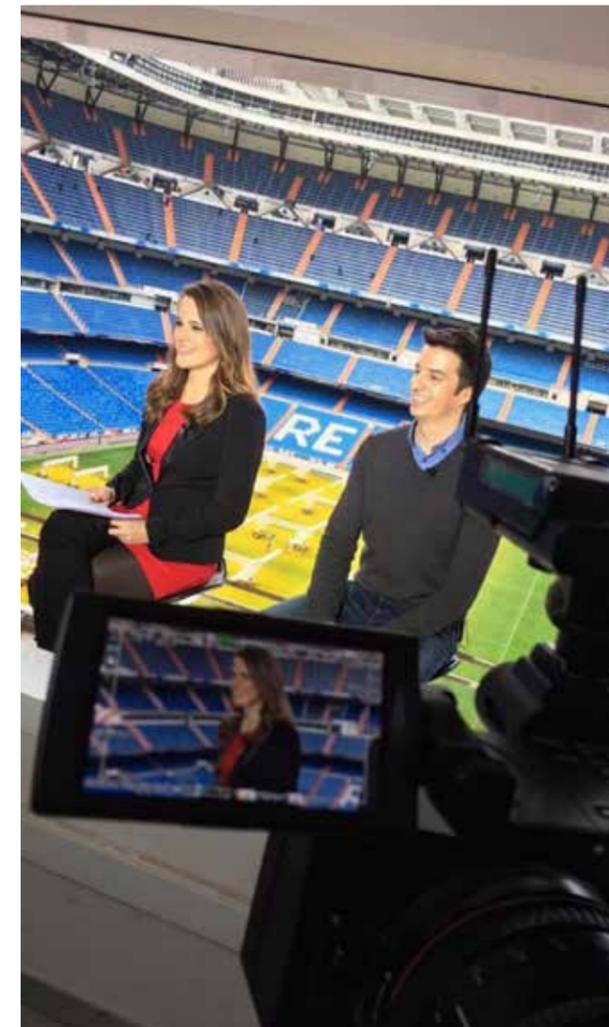
“ Speaking five languages, she interviews Premier League players on a weekly basis often in their mother tongue, reports live from training sessions and presents matchday build-up shows pitchside at different stadiums around the country. ”

Alex has hosted corporate days for major sporting

events, including the 2019 UEFA Champions League Final alongside Brazilian football stars Kaká and Marcelo. She does regular commercial voiceover work and has also helped produce and direct adverts for Adidas, Nivea and UEFA, featuring the likes of David Beckham and Gareth Bale.

One of her favourite places to be at Guildford High was on the lacrosse pitch and, as a former England international player, Alex used her expertise to present at the Women's Lacrosse World Cup in 2017, with live daily coverage broadcast on the BBC. Alex has always been sports obsessed and when she is not commenting on it, you'll find her either competing in lacrosse, netball or tennis or running a marathon!

Alex will always have GHS to thank for encouraging her to ‘shoot for the moon’ safe in the knowledge that ‘even if you miss you’ll land among the stars’ (Mrs Boulton in an assembly back in 2005).



ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

Four and a half years ago, my family and I upped sticks and moved halfway across the country from suburban Surrey to rural Mid-Devon. It was our escape from the rat-race, following our dream of a country-upbringing for our two children, an opportunity for a new income meaning my husband needn't travel abroad for work as frequently, and (hopefully) a more relaxed lifestyle for us surrounded by nature and fresh air.

We had fallen in love with a secluded farmstead in a hidden valley on the edge of the Blackdown Hills, which has not only four holiday cottages but also four glamping yurts plus communal spaces including an indoor pool, games room and conservatory at the cottage complex and a party barn at the yurts.

Having never run such a business before, let alone two, it was certainly a steep learning curve. We hadn't twigged quite how much work would be required, both physically (and financially!) to get the properties up to a standard we were happy with, but also mentally - getting to grips with new booking software, learning how to market on social media, editing two websites, keeping accounts, and dealing with customers and staff, all alongside getting used to a new area. Our adventure has certainly been a journey of self-discovery, both of us having to draw on our reserves of resilience and creativity.

“ Last year we started to reap the rewards of our hard work when we won Bronze for our glamping business in the Devon Tourism Awards. Fingers crossed we can go one or even two better in this year's awards! ”

Although lockdown has inevitably affected our business as we were unable to open until early July, in some ways it was a blessing in disguise.

“ We were able to take our foot off the pedal and enjoy the peace and tranquility of our stunning location at the most beautiful time of year when everything is blossoming with the warmth of Spring. We didn't completely down tools but nor did we have the stress of a March deadline to open when the weather is often against us. ”

Instead, we took our time during April, May and June, refurbishing yurts, building new camp kitchens, sanding and staining every piece of wood we could lay our hands on, re-pointing patios - all things we find very hard to do during our usual maintenance window of November to February due to the cold and wet. We also finally created a vegetable garden and refurbished the greenhouse, both things we had wanted to do since first arriving but hadn't had time.

We very much hope that we and the UK tourism industry in general can weather this storm and that our bookings may even be stronger for it in the future. If you'd like to come and visit our rural idyll for a holiday in 2021 or beyond do take a look at our websites: www.halsbeerfarm.co.uk and www.blackdownyurts.co.uk.

Katie Parsons (Class of 1995)



'INSPIRING WOMEN, INSPIRING GIRLS': GINA MILLER



Guildford High School hosted a talk by Gina Miller as part of our 'Inspiring Women, Inspiring Girls' series last academic year.

“Gina was joined by three alumni, Harriet Gordon (Class of 2013), Francesca Kolar (Class of 2011) and Natasha Wilson (Class of 2018).”

The ex-pupils introduced the session and talked to our parents, pupils and staff about studying Politics at GHS, their degrees and career paths to date. Harriet spoke about her time at GHS fondly alongside her further education at Cambridge studying Social Anthropology and Criminology. She is now a successful Civil Servant working on universal credit at the Department of Work and Pensions. Our second speaker, Francesca Kolar (Class of 2011), inspired us with her tales of her research at the international Criminal Court. She has recently applied for an important position in a commission

dealing with the the Israeli-Palestinian question. Francesca studied Politics at Newcastle University and is now working as a successful Barrister at 9 Gough Square. They were also joined by Natasha Wilson (Class of 2018) who is currently studying Politics and International Relations at Bristol University.

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 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 in which topics included the climate crisis, ethical products, the media and accountability of companies vs. individuals.

BELOW: from left to right - Francesca Kolar (Class of 2011), Sophie Duncan (Class of 2020), Gina Miller, Harriet Gordon (Class of 2013) and Natasha Wilson (Class of 2018)





HIGHER EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Despite Covid-19, it has been a busy year 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! ”

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.

After February 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. The 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 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.

OPPOSITE: Pathways from Modern Languages Careers Forum, from left to right - Mrs Róisín Watters, Olivia Rhys-Evans (Class of 2014), Alex Aljoe (Class of 2010), Natasha Saednejad (Class of 2009), Fiona Robinson (Class of 2009), Harriet Blaikie (Class of 2012) and Sophie Dzwig (Class of 2011)

BELOW TOP LEFT: Pathways to Law Careers Forum, from left to right - Rebecca Torrance (Class of 2017), Lucy Preston (Class of 2009), Kate Steele (Class of 2001), Emma Rowland (Class of 2018) and Charlotte Hall (Class of 2004)

BELOW TOP RIGHT: Jasmine Murdoch (Class of 2017) with Year 10 pupils

BELOW BOTTOM: Career Pathways talk, from left to right - GHS alumni (Class of 2009): Olivia Matthias, Jo Ward, Camila Beeston, Philippa May, Fay Sandford and Zoe Bushell



A PIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION

Former students, 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.

“ *This is one of London's most prestigious Art schools that requires rigorous preparation to apply in the Upper Sixth during the final year of A Levels.* ”

Both Molly and Emily chose the diagnostic pathway at Central Saint Martins as this allowed them to experience Fine Art, Graphics, Fashion and Three-Dimensional Design & Architecture. They spoke of a high turn-around of one-day projects with fast-paced outcomes to fine-tune their creative thinking skills.

“ *Molly has since specialised in Graphic Design and Emily in Fine Art.* ”

They have embraced studying and living in the centre of London and have relished the exploratory approach that the Foundation at CSM has provided which has begun to define their creative practice. 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

ABOVE: Molly Morgan (Class of 2019) and Emily Feigen-Toner (Class of 2019) visiting GHS



ABOVE: Angela (Class of 1962) about to take to the skies and complete her wing walk

A WILD AND WINDY WING WALK

There are many things one can do for charity. A sponsored walk, a quiz night or even a coffee morning. Angela Needs (Class of 1962) rather uniquely, took to the sky and performed a wing walk at 400 feet.

“ *The audacious event saw Angela celebrate her 75th birthday by standing, strapped on the top of an aeroplane amongst dramatic cloud formations for ten minutes at 100mph all in aid of the charity, Parkinsons UK.* ”

Angela recalls “scattering sheep and low-flying birds in the fields as the pilot and I exercised our adrenaline with a few climbs and dives! In 1955, I lost my cherished Grandmother at the age of 67 to Parkinson's. Seeing her in an isolation hospital and thereafter developing an interest in aircraft, I decided not only to become a Parkinson's Donor but also to mark my three-quarters of a century on the planet with a wing walk to raise funds for more research.

Over the years, I have encountered other sufferers of this debilitating illness and associated neurological conditions, such as brain tumors, which has only encouraged me further to embark on this venture.” Reflecting on the gutsy event Angela couldn't contain her excitement.

“ *The wing walk in Kent was the most amazing experience ever! My renewed thanks to all of you who donated, for your generous and greatly appreciated contributions towards the research necessary in enabling sufferers of Parkinson's Disease to lead a more comfortable life.* ”

ANGELA NEEDS (CLASS OF 1962)

Congratulations, Angela, on completing this fantastic fundraising event which raised £2,012.89.

A PICTURE PERFECT VIEW OF THE POLAR WORLD

In January of this year (2020), I travelled to Antarctica for two months, to help carry out scientific research relating to the impact of global warming.

We were primarily studying the changing levels of phytoplankton in Antarctic fjords, and whether they are influenced by the increase in fresh water from the melting glaciers. Phytoplankton supply more than 50% of the world's oxygen and are the first step of the marine food chain. Simplified, this means Sunlight -> Phytoplankton -> Krill -> Whales, Seals, Penguins and Sea Birds. The project involved working out the concentration of phytoplankton, collecting samples and analysing them under a microscope, as well as recording the salinity of the water at each location.

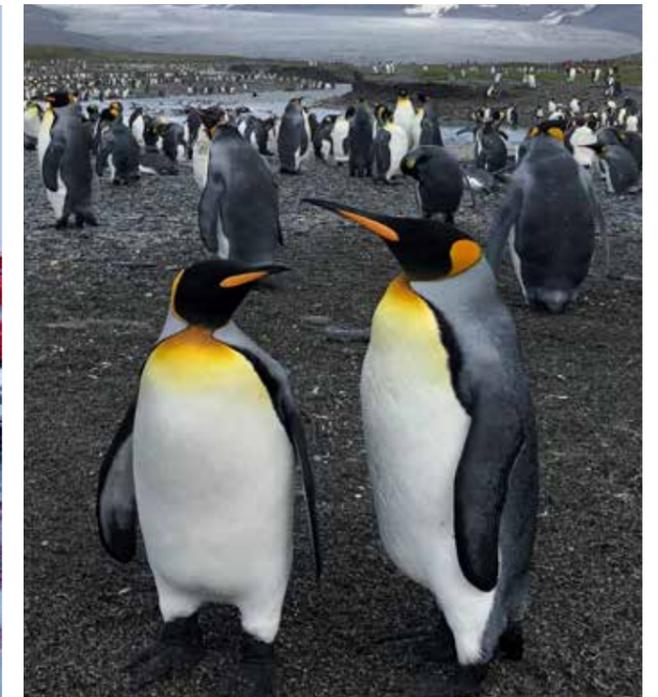
Aside from the research, I had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of polar excursions, including camping out on the ice and a polar plunge, where we jumped into the freezing water surrounded by the towering glaciers in our swimming costumes.

With a crowd forming to watch, I decided to rise to the occasion and dive into the water. A mistake I only discovered when I hit the water and my body froze, and realised I was now a long way from the boat and my towel!

“ A month later I was below the Antarctic circle and a second polar plunge was on the cards. This time I opted for the pencil jump into the 0.8° water, also influenced by the leopard seal I had just spotted on the nearest piece of sea ice. ”

Antarctica has a brief human history of just 200 years, most of which is dominated by explorers fascinated by the last truly wild place left on earth. The variables of being somewhere so wild are too many and too ►

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: photos taken by Katia Boulton (Class of 2019)



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: photos taken by Katia Boulton (Class of 2019)



► wide to predict, meaning every day is unknown and out of human control. For a famously hostile environment, it remains a mystery how I felt so at home there. When you enter Antarctica, you cross latitude 60 degrees south and you enter a world without wifi or internet; you enter a geological masterclass. Being a polar desert, it is the coldest, windiest, driest place on Earth. There were moments however, when I was gliding through the water in a zodiac, surrounded by silence, except the crackling of the ice, the deep sound of whales breathing and the gentle lapping of water against the side of the boat.

“ *It was complete serenity. As an 18-year-old I cannot imagine a more inspiring location to give me a new perspective on life.* ”

I kept coming back to what David Attenborough said:

“ *No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.* ”

I feel very privileged to have experienced somewhere so valuable and peaceful and wild, and I have an even stronger desire now to protect it. This year I am starting at Edinburgh University to study Politics and Philosophy with additional modules in oceanography and sustainability. Whether I go into environmental politics or become a polar guide, I hope I'll return to this once in a lifetime continent.

Katia Boulton (Class of 2019)



PAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC

Over the last three years, the school has proudly followed the progress and success of rising star, Emily Appleton (Class of 2017), since she first entered the arena of professional tennis.

Throughout her time at GHS, Emily dedicated herself to playing the sport at a high-performance level, with the incredible effort that entailed, managing her studies alongside many hours of training and weeks spent away, competing in tournaments at home and abroad. Despite the disruption to her schooling, Emily achieved top grades in her GCSEs and A Levels, and attained a full scholarship to study at an American University. Mounting success in national rankings, combined with her ambition and passion, however, drove Emily down a different path and she decided to start out on the professional circuit instead; a career that would require the ultimate challenge to her strength and talent, both physically and mentally.

“ *Determination, resilience and willingness to overcome personal sacrifices, such as a normal social life, has been admired by all Emily’s supporters at GHS and we were extremely grateful to hear the excellent motivational talk she gave virtually, to the school’s aspiring athletes, during the lockdown period.* ”

It is also fascinating to read her story, about where she was and what happened when the pandemic pressed pause on the world. It may have proved ‘Game, set, match to Covid-19’ in April, but we can only hope that when normal life resumes and Emily returns to court, her inspirational, winning attitude will serve to her advantage once more. Emily’s account follows...

At the beginning of March, I embarked on a 36-hour journey to Olimpia, Brazil – my first port of call on a five-week trip. I was feeling confident, well prepared, and optimistic about my chances of success in a series of \$25k International Tennis Federation (ITF) Tour events.

“ *After only a day of preparation upon arrival, the qualifying tournament started and after some good quality performances, I had secured my place in the main draw of the singles and had earned my place in the quarter final of the doubles event.* ”

My quarter final match was scheduled for Thursday afternoon (only six days since I had landed in Brazil) and I was feeling confident! It was then however, that all the players were told the news that all international tennis tournaments had been cancelled until the middle of April, including the ones that were already mid-way through this week! The fact that the tournament I was in was literally stopping straight away, mid schedule, mid match was very bizarre and not something I had experienced or ever heard of happening previously.

Straightaway all of the players were advised to go home because there were not going to be anymore tennis tournaments for the foreseeable future - anywhere in the world! It quickly became a mad scramble to get back to our respective countries – new flights had to be booked (with huge financial losses for return flights already booked) and hotels cancelled. The flights home were very hard to find and were at a premium price so it was a costly experience in so many ways. On top of this, due to the fact that my phone had completely broken en-route to Brazil, all of this had to be organised using a very old iPad mini which had become my only means of communicating with home.

Only a matter of days after returning from Brazil, the lockdown measures were enforced in the UK and the reality of it all suddenly started to hit home. After all, I had been in the back of beyond in Brazil without access to UK news and so didn’t have much of a clue quite how bad things had got.

“ *Lockdown wasn’t going to be easy for anyone but the prospect of it for me as a professional athlete who relies on daily training and competition to get by - financially and mentally - was pretty daunting.* ”

The days of four hours of intense on court tennis training, two hours in the gym and an hour of mental work each day suddenly seemed like a luxury and now I had to get used to home (where I usually only ever spend a week at a time) being my office.

However, I decided to take a very optimistic approach and have tried to focus on the things that I have struggled to give time to whilst on the Tour. My days have changed

significantly in structure but I ensured that each day is carefully planned out and fully utilised so that when lockdown does eventually end, I will be in the best physical shape possible and stronger mentally as well. Instead of hitting the courts, I have focused on mental training (so important in tennis); mindfulness (I have taken up yoga, meditation, visualisation and learnt how to breathe...properly!); fitness (within the confines of my home and small garden); reading (something I wasn’t too keen on before); cooking (a secret passion of mine); and painting (by numbers I hasten to add!). I have also filled my time preparing vlogs and blogs for my sponsor (SKY); I have been interviewed live on SKY Sports TV; and I have been for long walks along the river close to where I live. It hasn’t been easy but I am hoping that when the tennis tour does eventually return that all the ground work I have been putting in will pay off and I will be better because of it. I expect that it will also help me to feel much more grateful when playing and teach me not to take things such as travel for granted! But who knows just how long it will be until I can put this theory to the test and can I financially last that long? After all, I only earn when I play and at the moment there is no play – anywhere in the world! It could be a long year and how many players will survive this?

Emily Appleton (Class of 2017)



FUNDRAISING FISHER

UK'S TOP SWIM22 FUNDRAISER

Having left GHS in 2004, I went to Oxford University and had a fabulous few years trampolining, making friends and studying a bit of Physiological Sciences on the side. My module in Infection and Immunity piqued my interest in not only the science of health and disease but also the social science that shapes the spread of disease and our ability to control them.

“After six months volunteering in Ghana for the West Africa AIDS Foundation, and three months in Zambia for the Zambia Emory HIV Research Group, I headed to Trinity College Dublin where I acquired a taste for whisky and a First Class MSc in Global Health.”

I managed to get my foot in the door of the highly competitive world of International Development with a year-long internship with the medical charity MERLIN which took me to the bright lights of Old Street, London, and Darfur, Sudan, and then stayed in Sudan with an Irish charity called GOAL for a further two and a half years. I started off managing the grants we had with institutional donors (such as the UK's Department for International Development) but as soon as I could, slipped into the field of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). M&E suits me perfectly; using my logical mind and scientific

background to look for evidence of what works and apply it to the betterment of aid projects. Sticking in M&E, I took further positions in South Sudan and then Sierra Leone (amidst the Ebola epidemic) before finally coming home to the UK and settling in St Albans. I've been back in the UK for five years, and am now Evidence, Learning & Impact Manager for the international children's charity Plan International UK.

While I still appreciate the clean water, 24-hr electricity, and absence of AK-47s in St Albans, I seem to have swapped challenging lifestyles with sporting challenges. Those of you with good memories may remember that I'm an insulin-dependent diabetic. Having run my first ever half-marathon in 2016 and worked out how to control my sugar levels over the course of 13.1 miles, in 2017, I challenged myself to run a half-marathon a month in aid of Diabetes UK. I succeeded, but, having given myself shin splints and a stress fracture from over-training in 2018, I then moved to swimming.

“Finding myself in the ridiculously fortunate situation of being in lockdown with access to a 14-metre swimming pool (albeit an unheated one), I decided to swim 22 miles (the length of the English Channel) in 22 days.”

By doing so, I have become Diabetes UK's top Swim22 fundraiser! By the 2,530th length it was getting a little bit boring, but my determination prevailed! Sadly Covid-19 has caused most of the open water events that I had entered this year to be cancelled, but in September, I did succeed in completing the Coniston Chills swim - 8.5Km at 15.4 degrees - in 4hrs 35mins! It was my longest swim yet and I did struggle with

the cold, but I managed to carry on to the end.

So that's what's kept me entertained in the 16 years since I left GHS. They seem to have flown by, but I'm still in touch with many friends from my GHS days, and I hope I remain so for many years to come!

Steph Fisher (Class of 2004)



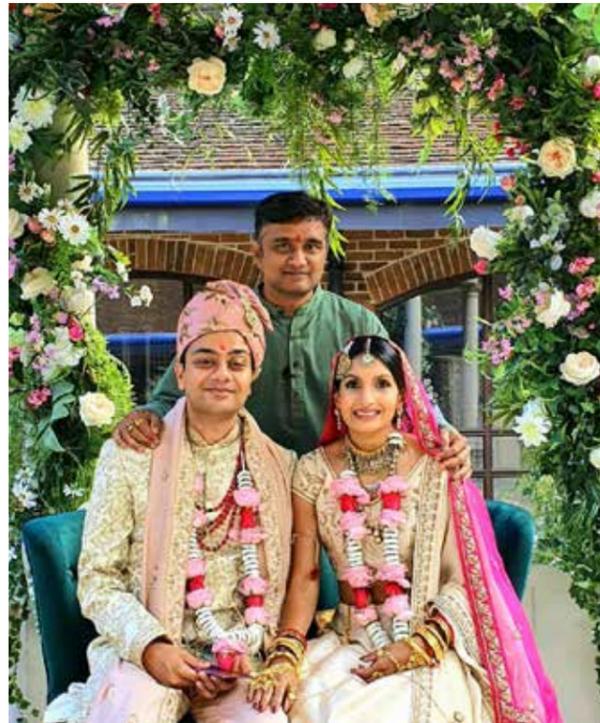
ABOVE: Steph Fisher celebrating the finish of her Swim22 challenge

TYING THE KNOT

TOP: Katie Pateman-Jones (née Forbes, Class of 2007) with GHS alumni (Class of 2007) - Gemma Ives (née Ellse), Julia Gasson, Caroline Beldham (née Stott), Kat Burnside, Alex Robinson, Laura Walker (née Sweet), Imy Talbot (née Bland), Susie Stewart, Phil Davies, Jess Moseley (née Kimpton) and Flik Richardson.

BOTTOM LEFT: Dr Soram Patel (Class of 2008) with husband Kishan and priest

BOTTOM RIGHT: Heather Abbott (née Dudley, Class of 2014) with GHS alumni (Class of 2014) - Elizabeth Webb, Zoe Sudderick, Sophia Barchenkova and Emma Hardcastle



STAYING IN TOUCH

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.

Anne Dunford OBE *née Tunnell*

CLASS OF 1953



Covid-19 has been more strange and scary than anything else I have experienced in my long life! In some ways the peace and calm have been enjoyable: fewer cars, more birdsong, sunny weather for gardening, chats with neighbours, exercise walks, online shopping, reading good books, studying more Latin, live-streaming and virtual meetings. I've

missed seeing family and friends face to face though and also my holiday in Northumbria. We must hope for good health and more normality in the run-up to Christmas. Every best wish to all at GHS.

Wendy Cundy *née Essex*

CLASS OF 1959



I have been looking at the Alumni magazines and enjoying the photos, and reading about the many varied activities and achievements of the High School pupils. I was a pupil from 1947 to 1959, when

the school was a lot smaller. I meet up for lunch with some of my contemporaries from time to time, and, even though we left about 60 years ago we all get on so well and have lots to chat about.

Sue Stevens *née Beer*

CLASS OF 1962



Many of our generation have been fortunate during the lockdown: we have not had employment, mortgage, wedding or child education issues to deal with, and we have had access to gardens and open spaces. We may have saved

money, not being able to go out for lunch or the cinema; however, loneliness and boredom may never have been far away. Three of us who left GHS in 1962, Ruth Sanderson (Hudson), Liz Critchfield and myself, have been e-mailing each other frequently with jokes, video clips, quizzes, pictures of our gardens and the occasional moan about the lack of delivery services, and missed holidays. The community spirit and helpfulness of younger family, friends and neighbours have been heart-warming. Our computer skills have developed and we learnt to appreciate the phone again. Yes, it has been a terrible time for many but there have been some good things to emerge and many of us have been lucky indeed.

Gill Strange *née Thomas*

CLASS OF 1970



The 1970 leavers were due to meet on 26/27 June this year to celebrate 50 years since leaving the High School. A tour of the school and tea on the Friday, followed by a celebration lunch at the home of Sally Lingard (née Furse) on the Saturday were planned

and nearly 30 of us would have been there each day (only two Form entry in our day). Sadly, it had to be called off, but we are hoping to organise something similar next year - a 50 Years + 1 celebration! In the meantime, we have updated a short biography document, originally produced in 2010 for our 40th anniversary. It now has updates for the last ten years, plus a few new entries. If anyone in our year group (which includes those who left the Fifth Form in 1968 and the Lower Sixth in 1969), would like to see it, please contact me. Some of our year group who live in the South West meet regularly every year, together with others who are prepared to travel. Anyone from our year group is welcome. Contact the GHS Alumni team who will pass on my contact details.

Susan Sharratt

CLASS OF 1972



I have no life events or Covid-19 heroics to report, but I have been thinking about GHS. Six years ago we retired to a dilapidated house in southern France; during lockdown I started at long last applying myself properly to the piano. Fond memories have surfaced, particularly of hymn-singing at assembly so brilliantly led by Mary Rivers (though I trust you don't still sing *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*). So many good memories, many of them musical, and a head full of Victorian hymns - not a bad legacy!

Raine Bryant

CLASS OF 1973



Just before the lockdown my local U3A compiled a nature trail along the River Tweed and Northumberland Coast. This is unusual because it has seasonal boards therefore giving new information four times a year and a geology trail running in tandem. I have taken most of the photos and designed all the boards and website. It can be seen on www.tweedandcoast.org.



My next massive project is to produce artwork that will turn my whole mile long village, built 1700-1900, into an outdoor walkround museum for Heritage Open Day. Householders will display a poster in the window (most houses are on the street with no front garden). This will give details about past occupants and what they did, old photos of the property or what was seen out of the window. If this doesn't keep me occupied during lockdown, nothing will!

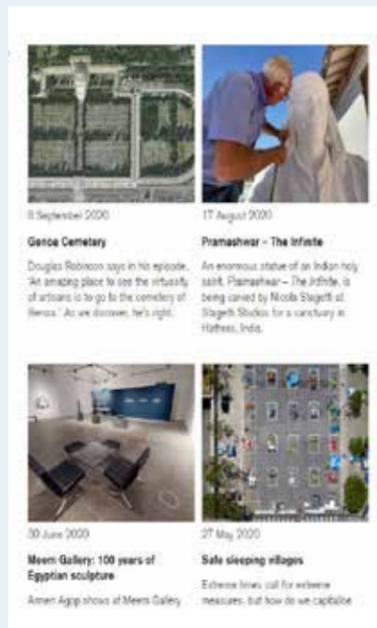
Sarah Monk

CLASS OF 1978



I studied at Guildford High many years ago and in fact was Head Girl in 1978. I have many happy memories. Recently I have produced a podcast called 'Materially Speaking' – where artists tell their stories through the materials they choose. It tells the stories of international sculptors who work in Pietrasanta, Italy, near the marble mountains of Carrara.

As you may know, the story of the international community of artists working in marble near Pietrasanta goes back as far as Michelangelo who came here to source marble for his Pietà. Hundreds of artisans worked here until the 1960s when ecclesiastical work stopped abruptly and studio heads encouraged artists like Henry Moore, Noguchi and Jean Arp to come and realise their work in marble. The artist community has grown since then and is constantly evolving. Each episode features one artist telling their journeys, literal and artistic, from their respective countries and also the stories of their commissions which are then shipped out to every corner of the world. I have recorded 20 artists and 11 episodes are now published. My website is www.materiallyspeaking.com or you can find the podcast by searching 'Materially Speaking' on any podcast player.



Dr Polly Jacobs *née O'Loughlin*

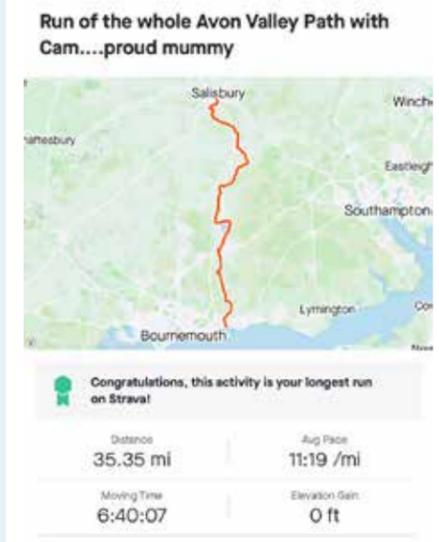
CLASS OF 1995



I have three children, one of whom has special needs and attends a special school. Despite all the difficulties he faces, he has a passion for long-distance running and music. All those years of running around Stoke Park at GHS must have prepared me well for the challenge my son and I decided to undertake in lockdown to raise money for our local young persons music hub, Salisbury Area Young Musicians, where he is a member.

On Saturday 18 July, we ran 35.35 miles from Salisbury Cathedral to Christchurch Priory along The Avon Valley Path. We were joined, socially distanced by various friends for sections along the way and so far we have raised £1,599!

If you would like to show your support by donating to the Salisbury Area Young Musicians, follow the website below to our crowdfunding page. Any donation will be warmly received by the charity: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/avon-valley-path-challenge



Sarah McHugh *née Cousins*

CLASS OF 2005



I now live in South Shropshire with my husband and two daughters, Harriet and Abigail, who are three and nearly one. I am a GP working near Dudley after attending Birmingham Medical School and then completing my training in the West Midlands. I am just about to go back to work after maternity leave, but it's going to be very different. I'm still in very regular contact with many GHS friends and they have been of great support to me over the recent months after my Dad died of Covid-19.

Nicole Analys Lopez

CLASS OF 2017



I am doing well, finishing my third of four years at the University of Chicago, studying Economics with Human Rights. I worked as an Investment Banking Summer Analyst at Citibank this summer and have received a job offer in their New York office, where I will be working as an Investment Banking Analyst in Citi's Merger and Acquisitions group, starting after I graduate in June 2021. I am in touch still with various girls from GHS; a group of us have enjoyed a few pub quiz nights over zoom in lockdown which has been lovely, too.

Susie Gill

CLASS OF 2008



After leaving GHS I followed my dream of studying at the London Contemporary Dance School, but injury prevented me from pursuing a career in professional dance. I therefore took a gap year to apply to the British School of Osteopathy, London Bridge, to do their four year Master's degree. During that time, I worked at Caterham School as an assistant to the PE department, coaching netball and lacrosse. It was very strange to be on the opposing side lines to GHS! However, I was able to return to the GHS bench when I became a student again, helping to coach and umpire at lacrosse matches on Saturdays.

After graduating, I started a part time post with the Harlequin Rugby Club at the Surrey Sports Park, Guildford, whilst also carrying out private work in London. By 2015 my job with the Harlequins became full-time and it has been an amazing experience, travelling with the team to Europe and America. However, I have recently reduced my hours to re-start private practice and I am currently buying a house with my youngest sister, Sarah (Class of 2012) who is now a PE teacher at GHS! This has been a common theme in the family, as Maddie (Class of 2010) was also a TA in the Junior School before going to Nottingham University to study English. She is now a solicitor with the Commercial Mitigation team at Irwin Mitchell in London.

Frank Turner

STAFF MEMBER, 1998-2009



After retiring from GHS in 2009 I sought a new challenge. Having been a Maths educator for my whole adult life I thought it would be interesting and rewarding to branch out in a new direction. Luckily the local authority where I live was just embarking on a project to revive the history of Deepdene House in Dorking. The house had been owned by the fabulously wealthy Hope family in the 18th and 19th centuries; they gave their name to the notorious Hope Diamond, many of whose owners regretted owning it. The house no longer remains, the immense family fortunes squandered on racehorses, gambling and generally loose living.

I became involved in the Oral History aspect of the project, interviewing people who had worked in the house in its later use as Southern Rail HQ in World War II and later, playing a pivotal role in the planning for D-Day.

Using the skills I developed, I went on to set up the Oral History group in Dorking Museum. I have interviewed many people with fascinating stories to tell – of Doodlebugs falling on Dorking, the man whose aunt caught the eye of Himmler when she stayed in the same hotel as him in Munich in 1936 (she quickly returned to England), engineers of the highly successful Walker Formula 1 racing team that operated out of Dorking in the fifties and sixties, Sir Erich Reich who pitched up in Dorking in September 1939 as a four-year old from Poland speaking only German and went on to be knighted for services to charity; the company he founded has raised £90 million for charity.

I do keep my hand in mathematically helping my grandsons, but Oral History is a fascinating new avenue that I am enjoying immensely.

Niluka Perera

CLASS OF 2017



I recently graduated from Durham University and have just started the GDL with the University of Law in Guildford. In September, I set up a RAG society called FUSE. Our vision is that ULaw students collaborate with Syrian Refugees from Woking

Borough Council's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme. We will work together to raise money to put back into two of the UNHRC's projects that combat the refugee crisis:

1. The 'Syria Emergency' project
2. The 'Sustainable Environment Management' project; which aims to regenerate the natural habitat in several Middle Eastern and African countries, to try and prevent the displacement of people (often caused by climate change).

We are asking that people donate denim clothes that we'll revamp with new prints/ embroidery/ paint. Then we will sell these products on an app called Depop. The money raised will cover the expenses for the paints etc., but the vast majority will be donated to the refugee charity projects mentioned above. If you would like to get involved in the programme or to donate any of your unwanted denim clothes to the cause, please contact me via the GHS Alumni office.

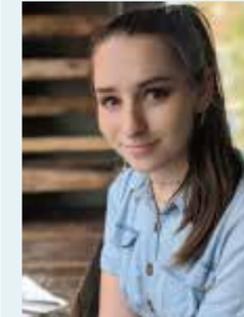
Ellie Smyth

CLASS OF 2018



Catherine Curtis

CLASS OF 2018



Throughout the lockdown I have spent my time developing a website which will be a safe space for people to increase their understanding of different mental health disorders, find resources and support, and share their own experiences. I will be posting regular content exploring different mental illnesses and other aspects of mental health and well-being. I have also set up a forum in which people can share their own experiences in a safe space, to create a supportive and caring environment for anyone who may be struggling.

Website: www.understandingmentalhealth.org

Instagram: [understanding_mental_health_](https://www.instagram.com/understanding_mental_health_)



My brothers and I, along with close family friends (including Catrin Fluck, a previous GHS student) ran a half marathon on 19 September as a challenge in memory of our mum, Jocelyn, who died suddenly and unexpectedly from a bleed on her brain on 17 May.

We raised almost £32,500 for the St Peters haematology, which helped my mum over the years manage her ITP blood condition.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS DUTTON

HEADMISTRESS, 1977-1991



For fourteen years Joan Dutton upheld the school's motto "As One That Serveth". Under her wise leadership and guidance the High School developed and expanded so that visiting alumni and former staff needed a guided tour!

“ *The School became three-Form entry in the Senior School, the Sixth Form grew and pupils entered the Junior School from age four* ”

The scattered collection of studios and wooden laboratories was replaced by the Jackson Wing, and Food Technology and Textiles – formerly Domestic Science – moved out of the classroom above the Morton House Music Room. The Wing, with a rickety screen between Rooms 7 and 8, which was inhabited by Fifth Formers and used for O-Level examinations, was replaced by a complete block of classrooms next to the extended Senior Library. These developments, together with the acquisition of Albany House and imaginatively created Wolfson Design Centre, rationalised and enhanced the facilities offered to pupils.

“ *Joan presided over many splendid, varied and happy occasions during her time at GHS, in particular, the events and celebrations for The School's Centenary 1888–1988.* ”

On the following two pages, we have given an insight into the responses we received after announcing the sad news of Miss Dutton's passing. Many thanks to all of you who wrote, sending your thoughts and condolences. Miss Dutton was clearly a very special lady, who not only made a great impact on the school during her tenure as Headmistress but who was also respected and held dear by all those who knew her.

The funeral, held at St. Saviour's Church, Guildford, on Friday 28 February 2020, was well attended by members of the GHS Alumni Community, staff and pupils. A group of current Sixth Formers, including the Head Girl, were also there, acting as ushers during and after the service.

From the Centenary Luncheon in the Great Hall of Guildhall in the City of London for the whole school followed by afternoon excursions, the Centenary Thanksgiving Service in Guildford Cathedral where the Kindergarten walked the length of the Cathedral bearing candles, the Centenary Music Festival to the first performance of the specially commissioned 'Jonah' by William Mathias.

Parents, teachers and former pupils united under her inspiration to form the Friends of Guildford High School.

“ *The Friends not only raised money for projects such as the School's first minibus but gave many opportunities for educational and social activities.* ”

Parachutists and escapologists landed on the Playing Field during Friends' Fetes; audiences dressed up for the last night of 'The Boyfriend' and 'My Fair Lady'; parents joined girls and staff for performances of 'Jonah' and 'Messiah' in the Cathedral. Those attending First Year parties admired the thoroughness with which she prepared her fancy dress – particularly remembered are the spacesuit, the leopard and the punk rocker!

We are immensely grateful to her for all that she did for GHS, for the energy and devotion she showed to all aspects of the School's life, and we are proud of her achievements.

Margaret Sale,
Former Deputy Head (GHS 1974-1999)

I always had the greatest respect for Joan Dutton. She appointed me in 1985 as a specialist school Careers Adviser - such a radical and forward-thinking appointment back in those days for her to take on someone like me, industry based with guidance and counselling but no teaching experience. I never met anyone else in an independent school with my role for years and years!

What started for me as a few lunchtime hours a week, based in a tiny cupboard space with a filing cabinet, grew into a much much bigger job and 23 very happy years at GHS developing activities from 'Take our daughters to work Day' to interview skills courses, establishing contacts with Oxbridge tutors or eventually creating a Careers Hub at the centre of the school in the old Sixth Form Common Room. And, of course, throughout, the real joy, working every day along with all the other staff, especially Kathy Buckley, to help individual girls move successfully from school to their chosen course and careers path. I loved it, and continue to love hearing from GHS girls as to how their lives and careers have developed.

Joan Dutton was always incredibly encouraging and supportive and I am so very grateful to her for giving me the opportunity to start such an interesting and rewarding role within GHS.

SUE GOODSIR, STAFF MEMBER 1985-2008

It is thirty years since Miss Dutton appointed me as Head of History. For family reasons I was unable to stay long at GHS and I moved to be Head of History at the City of London School for Girls till I retired sixteen years ago.

In so many ways, my brief time at Guildford was the happiest and most fulfilling in my teaching career and that was in a large part because of the leadership of Joan Dutton.

Miss Dutton was totally committed to her school and her leadership was based on her deeply held Christian convictions. She gave everything to the school and I cannot recall a day when she wasn't there when I arrived and again when I left. She oversaw generations of girls and every one was a known individual. She expected the highest standard of work ethic and good manners from the girls but such was their respect and admiration for her that she could play outrageous parts in end of term entertainments without any loss of respect.

We all know the adage "God first, others second and self last". Joan's motto could be interpreted "Girls first, staff second and self last." This quiet unassuming lady was indeed an inspirational Headmistress.

BRUCE BURNHAM, STAFF MEMBER 1990

Inspiring Girls

One of my memories of her is that, in the days when the staff dining room was in Albany House, she was always ready for an informal chat about anything and everything. Many problems were resolved over an after-lunch coffee. She was a very special person.

HELEN RESTALL, STAFF MEMBER 1987-1998

I remember Miss Dutton very well. You could always tell when she was patrolling the corridors as the quiet chatter of pupils moving between lessons would immediately cease when they realised she was there! Just one look was all that was needed to remind people of the school rules and uniform was immediately adjusted, running downgraded to a walk and silence restored. She watched all this happen with a quiet smile.

I also remember once seeing Miss Dutton running and assuming that the world must have been ending! She had heard that someone had, fortunately not seriously, been hit by a car on the way to the station. Her reaction to get there immediately to check on a girl's welfare spoke volumes on the affection she had for all her pupils. She was missed when she retired.

KATY CORNISH (CLASS OF 1993)

One of my enduring memories of Miss Dutton was that she knew and addressed each and every one of us by our name. I remember being impressed by this at the time but now, having been a teacher myself, I admire this talent all the more. It added a personal touch, embedding the sense of community in the school and showing that she cared about us all as individuals, even those she did not teach directly.

GEORGINA KYRIACOU (CLASS OF 1995)

She had an amazing ability to remember all of the girls and their family circumstances, and was a wonderful source of advice when it came to wording reports to convey disappointing news without being hurtful.

LYNNE CRIGHTON, STAFF MEMBER 1990-2000

I just wanted to say that I was at the High School from 1977 to 1990 so I knew no other Headmistress. She used to teach French of course and certainly I was not a natural linguist. However I do remember being very impressed that she knew the name of every girl in the school and she retained this knowledge even if she met them after they had left. Most work managers wouldn't be able to do this!

BRYONY TURNER (CLASS OF 1990)

Thank you so much for letting me know. This is very sad news. I didn't know her well, but my thoughts and prayers are of course with her family and friends at this time.

ANNE DUNFORD (CLASS OF 1953)

We had a fund-raising dress up event in the now Drama room by the old front door.

Miss Dutton was a very private person but she walked along the corridor from her office to assembly in fancy dress. Margaret Bingham said she was dressed as the queen giving regal waves to all. (I couldn't remember what she was dressed as) but the girls were thrilled that she took part.

GINA STEAD, STAFF MEMBER 1985-2014



I started GHS in 81 and left in 94, and so Miss Dutton was pretty much the only Head I knew. I remember her as being very stern and strict but also fair. I definitely remember she had a kind side and a bit of a twinkle in her eye too.

LIZ KAMEEN (NÉE NEEVE, CLASS OF 1994)

OBITUARIES

Gillian McNeil

CLASS OF 1959

Gillian McNeil studied at GHS for 12 years. At seventeen, having left school with one A-Level, she trained as an occupational therapist and worked in the secure wing of an old-style mental asylum on her first placement. But Gillian's feet itched, and she began to travel widely – to Canada, America, Morocco and Greece. By doing so, she believed she had the key to understanding life's tricks; to uncover the magic.

Gillian's career was varied. After completing her PhD, she secured various research positions which lead to her and her two children living in Cambridge and Arizona for a short while. Soon after they returned to the UK, where she taught at Oxford Polytechnic and a local school before returning back to occupational therapy. Her final occupation before retiring saw Gillian live out a dream – she had a lectureship at Brookes. Despite retiring, she continued to lecture into her seventies, giving workshops on Neuroscience and Art History. She was a natural teacher and a true Renaissance Woman. She will be dearly missed by her loving family.

Margaret Fricker

STAFF MEMBER 1967-1986

Margaret Fricker taught Physics for 18 years, as well as being a member of the Sixth Form Tutors' team. At the time, when the School was much smaller, just two-Form entry into the Senior School, Science was taught in a collection of wooden huts – difficult to imagine now! During her years at GHS, the Science department was able to benefit from the development of new laboratories in The Bryce Wing and The Jackson Wing, which are still used by pupils to this day.

Margaret is remembered by her colleagues as being really interested in those around her. Staff have many happy memories of social gatherings in her home and garden at 1 Nightingale Road, where large dogs could be seen at play.

In her retirement, as well as pursuing her many varied interests, she set about her life-long ambition to do a PhD, writing her dissertation on changes in higher education. She was awarded her Doctorate from Roehampton University of Surrey in 2003. She is much missed by family and friends.

Kathleen Wigmore

STAFF MEMBER 1979-1988

Kathleen Wigmore was Head of Mathematics for nine years, at a time when the school was approaching its centenary. She was also one of the Sixth Form tutors for several years.

Kathleen was committed to maintaining high academic standards, giving support and encouragement to the members of her department and inspiring potential mathematicians.

She was greatly respected by staff and pupils alike for her dedication to the subject and for her generosity in giving time to help others. She will be missed by those around her.

Noni King

STAFF MEMBER 1980s-1990s

Mrs. Noni King, taught Home Economics at GHS and will be remembered by GHS pupils and RGS Sixth Formers alike, for her needlework and cookery lessons. Following her retirement, she enjoyed keeping in touch with her ex-colleagues from GHS, spending time at her second home in Northern France and becoming an active member of the U3A in Guildford. Noni suffered a stroke on the 5 June and sadly died in St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey on the 17 June 2020 at the age of 85, leaving behind husband Martin, children Ben and Emma and granddaughter Amelia. She is sadly missed.

OBITUARY ENTRIES 2021

If you know of a member of the alumni community, whether that be a former pupil or member of staff, who has sadly passed away and would like to include an obituary in the next edition, please keep in touch with us by email at: alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk

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



Inspiring Girls

GHS Alumni Community, Guildford High School, London Road, Guildford, GU1 1SJ

alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk | www.guildfordhigh.co.uk/alumni