

# Highlights

GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI MAGAZINE | 2021



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# Meet the team



**MRS LOUISE STONE**

ALUMNI LIAISON OFFICER / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is that I am now re-connecting with alumni I taught over 20 years ago! It never ceases to amaze me how wonderful the alumni community is, in terms of talent, friendship, motherhood and career success. I feel very proud to be a part of it. I still love being involved with the PE Department, with GHS sport engrained in my soul, but in recent years I have also felt revitalised by the role I have taken in the Marketing Suite. Thank you to all who have written in, making my job feel so enjoyable and worthwhile.



**MISS KATIE HOOK**

MARKETING AND ADMISSIONS MANAGER

As I set out on my placement year in the Microsoft UK Education team in 2012, little was I to know just how important that year would be for my career. After graduating in 2014 I took a brief hiatus to complete a post-grad diploma in Musical Theatre, but the marketing world drew me back, and in 2018 I took up my first marketing role in an independent school. I started at GHS, my third school, in August 2021 and it's been an exciting first few months. We have lots of plans for the alumni community and I look forward to meeting many of you in the future.



**MISS MEGAN WILLIAMS**

MARKETING ASSISTANT

I previously joined the team in 2019 as a placement student and have had the pleasure of working with Louise on previous editions of the magazine. Since then, I have graduated university with first-class honours in Marketing and re-joined the team at GHS permanently. It always fascinates me reading the journeys our alumni members take after leaving GHS, and it brings me great pleasure to produce this magazine for you.



**MISS GEMMA KENT**

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

I joined GHS in March 2018 as a Receptionist in the Senior School. Now my children are in secondary education, it has allowed me to work more hours and I was thrilled to be asked to join the Alumni team as an administrator; I now split my day between the two roles. I feel very privileged to see the current pupils when I am on Reception and then to hear of all the wonderful stories of the pupils that have moved on and are achieving incredible and inspiring journeys in life after GHS.

## EDITORS' LETTER

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*In this edition of 'Highlights', we see how school life had to keep going amidst the crisis, and GHS certainly showed its true colours, not only surviving, but thriving!*

As one of our school feature titles describes, this year has been a tale of two halves. Everyone has experienced the same pandemic, but how we have lived and coped with it during and after three lockdowns has been different for us all.

In this edition of 'Highlights', we see how school life had to keep going amidst the crisis, and GHS certainly showed its true colours, not only surviving, but thriving! It has undoubtedly been a rocky path with difficulties and disappointments along the way for all age groups, but particularly for this year's Upper Sixth, Class of 2021. It was a uniquely challenging time for them, navigating their way through their last academic year, with all their normal milestones and final celebrations affected by social restrictions, but in true GHS style they remained a strong, resilient team, with positivity and excitement about their next steps.

Friendship has thankfully remained constant throughout. As this magazine proves time and time again, GHS has an extraordinary influence in creating wonderful, long-lasting friendships and inspiring lives to be lived to the full. It is incredibly rewarding for us to see the connections that exist amongst you and to have the privilege of passing your stories on. We hope that as you thumb through the pages, you'll feel our sense of pride in a community where friendships not only withstand time, but also face life changing circumstances with loyalty and adaptability.

Career paths taken by previous school leavers are wide ranging and extremely successful, but often curve balls are thrown, causing twists and turns that require a change of direction. Friendships, however, appear to steer a straight and steady course through all adversity, and we have loved compiling pages with 'happy ever after' images of weddings and new generations of alumni children in our midst.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2021 edition of 'Highlights'!

“

*A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

FRONT COVER: David Cleaver's retirement drinks at the House of Commons

## CLASS OF 2021: 'TEAMS YEAR GROUP'

After a year spent in and out of lockdown, on and off Teams, and separated into bubbles, this year's Upper Sixth were at last able to enjoy some social occasions to celebrate their final year.

Prizegiving was a very special day. In keeping with tradition, the year group kick-started their final official day in school by placing their Microsoft Teams-themed ceiling tile in the Common Room, before enjoying a champagne and cake reception in the Harper Garden. The Prizegiving ceremony followed, and it was magnificent to see the entire year group seated together (albeit socially-distanced) in the Main Hall for the first time in nearly 16 months. It truly was a fitting way for the Upper Sixth to finish their time at the school, with each other at last, and celebrating all that they have achieved.

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*The year group kick-started their final official day in school by placing their Microsoft Teams-themed ceiling tile in the Common Room.*

In her Upper Sixth Prizegiving speech, Mrs Boulton reflected on how her 'Teams year group' have faced the challenges and uncertainties of their time in Sixth Form as a team, overcoming adversity with good humour, focus and a sense of strength in community.

"They have come through the last two years in high spirits, and it is a testament to the students that they have packed their time in Sixth Form full of positive and enriching experiences, making the most of what has undoubtedly been a challenging time. Time and time again we have been overwhelmed by the good humour and friendliness within the Upper Sixth. Community, and the sense of purpose and positivity, has never deserted this year's leavers."





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*It truly was a fitting way for the Upper Sixth to finish their time at the school, with each other at last and celebrating all that they have achieved.*

Department used the ‘GHS 8’ values to create a few special prizes, thanking individuals for all their hard work and commitment as the Upper Sixth have been an absolute delight to coach throughout the years, displaying true grit and determination across a full range of sports.

Having been postponed, the much-awaited Leavers' Ball took place in September; the first social event in the new academic year. The Alice Courtyard was transformed into a circus fête, with drinks and stalls for the leavers and their parents to enjoy.

We look forward to hearing about their successes in the future, at university and beyond.

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*...It is a testament to the students that they have packed their time in Sixth Form full of positive and enriching experiences...*

At the end of the ceremony, there was a palpable feeling of excitement about what the future holds for them as they take their next steps in life.

A Sports Awards evening was organised by the Lower Sixth Games Captains to celebrate their contribution to school Sport throughout their seven years at GHS. It was an Olympic-themed, colourful event, which complimented our guest speaker, Greg Clackett, who is currently preparing for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics as a member of the GB Bobsleigh team. He delivered an inspirational speech about his sporting journey and the important life lessons learnt along the way. A photo presentation of the students representing GHS from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form was then shown to commemorate Sport at GHS, before presenting all the annual trophies, colours and other awards. Amongst these, the PE



# STAFF RETIREMENTS & LONG SERVING LEAVERS



**Mr David Cleaver**

HEAD OF POLITICS

David joined GHS in 2002 and led Politics for 13 years with great distinction. David believed passionately in the importance of pupils understanding Politics. His deep knowledge of the subject enabled him to inspire the pupils that he taught at A Level, a large number of whom went on to study the subject at university. As well as teaching the subject in the Sixth Form, he also taught Politics in enrichment sessions lower down the school and led numerous school assemblies. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



**Mrs Carol Jones**

HEAD OF ECONOMICS

Carol joined GHS 17 years ago, and led the Economics Department for much of that time. It was always fascinating discussing Economics with Carol, either as one of the many pupils who she guided through A Levels, or as a member of staff keen to understand what was happening in the world around them. Her gift for making difficult concepts understandable will be greatly missed. Besides her subject teaching, Carol has given so much to GHS during her time at the school. She ran many school visits, ranging from the Year 8 water sports holiday in the south of France, to Sixth Form expeditions to Namibia and Mongolia. She was also the very first Head of Sapphire, most notably leading the House in a number of memorable performances in the House Song competition. A spirited performance of 'Money, Money, Money' (very suitable for an Economics teacher!) sticks in the memory. She taught French for several years and led very popular visits to conferences in Paris. We wish her every happiness in her retirement!



**Mrs Carol Igoe**

MODERN LANGUAGES (FORMER HEAD OF GERMAN)

'Frau Igoe' leaves GHS after 14 years teaching German, some French and even a little bit of bridge! Her ability to bring German culture to life inspired generations of girls to fall in love with German, particularly in the Junior School. In her years as Head of German she cultivated a highly successful trip centred on a new city each year, which often comes up when leavers discuss their GHS highlights. The school will be poorer without Carol's stories of her German adventures, while colleagues will miss the anecdotes that were not suitable for sharing in the classroom! She will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike, and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.



**Mrs Yvonne Skene**

LIBRARIAN

Yvonne retired in August 2021, having worked as the Librarian at GHS for 22 years. She has a wonderful sense of humour, is down to earth, and has a strong moral compass. Her love of books is second to none, and so many of us have benefitted from the welcoming environment she created in the Library; she made it a place of enjoyment and reflection, a place to stretch your imagination and, of course, a place to immerse yourself in books. Fostering our pupils' love of reading was at the heart of everything she did. As well as running book groups, reading clubs and study sessions, she accompanied numerous school visits and ran the Rockley water sports holiday. Yvonne will be remembered for her fantastic World Book Day costumes (in particular Captain Hook) and also her spectacular Christmas cactus! We wish Yvonne a long and happy retirement, enabling her to enjoy more time with her family and especially her young grandson, Logan, who will no doubt keep her very busy.



**Mr Mike Gibb**

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mike joined the Junior School in 2011 as Deputy Head after being a standout candidate. After five years as Deputy, he became Head of the GHS Junior School in January 2016. He is an excellent musician and he has sung in the GHS/RGS choir in a variety of choral works over the years. He has created an environment in which music and drama have thrived and flourished within the Junior School, whilst also leading countless trips and DofE expeditions. During his tenure, the school has also consistently excelled in sport and has won countless national netball, swimming, gymnastics and athletics titles.

GHS is often described as having an atmosphere of relaxed excellence and Mike has contributed enormously to helping create this vibe. The Junior School was awarded best school for academic results by The Week Independent Schools Guide in 2021 and The Sunday Times Prep School of the Year in 2015-2016. Mike is everything you would want in a Head. He has strategic vision, he sets high standards for all, he is firm when required, and he is intuitively empathetic. After 10½ years at GHS, Mike epitomises the motto 'As one that serveth', and as he said in his iconic assembly to the Senior School, referring to his days at Sandhurst, "if you are not prepared to serve then you cannot lead!"



**Mr Will Forse**

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM - YEAR 12

Will joined the Maths department at GHS in 2014 and has inspired pupils with his passion for the subject ever since. As Head of Year 12, he guided and supported the pupils in his care through the Sixth Form. Crucially, his organisation of the GHS staff football team has provided valuable fun and fitness for colleagues! We wish him well as he moves on to a new challenge at KCS Wimbledon.



**Mrs Abbie Bleasby-Voice**

MARKETING MANAGER

Abbie joined GHS after working in commercial marketing for brands like Nespresso. During Abbie's time at GHS, she has created our fantastic new website as well as taking a creative lead on all the beautiful artworks in the form of newsletters, magazines, and posters. The support she provided to the alumni community was invaluable and the team will miss her terribly.

# A TALE OF TWO HALVES



In last year's magazine, we reported on how well the school survived and thrived throughout the first months of the pandemic when the 'walls came down' and home learning became the norm.

During the Michaelmas term 2020, pupils had returned to school fully, but zones, bubbles, one-way systems, sanitising stations and social distancing rules dictated a new way of life. Staff found innovative ways to deliver a rich, diverse timetable and extra-curricular programme within the Covid-19 government guidance. Little did they know that when they broke up for Christmas, the Lent Term would be quite different; it would become a term of two halves, switching back to remote learning and then preparing for a return with mass testing.

With the country suddenly back in Lockdown-3, lasting the whole of January and February, technology once again underpinned the way pupils were taught.

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*Little did they know that when they broke up for Christmas, the Lent Term would be quite different; it would become a term of two halves.*

All lessons continued to be delivered live using Microsoft Teams, with teaching time reduced to allow for short breaks in screen time during the day.

Apple Pencils were distributed to the whole school, empowering pupils to annotate worksheets and complete other work from home without any need for printing. All work on paper was scanned onto

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*Technology once again underpinned the way pupils were taught*

iPads, meaning everything was stored in one place using the Showbie and OneNote Apps. In the New Year, Microsoft Teams introduced 'together mode', allowing every pupil in a class group to appear together on screen. Breakout Rooms, another recent Teams addition, was also a great success, providing pupils with the opportunity to collaborate and share their learning through the vibrancy of small tasks and discussion. They also helped pupils to feel better connected, something that was becoming increasingly important for their wellbeing during lockdown.

Once the school doors re-opened on 8 March, staff sprang into action to make the necessary preparations, including the transformation of the Sports Centre into a huge testing facility. The school

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nurses and other staff worked tirelessly, carrying out nearly 2,000 tests within a seven-day period to ensure the whole school community could return safely. Measures that had been put in place during the Autumn term were then re-introduced for the remaining three weeks of term. Bubbles were reformed and masks were required in lessons and school corridors where social distancing was not possible. Although many extra-curricular activities had to remain on hold, it was a pleasure to see pupils' enjoyment at being able to spend face-to-face time with their friends and teachers again.



# ARTISTIC CREATIVITY

A rich timetable puts creativity at the centre of life at Guildford High School, whether that be through Art, Music, Drama, prose, or poetry; our creative and talented pupils prove themselves dedicated and driven to creating highly innovative outcomes. Despite the many challenges of the past year, we have remained well-connected and have celebrated creative achievements throughout.



*A rich creative timetable puts creativity at the centre of life at Guildford High School.*

Thinking all the way back to Michaelmas Term 2020, both the Senior and Junior School walls were adorned with artwork as GHS held the Big Draw Festival. The Junior School chose the theme of Climate Change, which involved every girl from Years 1 – 6 creating multimedia paintings of endangered species to raise awareness of the global issue. The Senior School chose the theme of Black History, where pupils from Year 7 – 9 designed some thoughtful and creative interpretations to celebrate black achievement; the introduction of the Apple pencil meant all submissions were created digitally.

As ever, our pupils continued to impress with their creative minds in the Spring Term despite being subjected to another lockdown. One way in which this occurred was our annual Poetry Festival. Every year we have a Poet in Residence, with whom the pupils have a bespoke workshop to draft and create their entries. This year was no different; the creativity



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flowed, expertise was shared, and extraordinary poetry was produced. The workshop took the form of a podcast created by our Poet in Residence, Rachel Long, and the pupils produced poems which they videoed themselves performing, as well as



*The creativity flowed, expertise was shared, and extraordinary poetry was produced.*

submitting a written version. The poetry produced was heartening and joy inducing as our pupils wholeheartedly embraced the theme of this year's festival, 'Transitions'. Year 9 pupil, Jess Harmer, was the overall winner for this Festival with her captivating and powerful poem.

More recently, the school year concluded with our annual GCSE and A Level showcases for Art and



*Each pupil has been on their own creative journey and we applaud all of them for their achievements*

Design and Technology. The pupils made the best of limited resources, from being inventive with tools and materials as they worked from home during the dark winter months, to spreading their wings once more on returning to school, embracing the joy of being back in the art studios and workshops.

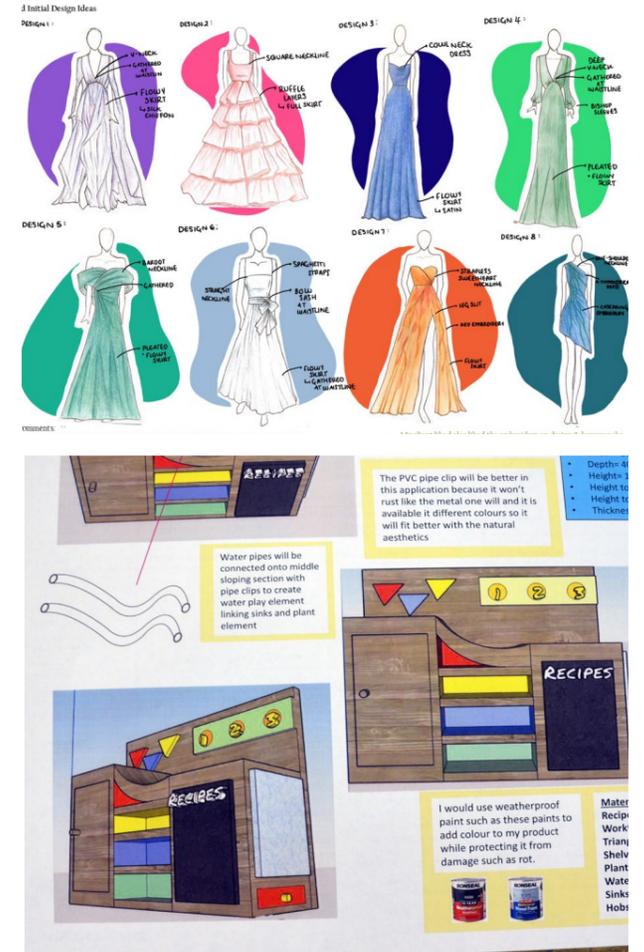
Guildford High School is incredibly proud of each pupil's creative talents. They have each been on their own creative journey and we applaud all of them for their achievements, particularly our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils for completing GCSE and A Level qualifications in another turbulent year.

## 'Transitions' by Jess Harmer, Year 9

I feel like I'm drowning;  
Isolated in places I didn't know existed  
Silencing irrational thoughts in an anxious, fractured mind  
Surviving a night with a mind that wants to die  
Spirals of physical and emotional abuse  
The day ahead weighs heavy  
With thoughts reflecting the flaws of the world.

It was then I realised.  
I had lost something precious.  
Myself  
A day is not a lifetime  
Living a chapter won't define my whole story  
Fear is a liar.

I am worthy.  
I am brave.  
I am bold.  
I am beautiful.  
I believe in myself.



# HELPING TO TACKLE THE REFUGEE CRISIS

This year our students teamed up with former Head Girl, Niluka Perrera, to design and manufacture a collection of patchwork bags for the charity FUSE. FUSE is run by a group of students at The University of Law, Guildford. The charity project is aimed at tackling the refugee crisis in the UK by raising money for The Syria Emergency Project and The Sustainable Environment Management Scheme.

Pupils from Years 9 and 10 worked in teams during their break and lunchtimes to batch produce the bags. They began by disassembling donated denim jeans, marking, and cutting them into patches. They then pinned and sewed the patches together before inserting zips and finally adding the leather labels.

It has been wonderful to see so many students get involved; they have shown an impressive level of commitment and teamwork. The final products look fantastic and they should be very proud of their hard work!

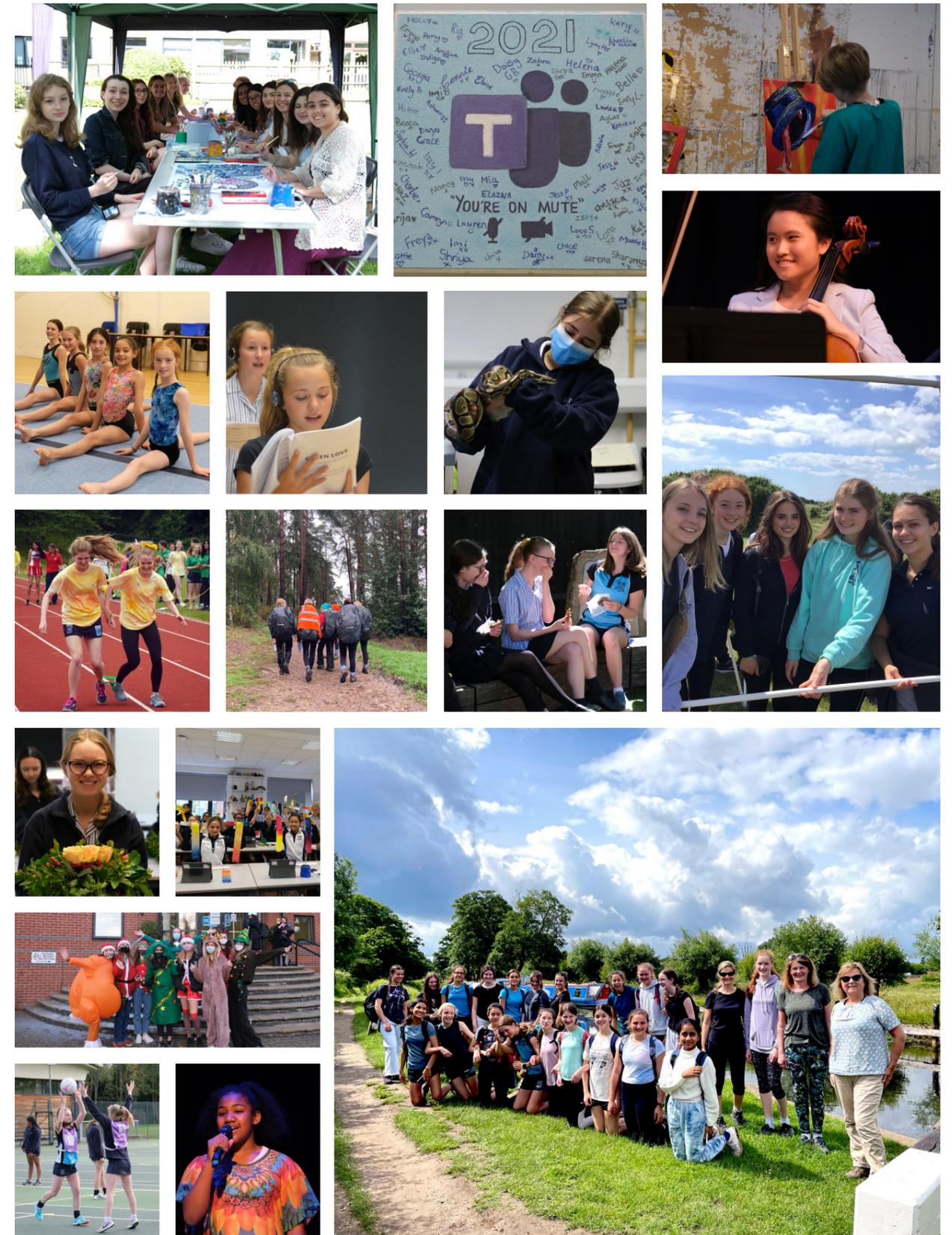
**Mrs Lucy Forse**

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*Pupils teamed up with former Head Girl, Niluka Perrera, to design and manufacture bags in support of FUSE, a charity project tackling the refugee crisis in the UK*



# SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE AT GHS



# 'EVERYMAN'

At the start of the summer term the Lower Sixth Drama class began rehearsals for our production – 'Everyman'. A medieval play, adapted by Splendid Productions, which follows Everyman as he embarks on his journey to death, meeting important parts of his life along the way. The play is a fast-paced comedy which explores what it means to be human and all its complexities. This made it the perfect play to perform after a year of difficulties for many, due to its uplifting yet thought provoking nature. We wanted to acknowledge the dedication of the NHS workers over the last 18 months, thus we performed wearing scrubs and rainbow socks, aiming to leave the audience with a sense of hope and gratitude as we emerge from the pandemic.

Upon receiving our scripts, we were a little perplexed by the non-naturalistic style and somewhat zany uniqueness of the play. Once rehearsals were in full swing however, we quickly embraced the 'organised chaos' and fun of the production. The rehearsal period was intense due to the energetic, ensemble style of the piece, although this ultimately paid off in an engaging performance that received many laughs from the audience. Whilst Covid-19 has stopped us performing in Edinburgh this year, we are all excited to resurrect and develop the production next year to perform at the Fringe Festival 2022. Our class became a theatre company and the experience has energised and educated us ready for our final year at GHS.

**Amelia Khalek and Lauren Price, Upper Sixth**



# 'THE ORESTEIA'

We all know first hand what a difficult year this has been in so many ways, but it is impossible to overstate the excitement of returning to the stage after eighteen months of virtual Drama lessons and monologues performed in our bedrooms.

For our class, the joy was mixed with poignancy as this marked our last performance together after seven years of plays at Guildford High School. Our last senior play was shut down days before opening night because of the first lockdown in March 2020, and since then we have watched plays, the musical and the Edinburgh Fringe Trip be postponed until after we have left. Even during the rehearsal process for 'The Oresteia', we were unsure if the entire cast would be able to perform due to self-isolating situations! Suffice to say, we all felt surprised and relieved when the lights came up on opening night.

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*'The Oresteia' felt like the right play to end on, with its feminist slant driving home the values we have learned over our time at GHS.*



Although it was not the performance space we had envisaged (we were due to perform in the Drama Hall but social distancing prevented this), the Main Hall was where we started our theatrical journey together seven years ago, with plays like 'Little Women' and 'Julius Caesar', and therefore it felt right to perform to our 'bubbled' crowd in that same venue. And despite the tragedy of the plot, Splendid's brilliantly ironic and comedic adaptation of 'The Oresteia' felt like the right play to end on, with its feminist slant driving home the values we have learned over our time at GHS. The whole four week rehearsal process was such fun, and we are all incredibly grateful to Ms Fenton and Miss Whiteman for helping us to graduate on a high note! In fact, the whole experience was, to aptly quote the final words of the production, "Wonderful! Lovely! Fine! Nice!"

**Mia Grant (Class of 2021)**

# PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

## TOP SCHOOL IN SPORT FOR EIGHTH YEAR IN A ROW



Over the last eight years, the School Sport Magazine's leaderboard has shown three schools enjoying a remarkable dominance and consistency, with GHS always appearing in the top five of their top independent schools for sport. Millfield and Whitgift have frequently rivalled for the number one spot, whilst GHS has maintained an incredible reputation alongside them as the top performing girls' school for all eight consecutive years.

This year, GHS also punched well above its weight amongst the large public schools, finishing in third place overall and first amongst all girls' schools.

This achievement is such a wonderful accolade for everyone involved at GHS; the superb effort made by staff, pupils and supporting parents combine to provide a winning formula of passion, dedication and determination that is required for our school teams to thrive and produce stunning results year after year.

In previous years, state and independent schools have been divided into two separate lists, but in January 2021, they were amalgamated into one listing of the UK's top 200 schools. Sadly, due to Covid-19, competitions in certain summer sports, such as athletics, cricket, and tennis, were unable to start, but dozens of national age group events had already gone ahead or been played during the winter season. The aim of this year's record, therefore, was to celebrate the exceptional success that was attained before the first lockdown, and, in cases where national finals were called off, points were awarded for reaching qualifying stages instead.

*This year, GHS also punched well above its weight amongst the large public schools, finishing in third place overall and first amongst all girls' schools.*

When the pandemic pressed pause on the world of competitive sport in March 2020, GHS had already accumulated national and regional championship titles in all its main winter sports, including lacrosse, netball, swimming, biathlon, cross country, and ski racing.

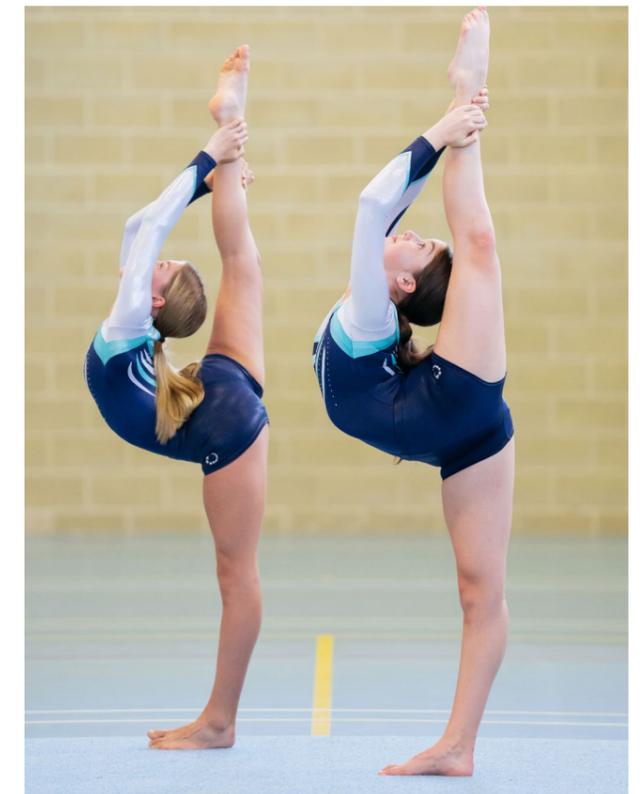
During the first half of 2021, extra-curricular sport at GHS was carried out internally to protect all its participants who played and competed safely in class and year group bubbles. Inter-school mixing did not re-start until May, when Surrey cricket and tennis leagues were given the go ahead to resume under new restricted guidelines, and athletics events took place soon after.

Cricket, as a young, developing sport, has exploded in popularity, and after only two fully competitive seasons, GHS has now entered the Cricketers School Guide's list of top 20 all-girls cricketing schools in the country, as well as confirming itself as the leading school in Surrey. GHS athletes also finished the recent summer season on a high, with the Junior and Inter teams placing 1st and 3rd respectively at the National ESSA Track & Field Cup Championships. A great deal of hard work goes into achieving success

at the outset, but maintaining that success is often an even harder task. Having reached the top, and enjoyed the view for eight years, there is no need to continually try to prove ourselves; however, complacency is not a word in the GHS vocabulary and these latest results just show how the school keeps evolving and moving forward.

*GHS had already accumulated national or regional championship titles in all its main winter sports, including lacrosse, netball, swimming, biathlon, cross country, and ski racing.*

Since the new academic year started in September, it has been wonderful to see extra-curricular sport, particularly inter-school sport, return to a more normal state, and we can feel confident that our young sportswomen will continue to do the school proud.



# SUNDAY TIMES SOUTHEAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE DECADE

In December 2020, Guildford High School was named The Sunday Times Southeast Independent School of the Decade by Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2021. Parent Power is widely

School has ranked in the top 10 for each of the past eight years.



*There are very few schools that can match the consistent excellence of Guildford High.*

acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools, and identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK. Guildford High Junior School ranked first in the national preparatory school league tables, and our Senior

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



**Sir Jon Coles, Chief Executive of United Learning, marks the award**

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



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

**Mrs Fiona Boulton, Headmistress**

# PARTNERSHIPS AT GHS

The events of March 2020 and the year that followed altered the landscape of our Partnership programme immeasurably. Instead of building relationships that would enable our students to be visible, out volunteering as part of our local community, relationships were forged that would enable us to best help those in our community.

As GHS went into the homes of our students, our Science Department packed up and donated their goggles, gloves and remaining hand sanitisers to the Royal Surrey County Hospital and other local NHS providers. Head of Design & Technology, Chris McGhee, (along with the help of our Caretakers & Facilities Manager) designed face shields; a total of 200 were produced and delivered to the Surrey NHS staff. Teaching staff, pupils and parents sewed a plethora of scrubs, masks, headbands and bags for frontline NHS staff.

As the physical walls of our classrooms came down, we were able to invite pupils from local schools and the northern academies in United Learning to join our online lessons. Our teachers were inspiring, our pupils were welcoming, and new friendships were

forged. For some, their future path in education will be forever changed. In ASPIRE, our pupils began writing letters to some of the elderly in our

*“ Relationships were forged that would enable us to best help those in our community.*

community. This exchange of letters continues, with Year 9 handing over to Year 7 at Christmas. For all involved this communication has become very important, bringing light in dark moments and the outside world to those who have been isolated from friends and family for so long. At home, our pupils became involved in their local communities, baking cupcakes and making flower arrangements for local people, sewing lavender bags for the elderly, delivering and cooking meals for the vulnerable, and collectively running hundreds of miles to raise funds for the NHS. At Christmas we held a Christmas Games Appeal alongside FoGHS; our aim was to give a gift of a family game to as many of the vulnerable



families in the local primary schools we work with as possible. Incredible generosity from our parent community enabled us to give a game to every one of these families.

*“ As the physical walls of our classrooms came down, we were able to invite pupils from local schools and the northern academies in United Learning to join our online lessons.*

Our current relationships with local schools are as important to us as forging new ones. Over summer 2020 we began working with Loseley Fields Primary School in Godalming. In spring of last year, Loseley completed the build on their fantastic new Field Study Centre, a purpose built science lab. With the fabric of the building complete, Junior School Science teacher, Katie Hughes brought her expertise to the fore with the fit out and layout of the classroom. This was followed by a series of science knowledge sharing sessions for Loseley staff. The sessions proved incredibly useful with learnings being transferred across the curriculum. A conversation begun virtually, a classroom fitted out virtually and a series of workshops were designed and delivered virtually. These are testament to our new ways of working and what can be achieved.

As we returned to school, forging relationships with local schools meant thinking differently and

*“ Teaching staff, pupils and parents sewed a plethora of scrubs, masks, headbands and bags for frontline NHS staff.*

creatively. In October 2020 we embarked on a new partnership between Stoughton Infant School and the GHS Design & Technology department. Each term, Stoughton pupils work on a project based on

a curriculum goal, and the focus for Year 1 in Spring this year was the Polar region. We wanted to bring our Design & Technology expertise to Stoughton and work with their pupils to deliver a polar building project. Due to lockdown, it was not possible to carry out the lesson in person so Jenni Wilkinson, Design & Technology teacher, put together a series of arts and crafts resources delivered in a box, a ‘Project

*“ This academic year, we hope, will once again bring opportunities to be out, visible and part of our local community.*

Box’. Each box contained a handmade game, an igloo building set, colouring in sheets and the instructions and materials needed to create a polar mobile. The Project Box was delivered to the Year 1 teachers and children. Those in school were able to make use of all the resources and those at home accessed the arts and crafts activities. The idea was to teach Year 1 pupils some basic Design and Technology skills of folding, cutting and assembly whilst they thought about where the Arctic and the Antarctic are in the world. It was a huge success.

As a result of lockdown, it has also been difficult for our Year 9 and 10 pupils to volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Due to the success of the Project Box, a team of GHS pupils are now volunteering and supporting Mrs Wilkinson. With much enthusiasm at Easter, they created and delivered an array of Easter activities for all in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2. This term's focus has been Victorian Beach Huts and catapults to protect a castle! It is a flourishing relationship and we were delighted to welcome some of the children into school in late June for an activities afternoon with our Year 9 ‘Project Box’ volunteers.

This academic year, we hope, will once again bring opportunities to be out, visible and part of our local community.

**Mrs Jenni Hall**

# CLOCK TOWER GRAFFITI

## WHODUNNIT?

The style of teaching, the fashion and the games played at GHS have all changed over the years, but one thing has remained the same, whether you walked through what was the front door in 1892 or through what is now the front door yesterday, and that's the original building itself.

If the corridors could talk, they have 130 years of news, gossip and scandal to share.

Above this building majestically stands the clock tower. Looking down on London Road it has seen people walking to the newly opened London Road station, or riding past, and perhaps to school, on the first 'safety' bicycles. Later, people driving past in maybe a new Model T Ford, through to my school era of Austin Minis and Maxis, and now to girls being dropped off in Teslas and Jaguar I Paces, clutching iPads and mobile phones: technology far beyond the imagination of those who climbed rickety wooden scaffolding, with no high viz or hard hats, to build the tower and install the clock.



*If the corridors could talk, they have 130 years of news, gossip and scandal to share.*

Before the clock was automated a few years ago, the caretaking team (and our predecessors) had to climb up inside the clock tower twice a year to change the time between summer and winter. It must have involved a lot of shouting before mobile phones as you can't see the clock faces from inside.

My team and I have access to all parts of the school, including the clock tower and other areas that are off limits to the rest of the staff and certainly girls.

Or so we thought...

I certainly had quite a surprise the first time I climbed through the loft hatch in what is now the staff room and discovered the clock tower's secret, that it has obviously been a target and challenge to past pupils



*These signatures go from the roof space right through and into the inside of the clock tower itself.*

to make their mark by chalking their names on the joists (see opposite page). These signatures go from the roof space right through to the inside of the clock tower itself.

And it's obviously been a 'challenge' that was passed down from year to year. The earliest date we could find is 1929, and the most recent in 2004. This leaves us with a fascinating piece of history and a bit of a mystery: How did the girls get up there?

The layout of the building has changed, and now the only access (that I know about) is a loft hatch in what is now the staff room, but I would love to know how they got up there and when. The loft is above classrooms, so even fairy footsteps would have been heard below. Is there a secret entrance we don't know about?

If anyone can enlighten me and the rest of my team we would love to know, and I'm sure the statute of limitations has expired so we won't expect anyone who owns up to go up there and clean off their name!

**Mr Iain Hazell, Facilities Manager**





## FAIR WINDS FOR LARRY



**Susan Singer, Headmistress, 1991-2002**

Mrs Singer's tenure oversaw the opening of the new Junior School building and re-development of the main school site, including new music facilities, a Senior hall and dining hall (Stocks). She chaired GSA and OCR committees, and was elected President of GSA for 2001. As Headmistress, she was a supreme professional but also a kind-hearted person who cared deeply about the school and every individual within it. Outside school, her warmth and compassion was seen through extensive charity work, but it was her adventurous side that led her to take on the challenge of sailing across the Atlantic.

I wonder how many of you ever look up to the top of the clock tower and wonder about the boat that is the weathervane. Maybe you think it is simply that a sailing boat is a nice thing to have on a weathervane. In fact it is Larry, a boat which my husband and I owned for nearly 30 years from 1991 (which, as it happens, is the year I became headmistress of Guildford High) and in which we crossed the Atlantic in the Summer of 2000 when I had a term's sabbatical from GHS. She is what is called a gaff-rig cutter, which means her mainsail is a quadrilateral rather than the more familiar triangle, and she has two triangular sails in front of the mast rather than one. She also, as can be seen in the photo, has a couple of red topsails for use when the winds are light.

She has quite a history. Larry was built for Capt R B Foster in 1907 in Poole, Dorset and she was designed by CE Nicholson to be 'a fast cruiser which could easily be handled by a small crew and remain comfortable offshore'. For well over a hundred years she has satisfied that brief. She is a wooden sailing boat and was registered with Lloyds in 1907 as Larry. An unusual name since boats are by tradition called 'she', but that is what she has always been called.

*The boat that is the weathervane is in fact Larry, a boat which my husband and I owned for nearly 30 years.*

In the 30s she was owned by a founding member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club and was raced very successfully in a number of Channel races. Through much of the 60s she was restored and rebuilt by someone we knew affectionately as the 'mad carpenter'. As a result she has a lovely comfortable wooden mahogany and iroko interior with all sorts of beautiful cupboards and clever fitments. Through much of the 70s and 80s she was based in the Channel Islands and sailed in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. In 1982 she was sailed to the Azores and back to celebrate her 75th birthday.

During the 90s my husband and I cruised her around the channel and coast of Britain, frequently to France

but also to La Coruna in Northern Spain, Mandal (Southern tip of Norway), Anglesey and SW Ireland as far as the Blasket Islands.

And then came the suggestion from the Church Schools Company that I might take a sabbatical term, which coincidentally was followed by a challenge from a neighbour to race across the Atlantic from Southampton to New York in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first OSTAR (Observer Single-handed Transatlantic Race). It was never the intention

*During the 90s we cruised her around the channel, coast of Britain and to France, Spain and Norway.*

that we should do it single-handed but it provided the course and the timing. So we (my husband and I, our younger daughter and her boyfriend) set sail on May 1st from the mouth of the Hamble River and got to New York 53 days later. Alumni who were in the school at the time may well remember hearing about the trip. Inevitably, given the weather in the North Atlantic, we encountered a few gales but there were many calm and beautiful times. The wildlife was amazing and the lack of people and other boats extraordinary. I still have the little sailor bear that I was given by the girls as a mascot, and he has been much loved by all my grandchildren. Entering New York harbour in the early hours of a lovely summer morning remains a very vivid memory – striking for the smell, the noise, the hustle and bustle and the fact that the very first sign of land was the top of the twin towers gradually coming up over the horizon.

Having got to New York, we now had a boat the wrong side of the pond! We cruised up through Long Island Sound to Maine and the wonderfully beautiful Penobscot Bay, where Larry overwintered and we returned to our jobs in the UK. The following Summer, we moved Larry to Northern Nova Scotia and spent time exploring the Bras D'Or Lakes and Newfoundland. By 2003 I had retired from GHS and the moment had come to get Larry back to the UK. So we set off from Northern Nova Scotia up the coast of Labrador, across the Labrador Sea, dodging



*In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first OSTAR (Observer Single-handed Transatlantic Race) my husband and I, our younger daughter and her boyfriend) set sail on May 1st from the mouth of the Hamble River and got to New York 53 days later.*

icebergs, to Parmit (Greenland), down the coast of Greenland inside the pack ice and so to St Kilda and then Tobermory, in the Inner Hebrides. Larry then overwintered for several winters in Inverness at the eastern end of the Caledonian Canal, from where we could easily cruise in the summer to the Inner and Outer Hebrides and to Orkney and Shetland. This was followed by a few years based in Limehouse Basin, London, where we celebrated Larry's 100th with a big party!

The next, longer, expedition was to the Lafotens in Northern Norway and an over-winter berth near Tromso, inside the Arctic Circle. Two years

in Shetland followed, with a cruise to the Faroe islands, and then, after a suggestion that it would be nice if the grandchildren could play on a beach without having to wear full wet weather gear and thermals, we sailed via the Bay of Biscay and round Cape Finisterre to Galicia in North Western Spain. Here there are wonderful Rias which provide calm protected sailing, lots of warm weather and are the centre of the Spanish mussel growing industry. In 2017 we brought her back to Falmouth for the major refit that she deserved after such extensive travels.

I sold her last October, fittingly to a young woman who is in marine research. She plans to live aboard with her partner and take Larry on further adventures.



*I still have the little sailor bear that I was given by the girls as a mascot and he has been much loved by all my grandchildren.*

**Mrs Sue Singer (Former Headmistress 1991-2002)**

PAGE 28: The iconic GHS clock tower, featuring the ship weathervane and Yacht Larry on one of her many adventures.  
 BELOW: Sue Singer with her husband and grandchild on Yacht Larry, and Yacht Larry docked  
 PAGE 31: Sue's expedition on Larry inside the Arctic Cricle.





## FOLLOWING MOTHERS' FOOTSTEPS

*Lucy, Zip and Kate have flown the GHS nest and are flourishing in their careers, while their daughters have just gained their GHS wings, starting the same journey their mothers did 20 years ago. A delightful story of friendships that last generations.*

Many parents enjoy sending their children to their old schools and this has often been the case at GHS; however, this year, two second generation GHS girls, and one third generation, have spent their first academic school year in the same class! I was really keen to find out if this had been intentional or mere coincidence - it turned out to be a bit of both!

It was an absolute delight to meet the three mothers concerned; girls I had taught at the very start of my time at GHS, but who did not seem to have changed at all. In fact, they were as dynamic, engaging, and full of life as they were when they left nearly 20 years ago!

Lucy Buck, née Povah (Class of 2001), always wanted

her daughter Lily to come to GHS. Having attended Warwick University as a Psychology undergraduate, she attained a Masters degree in Occupational Psychology at the University of Surrey, before joining her father's consultancy firm. After meeting her husband, they moved back to Guildford and so their daughter attending GHS became a real possibility.

*This year, two second generation and one third generation GHS girls have spent their first academic school year in the same class.*

Lucy admits that when she came to look around the school again, her first impression was a sense of déjà vu and familiarity, despite the significant change. The Junior School building had obviously undergone a great deal of development and modernisation, particularly the library and playground facilities. She also preferred the new look winter uniform and modern style PE kit (a far cry from the old regulation 'gym knickers' and plimsolls!), whilst the summer dress and blazer were as familiar as the old school crest and motto 'As One That Serveth'. However, most importantly, she felt the academic vigour and record of the school still speaks for itself.

According to Lucy, Lily's first year has been one of confidence building, with a variety of positive character

forming experiences and opportunities. As a curious girl, Lily loves to learn and explore, so the relaxed, fun-loving environment of her classroom has allowed her to develop her skills.

*Lucy felt the academic vigour and record of the school still speaks for itself.*

Zip Colley (née Jila) and Kate Pumfrey (née Bland), both long-time friends from the Class of 2002, who

ABOVE: Lucy Buck née Povah (Class of 2001), Zip Colley née Jila and Kate Pumfrey née Bland (Class of 2002)

PAGE 34-35: Lucy, Zip and Kate's daughters: Lily, Zara and Florence



joined GHS together in 1989, feel the same way about their daughters' first year.

*Kate says it has been a joy to see her daughter grow in confidence amongst great friends, in a lovely year group with friendly and nurturing teachers.*

Zip studied law at St John's College, Cambridge and subsequently obtained her Masters from Harvard Law School. She became a solicitor at a large US law firm, where she rose through the ranks in their restructuring team over 8 years. On the verge of partnership, she fell pregnant with Zara, and made the decision to work part time. A second daughter, Tessa, arrived 20 months later, and since then Zip has moved in-house in an attempt to balance motherhood with a three-day working week as the General Counsel for a hedge fund.

Zip's fondness for GHS is heartfelt and she has served her school with passion, commitment and loyalty since she left. She has been a school Governor for the past 8 years (more recently as Interim Chair), a tenure that started well before having her own children, and she also organises an annual Oxbridge

interview skills day. Zip was therefore delighted to have two girls so that they could follow her in her footsteps! Notwithstanding the challenges of last year, she and her husband have been impressed at how GHS has already buttressed Zara's love of learning in what they consider a healthy, rather than over-competitive, environment. Zip is delighted that Zara takes a genuine sense of pride in her friends doing well.

Now a senior employment lawyer, Kate studied Theology and Religious Studies at Jesus College, Cambridge, influenced by her wonderful teacher, Miss Julie Wagstaff (now Mrs Shopland, Head of Religious Studies). She then did a law conversion course in London, whilst sharing a house in Tooting with fellow alumna, Rebecca Hughes. Following a year out to travel, Kate started working at a magic circle law firm, where she still works today.

*Zip was delighted to have two girls that could follow in her footsteps! Her fondness for GHS is heartfelt as she had served her school with passion, commitment and loyalty since she left.*

Kate's decision to send Florence to the Junior School was not as carefully planned as Lucy and Zip's, but

*It is easy to underestimate the subtle power of education at GHS; we couldn't have started our daughter on a better platform.*

she too had remained in touch since leaving in 2002 via teachers and school friends. Kate's mother, aunts, sisters and cousins had all attended GHS, so the school had always been an important part of Kate's life. Kate fondly remembers the opportunities she had to play sport and music and to make lifelong friends (like Zip!).

As the time came to choose a school for Florence, the joint appeals of moving out of London, back to Guildford and setting Florence off on her own GHS journey were too great to resist. Buying a house in Guildford during lockdown 2020 was not straightforward, but Kate and her husband managed to move in just in time before term started for Lily, Zara and Florence in September.

Kate says it has been a joy to see her daughter grow in confidence amongst great friends, in a lovely year group with friendly and nurturing teachers. Despite the pandemic, Florence's first year has been a wonderfully happy one, where school is 'better

than anything else', her favourite day of the week is Monday, and she takes pride in wearing her grandmother's old purse belt.

When our meeting ended and the three alumni rushed off to their next appointments, I was left exhausted by the positivity that had radiated from our conversation. We had been sitting together in Stocks Hall, part of the new main school building that has undergone huge development since their day. When they first started in Reception, the original Stocks Hall was not much bigger than the current Junior School Hall, there was only one form per year group and their wooden classroom (with wind up heaters!) was in Morton House. In fact, the building of the new Junior School was carried out whilst they were there. Since then, the senior school has also increased in size and changed considerably, with outstanding facilities in all areas of the curriculum and new purpose-built facilities, such as the Sports Centre and 2016 Hall.

I could only reflect on so much change in a comparatively short amount of time, but one aspect stood out as remaining constant: three little girls have clearly started a school journey that will hopefully lead them along equally happy and successful paths as their mothers, for whom, the heart, spirit and ethos remain wonderfully unchanged despite the obvious changes to the fabric of the school. As one of them said towards the end, 'it is easy to underestimate the subtle power of education at GHS; we couldn't have started our daughter on a better platform'.



BELOW: U15A Lacrosse Squad 2001/2002.

From top to bottom: Slaps, Harri, Kez (Captain), Alsodog, HB, Bella, Tor, Freya, Loz, Rhiannon, Granny, Laura, Lucy



## CLASS OF 2005: MY FIRST BABIES

Over the past 24 years, I have been lucky enough to coach some extremely successful lacrosse teams. There is nothing more rewarding than taking on a group of sparky little Year 7s and seeing them develop into skillful senior players.

I had previously coached some good teams in my former teaching posts, but working with the impressively intelligent, responsive players that I have encountered at GHS has been a real privilege.

It is a standard joke in the PE Department that I have always called my younger teams 'my babies'. Some year groups have enjoyed the title more than others, but I think the Class of 2005 were always proud to know they were my first brood! They were a particularly strong, competitive sporting set, and their lacrosse team was arguably one of the most

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*It is a standard joke in the PE Department that I always call my younger teams 'my babies'.*  
formidable we have ever had. Boisterous, confident and always pushing the boundaries, they were a group defined by their aptitude and passion for the game. It became a real challenge to stay one step ahead of them, and my personal career, as well as my love of teaching the sport, was undoubtedly shaped and mirrored by their dedication and eagerness to improve.

We all know that success breeds success, and it was mainly this team, alongside the year groups above

and below them, who were trailblazers for the outstanding position we have continued to achieve to this day at the top of English Schools' Lacrosse. They attained a level of excellence in their stickwork, tactical awareness and teamwork that paved the way for younger, future lacrosse stars to emulate, whilst

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*We all know that success breeds success, and it was mainly this team, alongside the year groups above and below them, who were trailblazers for the outstanding position we have continued to achieve...*

their superb tournament results at county, regional and national level were unparalleled by any other school team at that time.

During their spell at GHS, from U12 to 1st team, our trophy cabinet benefitted from seven Surrey titles, three South Championships and two National Schools' Championships (attained when they were U15s and in their Upper Sixth year). Five of their team played for Junior England (Hannah Barnsley, Tor Burrows, Lauren Edgley, Kerry Kemp and Harri

Puddle), with Hannah making the U18 World Cup team when she was in Year 11. When they left school, Hannah, Tor and Kerry carried on playing at senior international level, whilst the rest of the group continued to play to a high standard at university.

A major factor contributing to their strength, was the incredibly close bond they enjoyed as friends and allies on and off the field, and it is amazing to see this connection has stayed long after leaving school.

Of course, they are not alone; GHS seems to have an extraordinary effect in creating wonderful, long-lasting friendships. In my alumni role, I find it incredibly rewarding to see this amongst groups I have taught. The worrying part is that 'my babies' are now having their own babies!

**Mrs Louise Stone**

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*A major factor contributing to their strength, was the incredibly close bond they enjoyed as friends and allies on and off the field...*

We caught up with each of the girls to find out how their lives have unfolded since leaving GHS.



Hannah Barnsley

Hannah works as a special needs teacher and has moved to Australia, currently living in Perth. Pictured above with her daughter, Willow.



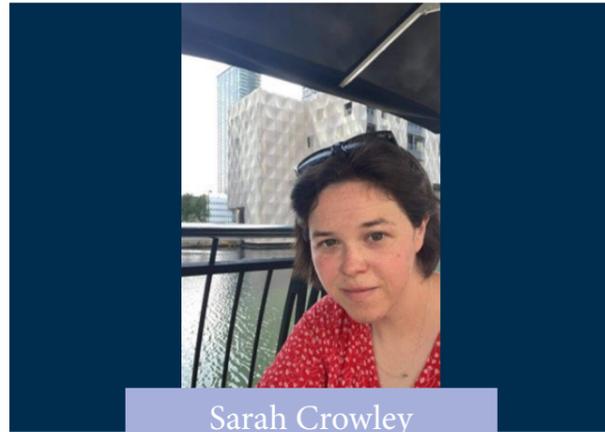
Laura Briggs née Markham

Laura is a Clinical Psychologist and lives in Sussex. Pictured with her two children, Sebbie & Lola.



Tor Burrows

Tor is an Executive Director at Grosvenor and lives in West London. Pictured above with her Goddaughter, Scarlett Mellor.



Sarah Crowley

Sarah is a Global Account Manager for SGS and lives in Worcester Park, London.



Harri Mellor née Puddle

Harri is a Senior Analyst for M&A Insurance at AIG and lives in Wimbledon Park, London. Pictured with her husband and two children Scarlett & Rufus.



Lucy Newman-Jones née Newman

Lucy is currently a Fitness Coach and Trainer and lives in Surrey. Pictured with her three daughters, Megan, Gina and Phoebe.



Freya Dear née Griffiths

Freya is a corporate Real Estate Solicitor at Fried Frank and lives in Wandsworth Town, London. Pictured with Louis & Theodore.



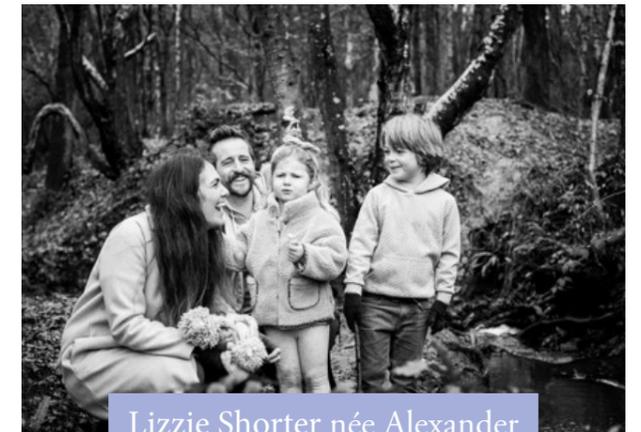
Kerry Easter née Kemp

Kerry is Head of Non-Scripted Marketing at Fremantle and lives in Oakwood, Newcastle. Pictured with her husband and son, Jacob.



Lauren Richards née Edgley

Lauren is a Real Estate Executive Search Consultant at Regrave Partners and lives in Cobham, Surrey. Pictured with her son, Rafe.



Lizzie Shorter née Alexander

Lizzie is a Property Developer and lives in Tunbridge Wells. Pictured above with her husband and two children, Wilbur and Beau.



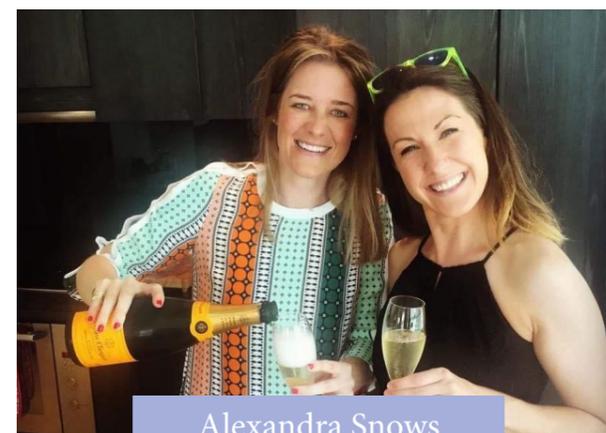
Sarah Jones née Appleton

Sarah is the Founder and CEO at Sprii.com and is currently living in Dubai. Pictured with her husband and children, Willow, Summer and Orlando.



Rhi Lines née Carr

Rhi is the Away from Home Ice Cream Lead at Unilever and lives in Southfields, London. Pictured with her children, Clemmie & Freddie.



Alexandra Snows

Alexandra works in Commercial and Business Development at Sprii.com and currently lives in Dubai. Pictured with Sarah (left) who she has worked with for the last five years.



Bella Wise née Strawson

Bella is a Patent Attorney and specialises in Biotechnology. She lives in South London with her family and is pictured above with her son, Wilf.

# LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY AND TO PARIS 2024

I started rowing at college in my first year at Cambridge University in October 2014. I wasn't a huge fan at first, and I wondered why I hadn't got more involved in the lacrosse and netball teams. That changed when I got my first taste of good rowing. I went to watch The Boat Race in March and got to row with some of the girls from the university squad when they came back to row at college during the summer term. Looking back I can see how much those two experiences shaped me; it sparked the desire to experience what good rowing felt like, and I haven't really looked back since.

I was part of the Cambridge University squad in my second and third year, and raced on the Thames in the second eight in my final year, which I loved. However, I never got selected for the blue boat (the university's first boat) so I didn't experience The Boat Race. I found this very difficult at the time, but the experience taught me vast amounts - lessons which

*Looking back I can see how much those two experiences shaped me, it sparked the desire to experience what good rowing felt like, and I haven't really looked back since.*

were fundamental to future successes. During the summer after graduating, I competed at the 2017 U23 World Championships, which helped me to believe I could compete for a place on the GB senior team in the future.

After Cambridge, I moved to the University of London for postgraduate study and to continue training, and from there I was invited onto a GB senior camp in early 2019. I then became a full time athlete, completing at least 16 sessions a week and often travelling abroad for camps. This culminated

in achieving selection for the Olympic Women's Eight in 2020, which was announced in March just before the Olympics were postponed.

*I competed at the 2017 U23 World Championships, which helped me to believe I could compete for a place on the GB senior team in the future.*

Around that time I also contracted Covid 19 and stopped training in order to recover. Unfortunately, it developed into a pretty serious form of long covid and I am still not able to do much training without triggering intense fatigue. Long Covid, and other forms of post-viral fatigue, are strange illnesses that are not well understood by the medical community or by general society. The idea of "fatigue" is unfamiliar to most; it's more than "tiredness" - it's not something you can sleep off. It's better to view it as having really low reserves that very slowly can improve over time. If you overdo it you can "crash", which basically feels like a massive hangover with nausea/headaches/general feeling of fragility. It also can really affect your mental health - when I have bad fatigue I definitely lose myself a bit, and that is one of the harder parts of it.

I want to describe the effects of fatigue to try and raise awareness. It's much easier to manage it if people better understand what's happening. The illness has unfortunately meant I haven't been able to train for the postponed Olympics, so the last year has been tough, but I am feeling positive that I will be able to come back to rowing and work towards the Paris Olympics in 2024. Although progress is slow, I am getting better, and there's no reason I can't make a full recovery. It's not the path I would have chosen, but I think I always knew when I signed up to be a

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*I have no doubt that my school days have influenced my current career choice.*

professional athlete that there could be things out of my control that would put obstacles in my way, as with anything in life, so I am focusing on recovery and using this time to do other things I enjoy too. I also still feel really lucky to be able to be a full time athlete at all. I've only just started my professional career, so I am still hopeful of some good years to come after I have recovered.

I have no doubt that my school days have influenced my current career choice. I absolutely loved sport at GHS and feel really lucky that I was at a school that took sport and training seriously.

That, combined with my mum ensuring I was at every practice whether I was in the D team or the A team, instilled an ethic around sport that has carried me a long way.

If I had any message to pass onto the girls at GHS it would be to throw yourself into whatever challenges come your way and to work hard, but also to keep perspective - achievements come and go but I find it is the way that I approach life, not any outcome, that brings me the most fulfilment.

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*I absolutely loved sport at GHS and feel really lucky that I was at a school that took sport seriously.*

**Oonagh Cousins (Class of 2013)**



## THE CELLO TRAVELS TOO!



I moved to Oslo in August 2020 to study with Torleif Thedéen, one of the world's leading cellists. The timing was extremely lucky as I finished my auditions just as the world was going into lockdown at the end of March, and my first term started just as everything had opened up again - all in all, a dream come true.

The Norwegian Academy of Music is fairly small, and the level of the students is very high, but thankfully the atmosphere is relatively relaxed since competitiveness just isn't very Scandinavian. Despite being known as a 'power class', my cello class is

incredibly supportive and friendly. In terms of my cello studies, the pandemic's main impact has been twofold: firstly, that Torleif, who lives in Sweden, has only been able to teach us via Zoom since the beginning of February due to Norway's borders being closed; secondly, that most of us haven't been able to perform for well over a year, which has resulted in a high level of performance anxiety whenever a rare concert opportunity does present itself. In an attempt to tackle this, our teacher advised us to start playing for each other on a regular basis in order to get used to the idea of performing again and, while terrifying, being surrounded by such amazing players (many of

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*My quartet, for example, has a lovely tradition where we rehearse and make dinner together each Sunday.*

them international competition winners), and good friends who constantly inspire and push me to do better, has ended up being a completely inspirational experience.

My typical working day is 12+ hours. This breaks down into individual practice (6-8 hours), various forms of coaching, piano and cello lessons, orchestral and chamber rehearsals and academic lessons such as Music History, Harmony, digital competence etc. Although there are no academic lessons at weekends, I still aim for between 4-8 hours of practice, and this is often when chamber rehearsals are held - my quartet, for example, has a lovely tradition where we rehearse and make dinner together each Sunday.



I try to counter the effect of all the hours of sitting (and all the Fika, the Scandinavian tradition of coffee and cake breaks) with regular exercise. This is easy to do because the Norwegian landscape is simply stunning, and I've always been a *fritluftsentusiast* (literally translated as “open-air-enthusiast”) anyway. My regular running route is along the fjord and this winter I even learnt to cross country ski in the mountains above Oslo. A tube from my local station gets you to the slopes in 30 minutes and, as a student, you can rent all the equipment you need for £60 for the entire winter. Plus, most of the slopes are floodlit so you can even go at night, although

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*Being surrounded by such amazing players...and good friends who constantly inspire and push me to do better has ended up being a completely inspirational experience.*



there have been some occasions where we've had to navigate our way home in the pitch black. I've also been skating on frozen lakes surrounded by snowy forests and have even taken up ice bathing in the sea. Of course, there are some things that have taken a bit of getting used to. The fact that in the winter the sun sets as early as 14:30 and in the summer as late as 22:30 for example, or that winter temperatures of -15 degrees mean that not only your shopping but also your eyelashes and the water in your skin freeze during the 5 minute walk back from the supermarket (I don't think I've ever appreciated wool this much before now). Also, although it has been fun to realise that I now understand the names of everything in IKEA, studying in another language(s) has also been challenging.

The first semester in particular was not exactly a walk in the park, as I discovered that there are two different versions of written Norwegian, and several very different dialects. Unfortunately, my heaviest and wordiest subject (Music History) is taught in the one I didn't know! I have also had to learn Swedish since many of the teachers and students are from Sweden. The amount of bureaucratic red tape involved in moving here has also been impressive, and, together with Covid and Brexit complications, means I now have to travel with a large ring binder of paperwork (even my cello has to have its own passport) and a very positive attitude.

Although I've had an amazing year, I am hugely

looking forward to coming back to the UK for the summer as I have missed my family a lot and have only had the chance to see them for a grand total of two weeks this year. I won't be returning to Oslo until early 2022 however, as I am about to embark on a new exciting adventure, namely a Hollywood film! The offer was a huge surprise as I have never done any acting other than 'nobleman at the back with a drawn-on beard' in Shakesfest, so the credit has to go to my sister Izzie (Class of 2021) and Miss

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*Of course, there are some things that have taken a bit of getting used to. The fact that in the winter the sun sets as early as 14:30 and in the summer as late as 22:30 for example...I don't think I've ever appreciated wool this much before now.*

Fenton (who never actually taught me at GHS) for helping me prepare for the initial audition, especially as Izzie was in the middle of her A Level mocks! I can't give any other details yet except to say that I will be getting to know another European capital city, switching to a different European language and learning about a whole other art form. Luckily, my cello gets to come too!

**Sophie Kauer (Class of 2020)**





## ART WORKS

My name is Hattie (Harriet) Abbott, and I am 22 years old. I left Guildford High in 2017 after being at the school since I was 4. Having had a strong passion for Art & Design all the way through school, I knew this was something I was going to pursue in the future - although I had no idea where to start. On leaving GHS I sought to challenge the conventional academic pathways and still have success. With that, I want to inspire the next generation.

I studied an art foundation at Central St Martins in London before moving to Loughborough University in 2018. Despite achieving the top

*On leaving GHS I sought to challenge the conventional academic pathways and still have success. With that, I want to inspire the next generation.*

grade at St Martins, I missed the sport, diversity of subjects and level of socialising that a university offers. Since July 2020, I have been on a placement year working in my first professional creative role at Gymshark before returning to complete my final year in October 2021. Throughout the job, I have had vast exposure to all the creative roles within the industry: from Producers, to Artworkers, to Directors, to Storyboard Artists whilst maintaining my love for gym and sport. Despite working from home for half of the year, I have had the chance to do graphic designs and illustrations for the company, as well as directing brand shoots, pitching creative ideas, public speaking, and storyboarding.

*Since July 2020, I have been on a placement year working in my first professional creative role at Gymshark.*

To help support the care being given to COVID-19 patients at Royal Surrey County Hospital, I drew a poster to highlight the importance of nutrition for very sick patients. COVID-19 patients whose breathing was being supported by CPAP struggled to breathe and eat at the same time. My poster was used on the wards to help remind the multidisciplinary team to think about their patient's nutrition and consider a feeding tube.

The brief was to create a piece of poster art that would stand out on the COVID wards as a reminder. Typically in hospitals, posters are done by Clip Art graphics, so I chose to draw the poster in biro. I felt

*After I graduate in 2022, I am hoping to make steps into the London Advertising or Film Industry*

this contrast of a personal, hand-drawn piece in the soft touch of a biro would stand out much more effectively in the wards amidst the white, simple, text-heavy posters – as well as an emotional appeal.

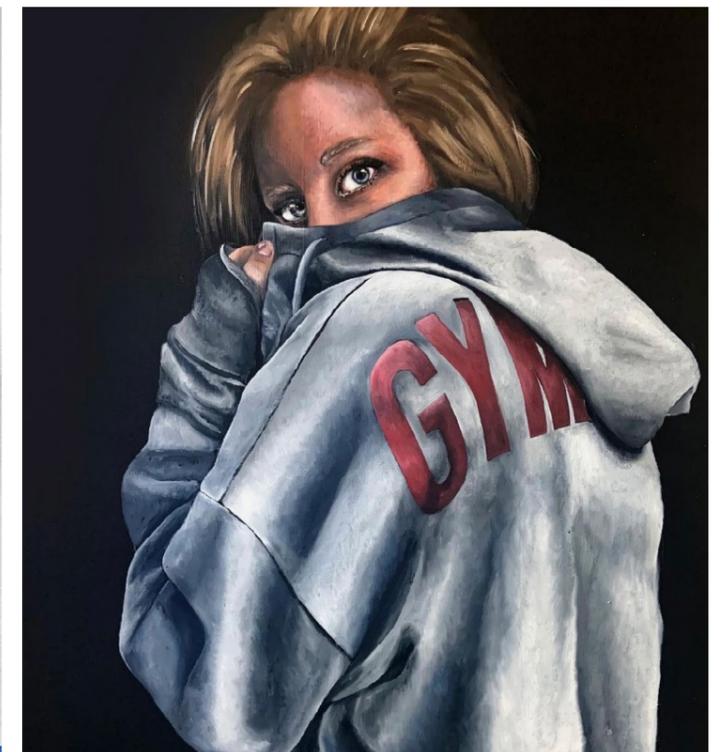
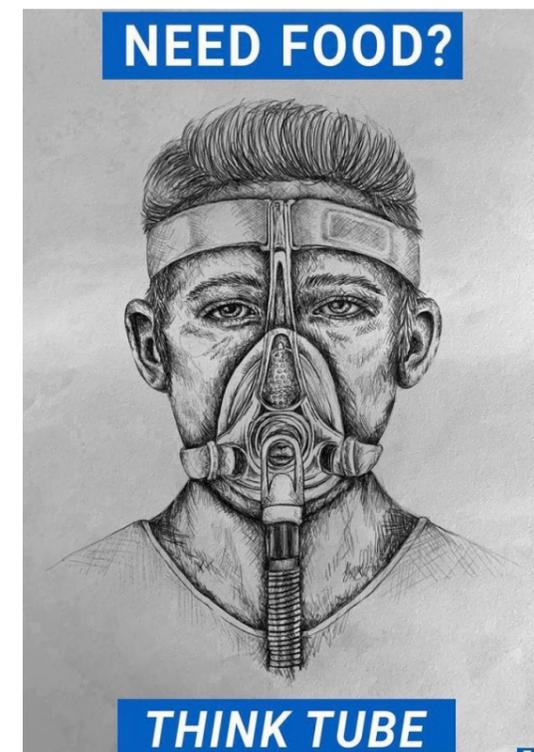
So, what next? Well, after I graduate in 2022 I am

hoping to make steps into the London Advertising or Film Industry, either as an Art Director, or as a Lead Creative Director with specialism in Illustration. I hope to one day achieve my goal of starting up my own agency.

*To help support the care being given to COVID-19 patients at Royal Surrey County Hospital, I drew a poster to help highlight the importance of nutrition for very sick patients.*

To anyone who is a budding creative but has no idea where to start, I cannot recommend enough keeping those grades up at school, but keep your creativity burning. Without the academic drive that Guildford High pushed me towards, I would not have the same passion to apply this to my own creative career. My advice? Don't let anyone tell you no. Don't let anyone tell you it's a "soft subject". Be yourself. Life is too short to plan otherwise. But have fun on the way!

**Hattie Abbott (Class of 2017)**



# PHYSIO'S FOCUS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

I left Guildford High School ten years ago, and after studying at the University of Birmingham I started my career in physiotherapy. With sports playing a large part of my life at school and university, an active job was the perfect fit for me. Following graduation, I travelled through South America and on return I moved to London where I started working at one of the largest NHS trusts in the UK.

For the past six and a half years I have worked as a physiotherapist at Guy's and St Thomas', rotating through various specialisms. My work has ranged from treating polytrauma patients in a 100-bed intensive care unit, to teaching new amputees to use their first prostheses, and even managing patients on long term ventilation with complex respiratory needs. Irrespective of the specialism, I have always



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*I left Guildford High School ten years ago, and after studying at the University of Birmingham I started my career in physiotherapy.*

loved my job and working closely with patients and their families, as well as wider multidisciplinary teams within the hospital.

A few years ago, I moved into the world of women's health physiotherapy, and I haven't looked back! As well as working for the NHS I also work for a private clinic in Chelsea, Complete Physio. As a women's health physiotherapist, I support women at all stages of life, though a large part of my job is providing support and guidance for women during and following their pregnancy.

“  
*For the past six and a half years I have worked as a physiotherapist at Guy's and St Thomas', rotating through various platforms.*

I am aware that it can be difficult for people to access information surrounding women's health physiotherapy and feel there is often a lack of understanding regarding the services and benefits that seeing a specialist can offer. Personally, I feel that everyone should see a women's health physiotherapist following the birth of their child, no matter how their delivery went. My role extends

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*I find it incredibly rewarding helping women regain control of their life and return to their normal way of living.*

much beyond pregnancy and post-natal care, it also involves helping women navigate menopause while maintaining their quality of life and guiding women through a new diagnosis of endometriosis, managing symptoms of prolapse, incontinence, bladder and

“  
*As a women's health physiotherapist, I support women at all stages of life.*

bowel dysfunction and pelvic pain. For me, the most important part of my job is ensuring women feel comfortable to speak openly about their symptoms in a safe environment. I find it incredibly rewarding to help women regain control of their life and return to their normal way of living.

If you would like to know more about women's health physiotherapy, how seeing someone could be of benefit to you, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am always happy to help wherever I can!

**Sophie Ellse (Class of 2011)**





## THE GREEN FAIRY

From the big town production of 'Chicago' to performing 'Twelfth Night' in Japan, Georgina Hellier (Class of 2010) reflects on her career to date, fond memories of GHS and learning the art of patience.

I left Guildford High School in 2010, and am now an actress, voiceover artist and writer. After leaving school I headed to drama school, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, to learn more about the craft of acting.

After RADA, I decided to go to Oxford University to read English, my other love, at Lady Margaret Hall, and became heavily involved in the Oxford University Dramatic Society. I was the first student to hang from the Oxford Playhouse stage in 'Angels in America', and also realised my dream of playing Roxie in the first student production of 'Chicago'. Another highlight was performing as Maria in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' in Japan, London and Guildford, produced by the renowned Thelma Holt.

From that show, I got my first agent and was encouraged to pursue acting as a career. I began

*I was the first student to hang from the Oxford Playhouse stage in 'Angels in America', and also realised my dream of playing Roxie in the first student production of 'Chicago'.*

working in Off-West End plays and musicals, then acted in an independent feature film, and recently got cast in my first TV series alongside a star-studded cast, which I'll be filming later this year. Inspired by another Guildford High girl, writer Lucy Prebble (Succession), I have also turned my hand to writing and am currently working on my debut short film, which I'll also star in. It has got attention from a brilliant script editor who is encouraging me to develop it into a TV series.

A distinct memory from Guildford High is my GCSE English lessons with Ms Fenton. Not only did she help me communicate my ideas more effectively, but she also nurtured my more performative traits, encouraging all her pupils to read aloud in class. I loved the chance to inhabit different characters and so it is no surprise that I have also fallen into voiceover work, which has proved incredibly helpful

*Inspired by another Guildford High girl, writer Lucy Prebble (Succession), I have also turned my hand to writing...*

in supporting my creative life. I have voiced TV commercials for brands such as Nature Valley, Scholl, Qatar Airways, and most recently the Booking.com adverts that have been played in support of the UEFA Euro competition, alongside video games, and the Doctor Who audiobook with Tom Baker.

At GHS I was heavily involved in anything dramatic – I was the lion in the panto The Wizard of Oz, did GCSE Drama, performed as Nellie in 'South Pacific' with RGS, and starred in the musical 'The Boyfriend'.

But the all-roundedness that Guildford High encouraged has made me a more confident performer. I continued my sport since school – getting my Oxford Blue in swimming and triathlon at university. I have learnt that sport is essential for keeping my life well balanced, and a great way to meet a different set of people. I am due to compete in the Sprint Triathlon World Championships in Bermuda this autumn (if things go to plan) so am enjoying training in preparation. Keeping fit certainly helps me perform better on stage.

The main thing I've learnt is the art of patience. I always felt like I was in such a rush to achieve everything quickly, but life doesn't always work that way. In my field, you can feel like things are never going to happen for you, but then they can change overnight. I was hired by a casting director to fill in for the smaller parts for a TV show read through, and the next day I'd been cast and was all set to fly to France for five weeks. Guildford High definitely equips you with the ability to talk to everyone and anyone, and that has certainly been so important for me, particularly because your reputation is everything. Being naturally curious and confident helps you navigate your way.

**Georgina Hellier (Class of 2010)**



## WARDROOM TO WARFARE

In last year's edition of Highlights, we featured Emily Woolcott (Class of 2014) as one of our Front-Line workers during the pandemic's first period of lockdown. At the time, 'Woolly' (as she was always known at GHS) was working at Sainsbury's from 04:00-08:00 doing online shopping picking. This kept her busy

*2021 brought a multitude of new challenges for many, and for me this was the start of my journey*

while she was waiting to begin her official training to become a Royal Naval Officer. After many bumps along the road and the best part of two years from applying to passing all the rigorous assessments and interviews, we were therefore delighted to hear the continuation of her story.

2021 brought a multitude of new challenges for many, and for me this was the start of my journey to becoming a Warfare Officer in the Royal Navy. In January I started the first phase of my training at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Life consisted of early morning booted squad runs,

*Despite the mental and physical demands, the last few months have thrown at me, passing out with an HM commission was most certainly the proudest day of my life so far.*

ironing everything into A4, polishing the bottom of shoes, getting dunked in the river, and various leadership assessments. Not to mention the stretcher runs and night exercises on Dartmoor.

After being "militarised" we then embarked on 15 weeks of "marinisation" where we learnt to drive small picket boats, focussed on the fundamentals of navigation, and broadened our leadership skills further. The term also included some initial sea time, where I spent four weeks at sea on HMS Portland, a frigate that specialises in anti-submarine warfare. From standing on the bridge in the middle of the night on watch, to doing early morning circuits on

the flight deck, I certainly got a taste of life on board, and loved it.

Despite the mental and physical demands, the last few months have thrown at me, passing out with an HM commission was most certainly the proudest day of my life so far, and one I will never forget. To add to this momentous stage in my life, I have made it into the Navy golf team and have a big match against the police this year, followed by the inter-services championships at Saunton in mid-September. Never did I ever think I'd be representing the Navy for golf!

*From standing on the bridge in the middle of the night on watch, to doing early morning circuits on the flight deck, I certainly got a taste of life on board, and loved it.*

I am excited for the next phase of my training where I will focus more on my specialisation of warfare, including a few months at sea before returning to the classroom for my initial warfare officer foundation course.

**Emily Woolcott (Class of 2014)**



# VIRTUAL ECONOMICS TALK



ALICE LIM  
(CLASS OF 2014)

ANNA PURVIS  
(CLASS OF 2019)

JULIA PAMILIH  
(CLASS OF 2016)

HANNAH TORRANCE  
(CLASS OF 2015)

CATHERINE WELSH  
(CLASS OF 2017)

On Thursday 4 February, the Economics Department hosted a virtual careers event featuring five former GHS students who shared their experiences studying Economics and how it led them on their varied and exciting career paths. The former students now work in a variety of fields, such as an Analyst at Citibank, an apprenticeship with EY and Sustainability at The London Metal Exchange.

It was fascinating to hear about the different routes taken to arrive in these roles, and certain challenges that arose such as starting a first job after university during lockdown. The audience was treated to some wonderful advice on how to make good choices at university, and how to explore options for future

careers; our current GHS students particularly appreciated the tips on what to study at university and how to make the most of work experience opportunities.



*The audience was treated to some wonderful advice on how to make good choices at university, and how to explore options for future careers.*



*The former students now work in a variety of exciting fields, such as an Analyst at Citibank, an apprenticeship with EY and Sustainability at The London Metal Exchange.*

We also had a fascinating talk from Professor – and GHS parent – Neil Rickman on how Economics can be found in almost any subject area, making it vitally important to tackling all the major issues of the day, and the importance of diversifying the field of Economics in terms of recruiting more women into top business and academic roles. Overall, an inspiring event for all who watched.

**Mr David Walter, Head of Economics**

**Whether you work in an interesting sector, took an exciting career path or have pearls of wisdom for our current pupils; GHS wants to hear from you.** Contact the alumni team by email to find out how you can become more involved in our careers and networking opportunities.



# A NIGHT AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

On Thursday 14 October, a drinks reception was held for David Cleaver in the Churchill Room at the Houses of Parliament, to mark his retirement as Head of Politics.

Organised by two alumni, Felicity Sturge (Class of 2010), who is currently teaching Politics at GHS, and Antonia Kerridge (Class of 2010), who now works in the Civil Service, at the Houses of Parliament, the event was attended by over 60 former pupils from 2005 through to 2020. Anne Milton, who was MP for Guildford for much of David's time at GHS, and who hosted numerous visits by the girls studying Politics to Parliament, kindly helped secure the venue, and was also there to enjoy the evening.

It was wonderful to hear the girls' stories of David's lessons, as well as their wider memories of school.



*The evening attracted over 60 former pupils from 2005 through to 2020 to attend.*

Antonia gave a lovely speech which brought to life David's inimitable teaching style, whilst David's speech, along with a heartfelt thanks to the girls for coming to see him, also managed to reference both Tony Blair's premiership and why the UK should introduce proportional representation, as only David could!

Overall, it was a perfect way to celebrate David's time at GHS, amongst so many of the pupils that he had the pleasure of teaching.



EXCERPTS FROM ANTONIA'S SPEECH

“It’s a real honour to be asked to say a few words of introduction this evening. I know that none of you are here to listen to my voice and I promise that the dulcet Welsh tones will be hitting the microphone soon.”

“Looking around me this evening, it makes me reflect on the impact that Mr Cleaver has had on so many people, be that former and current students, colleague or good friends. Any one of you could be standing up here right now and sharing your story about how Mr Cleaver has inspired you or supported you. It is clear that his 19 years in GHS service has touched so many.”

“His lessons taught me to engage with what was going on around me, to debate, to be critical, to listen to others, to respect differing opinions, to defend my own, and to think about the wider context in which I lived.”

“Yes, I probably learned more about Tony Blair than I expected, and yes, there were some tech mishaps – like the time Mr Cleaver asked us how to use the internet so he could show us a YouTube video. We told him to type the address (i.e. web address) into the search bar. When he started typing his home address we realised we had a long way to go!”

“But joking aside, the classes did really expose me to that new world and lit a spark.”

“On behalf of everyone here this evening, I would like to say a huge thank you for everything you have done to light that spark for so many people during your time at GHS.”



# INAUGURAL YEAR FOR TEAM TASSIE

It has only taken 60 years since the inception of The Silver Tassie in 1961 to get a team of four old (and we are pretty old!) GHS girls to play in this alumni golf competition...but oh, it was so worth the wait!

On a glorious, sunny, but slightly unfriendly, early start to the day, we met at The Royal Berkshire Golf



*It has only taken 60 years since the inception of The Silver Tassie in 1961 to get a team of four old GHS girls to play in this alumni golf competition.*

Club near Ascot, on Monday 7 June to take part in a Better-Ball Stableford format in two pairs. Our aggregate scores would determine where we finished overall.

I'm delighted to report that not only did we have a brilliant day out and a delicious lunch, but that out of 23 schools, we finished a respectable joint 13th! This was a huge relief to us all given the enormous pressure that was resting on our shoulders as the inaugural GHS team!



*Out of 23 schools, we finished a respectable joint 13th!*

We had a few funny moments trying to work out the zips on our very bright turquoise National Schools Lacrosse fleeces, kindly loaned to us by the PE department! We did wear a variety of blues to stay true to GHS colours!

Our challenge to you - are you a golfer? Are you free next year on Monday 23 May 2022? If so, would you like to make up a second team to play? I know there are more golfers out there. We had such fun catching up and reminiscing over lunch, as well as having the privilege of playing a top-rated course. Please come and join us!

If you'd like to play or find out more, then please contact me on: [vicky\\_henry81@hotmail.com](mailto:vicky_henry81@hotmail.com). I'd love to sign you up!

Thanks so much to Suzie, Judith, and Rosemary for playing this year. See you again next year!

**Vicky Henry (Class of 1976)**



# LIFE EVENTS



TOP: Katie Pateman-Jones (Forbes), Caz Beldham (Stott), Thea Patterson (Gardner), Kathryn Waller (Burnside), Imogen Talbot (Bland), Alex Robinson, Philippa Davies, Gemma Ives (Ellse)  
 MIDDLE: Georgina Gould (Mehta) with her bridesmaids including fellow alumna Melissa Lawford  
 BOTTOM: Alex Robinson, Caz Beldham (Stott), Katie Pateman-Jones (Forbes), Jess Moseley (Kimpton), Gemma Ives (Ellse), Philippa Davies, Julia Simson (Gasson), Kathryn Waller (Burnside), Felicity Richardson, Laura Walker (Sweet), Susie Stewart, Rosie Shapland, Thea Patterson (Gardner)

# STAYING IN TOUCH

## Anne Dunford OBE née Tunnell

CLASS OF 1953



Despite the restrictions of COVID-19 I remain busy, with many meetings and events online.

I am now Lay Canon Emeritus of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (i.e., retired) but continue as a member of my local Parochial Church Council. It's great to see the Ipswich Institute, of which I am President, opening more fully with the easing of lockdown restrictions. Plans are starting for the Institute's 200th Birthday in 2024; its roots are like those of the Guildford Institute. I'm still involved with Girlguiding, Trefoil Guild, and learning Latin! It has been good to meet up with friends and family again and to correspond with old school friends too. I was lucky enough to enjoy a postponed holiday to Northumberland in June; such a beautiful county and so many sheep!



On leaving GHS, I moved to board at St Teresa's Convent, Effingham. My early career was in administration, including as the Deputy Conference Manager of the 1998 Lambeth Conference and working in outplacement. After marriage and the birth of our children, I followed a call into ordained ministry, training at Westcott House, Cambridge. I was Curate at St John's Mew and after our move to Northumberland for my husband's job, I have worked in Bedlington and Morpeth parishes. I am now a Hospital Chaplain in our local acute Trust and run occasional craft-based retreats at Shepherds Dene and Parcevall Hall retreat houses. Recently I've completed a PG Cert at University of Glasgow in Healthcare Chaplaincy and have just finished the first year of a two-year Masters in Practical Theology at Cranmer Hall in St John's College, University of Durham.

## Angela Montford née Kilpatrick

CLASS OF 1954

I trained as a nurse at Bart's Hospital and then the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. My husband, Guy, and I moved from Woking to St Andrews in 1988 where I read for an MA in Medieval History at the university and followed this with a PhD on medieval friars and their relationship with medicine, published as a book in 2004. I taught briefly at the university, and after retiring I organised adult education at the local Botanic Garden for 10 years. I give talks locally and continue to do some independent research. My sister, Gabrielle Mabley née Kilpatrick (Class of 1949) died in June 2021 at her home in Surrey.

I am in occasional touch with friends from my form: Alison Nice (Page) who also lives in Scotland; Margaret Ford (Edwardes); Sandy Sell (Gillett); Caroline Dowse (Davis); Elizabeth Stewart (Manning) and Clare Russell (Simpson). If anyone knows anything of Jenny Phillips, a friend from the year below, I would love to hear news of her.

## Rosalind Gardyne née Lonsdale

CLASS OF 1981

In Lockdown, recording a monologue for the writer of a play I had been cast in gave me the idea to try my own 30 second fun pieces. I set myself the target of recording one a week for a year to keep my acting profile alive whilst entertaining family and friends. See Ros' Real Anecdotes on YouTube; "Adeste Fideles" released on 18 December 2020 and "School Play" released on 5 March 2021 are about incidents at GHS. The play "Reunited" was performed at the Guildford Fringe Festival on Saturday 10 July 2021 in which I played Julie. See also [www.RosalindLonsdale.com](http://www.RosalindLonsdale.com)

## Elizabeth Brown née Gordon Clark

CLASS OF 1981

## Thea Gardner

CLASS OF 2007



I left GHS in 2007 and spent six years at the University of Bristol training to become a vet. After graduating, I spent some time helping in a sanctuary in Thailand before returning to the UK and starting work in Hertfordshire. Three years later, I became partner at a branch in Potters Bar, where I still love working and have just become a recognised advanced practitioner in small animal medicine. It's hard work, but great fun and always keeps me busy!

This summer, I got married to my now-husband, Jamie, in Windsor. We were fortunate enough to have 13 ex-GHS girls in attendance as we are still such great friends. It was a very special day and I feel so lucky to have made such strong, life-long friendships at GHS.

Five years ago, Jamie and I co-founded our (other) business called 'Ramekins and Wine'. It all started as a 'GHS' dinner party, which somehow developed into a wine and food pairing evening with a game alongside. We've gone from hosting supper clubs and a few dinners for friends, to being a fully-fledged catering business hosting all kinds of events including hen do parties and weddings (we actually catered our own!) The pandemic posed a new challenge, but also opened a new avenue of 'online' tastings with wine and food delivered to the door – this was in fact sampled by Louise Stone and her family, who certainly seemed to enjoy it. We offer a 10% discount for GHS alumni, so for anyone interested, please visit our website – [www.ramekinsandwine.co.uk](http://www.ramekinsandwine.co.uk)



Finally, in the remaining 'spare' time, I still enjoy sports and music and entertaining our two chihuahuas – Mo and Pinot! Who knows where the future will take us, but I'm sure it won't be boring!

## Emma Adams

CLASS OF 2014



I left GHS in 2014 and went on to study politics at Durham University, whilst still pursuing my lacrosse career. I played in two world cups for England during my time at Durham, captaining our U19 team in 2015 in Edinburgh and playing for the Senior team in 2017 in Surrey. In both World Cups I came away with a bronze medal. At the same time I was playing for Durham University 1st team and in my last two years I captained our successful side which remained unbeaten in all BUCS games whilst I was there from a fresher to a third year.

After graduating from Durham I went on to work at Berkhamsted School for a year as lacrosse assistant, which felt very strange, especially when I was coaching the 1st team against GHS.

During my year at Berkhamsted I made the decision to join the police force and I applied for the Police Now Graduate Programme. I was successful in my application and took part in a six-week intense training before officially joining Hertfordshire Constabulary in September 2018. Since then I have worked on the streets as constable for two years, and from 2020-2021 I pursued my passion in investigative work to become a detective. In June 2021, however, I made a very big decision to change my career path and move into an industry that fulfilled my sports passion, and so I have started a Partnerships Intern role at a fantastic company called Pitch Marketing Group, which is based in Soho. I am absolutely loving living and working in London and continue to play lacrosse for England.

## Pippa Foster

CLASS OF 2017



It is coming up on five years since I left GHS, but I still cherish memories and close friends I made during that time. I have just started my fifth year of medical school at Imperial College London, having spent most of the Covid lockdowns completing my iBSc in Global Health with Imperial's School of Public Health and achieving a first. I am hoping to publish my work on vaccine hesitancy in the European Union shortly. I have also been helping with the Covid vaccination scheme at mass vaccination centres. I have really loved living in London and I hope to work as a junior doctor here or closer to home back in Surrey. I hope everyone is staying happy and healthy.

## Poppy Miller

CLASS OF 2016



I don't have any news as exciting as Woolly (see page 52) but like everyone, the past year has been a bit of a whirlwind. I graduated university in July 2020 from Oxford, Corpus Christi College with a Master of Engineering (MEng) in Materials Science. It was

interesting completing my degree in the peak of the pandemic, and has also meant I haven't had my official graduation ceremony yet and might not for a couple of years!

I then joined Bank of America on their graduate scheme in August 2020 and have been an Analyst within Global Transaction Services for a year now (crazy!). I moved to London with some friends back in February and am loving it. I am really looking forward to going back to the office in some form - it's been a tough year starting my first job 100% virtually and I still have never been into the office.

You'll be pleased to know that I'm still playing netball (with Anna Christensen!) - we're part of a local league in London and play every Tuesday. Although we didn't have the best of luck winning anything whilst at GHS! - we did manage to get our hands on a medal last season. Music wise - it's been challenging with the pandemic but I'm looking forward to joining an orchestra/choir when things start up again in the next few months as I did play a lot of music at university so am keen to keep it up!

## Julia Pamilih

CLASS OF 2016



In 2020, I graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. After four years of summers spent interning in finance and consulting, I decided that I wanted to try something a bit different. I ended up being offered the unique role of helping to set up the new China

Research Group with two MPs.

It's been a frenetic first year on the job but I've been very lucky to get both an insight into the world of Westminster and a front-row seat to a fast-moving foreign policy debate. And most importantly, I've stayed in touch with my wonderful GHS friends throughout uni and as we start careers in London and beyond!

## Hannah Torrance

CLASS OF 2015



After graduating from Oxford (PPE) in summer 2018, I travelled the east coast of Australia from Melbourne to Cairns before working with a professional Equestrian (Eventing) rider, Megan Jones, in South Australia. It was a rich learning experience and I met friends for life.

London graduate life started at Jefferies in the M&A team - a baptism of fire after a gap year. Then came COVID-19 and our world turned upside down. Like most, my life became characterised by occupying one or two rooms.

I recently started a new role at Macquarie Capital on the "buy-side", and I'm optimistic that the next 6 years will have as much packed into them as those just passed!

## Charlotte George

CLASS OF 2017



I have just graduated from the University of Bristol with a first class law degree. Although my final year was rather different from my first three years due to Covid-19, I could not have asked for a better university experience. I will be starting my Legal Practice Course later this month at the University of Law in Guildford, one step closer to becoming a solicitor. Since moving back home, I have returned to the swimming pool and re-joined Woking Swimming Club as a Masters Swimmer, and am excited to see where this new chapter of my swimming career can take me!

This Summer, I made my annual return to Guildford High School to continue work as a temporary receptionist. It has been lovely to see so many familiar faces, once again! I ran the London Marathon, training for it alongside my oldest swimming and school friend, Hazel Ferguson. This is part of our joint fundraising effort for White Lodge, a charity who have provided invaluable care and support for my younger sister. We raised over £2,100.

## Helen Tudor

CLASS OF 2018

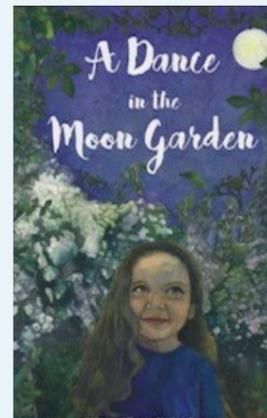


Since starting the amazing Natural Sciences course at York, I've thrown myself into a huge variety of non-degree-related activities.

My sporting career got off to a rocky start at GHS when I didn't even make the G netball team, however, I've managed to rescue things at uni; I now spend my evenings running across rooftops in parkour training, indoor bouldering, and running. Thanks to parkour, I also have a part-time job as a coach at a local ninja warrior-style course.

I have fond memories of music at GHS, and I'm glad to say the musical opportunities here at York have been fantastic; a highlight has been singing in the Yorkshire Bach Choir. My small claim to fame is that I was recently interviewed on BBC Radio York to promote a volunteering project I take part in, gardening in our local park.

## Susie Darnton



After a career in teaching, I am slowly fulfilling my promise to Miss Anne Gordon and finally becoming a writer, sadly too late for her to enjoy. My first picture book, 'A Dance in the Moon Garden' has just been published by PeaHEN. It is widely available online and from selected shops. My BBC Radio Surrey interview with David Miller from Sunday 25 July is available on BBC Sounds.

*Stay in Touch*

To feature in next year's staying in touch, send your entries to [alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk](mailto:alumni@guildfordhigh.co.uk) by 30 September 2022.

# OBITUARIES

## Jane Nussey

TEACHER OF HOME ECONOMICS



Jane was appointed Head of Home Economics at GHS in 1983 and she also oversaw forms' Social Services contributions. In 1988 Jane was involved in creating the costumes for the school's centenary production of Jonah: a first performance of this musical morality with music by William Mathias, which took place in Guildford Cathedral.

Quoting from GHS 1990 Highlights Jane "arranged fashion extravaganzas, showed many reluctant RGS boys how to cater for themselves in General Studies and put Home Economics back on the map". Jane moved from Guildford to Bournemouth for her final teaching post, becoming Senior Mistress at Wentworth College. During her retirement she became a guide at Highcliffe Castle and worked with Samaritans in addition to travelling in the UK and as far as Egypt, China and India.

After her cancer diagnosis, one theme of travel became a favourite - CWA/WV 'Coffee With A Watery View', and 170 were completed. Jane died peacefully on 1 January 2021 in the Christchurch Macmillan Unit, where she had been so well looked after for most of December. She will be much missed by family and friends.

## Andrew Douglas

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Andrew was Second Deputy Head and a deeply venerated English teacher at GHS in the early 1990s. Having been educated at Clifton, he won an Exhibition to Christ Church, Oxford where he gained a double first in English Language and Literature. It was at Oxford that he met Avril, his wife, and after working in London for a Japanese company as a bulk chemical fertilizer trader, he started his career as a teacher.

For those who knew him, Andrew was a truly inspirational teacher who was much loved by his students. He instilled a love of literature in many alumni and will be particularly remembered for his excellent assemblies, as well as more light-hearted roles in fun events such as the annual pantomime and Red Nose Day.

The girls were genuinely sorry to say goodbye to him in 1996, when he left to take on the same role at City of London School for Girls. It was said of him there that "He really was a wordsmith of the finest quality...with a brilliant use of language that could make you laugh and really move you. There was no doubt that he was blessed in this regard, but what was great about him was that he used this power for good. He inspired staff and students to be better people, to be kinder, to care for others. He comforted those who were troubled or sad and of course, as the pastoral lead, he had to be there for a lot of students who had the most difficult of times. Supportive is a word that certainly resonates with his memory."

During the last decade of his life, Andrew suffered from a degenerative disease and had to retire early, however, he remained intellectually sparky, positive, spirited, witty and full of interest in other people and events. He died in November 2020, leaving Avril and his two children, Camilla and Aiden.

## Angela Lee

CLASS OF 1970



After leaving the High School Angela worked in London for a while then took a position as a Bilingual Secretary at a Finishing School in Switzerland where she became a proficient skier. On her return to London, she worked as a PA for Shroder's Bank and was there for several years. While living in London she became a member of the Barts choir, performing at the Albert Hall and also travelling to Amsterdam to sing with them there.

She eventually moved away from London to Walton and worked for various well-known companies, including Terry's, McVitie's, United Biscuits, Dairy Crest and Bird's Eye. During this time, she joined the Walton and Weybridge Amateur Operatic Society and took part in their performances.

Her last full-time job was with the RHS at Wisley which she enjoyed very much as gardening was one of her enthusiasms. She joined the Wisley Garden Club and became the editor of their journal. Angela loved to visit gardens and National Trust properties and travelled widely on holidays. Some of these holidays were taken with her friend Alan, as passenger on the back of his motorbike. Another great love was cats and Angela owned several over the years. This led to her final part time job as a Receptionist at a local Veterinary Practice.

Angela died after treatment for cancer which seemed at first to have been successful.

She will be much missed by all her friends and especially by the grandchildren of her close friend Alan.

## Anne Bowey

CLASS OF 1951



On going to print, we have recently heard the sad news of Anne Bowey's passing.

Anne was a pupil of distinction at GHS, holding the positions as Head of Watts House and school Swimming Captain in her final year. She later became heavily involved in the GHS Old Girls Association, organising newsletters and reunions.

## OBITUARY ENTRIES 2022

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.guildfordhigh.co.uk/alumni)



# Inspiring Girls

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