



GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter 2022



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WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



I was delighted to launch the Lent term with the publication of our ISI report. I think this quote sums up a truly outstanding report.

”

Throughout the school, the level of achievement outside the classroom is outstanding across a wide range of areas such as sport, music, drama, the creative arts and academic learning beyond the actual curriculum.

The Lent term is the exhausting term. It is the same every year as there is such a crescendo of activity in the weeks leading up to the break. The whole build-up started with Fashion Show which was like a bolt of lightning; brilliant tracks, poise, pouting and energy, it was an explosion of fun. Our Poetry Festival was back, displaying the best of the creativity of expression. Our European Youth Parliament team have reached National Finals. The GHS RGS Chamber Choir has been out to Winchester Cathedral - if you get a chance to listen to the recordings of that event, please do. The Choir Concert this week at Holy Trinity Church was joyful, it was lively, and it was uplifting. What an absolute pleasure it was to be there and to listen! The GHS RGS ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ was sublime - from the set to the music, from the choreography to the acting and singing, it was professional and slick. It was just incredible, and we all loved it. And then to sport, a roundup of the term seems impossible, and I have had to add an extra four pages to the newsletter at the last hour – just to do it justice. The range and quality of sport is extraordinary.

We are breaking up in such beautiful weather, the clocks change this weekend - the first signs of spring are all around us – from the bumble bees to the celandines, the bird song to the frogs and tadpoles. Enjoy your down time, set the beat of your own drum, sleep when you need to sleep, eat, relax, and make sure you get outside for fresh air and to enjoy the world around you.

I wish you all joy and peace this Easter.

Mrs Fiona Boulton

WELLBEING WEEK

Our annual Wellbeing Week returned with a bang. This year's theme was 'be brave' since bravery is a major characteristic that underpins so much of our GHS 8. Our pupils must be brave to make choices and decisions, to take risks, to know themselves but importantly be themselves.

The week started with a liberating sing-along to Katy Perry's 'Roar', a song representing passion, self-assurance, and the power of one's voice, setting the tone for the rest of the week. What followed was a week of circus tricks on the trapeze, calming yoga, wellbeing walks around Stoke Park, flower arranging and a live performance from Here at Last at our disco finale! Add in World Book Day, dancing to 'Encanto', bubbles on arrival and, of course, the infamous GHS cookie; it was a memorable week for pupils and staff.





FASHION SHOW

This year's charity Fashion Show carried the theme of 'Inspirational Women', making it an evening of empowerment, elegance, and style.

The show paid tribute to influential female figures, with highlights including two prom walks, dedicated to Britney Spears and Anna Wintour, featuring stunning dresses and suits worn by GHS and RGS Sixth Form students. A talking point of the evening was the Mary Quant walk for which pupils from our textiles club designed and produced mini skirts and dresses inspired by the liberating 1960s Mod fashion movement.

The evening raised £4021.34 in aid of the Alice Ramsey Trust, a teenage cancer charity established by a former Head Girl's family.





LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

After Covid-19 put a pause on drama productions at GHS, we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to put on our Senior School musical this year. The horror-comedy 'Little Shop Of Horrors' was performed in partnership with RGS and involved students from Year 10 to Upper Sixth. Excitingly, for the first time at GHS, we invited Year 6 pupils from local schools to watch the production at a special Thursday matinee including a pre-show talk from the cast. The show contains an array of incredibly catchy tunes and some rather impressive puppets, but most of all, a wonderfully talented cast, crew and band. A highlight for our students was the opportunity to build new friendships with those from other year groups and the boys at RGS. Collaborating with Accord Stageworks, Storm LTD and Surrey Arts Wardrobe on many of the design aspects added another layer of professionalism to the musical. Thank you to all the staff involved who have been fundamental in putting the show together and making it such an enjoyable and memorable experience. We hope that everyone enjoyed the show and that audience members weren't too frightened of their house plants when they returned home...

Helena Richardson (Assistant Director)







ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

Having watched the acclaimed and riotously funny production of 'One Man, Two Guvnors' in the West End, I was struck by Miss Whiteman's ambition to choose this as the Senior School play for this term. The physical theatre, complicated plot and fast-paced dialogue would be a challenge for any director, but Miss Whiteman and her accomplished cast pulled it off with great style, leaving her audiences aching with laughter!

This very funny farce, written by Richard Bean, is set in 1963, in Brighton. Francis Henshall (played by Alice Cox), finds himself working for two bosses. One, Rachel Crabbe, is disguised as her dead gangland twin, Rosco - a double challenge for Mira Baldwin who played both parts. The other employer, is the snooty Stanley Stubbers (Linnea Barron), who also happens to be Rachel's lover. Confused? Not as much as poor Francis becomes, as he tries to keep his two employers apart, whilst on the hunt for some food and a way to escape to sunnier climes with his love interest, Dolly (Saskia Kemkers). Hilarious slapstick comedy ensues as Francis quite literally bounces between his two bosses. Both Alice as Francis, and Sam Good as the Octogenarian waiter, Alfie, had us wincing as they threw themselves around the stage, over chairs and across the floor with real gusto! Some of Alice's 'in-jokes' were quite brave as well!

The funniest and most memorable lines in the play, however, were delivered by Isabel Garner, who played Alan Dangle, the wannabe actor whose overacting and ridiculous affectations had us impersonating him all the way home. The naïve and innocent foil to Alan, his fiancé Pauline, was played by Isabeau Botha, who did well to keep a straight face when the rest of us couldn't. Cara Cahill also impressed with her verbal dexterity, delivering lengthy lines of Latinate lexis with assured fluency. Alongside the cockney character of 'Charlie the Duck' (Grace Richardson) and the more refined, languorous Lloyd (Amandine Meertens), this magnificent melange of characters had us rolling in the aisles. A great way to spend the evening!

Mrs Sarah Glyn-Davies



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL EVENSONG

Another successful term for the Joint GHS & RGS Chamber Choir culminated in a trip to sing Choral Evensong at Winchester Cathedral. The opportunity to sing in such awe-inspiring buildings is an enormous privilege for this group of singers and they always rise to the challenge of singing an exciting and demanding repertoire. The Dean was most welcoming on our arrival and, afterwards, effusive in her thanks and admiration for the high standard of singing, offering an immediate invitation to return. The service was streamed live and can be found on the cathedral's YouTube channel, if you would like to listen back.

Mr Grayson Jones



CHOIRS CONCERT

On 22 March, over 150 singers as part of 4 choirs descended on Holy Trinity Church for a festival of choral singing. A multitude of styles were featured with a vibrant performance of the famous swing number "Chattanooga Choo Choo" by Lower School Chamber Choir. Senior Choir sang an a capella arrangement of "Blackbird" by the Beatles and "You Will Be Found" from the hit musical Dear Evan Hansen, while Lower School Choir embraced famous film numbers such as "You Got a Friend in Me" from Toy Story and "Remember Me" from Coco. The concert ended with beautiful singing from Senior Chamber Choir of "The Call of Wisdom" by Todd and "Silent Noon" by Vaughan Williams before an exciting performance of the lively spiritual "Joshua Fit the Battle" arranged by Burton. Robert Cotton, Rector of Holy Trinity, commented "*I was bowled over by your generosity in taking a collection of nearly £600. This donation will be used to support some of our community activities in the town.*"

Mr Andrew Hadfield

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

A lunchtime concert on 26 January at St Mary's Church provided a wonderful setting for the five outstanding Lower Sixth Music Award Holders. Each musician performed a solo piece with consummate skill, warmth and technical wizardry, delighting the audience which was made up of pupils, family, friends and the general public. This was a scintillating concert with exciting repertoire. Sincere congratulations and thanks to Kate Coleman (violin), Darcie Moss-Brown (trombone), Hebe Poole (piano), Ailsa Scott (clarinet) and Libby Weston (bassoon); also to Gill Young (VMT and piano accompanist).

Mr Grayson Jones



CHAMBER CONCERT

The Chamber Concert was a wonderful evening of exceptional music-making from groups formed of music scholars and award holders from Year 7-13. The standard was extremely high, with challenging music by composers including Haydn, Hellmesberger and Vivaldi performed with impressive technical aplomb, subtlety and maturity beyond the years of the performers. This was such a wonderful way to mark the return of the GHS Chamber Concert which was last held in February 2020.

Mr Jack Laphorn



INFORMAL CONCERTS

On the evening of 2 February, over 30 pupils from Years 7-13 performed at one of the two back-to-back Informal Concerts in the 2016 Hall. These concerts offer the perfect platform for any pupil, at any level, to perform in front of an appreciative audience; the pupils simply sign up if they would like to take part. Solo pieces were confidently and accurately performed, with a wonderful offering of instruments, voices and styles. For many pupils the evening was very useful in the lead up to the March ABRSM exams, whereas others performed for sheer pleasure and to gain more experience of playing in front of a live audience, especially after lockdowns. Congratulations to everyone who sang and played in these hugely enjoyable concerts.

Mr Grayson Jones



HEDGE PLANTING AT CLANDON WOOD

On 16 February a group of 25 pupils, parents and staff went with Mrs Howitt to Clandon Nature Reserve to plant hedges as part of Surrey Hills Society's nature recovery strategy. In total, we planted over 100m of hedges, all of which were species native to the UK, predominantly hawthorn, buckthorn, and hazel, within the beautiful chalk grassland area, collaborating to create positive change by improving the health of our habitats and thus our local wildlife. It was a truly rewarding experience, allowing pupils from different year groups (and some of their family members) to work together to contribute to a growing ecosystem in one of the first places to be named an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mira Baldwin



COMMUNITY

This term has been our first real opportunity to invite people to join us back in school; it has been a real joy!

The term's partnerships began with a lecture on 'Unlocking Female Athlete Potential'. Still online, we were delighted to welcome 47 students from local schools.

The joint musical, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, provided an opportunity for a Thursday matinee performance, which rang out with the delighted laughter of the Year 6 audience from our junior school, Loseley Fields Primary School and Holy Trinity School. The children greatly enjoyed their introduction to the cast and puppets before the main event, and they all thought the show was fabulous as they sang their way back out into the sunshine at the end.

Great progress has been made this term on the ongoing Loseley Field's garden project, and all who have been involved have greatly enjoyed it. As our Sixth Form head into exam season, this year's cohort have said farewell to the Flourish Gardening Club. We very much hope to continue to support this project next academic year.

This term we were also pleased to be able to offer our space to Guildford Refugee Aid, a group of volunteers who aim to help people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war and persecution. On 11 March they spent the day sorting out donations in the school marquee. Having the space was incredibly useful to them, as was the help of some of our students. One volunteer said "The help from the girls was invaluable, without them we would have had 100 boxes to make as well as all the sorting and packing! Please also pass our thanks on to the Amnesty International team - they made a massive dent in the donation mountain and really got stuck in straight away."

Mrs Jenni Hall



HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

We were honoured to welcome representatives from over 20 universities to our Higher Education Fair this term, one of whom was Yasmin King, a former pupil and alumni member who is currently studying Medicine at the University of Nottingham. Yasmin is a student ambassador at Nottingham and also gave an online talk last summer to our current Upper Sixth.

Speaking about the event, Yasmin commented “It was wonderful to see so many students excited about university, especially those whom I remember being in “Peter Panto” and the Musicals Fashion Show years ago. After nearly four years at university, I loved seeing some familiar faces and the new artwork around the main hall. I hope the students enjoyed the event and found useful information for their journeys to higher education.”

IAN ROSE VISIT

On Thursday 6 January, we were given the exciting opportunity to hear from Ian Rose, a winner of 2 Paralympic, 5 world championship and 9 European championship medals in Judo. Ian shared his inspiring story and his methodology of success - to keep smiling and remember your ‘why’. We were particularly excited when Ian mentioned he somersaulted in the air as part of being an opening ceremony performer.

We would like to thank Ian for sharing his story and encouraging to turn those negative ‘what if...?’ thoughts into the more positive ‘what next?’

Avni Hanumara and Sahana Ganeshalingham



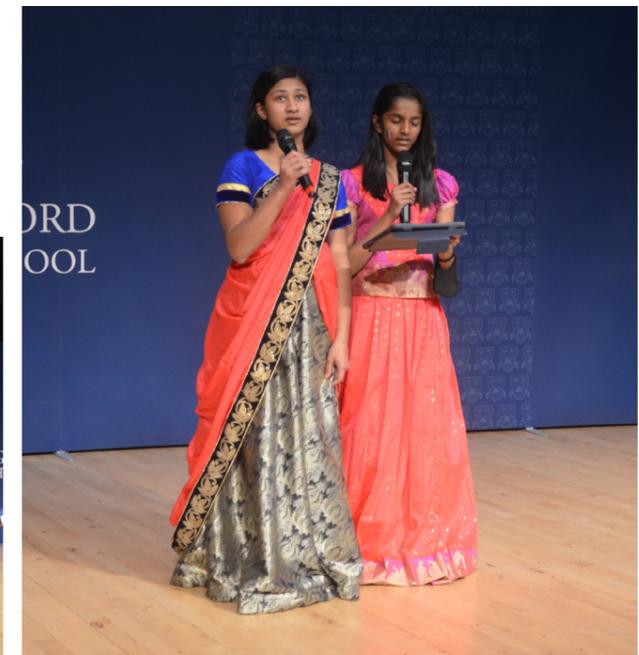
MODERN LANGUAGES WEEK

In the week before the February half-term it was wonderful to feel the buzz around school that could only mean one thing: Modern Languages Week! From a ‘Wish I Were There’ baking competition on Monday morning to samba on Friday, via a few games of boules and multi-lingual Zumba session, we celebrated our love of languages and cultures in every way we could think of. Some events were new, such as the House German Monopoly, and some were back better than ever before, such as a record 87 pupils choosing to enter the UK Linguistics Olympiad, but a few old favourites hadn’t changed a bit: Ruby defended their crown in the House modern languages quiz, and the catering department tantalised us with a trip around the world in five lunchtimes.

Another innovation this year was the introduction of a trophy for best act in the Tuesday evening Language Festival. An element of friendly competition saw everyone up their game, and Rain Fernando was a deserved winner with a presentation on Sinhalese culture that was as informative as it was entertaining.

The Modern Languages department would like to express our gratitude to all the staff around the school who shared their talents and linguistic skills with us throughout the week; to the Lower Sixth Languages Ambassadors who helped organise events and supervise performers; to the three members of Year 11 who taught Italian in assembly; and to every member of the school who took part in what is undoubtedly our favourite week of the school year.

Mr Tom M’Clelland



TALENT SHOW

The annual Guildford High Talent Show once again allowed pupils from across the school to demonstrate their gifts, which ranged from singing to ballet dancing. The audience were wowed by the acts, which included a throwback to the nineties with a great performance of Vanilla Ice's 'Ice Ice Baby', a hip-hop version of 'The Gruffalo', and some wonderful songs, accompanied by both guitar and piano. All proceeds from the show, which raised over £450, went to the Red Cross appeal for Ukraine, and I would like to thank all the performers and the audience for helping to raise money for this cause.

Mr Will Saunders



POETRY FESTIVAL

After a challenging pandemic, the enthusiastic English department bounced back with an amazing opportunity for all budding poets. Following this year's theme of celebration, pupils were encouraged to write their own poems, featuring deep and meaningful messages - and a joke or two! Rakaya Fetuga, renowned poet and writer, delivered wonderful workshops to each form, igniting their creative sparks.

A select few poets were invited from each class to the Poetry Festival; each poem was performed with their individual style and creativity. The evening began with Year 7 performances, followed by Year 8. Each and every poem celebrated something unique - from happiness, to friendship, love, death and culture and diversity. What a way to celebrate International Women's Day! Year 9 concluded the evening on a high note, with 'a starling celebration'!

The honourable mentions were a pleasant surprise, followed by the runners up and winners of both the performance and writing category for each year group. The Waterstones vouchers were simply a cherry on top for all winners!

We cannot thank Rakaya enough for all her time and efforts - as a special thank you, she was deservedly lauded with a bouquet of flowers!

The evening was an absolute pleasure, both for the attendees and the participants, and the school should be proud of its commendable recognition of such extraordinary talents.

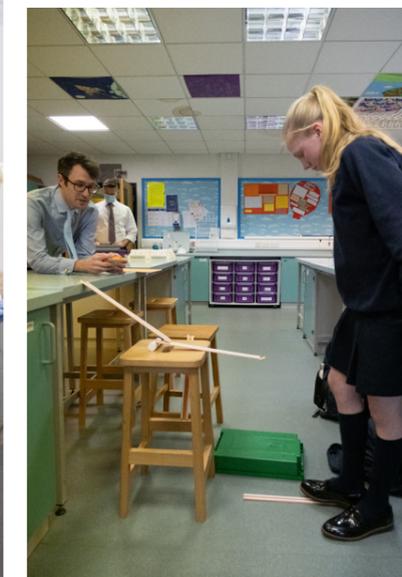
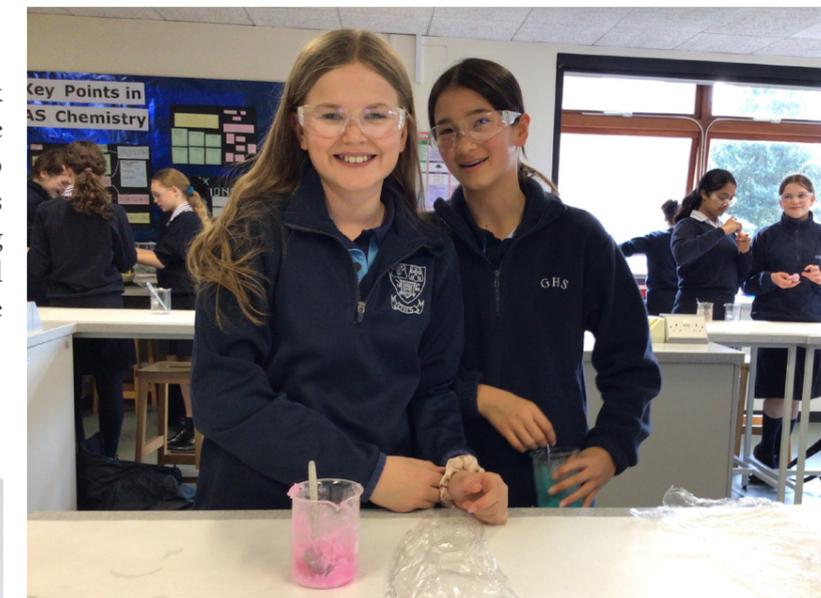
Sanika Das (overall prize winner)



SCIENCE WEEK

From 7-11 March GHS celebrated British Science Week 2022. A host of exciting events took place, including liquid nitrogen ice cream making, two House quizzes, two escape rooms, the 'marble run' competition, a spaghetti and marshmallow construction challenge, and, of course, lab coat embroidery! We were delighted to note the enthusiasm with which pupils threw themselves into each activity, as well as the impressive scientific knowledge on show. It goes without saying that Science is a hugely important discipline, but throughout the week the girls demonstrated that it is great fun as well! A huge thank you to all the staff and pupils who got involved, and we are already looking forward to Science Week 2023!

Mr Will Hack



THE BIG DRAW

This year's Big Draw Festival theme was 'Make the Change', and our Year 7-9 pupils were given four key areas to address in their entries: the desire to take action, to live in balance with the world around us, to reconnect with each other, create a better world for future generations. Inspired by Petrit Hallilaj's installation, pupils were given a lollipop stick and an A5 sheet of white card, with the brief to make a sign about an issue they wanted to raise awareness about.

We had so many fantastic entries that covered a huge range of topics from pollution in our seas, the future of the planet, poverty, gender based issues and many more. Congratulations to our winners and runners up in each year:

Year 7 Winner: Gisella Silano
Runners up: Mariyam Sheikh and Flora Turner

Year 8 Winner: Ellie Wain
Runners up: Zainab Mahmud and Evita Troman

Year 9 Winner: Sophia Tantrum
Runners up: Anabella Krause and Phoebe van Bever



LATIN AND GREEK READING COMPETITION

Following days of well-attended auditions and several rehearsals, on Thursday 10 March eighteen girls represented the school in the Reading Competition, an annual celebration of spoken Latin and Greek popular with schools from across the region, hosted this year at St Catherine's.

Girls in Years 7-9 performed dialogues in which they combined their linguistic dexterity with theatrical flair. In Year 7, Sanika Das and Mahika Soin came first in their category, and Swathika Pirabakaran and Anya Sachdev came second.

In the senior sections, Rebecca Pugsley was highly commended for her rendition of one of Horace's Odes. Jemima Freeman came second for her performance in Greek of a moving extract from the 'Iliad' in which the Trojan warrior Hector speaks to his wife before returning to the battlefield. Natalia Higgins and Isabella Song also won for their performance of an amusing scene from a comedy by Plautus.

We are extremely proud of every student who participated in the competition: they pronounced the languages in the way we think that they would have been spoken, they showed commitment and enthusiasm during rehearsals, and on the day, were good company and exceptional ambassadors for the school.

Mr Andrew James



SENIOR ARTICULATION LONDON FINALS

This year the London Finals for the national Articulation competition, where students deliver an oral presentation about an artefact of their choice, was held at the V&A. Arriving while the museum was shut was a real treat; walking through the beautiful galleries with no other visitors was a rare opportunity to see these splendid rooms devoid of the usual crowds. Aisha Mahmud was representing GHS having successfully won the Regional Finals earlier in the year at the Lightbox Gallery in Woking. There were ten speakers from schools across the whole of the south for these presentations featuring a wide variety of artworks.



Aisha was almost the last to speak, her presentation raising philosophical questions based on the work of a very contemporary duo who use video and typography to question and challenge the art world. The head judge was Alison Cole who is currently Editor of The Art Newspaper. Previously, she has worked as an Executive Director for some of the UK's leading cultural organisations, including The Art Fund, where she was also Editor of Art Quarterly magazine, Southbank Centre, and Arts Council England.

Alison Cole praised Aisha for her delivery in questioning the role of Art Education for young people and being brave enough to focus on a purely typographic artwork as opposed to the usual pictorial paintings. She liked the range of volume that Aisha used in her presentations, as volume was key to the work of her artists and the power of typography in our world. Aisha is to be commended on a superb presentation and we want to congratulate her on all of her hard work and superb delivery for this year's Articulation competition.

Mrs Sue Kew

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On 11 March a team of Lower Sixth students travelled to Bede's School to take part in the South Coast Regional round of European Youth Parliament (EYP). The team had been preparing their speeches and arguments with Miss Sturge for weeks prior to the session, navigating their role representing the committee for Culture and Education on the topics of the return of cultural treasures and vaccine hesitancy; their hard work paid off. They were absolutely brilliant on the day, articulating their ideas clearly and with passion, and also responding spontaneously to points on other topics raised by a variety of teams. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork as each member contributed thoughtfully to the forum. Their excellence resulted in the outstanding achievement of being selected to move forward to the EYP National session, which will take place in Liverpool in June. Congratulations to the team!

Miss Sophie Oakes



ASPIRE

It has been another busy term of speakers and activities in ASPIRE. Year 7 have embarked on their Alice Awards and were given pen pals to write to (elderly members of the Guildford community with whom the school have links). Year 7 have also enjoyed lessons led by their Sixth Form prefects, including a values lesson on gratitude, making gratitude trees and an Easter egg hunt! Other highlights have been Ian Rose talking to Years 7, 8 and 9, the Year 8 trip to Wicked and first aid lessons delivered by Lifesigns Group to Year 9. There have been wellbeing lessons with Year 10 enjoying their 'catch up and cuppa' time and Upper Sixth have been started a series of lessons on finance and budgeting in preparation for life beyond GHS.

Mrs Amanda Whybro



DEBATING COMPETITION

On Wednesday 2 March, GHS sent two Spanish teams and one French team to the annual Charterhouse Lower Sixth Debating competition. All GHS teams acquitted themselves very honourably amongst some tough competition from Charterhouse, Reeds, St John's, St Catherine's School, and Epsom College teams.

The French team of Ananya Sharma and Lucy Fan came a close second in the semi-finals against a very strong Charterhouse team. Spanish team 1, Anjuli Varma and Mira Baldwin, came a close second in their pool of four teams. Spanish team 2, Tamsin Holmes and Sophie Craven, were convincing winners of their pool of four teams and went through to the final against the girls' Charterhouse team. In an intensely fought debate on whether companies should be made to hire more women, they had the more difficult stance of opposing the motion but won convincingly due to their poise, impressive quick thinking to challenge and refute the arguments of the other team and their ability to express their ideas clearly and effectively in Spanish.

Mrs Róisín Watters



PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Students from the Upper Sixth entered the British Physics Olympiad where they competed against the most talented physicists from high schools around the country. They completed a theoretical exam that was designed to test the students' understanding of Physics and problem solving. Annabel Gray, Beitris Reid and Jasmine Reid were awarded Silver certificates and Alex Hall was awarded a Bronze certificate. This was a fantastic achievement, well done!

Mr Nicholas Harries



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

In January, just after their mocks, four brave Upper Sixth pupils took on the challenge of the UK Chemistry Olympiad 2022. This tricky two-hour paper required pupils to apply their understanding of Chemistry in a variety of interesting and unfamiliar contexts, including coronavirus testing, vaccine storage, E10 petrol, and laughing gas! The level of challenge was extremely high, so we are delighted that all four pupils gained certificates. They are Neena Kang (silver), Ayushi Gupta, Keya Mahavir, and Natalie O'Hara (bronze). This represents a fantastic achievement, and we are proud of all of them - congratulations!

Mr Will Hack

TATE BRITAIN AND SAATCHI GALLERY

On 13 January eighteen Year 10 pupils travelled to London to kick-start their final GCSE coursework project - Ordinary and Extraordinary. We visited two galleries, starting at the Tate Britain. At the Tate pupils were able to explore a variety of historical and contemporary artworks, ranging from Pre Raphaelite to the present. We then walked across London to the Saatchi Gallery, where we were able to see some of the most exciting contemporary artists around. The exhibition 'London Grads Now 2021' was a superb insight into the types of dynamic, inspiring and varied work produced in higher education.

The trip had something for everyone, and will surely inspire creative and exciting outcomes as our pupils progress through their GCSE course.

Mr Rod Laughton



THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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

Mr Andrew James



KEW GARDENS

Year 8 enjoyed a beautiful Spring day at Kew Gardens on their Geography trip on 17 March. The girls explored the impressive Palm House and Temperate House, learning about the adaptations of plants to their environments, and tested their head for heights on the treetop walkway.

Mr James Partridge



GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO STRATFORD

At the start of March, the Lower Sixth Geographers travelled to Stratford to assess the stark contrasts between two adjacent postcodes: E20, a byword for regeneration and home to Westfield Shopping Centre and the Olympic Park, and E15, one of the most deprived areas of the UK. The group surveyed the local communities in each postcode, gathering data on place characteristics, perceptions and experiences, and social inequality. The day was interesting and useful, with the girls gaining real-life case study knowledge and an insight into fieldwork skills that will be useful in their A Level year and beyond.

Mr Dan Martin



NETBALL NATIONAL SCHOOLS FINALS

The pinnacle of the school's Netball calendar is National Schools where the top 18 schools and colleges in the country, who have qualified through county and regional rounds, compete for the title. It is always a prestigious occasion, which this year was hosted at Oundle School, Peterborough. On Saturday 12th March our U16s took to the court determined to finish higher than they did in 2020 when they came 4th. They started well beating Hurstpierpoint, Bablake, Redmaids and the Grammar School at Leeds. A little wobble during the long morning meant that in the final pool matches, goals were imperative. Goal scoring has never been a problem for this team and they rose to the challenge winning their final matches 25-11 and 21-7. The team played Wellington in the semi final. It was a hard fought match but GHS came out on top and met Cheadle Hulme in the final. They were a skilful team who moved the ball quickly down the court. GHS played some of their finest netball of the season but could not overcome their opponents. 2nd in the country is a most outstanding achievement of which they can feel incredibly proud.

On the Sunday, it was the turn of the U19s who started strong and secured convincing wins against Hurstpierpoint and Wrekin. Challenging matches mid-morning saw a draw and a loss but the team pulled together to finish their group section with more wins and qualify for the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the semi was lost against Blue Coat school, the eventual winners. For the third time this term, GHS then met Wrekin in the 3rd/4th play-off and, in a repeat of the ISNC game, the match went to extra time; sadly, on this occasion, Wrekin finished on top to take bronze. In a moment that epitomised sport at its best, both teams came together for a group huddle in recognition of each other's success and disappointment. The team can feel incredibly proud of all they have achieved; to compete at senior level and achieve 4th place nationally is an outstanding achievement and, for our Upper Sixth girls, a crowning moment to 7 years of brilliant netball.

Mrs Rachel Byrne and Mrs Amanda Whybro



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS NETBALL CUP

In September, our 1st Netball team began their ISNC journey alongside 74 other teams that entered the national knock-out competition in this age group. This term, they played North London Collegiate School in the quarter finals, winning 46-28 and drawing Wrekin College in the semi-final. This was an extraordinary match, with outstanding netball played by both teams with the match finishing on a draw and going to extra-time. GHS pulled through to win by 9 and earn themselves a place in the final, which was played on Friday 4 March against Millfield. Despite moments of brilliant netball, Millfield proved too strong on the day and we took 2nd. The team will have gained so much from the experience and high standard of netball played in the latter rounds of the competition; they can feel incredibly proud of their achievement.

The U15A team also played some fine netball throughout their ISNC journey. They made it through to the last 8 where they met Millfield. It was a highly competitive match with only 1 goal in it at 3/4 time but with home advantage, Millfield narrowly won the match on the whistle.

Mrs Rachel Byrne and Mrs Amanda Whybro



BENENDEN NETBALL FESTIVALS

U14 C, D AND E

The U14 C, D and E teams headed off to Benenden for the highlight of their season, a 'festival' of netball against a variety of teams from Kent and Surrey. The C team were victorious and made it through to the Cup group quite comfortably. D and E met some tough opposition but fought hard and managed to qualify for the Plate. Five more group matches followed in which all the girls displayed some fabulous netball. The C team came out on top, winning the Cup group and were rewarded with medals and a fabulous shield. The D and E teams battled hard, and after a fun but tense match against each other D had the upper hand and came away with the Plate. The Es were placed a very respectable 4th.

Mrs Sally Appleton



U15 C AND D

The U15 C and D teams started our run of Benenden Festivals with a fabulous afternoon of netball, both qualifying out of their groups to face each other in a semi-final. The C team took the win, which meant they went through to the final. The D team went on to play Allyn's C team, narrowly losing by 1 goal to finish in 4th place from the 12 teams that attended. The C team played a closely contested final against Benenden C team but with strong defence throughout the court and good shooting, the team were victorious to lift the trophy!

Mrs Amanda Whybro



U15 A

The final team to venture to Benenden was the U15A team. In the pool matches, GHS played some of their finest netball of the season. The defence made countless interceptions, the ball moved effortlessly down the court and with some fine shooting on show, GHS cruised into the semi. Allyn's were a strong team, however, nothing separated the team at full time. The rules stipulated that in the event of a tie, the match continues to golden goal. Unfortunately for GHS, the final whistle was blown just as we made a defensive interception. A toss up was given and Allyn's won the ball on their circle edge and within seconds has shot the winning goal. This meant GHS played off for 3rd and 4th against Bromley. It was a physical match but GHS were resilient and stood firm, winning the match and a bronze medal.

Mrs Rachel Byrne



SENIOR SURREY NETBALL FINALS

On 6 March GHS teams were out in force at the Senior Surrey Netball Finals, representing in every age group. The U19s and U16s played strong netball throughout the morning, with all squad members taking to court and contributing to good score lines. This resulted in the U19s topping their group and the U16s finishing 2nd. The U15s also played some outstanding netball but due to two narrow defeats, they just missed out on a semi final place. The U16s faced Putney for the 4th time in a tournament this season. With scores all square at half time, it was a tight contest which GHS lost by the narrowest of margins to finish 2nd in the county. The U19s went on to beat St Catherine's in the semi-final, and faced Gordon's School in the final, saving their best netball until then, winning the match 11-6 and being crowned county champions. For the Upper Sixth players, this is their 6th consecutive county title and reflects what a talented group of players they have been throughout their time at GHS.

Mrs Rachel Byrne and Mrs Amanda Whybro



SECOND TEAM SURREY TOURNAMENT

On 15 March, we were proud to have three teams represent GHS at the Senior Second Team Surrey Final. The 3rd and 4th teams competed well in the group stages to face each other in the Plate play-offs. Our 3rd team took the victory and went on to play St Catherine's 3rd team in the semi. Despite moments of lovely netball, they couldn't quite find their momentum to secure a win. Meanwhile, the 2nd team came out top of their group and played Allyn's in the semi, winning this to face St Catherine's 2nd team in the Cup final. The ball was going end to end but GHS couldn't quite clinch the win, therefore finishing 2nd place. It was a wonderful day of netball.



Mrs Amanda Whybro

JUNIOR SURREY NETBALL FINALS

Our U12, U13 and U14A teams, who all qualified through the qualifying rounds of the county tournament, were excited to attend finals day at Croydon High school on 9 March. The U12s had a mixed morning of results and couldn't quite secure enough points to finish top of their group. Both the U13 and U14 teams played some skilful and composed netball in the morning and finished as runners up and winners of their respective groups. They progressed through the semi finals and into the finals where they faced Putney High in the U13s and St George's in the U14s. After two tough finals, both teams emerged as runners up - a fantastic achievement in such a strong county!

Mrs Amanda Whybro and Miss Sarah Gill



BIATHLON

The National Modern Biathlon finals took place on 26 February at Bath University with the top 20 ranked biathletes competing in a swim and run.

Team results

- U12 2nd - Sofia Paul, Sofia Wood
- U13 2nd - Keira Oxley, Cammie Katz and Flora Turner
- U14 2nd - Millie Wall, Emily Burke and Lucy Robertshaw

Individual results

- U13 5th - Keira Oxley
- U14 5th - Millie Wall
- U15 Champion - Robin Simons

On 20 March our biathletes took part in the National Finals of the Schools Biathlon Championships. We saw incredible running and swimming in all three age groups to become national team champions, plus two individual champions!

Team results

- U12 National Champions - Kitty Scott
- U13 National Champions - Hannah Pye, Keira Oxley and Flora Turner
- U15 National Champions - Robin Simons, Katie Pye and Sadie Warmington

Individual results

- U12 4th - Kitty Scott
- U13 5th - Hannah Pye
- U14 Champion - Millie Wall
- U15 Champion - Robin Simons
- 3rd - Katie Pye



LACROSSE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It has been a long and highly anticipated wait for the return of the Nationals Schools Lacrosse Championships, and this year, to the relief of all the lacrosse teachers, it arrived with beautiful sunshine over the Aldershot Garrison. GHS had a total of 8 teams involving 144 girls representing the school at the top level. The four-day Championships began with the 1st and 2nd teams competing in a two day tournament. Both teams qualified in style for the finals day on the Sunday, and played some stunning lacrosse in the sun. The 1st team battled through their tough group (beating the overall winners), to progress through to the semi finals. They narrowly missed out on a place in the final, losing 2-1, nevertheless a huge achievement finishing top 4 in the country. The 2nd team had been superb all day and were unlucky not to reach the semi-finals.

On 21 March, the 3rd and 4th teams competed in the 3rd team tournament. The 4th team played some competitive lacrosse, beating other 3rd teams. The GHS 3rd team stormed into the semi finals after a 5-0 win in the quarter finals, finishing top 4 in the country. The U15A and U15B teams dominated their groups, finishing top. Whilst the U15A were knocked out in the quarter finals in the last 20 seconds of golden goal, the U15B team progressed through to the final against St Albans. It was an impressive and calm final performance from the team, who were always in control of the game. They were deservedly crowned NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! An inspiration to all our B teams.

On the 4th and final day of Nationals, it was the turn of the U13A and U14A teams. This was the first time at a National tournament for both teams, and they played with poise and focus to battle through the groups stages, both finishing top of their groups; an impressive feat. The U14s were knocked out in the last 16 but the U13s continued to improve throughout the day defeating some gladiators along the way. After going 4-0 down in the final, they showed true GHS grit and managed to pull it back to 4-3, with a free position shot with seconds to go. They were beaten by the final hooter and cheered off the pitch by their supporters. 2nd in the country - an incredible achievement!

A huge congratulations and thank you from the lacrosse teachers. We are proud of all you have achieved, and your dedication and motivation to the sport of lacrosse. You inspire us. Bring on next season!



1st team - semi finals



2nd team - quarter finals



3rd team - semi finals



4th team



U15A team - quarter finals



U15B - National Champions



U14A - last 16



U13A - Runners Up

LACROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

1st team - semi finals

2nd team - quarter finals

3rd team - semi finals

U15A - quarter finals

U15B - National Champions

U14A - last 16

U13A - Runners Up



U15 SOUTHEAST LACROSSE

On 25 January, Guildford High School hosted the U15 South East Schools Lacrosse tournament. Ten of the top schools in the region contested at the highest level to compete for the trophy. The GHS U15A team were ready, starting strong in the group stages to overcome Berkhamsted 4-1. As expected, matches were incredibly tough and the remaining group games were close but GHS triumphed at the top of their group. In the semi-final they faced St Catherine, and GHS performed beautifully, not only scoring some stunning goals but contesting for every ball, finishing strongly to win 3-1. They progressed through to the final against St Swithuns, a team they had drawn earlier in the group stages. The GHS team stepped up their game once more and played with poise and focus as they dominated the final to win 4-2! An incredible achievement, and one to enjoy on home turf with amazing support from parents and their fellow U15B team mates during their lunch break. England and GB Head Coach, Phil Collier presented the captains with the trophy! A special thank you to Miss Foster for organising a superb tournament.

Mrs Keely Harper

LACROSSE COLOMA CUP

On 8 March, the U13B & C teams had a blast at one of their first ever tournaments, the Coloma Cup, hosted by Caterham School.

The B team had a fantastic start, winning all their round robin games. They went on to meet St Catherine's B team in the semi-final of the Cup competition. Despite taking an early lead, they just missed out on a place in the final after a nail-biting period of golden goal overtime.

The C team, playing in a predominantly B Team tournament, had some challenging group stage matches. They progressed to the plate semi final in which they beat the Dunnottar C Team. In the final of the Plate, despite playing well against the Putney B Team, the GHS C Team finished runners-up. Both teams had a great day of lacrosse in the sun and are looking forward to some more tournaments next year!

Miss Emma Brown



SOUTHEAST LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1st Lacrosse Team had a great day at the South East lacrosse tournament. This tournament features several of the top teams in the country which makes for an exciting day of competition. The team did well in their pool, winning all but one match in this part of the day. They progressed to the knock-out stages as top of their pool. Team spirits were high and the girls played excellently in an extremely tight game to secure a one-goal win in their semi final. The final against Berkhamsted School was another close game which Berkhamsted won. Our team's success cannot be overlooked as their performance has ranked them 2nd in the South East of England. This is a fantastic achievement and has been a great source of motivation in the lead up to National Schools.

Mrs Laura McHale

U13 COUNTY LACROSSE

On 17 January, the U13 A and B teams travelled to Caterham School for the U13 County tournament. Both teams had an excellent day and played some of their finest lacrosse. The A team won their last match in the group against Putney to reach the semi-final where they narrowly lost to St Catherine's. They finished the tournament in an excellent 3rd place. The B team ended their day by winning the 5th place playoff match against Caterham B. A special congratulations goes to A and B team players, Vera Huang and Scarlett de Gentile-Williams, as respective MVPs for the day. All girls had a fun filled, wonderful experience at their first lacrosse tournament!

Miss Anna Featherstone



SURREY U12 LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

The U12A, B and C lacrosse teams competed in the Surrey County tournament on Friday 11th March, alongside a fantastic 21 teams. It promised to be a brilliant day as the girls were excited to play in their first lacrosse tournament representing GHS, and to put into practice all the new skills and tactics that they have learnt in Year 7. All teams played brilliantly through torrential rain and extremely muddy conditions, showing excellent GHS spirit. The C team thoroughly enjoyed the day, narrowly losing out in the Quarter Finals in golden goal while the B team played confidently and cohesively through to the Plate final. The A team had a fantastic day, ending as Cup finalists after beating St Catherine's in a thrilling triple-overtime golden goal match in the semi-final. A wonderful day of lacrosse for all involved, displaying how hard the U12 players have worked in their first year of lacrosse at Guildford High.

Miss Tilly Foster

SURREY U14 LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

Two GHS U14 Lacrosse teams entered the Surrey County Tournament and enjoyed a fantastic day of high-level lacrosse. The B Team, who were competing in the A Team tournament, relished the chance to compete against such strong opposition and held their own. They played with grit and determination all the way into the final of the Plate Competition where they met the Putney A Team. It was a brilliant day and the girls were very proud of their achievement.

The U14A team won all of their pool matches and played some lovely lacrosse against some skilled teams. They reached the final of the Cup competition where they met St Catherine's. This was an exceptional final and unfortunately the GHS team conceded the winning goal in the last 30 seconds of the match. Finishing second in Surrey has given the girls a brilliant boost in the build up to National Schools.

Mrs Laura McHale

ASPIRING ATHLETES PROGRAMME

The Aspiring Athletes programme is continuing to grow and adapt to the needs of its athletes. This term we were joined by Dr Georgie Bruinvels who talked about 'unlocking female athlete potential'. She brought up topics that are not discussed enough in society, opening great discussions and myth busting along the way. The girls learnt that their menstrual cycle can have an advantageous benefit to training and should not hold them back. Different training types can be even more effective during different phases of the cycle. It was great to hear tips on how to optimise training and recovery to aid performance.

Mrs Laura McHale

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS 2022:

Amelia Alder	Judo	England Talent Development (ETD) programme - Zagreb European Cup
Elea Barton	Lacrosse	U21C Home Internationals representing England
Jessica Burrows	Kuk Sool	European championships - 3 golds (in staff, techniques and sparring) and 2 silvers (in staff and empty hand forms) - 'grand champion' title for 17 and under second degree black belts
Millie Cant	Lacrosse	U21B Home Internationals representing England
Felicity Cronin	Diving	Sofia Diving Cup in Bulgaria
Sara Duncan	Lacrosse	U21C Home Internationals representing England
Georgia Gardner	Fencing	U20 World Cup representing Great Britain
Annabella Higgins	Gymnastics	British Junior Gymnastics Championships
Emily Hook	Lacrosse	U21A Home Internationals representing Wales
Alicia Langley	Skiing	Selected for English 1st/2nd squad
Hannah Pye	Biathle	Selected for Team GB
Katie Pye	Biathle and Triathle	Selected for Team GB
Darcy Revitt	Swimming	Phase 2 of the swim England national level camps
Ailsa Scott	Lacrosse	U21A Home Internationals representing England
Robin Simons	Biathle	Selected for Team GB
Cecilia Tallis	Lacrosse	U21C Home Internationals representing England
Ella Weeks	Skiing	England U18 team
Bella Wilson	Athletics	England Athletics Age Group Championships - First in the UK and in Europe for U18 300m

SWIMMING

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

The Bath and Otter Cup brings together the top swimmers in the school. Jess Harmer, Rita Luzan, Kara Muller, Darcy Revitt and Sadie Warmington competed against top Independent schools from the British Isles held at the Olympic pool. The location never fails to bring out the best in our girls and in true GHS style, they cruised into both finals. Bromley High were the reigning champions and again proved just a little too strong for us, leaving GHS to finish 2nd in both the Medley and Freestyle relays. Winning silver medals is an amazing achievement as the team is relatively young with many more years ahead of them to compete, with the ultimate aim of winning the events.

Mrs Rachel Byrne



SURREY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Most of the big events in the school swimming calendar are relays so competing in the Surrey Individuals gala is a refreshing change and showcases the swimming talent at GHS over 100m rather than the usual 25m or 50m. The Junior team of Daisy Johnson, Keira Oxley, Hannah Pye, Scarlett Sheppard and Isabelle Zadeh were formidable finishing 1st overall. The Intermediate team of Jess Harmer, Kara Muller, Amelie Shaw, Sadie Warmington and Emma Williamson were equally dominant and they too finished 1st overall. In the Senior team, GHS was represented by the school swimming captain Harriet Southey and Darcy Revitt. Despite the team only being made up of two swimmers, they finished a wonderful 3rd overall. With these amazing results, GHS won the overall trophy.

The future of swimming at GHS looks incredibly bright.

Mrs Rachel Byrne



GYMNASTICS

After 2 years off, the ISGA Gymnastics National Finals finally returned this year. Our teams were constantly changing with covid and injuries, but they rose to the challenge to achieve top positions.

The U15 team were first competing on 26 February at Tormead. The team of Helena Vinall, Elena Thompson, Mara Venter, Caitlyn Maytham, Tabby Williamson and Charlotte Hampson were stunning and wowed us on all disciplines. They were rewarded with 4th place in group floor, 2nd place team, and individually Helena came 5th nationally.

The following weekend saw U13 and U19 competing at Haberdashers School. The U13 team of Annabella Higgins, Fleur Hall, Olivia Kraus, Keira Oxley, Alyona Fetisova and Zoe McIntyre were beautiful and graceful to place 6th in group floor and 2nd team, and Annabella Higgins came 2nd individually. Silver medals all round which is our highest achievement in the most competitive age group.

The U19s produced a spectacular finale on the last day. The team of Natalie O'Hara, Celia Thompson, Anna Browne, Alexis O'Hara, Felicity Cronin and Frey Moody came 3rd in a stunning synchronised group floor and 4th team overall.

Combined with our other results, we won a total of 10 trophies and were awarded the 3rd highest scoring school nationally, behind 2 gymnastics centre of excellence schools. This was an incredible achievement.

We also hosted the postponed Surrey U13 floor and tumbling competition with a team of Louise O'Hara, Layla Al-Falah, Zoe McIntyre, Flora McIntyre and Sofia Wood. Minimal training due to ISGA didn't deter them and they won team silver medals.



NATIONAL JUNIOR INDOOR ROWING

On Friday 25 February, the indoor rowing team competed in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championship. Girls from Years 8, 9, 10 and Sixth Form competed in the Championship, in 3-minute, 4-minute, 5-minute, and 2km pieces respectively. These individual races were followed by a relay event which consisted of a 2km race split between a team of four. While we were disappointed to not be able to travel to the Copperbox Arena (the usual venue of the event) the team ensured the atmosphere at school was just as exciting. Everyone gave it their all, and many set new personal bests. A massive congratulations to all who competed, especially Tilly Farrar, Elise Watters, Farah Fergusson and Aashna Jain who achieved first place for the Junior Relay competition.

Mrs Philippa Moriss-Jeffery



HOCKEY

We have had a thoroughly enjoyable and exciting year of hockey club. As a group, there has been a lot of improvement throughout the season particularly by players that only picked up a stick at the beginning of this year. We have been impressed by their overall attitude and approach and it has been fabulous to also have some goalkeepers in the team. The Sixth Form have been great role models to the youngsters, and we thank them for what they have contributed to the club. There have been some great matches this term for the girls to try out what they have learnt in the sessions. To finish off the season, the Year 7 and 8 team both had high scoring, close games against St Teresa's. It has been a fantastic season of hockey and we're already looking forward to the next one.

Mrs Jenna Wiles



HORSERIDING

The senior riders have had individual and team success at Snowball Farm, Felbridge and Merrist Wood. Olivia Blunden, Edie Brown, Lucy Worthington and Sophie Worthington placed in Merrist Wood. In 80cm show jumping, the team placed 4th and in the 90cm they placed 6th. This qualifies both team to the NSEA plate national finals next term.

Olivia joins three junior riders who qualified for the Winter SJ National finals in Wales on 19-20 March where they placed 2nd team in 80cm league and 5th team in the 80cm championship.

Mrs Tara Oxley



Inspiring Girls

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