

Edition 16 | Autumn 2022

# ALUMNAE

Networking and News from Royal High School Bath

**Making our mark as an All-Steinway  
Music School**

School News

**Guild of Food Writers award winner  
Gilly Smith**

Spotlight on an Alumna

**150 Years on:**

What it means to be part of GDST



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BATH

ALUMNAE

Girls making their mark



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BATH

GDST

Nursery | Prep | Senior | Sixth Form  
Day | Boarding



# Girls making their mark

Day and boarding in the beautiful city of Bath  
with all the power of a GDST education.

We support girls to be confident, to flourish and to be a force for positive change  
prepared to make their mark in school and the world beyond.

Come and  
see us:  
**01225 313877**

[www.royalhighbath.gdst.net](http://www.royalhighbath.gdst.net)





# Welcome

And educating girls is what we have continued to do this past year despite a few curve balls. When we returned last September, Covid facecoverings remained in place as did regular testing and the Department for Education insisting that all schools have an 'Outbreak Management Plan'. Mercifully the School remained open and in April 2022 we held our first live whole school assembly in over two years. Storm Eunice did her bit to outshine Covid closing all schools for a day, but our magnificent trees proved that, like us, they can bend and flex but not break, the imposing Redwood on the front lawn remained standing to everyone's relief.

So, to a year of increasing togetherness and celebration much of which is marked within the pages of this magazine. We held our third Festival of Ideas, when this year's theme 'Finding Your Voice' encouraged girls to be bold and speak out unapologetically with confidence. Our annual Dance Review returned as 'Dancing through the Pages' with girls interpreting a library of famous books through dance, movement and music. Our Steinway Music School hosted a Young Musician of the Year competition, and local pianists entered our inaugural 'Rising Star' competition with the winner joining our music scholars at the Steinway Hall in London for a special performance. We returned once more to the summer Art Exhibition celebrating the creativity and diversity of mediums that emanate from our remarkable Art School.

Our School's core value remains kindness. Kindness to ourselves, particularly after the demands of Covid, but also kindness to others, extending to a renewed drive encouraging girls to volunteer and fundraise within the school or in the local community. The IB project led by two of our Sixth Formers, raising funds for Alzheimer's

through an intensely personal and moving programme of music, proved how we always get back so much more than we give when we do things for others. Equally powerful were the number of Ukrainian students who joined us from their host families thanks to the generosity of the GDST. Their cheerfulness and positivity put so many of our worries in perspective. The thank you gift of a photo canvas that one student created with her father, when she was able to communicate with him, is a timely reminder of the gift of family we can take for granted.

As we look to the future, we join all 25 schools in GDST's celebration of 150 years of pioneering education for girls. We have the challenge to raise 150 bursaries to continue to reach as many girls as possible. On a smaller scale we also have much to look forward to including a whole-school production of 'Beauty and the Beast' later this term, the return of the Friends Christmas Bazaar, alumnae reunions, including a Royal School reunion in February, and more.

It has been a pleasure to welcome back alumnae for reunions, many of whom will not forget the joy of having the indomitable Miss Winfield join us for the Bath High reunion last May. Thank you to those alumnae who joined us in London and in Bath for reunions. As always, many thanks are due to our Alumnae and Community Liaison Officer, Francesca Orr, for her fantastic work on this publication and for her leadership of the alumnae. I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and adventures of students past and present in these pages.

**Mrs Kate Reynolds** Head  
Royal High School Bath, GDST

Welcome to this edition of **Alumnae**, our new-look annual alumnae e-zine. We hope you enjoy the new format and, as ever, we welcome contributions from our alumnae whether that be a contribution to catch up corner, a thought piece, or a career spotlight. Please do get in touch.

In a year where we celebrated the return to full school productions with a rousing run of 'The Sound of Music' matters of weeks after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I feel I must ignore that most famous of lines: 'start at the very beginning, it's a very good place to start'. Whilst this is a review of the year for 2021-22, I would like to acknowledge the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the remarkable life of service Her Majesty dedicated to us all.

Unlike Miss Blackburn in 1952, I had no need to visit classrooms to share the news of Her Majesty's death. In the middle of our start of term Parent Receptions, social media spread the news we had all been dreading. When we gathered for Assembly the following morning it was with happy memories of our joyous Platinum Jubilee celebrations still comparatively fresh in our minds and the realisation that this marked the end of an era. The Book of Condolence will shortly move to our archives and so will begin a new chapter, with us still grateful for the royal endowment, among others, that started our long history of educating girls.

## CONTENTS

**3 Welcome**

**4 School News**

**16 GDST News**

**18 Alumnae News**

**29 From the RHBA Committee**

**30 Events**

**32 Giving**

**34 A Glance at the Past**

**36 Obituaries**

**40 Catch Up Corner**

**Cover Image:**

Alumna Nicola Meecham (BHS 1976), performing at Steinway Hall London.

# The logic behind the design



At the start of 2021/2022, students returned to newly designed Maths classrooms and Pastoral spaces. Here Facilities Manager, Tim Peacock, explains the logic behind the designs.

Starting from the initial brief to improve pastoral facilities at the Royal High School Bath, phase I of the Pastoral project saw the creation of two new common rooms for students in Years 8 and 9. The location was chosen to make more of the outside space in what was the maths courtyard. Siting new common rooms around this courtyard would mean that as well as improved indoor space the girls would also benefit from extra outside space to socialise and study. This created the need to provide two alternative teaching spaces for the maths department, so two locker rooms at the top of the maths department were relocated to enable this.

The focus for the maths classrooms has been to create a fit for purpose learning space, which allows traditional teaching from the front of the class along with collaborative working spaces for small groups. Multiple glass boards have been placed around the rooms for the girls to use when working together and a breakout space has been created to encourage group work in different areas of the room. The classrooms have been fitted with bespoke teaching walls which allow

for storage as well as having integrated smart boards. The storage solution should ensure clean, uncluttered spaces to allow the mind to focus whilst also having the advantage of hiding away screens when not in use.

The new rooms have been designed in line with the WELL standards ([www.wellcertified.com](http://www.wellcertified.com)) for buildings. Whilst hard to implement these standards in their entirety to renovation projects, we have been able to pick out some key points and implement these. For example, the use of natural wood textures can now be found on the teaching walls and new classroom chairs. Plants have been put in the classrooms to create biophilia, which has been found to support cognitive function, physical health, and psychological wellbeing. Thought was also given to the science of colour used within the rooms. For Maths, green was chosen to help create a focused and calming space. Further application of the WELL standards were used in specifying the new lighting and acoustic solutions whilst also considering thermal and ventilation options for future implementation. The finishing touches will be the addition of modular tables to allow different class set ups and some wall art to bring identity to the department.

The new common room spaces designed around feedback from the pupils and



Heads of Key Stage to have more social and study spaces for students in Years 8 and 9. The requirement was for colour and the ability to differentiate between the two common rooms. This we hope we have achieved by implementing contrasting colour schemes whilst using the same design palette for furniture fixtures and fittings. The colours should energise and invigorate the mind lend themselves to a fun yet creative space. The rooms have been divided in height using different zones and types of furniture. High tables in each room with power sockets and dedicated task lighting create a great space for individual working whilst round tables lend themselves to group work and socialising. Low comfy seating has also been provided to create a comfy spot to read or relax. Again the room has also been fitted with the new lighting specification according to the WELL standards. As part of the next phase of the design we hope to realise some of the pupils' designs for the courtyard space so that both the internal and external aspects of the common rooms can be enjoyed to their full potential.

In the meantime, phase 2 of the Pastoral project is under way and students have already seen improvements to the Hive wellbeing space, and a makeover for the Lavender Room, the Sixth Form's dedicated wellbeing space.





# Sporting successes

The return of sports competitions following a Covid-imposed hiatus has been eagerly welcomed by students who have seen a range of sporting successes over the past year.

## CROSS COUNTRY



Students who participated in the English Schools Athletics Association (ESAA) Cross Country Cup at Downside School in October achieved fantastic results in a fiercely competitive field having put in some gritty runs. The Juniors finished fourth, the Intermediate girls third, and the Seniors took second place with three runners inside the top ten, including first place.

## SWIMMING



Ellen, Year 9, is in the county squad at Bradford on Avon Amateur Swimming Club and enjoyed an exceptional swimming meet for West

Wiltshire in the National Arena League at Millfield School last December. Ellen earned a weighty ten gold medals, one silver and one bronze over the weekend, including gold medals for 50m, 100m and 200m fly, and whilst she was at it, she also achieved county qualifying times for all three of those races plus five more in addition!

## EQUESTRIAN

Our equestrian team had a fantastic year! Last autumn four Royal High School students qualified for the NSEA National Showjumping Championships having come first in the 80cm jump at a NSEA competition held at Dauntsey's where they fought off competition from 14 other schools.

Having won the Novice Dressage Class, **Cesca, Year 9**, picked up the Somerset qualification for Royal High School Bath to compete at the County Dressage Championships 2022 which took Cesca to Hickstead in April. We are thrilled that she came second in a competitive class against many riders who were older than her – a wonderful experience for Cesca to compete at such an iconic venue made all the more exciting with a podium finish!

Cesca also had a decisive win at the NSEA UK Dressage Plate Championships held at Bury Farm in Bedfordshire last December, having missed the NSEA championships in October due to Covid. More recently, in May Cesca was announced as the NSEA National Winter Dressage League winner of both the Preliminary and Novice sections on her horse Boo. Competitors from schools around the UK were required to submit a video of a dressage test for each class every month for five months throughout the winter. Cesca also had her first one day event of the season at Waverton House (part of the Cotswold Cup series) and won her section with a 23.8 dressage and a double clear with no time penalties.

In March **Mya, Annalisa** and **Isabella** competed at West Wilts Equestrian Centre in the Show Jumping County Qualifier jumping confident rounds to come third as a team in the 90cm class. Annalisa came fourth individually in the 1m class riding Aiakos de la Scarpe and Isabella also jumped super clear rounds in the 90cm and 1m classes on her new pony Noble Sir Prize. Unfortunately, it was a county qualifier for Wiltshire and Gloucestershire so only schools from those counties could qualify for any finals, but the girls have gained valuable experience. **Isabella, Year 7**, then went on to qualify her pony Ellis Island D'Argann for the Longlines Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead at her first attempt.



## School News

### HOCKEY



**Ruby, Year 10**, has been selected for the England Hockey UI6 Squad, and made her official debut for the England UI6's Hockey team this summer. Being a year younger than those usually selected for the squad this is a fantastic achievement for Ruby, and a testament to all her hard work and dedication. Ruby plays goalkeeper and was part of the Test Series team who took on the Scotland UI6's at Edinburgh University. Congratulations Ruby – and well done to the England UI6's who won the first game 6-0 and the second game 8-2!

Ruby who is also part of the first team squad for TeamBath Buccaneers which is based at University of Bath said: "It was amazing to be playing for my country and singing the National anthem felt surreal. I was nervous beforehand, but the feeling soon wore off. It was such an amazing experience."

### GYMNASTICS



In gymnastics, this summer, **Evie, Year 7**, competed in the Baskervilles Rising Stars Competition and placed second on Vault, first on Floor and second overall – well done Evie!

We love seeing our students compete in a range of sports and are really looking forward to hearing how this talented group of students develop in their respective sports.

### FOOTBALL

Congratulations to **Sophie, Year 10**, on being selected to be part of the GDST UI5 Football Squad!

Following her selection, Sophie attended a GDST Football weekend in Oxford in April where she was one of two goalkeepers chosen to play in two matches later that month. Sophie rose to the challenge conceding just two goals across both matches playing against club sides made up of girls two years her senior. The first game the GDST UI5 side won 3-1 and the second they won 8-1. A huge achievement and we are very proud of Sophie for representing RHSB magnificently alongside very talented players from across our family of GDST Schools.



### NETBALL



Three Royal High pupils have enjoyed a successful season with TeamBath Netball. Having won an impressive 5/7 games in the South West UI4 Regional League Division I, the girls and their team finished third place in their league. This meant they were then invited to represent the South West at the National Club Finals. Unfortunately, having acquitted themselves well they did not progress any further but reaching the playoffs was in itself a great feat in a very competitive league.

In June **Jess, Year 11**, attended the first round of GDST Select Netball trials at Northampton High School and trialled brilliantly, showcasing her skills and prowess on the court. Jess has been selected to go through to the next round, along with DofE absentee Olivia, which will take place in September. Both girls have been selected for the TeamBath Athlete Development Centres in Bristol and Bath and are exciting talents to watch!

### ROWING



In May, **Liv, Year 8**, and **Amelia Year 11**, competed in the National Schools Regatta at Dorney Lake. In each of their categories they needed to place twelfth in a time trial in order to get through to the heats. Liv was coxing the J14 boys quad who came eighteenth out of 39, over 1 km. Amelia competed in the J16 coxless quads, sitting in bow, and we came fifteenth out of 23, missing twelfth by seven seconds, over 2 km. Liv went on to compete at the Monmouth City regatta and came second in her single and double out of four crews. She was the youngest competitor of the day. Well done to Liv and Amelia for their determination and great efforts!



# Eliza meets HRH The Princess Royal



In November, Deputy Head Girl, Eliza Hyde attended a St John Ambulance Young Achievers' ceremony held in the Priory Church of the Order of St John at St John's Gate, London, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal.

Eliza had been invited as one of the District Cadets of the Year along with other members of St John Ambulance (SJA) who had been outstanding in some way, in some instances saving lives.

As Eliza explains: "Princess Anne took the time to speak to every single person individually. She asked me about my year, and what I'm hoping to study, as well as my experiences with St John Ambulance, and was genuinely interested in hearing what each of us had to say. It was a great chance to meet up with lots of other SJA cadets, some of whom I had met before and it also gave me the opportunity to meet other cadets and adult members from all over the country who had inspirational stories. Attending this event in such a historical place and meeting HRH The Princess Royal made me think about how much I've gained from being part of this organisation. I've made friends with so many different people of all ages and from all backgrounds and have learnt so much about First Aid but also about life!"

Eliza joined St John Ambulance when she was 11 and is now in the adult section. Many Cadets join St John Ambulance to gain relevant experience before pursuing a career as a paramedic or health care professional – something Eliza plans to do in future, she is currently reading medicine at Cardiff University.

## Inspirational Ten Tors Team

A massive well done to our truly inspiring Ten Tors team for completing the gruelling Challenge on Dartmoor in May. They trekked over 35 miles across the wild terrain of Dartmoor as a self-sufficient team, visiting ten checkpoints and camping on the Moor overnight. Huge congratulations to all involved – the Team of six, the reserves, friends and families for their support and our staff (Mr Leather, Mr Steele, Mrs Williams and especially Mr Hardcastle) for their invaluable help, advice and encouragement at all stages.



Organised by the Army, Ten Tors is described as "the largest and most challenging event for young people nationally" attracting thousands of teenagers from across the South West every year. 400 teams of six teenagers have to complete a 35, 45 or 55-mile route (depending on age) on Dartmoor using their navigational skills and carrying all the equipment and food they need for the two-day trek. The start is at 07:00 and the teams have until 17:00 the next day to complete the challenge, checking in at all Ten Tors along the way. This year's Royal High School Bath team completed the challenge at 14:03 on Sunday 8 May.

Mr Hardcastle and Mrs Williams said: "We are so proud of this incredible team, including the amazing reserves. They have been a joy to train over the last 3 months and have achieved so much! Well done!"




## Students enjoy new fitness suite

Thanks to a donation from the Friends of RHSB, the Sport Department has recently invested in some additional equipment to improve the offering within our fitness suite.

Sports Scholars and other students who have expressed an interest in using the fitness equipment have been having regular sessions with Mr Lem to learn about how strength and conditioning can support other sports which they enjoy.

"The equipment in the fitness suite is providing us young athletes with the opportunity to enhance our performance and allow us to achieve our full potential when performing in our sport. The new equipment, including a squat rack, enables us to strengthen and target muscles which cannot be improved using only body weight. The variety of equipment allows us to train specifically to our sport, which is important for preventing injury and improving muscular endurance. The fitness suite also allows us to be in a safe environment where we can socialise, have fun, and challenge ourselves alongside the support of the PE staff. We are very lucky and grateful to have such fantastic and technical sports equipment." Sofia, Year 11.



# Making our mark as an All-Steinway Music School

Last autumn, we celebrated our All-Steinway School status with a special visit to the Music School by world renowned pianist and GDST alumna, Joanna MacGregor CBE.

Joanna's visit began with a thought provoking and inspirational talk to our piano students where she discussed a range of composers and how historical composers' ideas in music might be being written or interpreted now. For example, a lot of concepts in jazz can be linked to Bach's music. Joanna also had careers advice for our musicians and emphasised the importance of building a portfolio career when pursuing music. Being a performer is not enough; a musician should be a composer, conductor, teacher and curator, as well as having hobbies and interests elsewhere.

Three of our Music Scholars were then treated to a masterclass with Joanna, who is Head of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music. Megan, Kopikha and Christiane all played under Joanna's constructively critical eye, while the rest of Scholars watched and observed. This was a priceless experience for all, regardless of whether they were playing or observing. Joanna talked about practise technique which can be applied to any instrument, and gave invaluable advice to our three masterclass Scholars.

In the evening, students and staff were treated to a recital – Covid-19 caution thwarted a larger external audience. The programme began with three stunning performances by Christiane, Kopikha and Megan, following their masterclasses earlier in the day. Beginning with Chopin's Nocturne in G Minor, Op.37 No. 1, played beautifully by Christiane, followed Kopikha's inspired performance of Sonata in D Minor by Antonio Soler and ending with Megan's moving rendition of Chopin's Nocturne in E Minor, Op.72 No. 1. What was especially impressive, was how the girls had already absorbed Joanna's advice from the masterclasses and applied it to their playing.

Joanna MacGregor closed the recital with three very varied pieces and brought each of them to life with her own narrative to introduce them – this storytelling really brought her performance alive for the audience.

The first piece was Bach's French Suite No.5 in G Major. Consisting of seven short movements, each containing dance-style rhythms and a joyful character. Joanna gave an exciting performance, showcasing her skill and musicianship. Her next piece was Chopin's Four Mazurkas, Op.30, a 'Mazurka' being a Polish folk dance, usually in 3/4 time. The folk influence shone through during dramatic accents on the

third beat of the bar. The range in Joanna's playing was exceptional throughout this piece, with the quieter moments being played with utmost sensitivity, and the louder, dramatic passages being performed with flair.

The final part of the recital was the enervating Danzas Argentinas by Alberto Ginastera, a set of three dance movements. The first movement, translated as 'Dance of the Old Herdsman,' is played with only black notes in the left hand and only white notes in the right, with complex rhythms played with energy and vigour by MacGregor. The second movement, translated as 'Dance of the Donosa Girl,' is a gentler dance with an expansive melody that was played with emotion and feeling. The final movement, translated as 'Dance of the Outlaw Cowboy,' was a relentless and wild movement, filled with dissonance and energy. Finishing with a wonderful glissando, the ending of the piece concludes a fantastic, varied recital in dramatic and impressive fashion.

The audience were treated to an electrifying performance, made all the more special by the fact that the performance space was so intimate and proximity so close.



The audience were treated to an electrifying performance, made all the more special by the fact that the performance space was so intimate and proximity so close.

"The masterclass has opened a new learning perspective for me. My time spent with Joanna MacGregor taught me new piano techniques and how to approach a piece differently. Listening to her play not only was amazing but it has really inspired me to work hard to achieve my dreams." Christiane, Music Scholar and Masterclass artist.

Later in March, Music Scholars from Royal High School Bath were given the unique opportunity to spend a day at Steinway Hall in London, taking part in our school's inaugural visit since our Music School received its prestigious Steinway title in 2020.

Nine of our music scholars from years 6 to 12 attended and each performed during an evening recital having taken part in

a special masterclass with Martin Roscoe, one of the UK's best-known pianists. Joining our scholars was Gavin Phelps, winner of our Young Pianist of the Year competition. The day also included a tour of Steinway Hall for students to learn about its history, heritage and how their pianos are made.

During the evening recital, the scholars were joined by two Royal High School Bath alumnae, **Nicola Meecham** (BHS 1976) and **Mathura Kathirgamanthan** (RHSB 2021). Sadly Covid-19 stopped alumna **Tara Cunningham** (RHSB 2017) from also performing with the girls.

Our partnership with prominent piano makers Steinway & Sons means that we are one of only 28 schools in the UK and 250 schools worldwide to gain the prestigious All-Steinway title. This means our students benefit by having access to world-class Steinway pianos, masterclasses by Steinway artists, and performance opportunities throughout the year.

Mark Bradbury, Director of Music, said: "Speaking on behalf of all the students who have had the incredible opportunity to work with Martin Roscoe today in their masterclass session, I am certain they will all join me in thanking him for his inspirational words, advice and musical expertise in approaching each of their challenging pieces. This incredible opportunity has only been possible thanks to our continued relationship with Steinway & Sons, who share the same ethos in nurturing and developing the talents of young musicians."



## Festival of Ideas 2022



The Festival of Ideas is an annual occasion when, we ask our whole school community to unite their thinking around a theme in a cross-curricular manner with innovative input from our wonderful teaching staff and the help of an exciting programme of external speakers.

Following last year's focus on Diversity, this year we turned our attention to the theme of 'Finding Your Voice.'

Students in Years 7 and 9 were challenged in groups to research, write, practice and perform a presentation on the theme to help them focus on our Royal High Learner Habits, especially being brave, inquisitive and collaborative. To help them do this we welcomed our first guest speaker of the season, Megan Beech, an award-winning poet, who spoke about the theme of Finding Your Voice in relation to her experience as a feminist and slam poet, and who is best known for her volume of poetry entitled 'When I Grow Up I Want to Be Mary Beard'. Megan encouraged the students to try some slam poetry and showed them how poetry and the written word can help them find their own voices.

Having worked in House groups on their theme-related presentations one group from each House was voted through to our grand final, where the selected presentations were performed to Mrs Reynolds, Head, and Mr Briggs, Deputy Head. Congratulations to Du Pré for winning first place!

Subject departments also led a series of exciting workshops on a wide variety of topics including dance, science, literature, sustainability and art all focussing on 'Finding Your Voice'.

"The standard of final presentations from the four Houses was exceptional. They adhered to the brief, ensuring they collaborated closely between the year groups, and produced presentations that were pertinent, carefully researched and demonstrated wonderful variety and bravery. We continue to commit to empowering girls to learn without limits and the life skill of confident speaking and articulation is apparent in the students who accepted the challenge of 'Finding Your Voice' in this year's Festival of Ideas." Mrs Reynolds, Head.

This was followed by Speakers Week, when we welcomed four lunch-time speakers to the school to further explore our theme from a variety of angles. The speakers included alumna **Abigail Emery** (RHSB 2010) who has found her voice as a behavioural scientist working at the heart of government and alumna **Emma Ferguson** (RHSB 2009) who found not only her voice but has become the voice of millions of young people around the world as Global Advocacy Lead on Child and Adolescent Mental Health for UNICEF. We also heard from exciting rising artist Manoel Akure, followed by former Reuters journalist and author of The Dictator's Wife, alumna **Freya Berry** (RHSB 2009).

# A look back to the 1950s





# Jubilee celebrations

Commemorations of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee began with a ceremonial tree planting event. Two Ginkgo Biloba (Maidenhair) trees were specially planted for The Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree planting initiative inviting people from across the UK to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. One of our trees was given pride of place in the grounds of our Senior School campus while the other was planted at our Prep School in the Cranwell House grounds.

Head, Mrs Reynolds, was joined by Richard Hall, Chair of the Governors, for the ceremony to celebrate the tree planting, which also coincides with the environmental focus and sustainability policy which we have at the school. In addition to tree planting, The Queen's Green Canopy also aims to highlight the educational aspects of trees and the significance of giving young people access to nature and to inspire young people as the future custodians of the UK's green spaces, forests and woodlands.

Mrs Reynolds said "We are delighted to mark The Queen's Jubilee with this wonderfully positive initiative that simultaneously highlights the importance of trees and aims to inspire everyone to get involved and really champion the care of our trees, woodlands and green spaces. This perfectly fits with our whole-school approach to sustainability and the belief that 'you are never too small to make a difference'. We believe and teach our girls that it's everyone's responsibility to care for the environment and to be proactive about bringing about this change. It starts with our Nursery and Prep School where the children love playing in the wooded areas and benefit massively from spending time outdoors in a beautiful space with plenty of variety of trees."

The trees at Royal High School Bath have been added to the UK map on The Queen's Green Canopy website [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org) pinpointing tree planting projects from October 2021-March 2022.

On 27 May, prior to breaking for half term we held our own Platinum Jubilee 2022 celebration with a 1950s themed day which not only saw teaching staff create 1952 style worksheets from a Banda Machine (Spirit Duplicator) but also included an inter-house Vintage Sports Day complete with military-style drill, Afternoon Tea, a cake sale and House Bake-Off competition. Students and staff also enjoyed a display some of our archive images from the 1950s, including the Duchess of Gloucester's visit to Bath High School in 1951, and we took an aerial photo of all Prep girls making a '70' as a fitting addition to our archives.

Our Jubilee Bake-Off panel of judges, comprising our Head Girl, Annabel, and Deputy Head Girls, Florence and Megan, as well as Mrs Wilson, Director of Finance and Operations, Kevin Graff, Head Chef and Mrs Reynolds, Head, were very impressed by the mouth-watering range of cakes, biscuits, flapjacks, cupcakes and pop sticks on display and had a very hard time choosing a winner for each category. The House winners, however, were Brontë for donating the most cakes, biscuits and traybakes.

Best of all, the number of cakes, bakes and treats sold by at the Bake Sale meant that we have managed to raise a £342.50 for the School's Ukraine Humanitarian Fund.





# Recognition for excellence

Royal High School Bath is proud to have been highly commended in two categories at the 2022 BSA Supporting Excellence Awards. This comes after being selected as finalists for the Best New Index Initiative, recognising our work on diversity and inclusion, and secondly for Best Artwork Project as a result of a submission by one of our Sixth Form boarders, Joana.

Here is an excerpt from Joana's curatorial rationale for her show:

My intention is to focus on perspective and explore what this means to an individual. My personal definition of perspective is "a unique way we perceive an object". I find it fascinating how everyone sees, interprets, and loves the world in various ways. Not only was I going to explore the perspective of architecture (also as a drawing device) but also the meaning of perspective, a person's point of view.

Time moves on. We can't stop time and nor can we freeze it, it is all about making memories. Living away from home shortens my time with the ones I love most. It rushes away especially those beautiful moments. But for me when family members passed away it is the time when memory starts to unfold, because you can never recreate the same memory again and over time those memories will fade. In the show I wanted to bring alive a few memories once more.

I have explored different elements of perspective and narrowed down to three areas: modern architecture, the unity of family which gives me strength and courage and snapshots of daily life. I feel like we don't appreciate the little moments in life enough, we walk through life blindly. To explore these different interpretations of perspective I have used a range of techniques including layering figures to communicate fading imagery and memories, using transparent fabric, and tracing paper to create a certain blurriness, making faces and bodies indistinct.

Well done Joana for a fantastic exhibition.

Royal High School Bath has also been Highly Commended in the Special Sixth Form category of the Muddy Stilettos' Best Schools Awards 2022, for its 'Mind over Matter' wellbeing initiative - an initiative introduced to empower students to replace anxiety with agency during lockdown and all its consequent disruption.

The Mind Over Matter programme was developed by Luke Benedict, the Head of Sixth Form, in conjunction with Kathryn Schofield, the Exams Officer - both of whom witnessed first-hand the anxiety experienced by students who had to endure cancelled exams, repeated lockdowns, endless uncertainty and a process of perpetual assessment required by Teacher Assessed Grades.

Luke Benedict, Head of Sixth Form, said: "We're thrilled to be recognised for this because it speaks to our vision of balancing academic aspiration with perspective. The programme was designed to give the students a sense of agency at a time when they felt like they had lost all control of their education, focusing on practical strategies to support academic and emotional welfare. We also protected space for levity and fun in celebrating the intrinsic value of curiosity with the eclectic wonder of our 'Lockdown Lightness' daily messages."

Muddy Stilettos is an urban guide to the countryside with editions across England and overseas. Every year they run awards for independent businesses and this year they introduced a new awards category, the Best Schools Awards 2022.



Finally, our catering team has been awarded the regional prize in a competition organised by Holroyd Howe, the leading caterers for independent schools in the country, for an absolutely amazing Easter display - all made from scratch!

In the run up to Easter, Holroyd Howe ran a competition among the catering teams in all its schools to see who could come up with the most creative displays based around the theme of 'Easter treats'. The catering team at the Prep School wowed judges with a spectacular selection of handcrafted chocolate delights. Who needs the Easter bunny when we have such a fabulously creative and talented catering team?!





# Drama talent shines at RHSB

It has been a busy year in the Drama Department who hosted their first live streamed event last Autumn term with the Young Actor of the Year Final. This year, we were excited to welcome students from our Prep School for the first time; every performance was of an extremely high standard and an impressive level of maturity, energy and professionalism was on display, especially from the younger years.

The evening was adjudicated by three industry professionals: alumna Ruth Morrison (RHSB 2003), Agent at Curtis Brown, alumna Lizzie Stables (RHSB 2005), Actor and Artistic Director of Folio Theatre Company and Kris Hallett, Theatre Director, Lecturer in Performing arts and Theatre Critic.

You can find out more from Lizzie Stables in the Alumnae News section but suffice to say the judges were truly impressed by the level of talent on display and the wide variety of monologue choices that students had found and prepared, and we are very grateful to them for their support and constructive feedback for the girls.



This year also saw Miranda, Year 12 drama scholar, write and direct her play, 'Oh, the cleverness of me!' which was performed in the Memorial Hall in March. The play was set in a children's ward, with characters December, Addeline, Lalji and Theo who spend their nights lost in storytelling, until it's time for the stories to end.

Leanne Vincent-Norgate, Head of Drama, said: "It was a magical evening of student-led wonder. We are so proud to give our students the platform to challenge themselves and express their individual creativity. Well done to Miranda and the cast of, 'Oh, the cleverness of me!'"

Miranda Pharoah said: "'Oh the Cleverness of Me' was the first play I directed and what a joy it was to see something I've written come to life; for a play about the power of storytelling, a group of students getting together to create something that touched others was magical. I am very proud of everyone who worked on it and came to support us."



The Mid Somerset Festival remains a firm fixture in the Royal High School Bath calendar. This year, the School hosted the harp class in the All-Steinway Music School and saw several Royal High School students win awards in a variety of categories for their exceptional talent in music, speech and drama, and creative writing.

A high point of the year was the School's production of Rodger and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music. Involving over 120 girls from all year groups in the Senior School the production was a true collaborative effort between our departments; Estates helped with the set, DT helped with costumes and Music helped form an orchestra.

"By being a member of The Sound of Music family over the last five months this wonderful cast, crew and orchestra will have enhanced every single one of our six learner qualities. Theatre demands them of you, it encourages them within you, challenges you and rewards you for them. Everyone who auditioned for the musical has been found a place and everyone who wanted to help us has been given a job. Theatre thrives and holds magic because it is a home to so many, the more eclectic the bunch – the better!"  
Leanne Vincent-Norgate, Head of Drama

## Celebrating diversity

2021-2022 saw the birth of our new International Students Committee. We've been delighted to see so many students from different year groups taking part and working together to help celebrate diversity in our school community and helping give international students a voice.

Lunar New Year was our first cultural event of 2022 which we celebrated with a lion dance choreographed by two Year 7 tutees, with drum accompaniment from the Music Department. Boarders had started the creation of dragon heads in January with students from different Houses helping decorate them ready for the dragon parade and a celebratory lunch provided by our catering team.

We cannot pretend that our dragons are traditional Lunar New Year dragons but Miss Cheers, Head of International Students, notes that this makes the sentiment even greater. She adds, "Indeed, these aren't traditional – these Royal High dragons are created by students from a range of nationalities and cultures – a school twist on traditions that celebrates the diversity and unity of our school community."

The next cultural event came in March when Senior School staff and students took part in a colour run to celebrate the Holi Festival. The event raised £452 to add to our pot to support the Crisis in Ukraine. The girls had a fantastic time, with many doing extra laps so that they could be even more colourful!



# Reading Week 2022: some recommended good reads!

Following a very successful Reading Week, some of our students and staff have shared their favourite books, with the hope that this will encourage others to pick up a book and read something different.

**Ms Amy Howe** – Soft Services Manager  
*Interviews with an Ape*. I have just finished this book and it hit every emotion possible for me. It is a fictional book that could be mistaken for fact I believe. I think this book will change the readers perception of the animal kingdom. I was incredibly sad to finish this book but glad that there was closure in the story. I think this book is for everybody but also a must for anybody that cares about the world and what is in it should read this book. It will describe it in its simplest form and will make you want to make a difference.

**Mrs Claire Binney** – Head of Classics  
Here are my recommendations in Greek, in Latin and in English, but there is a theme! In Greek, *Homer's Odyssey* (including gods, monsters, heroism and revenge) as the earliest piece of western European literature, created before writing even existed, it is the bedrock of so much literature from almost the past three thousand years. In Latin, *Virgil's Aeneid* (how a refugee must literally go through hell and high water to bring East and West together and pave the way for future Rome). This is more than just a Roman re-hash of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. In

English, Natalie Haynes' *A Thousand Ships* (a retelling of the story of Troy from the perspective of women, including mortals and immortals which weaves together so many strands from the ancient world). It is a masterpiece! It was also shortlisted for 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction, so if I had to choose just one, this would be it.

**Dr Jane McCarthy** – Classics Teacher  
My favourite book is *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. It has convincing characters, a quietly competent heroine whose horrible family do not appreciate her and a happy ending. Plus, part of the book is set here in Bath!

**Mr Luke Benedict** – Head of Sixth Form  
*East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. Forget that simplistic, besmirched novella 'Of Mice and Men' and relish instead in the 20th Century's greatest novel. Part re-telling of the Old Testament, part rendering of family history, all elements of the human condition. Spoiler: it contains everything you need to know to live the good life.

**Ellen**, Year 7  
My favourite book series are the *Scarlet and Ivy* series and the *Murder Most Unladylike* series. I also really enjoyed a book called *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Sorry I really can't choose; they are the best books ever written!!! I really liked them because they were exciting from the first chapter and there was always something happening.

**Annalisa**, Year 10  
*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi or *S.T.A.G.S* by M.A. Bennett. They are both written very well with lots of plot twists and great characters.

**Iris**, Year 7  
My favourite books are called *Murder Most Unladylike 1 and 2*. I like death and clues and mystery.

**Chloe**, Year 7  
I love the *Gone books* and the *BZRK book* all by Michael Grant.

**Libby**, Year 9  
One of my favourite books is *We Were Liars*. My favourite book series is the Morris Gleitzman *Once* series. *We Were Liars* because the writing style is beautiful, and the storyline is complex. I like the *Once* series because it is quite heart-breaking but very informative about the holocaust.

**Darcy**, Year 7  
My favourite book is *One of Us Is Lying* by Karen McManus.

**Florence**, Year 8  
*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. It's extremely emotionally engaging, and the author manages to capture each scene with such vivacity that you find yourself gripping onto her every word, even if she is describing something simple and insufficient.

**Matilda**, Year 8  
*Cinderella is Dead* by Kalynn Bayron. The writing is really engaging, it paints a great picture of the world and the characters, and the plot/story is very imaginative. The characters also are not Mary Sues, they have faults and are very well rounded.

**Tilly**, Year 7  
*Tilly and the Book Wanderers*. I love it because it is a story with magic and adventure.

Why not share your favourites on social media: Face Book @rhsalumnae





# One to watch!

**Maddie**, Year 12, has won an impressive four writing awards in recent months!

Earlier this year, judges were unanimous in choosing Madeleine as the winner of the David Selwyn Prize, a prestigious short story competition for schools in the Bath and Bristol area. Every year, the prize is awarded in association with the Jane Austen Society for essays related to the works of Jane Austen.

Maddie is currently in the Sixth Form studying English as part of her A Levels and was appointed as the School's inaugural student Poet Laureate for her talented writing of verse and prose. Her work that won the prize is entitled, 'Object Permanence'. A spokesperson for the judging panel said: "Madeleine's story caught our attention for its sensitive and alert portrayal of a burgeoning relationship. Rendered in third-person narrative but interwoven fluently with free-indirect discourse, 'Object Permanence' gives us a heightened sense of the characters' interiority, and makes quotidian details – a crow on a drainpipe, a spot of blood on denim – rich with intent."

**Link to read Maddie's winning entry.**  
**Scan or click here.**



Maddie then went on to claim, just two weeks later, second prize in the Senior Category of the Classical Association's Creative Writing competition. Held to celebrate the appointment of actor, broadcaster, narrator and writer Stephen Fry as the CA's Honorary President for 2021-22, the competition was open to writers and classicists of all ages.

Maddie's story 'We are Very Little Things' was chosen from more than 450 wonderfully creative and entertaining entries inspired by Stephen's books 'Mythos', 'Heroes' and 'Troy'.

**Link to read "We are Very Little Things".**  
**Scan or click here.**



The theme for this year's GDST Creative Writing prize was 'Bouncing back' and the entries were judged by Rachel Hore, an alumna of Sutton High School, who is now a full-time writer and author of eleven novels. Maddie won the Year 12 and 13 prize for her piece 'We are Very Little Things'. This has been described as 'an accomplished, mature and nuanced piece of experimental writing that examines the Greek myth of Persephone and Demeter through a modern lens.'



Maddie's fourth win was the annual GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize in the Year 12-Year 13 category. The Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize is one of the GDST's longest-running prizes, established in memory of Sir Laurie Magnus, by his widow. Laurie Magnus was a GDST Council member from 1907, and Chairman from 1929 until his death in 1933. The competition is open to students with an interest in poetry and this year the poems were judged by Sydenham High School alumna and prize-winning poet and author Claudia Daventry.

Claudia commented that Maddie's poem 'Ode to Girlhood (& Paris)' was "a tour de force: an enchanting and slightly sinister journey through generations of feminine life in all its organic stages."

**Link to read "Ode to Girlhood & Paris".**  
**Scan or click here.**



As many alumnae will be aware, Royal High School Bath believes in providing a supportive environment where young writers feel encouraged and have the freedom to express themselves through their writing. Whilst staff in the English department are committed to the principle of celebrating and facilitating young students to nurture their writing talents, our Head of Sixth Form is keen to stress that it is the students themselves who deserve all of the credit.

According to Mr Benedict: "There is a small and extraordinary community of writers with differing voices and multifarious talents but with a mutual passion for telling stories. In the past few years, between them this community of student writers have produced numerous anthologies – from the student society Write Space to a lockdown-inspired almanac – and won countless awards.

Possibly the best example of the students' own initiative in helping themselves and others to develop their creative writing is the 'Write Space Society', founded by Year 12 student Joely. The Write Space students work collaboratively and collectively: sharing stories, workshopping ideas, swapping sample work and early drafts and – within that space – developing their own unique excellence. There is no better testament to the culture that Joely has established within the society that the students commit with such passion and such willing to take that risk every week. And by nurturing that camaraderie they have produced something wonderful. The Write Space anthology is a challenging, evocative, and brilliant compendium of writing from our finest storytellers and sentence-makers. It really is a remarkable achievement from Joely and her team of loyal disciples."

Commenting on the nurturing environment for writers to express themselves at RHSB, Joely says: "Writing has always been my passion, but a hidden one at that, so when I joined RHSB, I knew that it was only right that I gave other girls a place to share their talent with others. Once I joined Sixth Form, I've found that I have so much opportunity in store for my writing within the academic sphere – the Quokka magazine, creative competitions, EPQ project... I'm proud to say that I am finding my voice, through my writing, and I hope many other girls do too."

## 'Psychology: The Future' Conference

One of the many benefits of being a GDST school is that our students can take advantage of GDST schools' initiatives. One such example is last year's conference hosted by Oxford High School. Here Rosie and Annabel, Year 12, tell us all about it.

Oxford High School, hosted an inspirational conference for 90 schools from across the country to hear from leading academics specialising in psychology and related fields. The conference was titled "Psychology: The Future" and was open to all GDST psychology A Level students as a way of furthering our knowledge about topics we will discover throughout the course. We heard from nine psychology professionals covering topics varying from, "Forensic Psychology" by Ms Keelie Persha to "Applying Insights from Psychology to the Design of Health Technologies" presented by Professor Blandford, and even the prescient, "Psychology in Covid-19" by Professor Goodwin.

An eye-opening presentation from the day was Dr Bishop's talk regarding "Placebo effects in Medicine". The Placebo

effect is when a substance or treatment which is designed to have no therapeutic value takes effect and cures the patient it is tested on. Common placebos include sugar pills, saline injections and sham surgeries. This talk was really intriguing as we learnt that 12% of doctors have already prescribed patients pure placebos as their form of treatment. For example, 51% of patients have responded to "antidepressants" via the placebo effect. The main reason that placebos are so effective is because they stimulate pharmacies in our brains to expect results after receiving treatment, which releases neurochemicals to reduce symptoms. From this we learnt that medicine and psychology aren't so different and there are many overlaps.

We also heard from Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore who works in the psychology department at Cambridge University and has a PhD in Neuroscience and has lectured to people all over the world via her TedTalks. Her interest in psychology developed when she wanted to further her research as to why some people's brains



create symptoms of schizophrenia and why others don't. This led to her interest in the adolescent brain development which was what we heard her talk about. We personally found this talk really interesting as it explained the "sensation seeking" behaviour of teenagers and it offered an insight into why boys and girls act differently. It was also amazing to hear from such an inspirational and renowned psychologist.

We are grateful to Oxford High School for hosting this engaging conference and thank you to Mrs Looker and Mrs Newman for giving us such a brilliant opportunity. We are so grateful to be a part of the Girls Day School Trust, without it we wouldn't be able to attend events like this.

## Aspire Conference 2022

More than 110 students from schools across the region gathered at Royal High School Bath in May for Our Aspire 'Gifted and Talented Conference' for high achievers in Years 9, 10 and 12.

This was the first time we had hosted the conference in person. Last year's event attracted 580 students from 29 schools from around the country but had to be held online due to Covid restrictions. This year, schools around Bath were invited to send five representatives each in person to enjoy a wide-ranging series of speakers.

Schools taking part included sister GDST schools, of which Portsmouth High School travelled the further, alongside Beechen Cliff, Oldfield School, Hayesfield Girls' School, Monkton Senior School, Writhlington School, St Gregory's Catholic College, Ralph Allen School, Kingswood School and St Mark's CofE School. In addition, around 80 of our students

attended the event and four further GDST schools joined the conference online.

The conference was a day of lectures designed to stretch and challenge the students' thinking and knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Featuring key-note speakers covering topics as wide ranging as plastic pollution to time-travel, students enjoyed exciting talks full of visuals and the latest scientific thinking.

A live interactive Chemistry demonstration by Dr Zoe Schnepf, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry at the University of Birmingham, certainly delivered a 'big bang' and astronomy author, Colin Stuart, took the students on a journey to Mars while getting them to consider questions such as how the astronauts would live and what food would they grow. Other speakers included David Jones, a well-known environmentalist and Founder of



Just One Ocean, posing the question "Is it too late to save our oceans?", while Olivia Coombes, a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, whose research focusses on the freedoms and abilities of time travellers, got the students to consider 'The Philosophy of Time Travel'.



Emma Hilliam, Head of Academic Extension, said "The day is about giving students the chance to interact with experts in their fields, to excite them about the subjects they are studying, broadening their horizons, and encouraging them to think outside the box. I have seen first-hand the positive impact conferences like these can have. It really goes a long way in helping foster confidence and ambition in young people and shows them how they too can pursue their passions and apply what they are learning at school in the real world."



## Raise Her Up: GDST podcast series

The GDST has introduced a podcast series, **Raise Her Up** which focuses on broad topics around wellbeing, health, parenting and equality which as parents and educators we are bound to encounter. Available to staff, parents, and alumnae, episodes feature expert guest speakers covering subjects such as gender equal parenting, Generation A, the teenage development journey, navigating the 'new normal' post Covid, and dealing with eco-anxiety - amongst other relevant and engaging topics.

The podcast is available here, via Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon, Google and other platforms.



Link to access the  
podcast.  
Scan or click here.



## What it means to be part of the GDST

One hundred and fifty years ago, on Sunday 26 June 1872 a piece of paper was signed at a public meeting held at the Royal Albert Hall, signalling the creation of what was then the Girls' Public Day School Company. The four pioneering women who founded the Trust wanted an education that was accessible to able girls, whatever their background, and offered scholarships from the outset.

Bath High School was one of first Girls' Public Day School Company schools – established in Hope House in 1875 and the merger with The Royal School, formed in 1865, which took place in 1998 saw the two schools remaining true to its original vision to enable girls learning without limits.

Now a family of 25 schools, the GDST tailors its approach to how girls learn best, providing them with the skills and support they need to succeed. Academic excellence is a given, but students in GDST schools also learn to be confident, happy and fearless, to ensure they are aware of the roles they will take on in the world and prepare them for the opportunities of the future.

This means that girls at Royal High School Bath are supported by the very best teachers who are dedicated to inspiring every one of them. Subject options are broad and forward thinking and the clubs and extra-curricular opportunities enjoyed by our students are endless – ranging from chess and gardening, through to bee keeping, coding, and diversity clubs.

The GDST network remains our super-power, offering access to even more opportunities beyond the bounds of the school itself. These include skills workshops, university application support, Leadership Opportunities and student-driven conferences and learning opportunities. Most importantly the GDST supports around 1,100 girls each year who are able to access bursary funded places to allow them access to an education they may not previously have been afforded.

Throughout the year we will be running a special 150th Bursary Appeal to raise funds to allow us to offer support to girls from all backgrounds. If 125 supporters give £20 a month for at least 4 years, this would raise £150,000 (with Gift Aid reclaimed) – enough to educate a senior pupil from

Year 7 though to Year 13, plus extra for incidentals such as uniform and school trips. Please do consider how you might help us raise funds for this worthwhile appeal.

In our 150th year, the principles of breadth, fearlessness, inclusivity and a focus on developing the individual to achieve her potential were all enshrined from the GDST's early beginnings and remain true of Royal High School Bath and the GDST family of schools today.

1  
GDST  
0

A HISTORY OF MAKING  
GIRLS' FUTURES



## Alumnae inspire with their passion for university life!

Our annual Tips for Oxbridge and Tips for University Forums are a regular feature in the Year I3 calendar with alumnae greatly enjoying returning to school to share their experiences with those following behind them, as much as the girls at the top of the school enjoy hearing from them.

Last September, our Aspire group again had the opportunity to benefit from the advice and experience of a group of RHS Oxbridge alumnae at the Tips for Oxbridge forum. Designed for those of our Sixth Form applying specifically to Oxford or Cambridge University, the session gives them the chance to speak directly to members of our alumnae who have experience not only of life at Oxbridge but more specifically the application process itself, which differs from that of other universities.

We were delighted to be joined in person by **Natasha Reid** (RHSB 2017, Cambridge - Medicine) and virtually by **Steffie Kemp** (née **James**) (RHSB 2014, Oxford - English Language and Literature) and **Daniela Alvarez Garcia** (RHSB 2015, Oxford - Philosophy Politics and Economics). Medicine is currently a popular subject and so we were delighted, and very grateful, to also be joined by **Irene Mathias**, Oxford High alumna and Oxford undergraduate medic who was able to add her own valuable insights to the discussions. Natasha, Steffie, Dani and Irene all gave

their personal insights into the application process, describing their interviews as being akin to a mini tutorial and explaining how these vary from subject to subject. The girls spoke with tremendous enthusiasm but were also very honest in acknowledging that Oxbridge is not for everyone, explaining how they themselves balance their workload alongside the many other opportunities on offer whilst thriving from the challenge! Our students also heard about life at Oxbridge in general, the college system, the huge array of clubs, societies and activities on offer and were reassured that alongside the hard work it is a huge amount of fun!

As an aspiring Oxbridge medic, I found the Tips for Oxbridge session extremely helpful in the midst of my UCAS application. The relaxed setting of the Rebecca Barrell Room encouraged a casual discussion about the application process and extraordinary interview experience with the alumnae."

**Eliza, Year I3**

I'm sure it left the whole year group inspired and with a buzz of anticipation of life after RHSB.

**Ella, Year I3**

The following afternoon, we were joined by alumnae, both in person and online, from a wide range of universities and courses for the Tips for University Forum.

**Nicola Cameron** (RHSB 2018, Nottingham - Architecture), **Minnie Karanjavala** (RHSB 2018, Oxford - Engineering), **Bliss Firth** (RHSB 2019, Institut Francais de la Mode Paris - Fashion Design), **Bessie Chung** (RHSB 2019, University of Fine Arts London - Fine Art), **Maame Asumadu Addo** (RHSB 2019, Toronto - Global Health with Immunology and Psychology) and again **Natasha Reid** (RHSB 2017, Cambridge - Medicine) all spoke with passion about their subjects and universities giving practical advice on how to best organise one's time whilst also settling into a new environment and meeting others. Pack a doorstop and upload a copy of your schedule onto your mobile device were both key takeaways!





With representatives from such a wide range of courses and universities, including two studying abroad, our students were able to learn about the importance of being self-motivated with regards to independent study and the benefits of fully utilising the help on offer from tutors and lecturers. Following further discussions about everything from choosing a course and university and the importance of attending open days, to making friends and joining clubs and societies few stones were left unturned leaving our Year 13s ready to return to preparing their UCAS applications with renewed enthusiasm!

I really enjoyed the Tips for Oxbridge and Tips for Uni sessions because they gave me specific advice about applications, interviews and university life from actual students. It was also great because there was a large mix of subject choices and universities, so it was helpful for everyone!

**Daisy, Year 13**

It was fantastic to hear how happy and settled our alumnae are at their chosen universities and how much they are enjoying not only their studies but also the other activities and opportunities on offer, despite the challenges of the last couple of years.

We look forward to welcoming back the current Year 13s in a couple of years' time to pass on their own wisdom to the years below!

## Expert voices: drama insights and inspiration

We were absolutely delighted that alumnae Lizzie Stables (RHSB 2005) and Ruth Morrison (RHSB 2003) were able to join our panel of judges for the Young Actor of the Year Final. Lizzie is an Actor and Artistic Director of Folio Theatre Company whilst Ruth is an Agent at Curtis Brown Literary and Talent Agency, so this was a wonderful opportunity for students to receive feedback from two very experienced industry professionals – albeit remotely as was the Covid-friendly way!

Afterwards we caught up with Lizzie who shared some background on her career and told us a little about being on the judging panel.

### What are your memories of drama at school?

I feel so lucky to have been a student at RHSB, it was such a nurturing environment and our headteacher at the time, Mr Graham-Brown, was incredibly encouraging – the school was a great support when I was auditioning for drama school. I have many wonderful memories, but a particular highlight was playing the guard in the Wizard of Oz which was so much fun.

### What inspired you to become an actor and what do you enjoy most about your choice of career?

I'm not sure of the exact moment I decided I wanted to be an actor. I always loved acting but I enjoyed other subjects too – I didn't even do drama for GCSE. It wasn't until I did National Youth Theatre when I was 16 that I started thinking seriously it was something I might like to do for a career. When I applied for Drama School in Sixth Form, I also applied for university courses in Drama and French – I was still open to where my future career might go. When I got into Central (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London) the process of being there for the auditions affirmed for me that I wanted to go, and I feel fortunate to have had that opportunity. It's a very hard career but I feel lucky to have had the amazing experience of doing my dream job – though that's not to say I haven't also had to do lots of less rewarding work to make ends meet sometimes!

### What was it like coming back to school as a judge?

I was honoured to be asked to judge Young Actor of the Year and it was really nice to be invited back but I was gutted not to be able to attend in person! We would never have had anything like this in our day and I was blown away by the standard – all the performances were brilliant, and we had a very hard job choosing the winners. I really enjoyed chatting with the performers afterwards and hearing about their future plans.



### What are your top tips for any students considering a career as an actor?

Be sure it is what you want, be brave and don't wait for other people to make your career for you, create your own path. Keep cultivating other interests, mainly for your own mental health and wellbeing but you also never know when they may come in useful as an actor!

Well done to our students for giving the judges such a hard job and thank you again to Lizzie and Ruth for supporting Drama at RHSB. We look forward to welcoming you back again soon.

# Alumnae Awards 2021: friendship, pride and loyalty - the essence of being an alumna

Since 2015 the Royal High School Bath Alumnae Network has presented four awards to promote and inspire in current students the characteristics of friendship, kindness, dedication, community spirit and academic endeavour that make up our alumnae family, otherwise known as 'RHSB Spirit'.

Last November it was wonderful to be able to welcome our guests in person and we were delighted to be joined by current parent and alumna Daphne Hemingway (BHS 1982), alumna Sarah Dix (RHSB 2006), Chair of the Royal High School Bath Alumnae Committee, Mr Richard Hall, Chair of Governors and Mrs Kate Reynolds, Head, who kindly presented the following awards, all nominated and voted for by staff from across the school:

## **The Sarah Williams Red Squirrel Award**

The Red Squirrel Award was instigated by a group of Bath High alumnae in memory of their friend, alumna Sarah Williams (BHS 1982), who sadly passed away in 2015 from cancer. The award is given to a girl in Year 8-13 who has shown spirit, courage, support for others, kindness and loyal friendship.

Daphne Hemingway told us a little about Sarah Williams, one of her closest friends from Bath High School, explaining that Sarah had striking red hair and was nick-named Squirrel, hence the red squirrel trophy, and how she was the inspiration for this award. As one of the key people who kept the BHS Class of 1982's friendships going after their school days, the Award celebrates Sarah's other qualities as somebody who had a lust for life and embodied the true spirit of friendship. Ms Hemingway was then delighted to announce that the 2021 winner of the Sarah Williams Red Squirrel Award is Sophie Phipson, Year 12. Sophie's nomination read, " Since Sophie joined RHSB last year she has fitted in like a glove, and is described as quite simply friends with everyone, optimistic and kind."



## **The Hilary Williams Award for Dedication**

The Hilary Williams cup is awarded to a girl in Year 8-13 in recognition of exceptional dedication in her approach, either to schoolwork and activities or to something extra-curricular.

Hilary Williams attended Bath High from 1948 to 1963, and then studied Psychology at St Mary's College, Durham University. On leaving Durham, knowing only that she wanted to do something fulfilling, challenging and rewarding Hilary embarked on a career which saw her become the first female governor of a male prison and take on senior management roles at companies like Mobil Oil, Hays Consulting, and British Gas. As the most senior female at British Gas at the time, when Hilary was on the cusp of being made the first female Director, the business was suddenly restructured, and her promotion vanished. Having successfully sued British Gas and helped change laws regarding discrimination, Hilary went on to become

the Chief Executive of Girl Guiding UK and took on numerous media appearances whilst being a member of several women's business networks, holding a non-executive position for Bath's RUH and volunteering at her local guide group in Bath.

Hilary was a hugely committed member of the alumnae committee and was Chair for 15 years. Fiercely loyal to Bath High, she was also incredibly progressive and played a valuable part in ensuring that the alumnae committee from Bath High came with us into the Royal High School as it is today. At her funeral in 2015 she was described as a people-orientated and inspirational leader with vision, who had her feet firmly on the ground and who relished achieving results through others by encouraging, empowering and supporting. Something for us all aspire to.

Having reminded those present of Hilary Williams' story and the background to the award, Sarah Dix was delighted to announce that this year's winner is Eliza Hyde, Year 13. Eliza's nomination was as follows. "An outstandingly committed student, Eliza works at the RUH every Thursday afternoon (with permission to leave school) where she either works as a Ward Volunteer or as a Welcome Volunteer speaking to patients and their families to improve their time at hospital. As a St John Ambulance Brigade member, Eliza attends weekly unit meetings and volunteers on duties at public events where SJA provide First Aid cover. Additionally, Eliza is a BANES volunteer and has been involved with leaflet drops, providing people with information about how they could access support during lockdown. She also made a Christmas Day phone call to a lonely person last year which inspired her to organise a Christmas Hamper challenge whole school competition which provided many families in the community with a special box of treats during the festive period. All this alongside her school studies and commitments, and she also swims for a Bath club."



### Alumnae Network Award for Continued Academic Endeavour

This cup is awarded to a girl in Year 8-11 in recognition of continued academic endeavour. Reminiscing about his own school days and the importance of striving for success whatever your ability, Mr Hall announced that this year saw two winners of the Alumnae Network Award for Continued Academic Endeavour who received the same number of votes: Lola McIntyre, Year 10, and Emmeline Branston, Year 9.

Lola's nomination said, "Lola works hard both in class and beyond, and it pays off in her results," whilst Emmaline's said, "The commitment, hard work and energy Emmaline has shown in Drama and English is unparalleled."

### Alumnae Network Junior Cup for Services to the School Community

The Alumnae Network Junior cup is awarded to a girl in Year 12 who is a committed and enthusiastic member of the school community who gives her all and is a role model to others.

Mrs Reynolds was delighted to announce two winners of the 2021 Alumnae Network Junior Cup for Services to the School Community; Annabel Callan, Year 12, and Sezi Balaban, Year 12, whose nominations read as follows.

Annabel: "Always bright and committed and has brought a high level of dedication to Sixth Form Drama rehearsal, Annabel is a wonderful student who is reliable, committed and always eager to help and take part in everything."

Sezi: "For her contributions to the boarding community and for regularly supporting Admissions events as an excellent Ambassador for the school."

Huge congratulations to all our fitting winners and thank you again to our guests for presenting this year's awards. We are of course ever grateful to our alumnae for their support and look forward to seeing what further endeavours they provide our girls with inspiration for in the years ahead!

## Alumna collaborates on life-sized board game

Alumna **Katherine Glover** (Katie Thomas, RHSB 2009) has been a Creative and Musical Theatre Performer for the last 10 years. Katherine's credits include the touring productions of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Spamalot*, *Puttin' on the Ritz* and more, and she was instrumental in the fund-raising for our Steinway Music School and Recording Studio running a wonderful Sounds of Music masterclass for our students a few years ago. More recently Katherine has branched out into the creative side, directing, writing and developing new projects.

The latest of these projects is 'Monopoly Lifesized' in London! Described as a life-sized, immersive, and high-octane way to play the world's favourite family board game, this could be a ray of light for those for whom the closest they have got to home ownership might be putting houses on Old Kent Road!

Monopoly Lifesized is based on the Tottenham Court Road, London and, with four different boards to choose from (including a special junior board for kids aged 5-9) offers you the chance to hop around the board and build the property empire of your dreams with a hybrid of escape rooms, board games, and team challenges. It's the first of its kind in the world, and there's plenty to keep you occupied; players need to participate in physical and mental challenges to move around the massive board, such as building London's landmarks against the clock, solving murder mysteries, or staging a Mayfair heist. A must-do for family and friends on your next visit to London!

Katherine's role in Monopoly Lifesized's development was as Associate Director and Child Engagement Consultant for their Junior board, meaning that she helped to design/write the final version, whilst her partner was the Producer and Writer. Having had a huge amount fun and creative collaboration getting the project off the ground, Katherine has recently

handed over her director role since returning to Bath to train for a Primary PGCE where she is now completing her placement school.

Watch this space to find out what Katie does next.



Find Monopoly Lifesized at 213-215 Tottenham Court Road, W1T 7PN. Tickets are on sale at [www.monopolylifesized.com](http://www.monopolylifesized.com)

## Published alumna: The Dictator's Wife

*A sumptuously written story, which demands to be devoured in one sitting*  
**GLAMOUR**

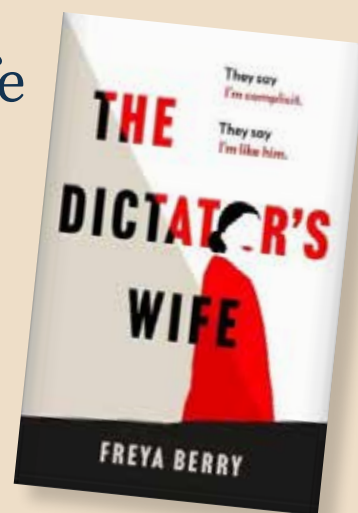
*A remarkable new talent*  
**ANTHONY HOROWITZ**

Alumna Freya Berry is celebrating the publication of her debut novel, *The Dictator's Wife*.

The story follows a captivating dictator's wife standing trial for her dead husband's crimes, and the web of secrets she weaves around her young female lawyer. Partly inspired by Freya's time as a journalist following Melania Trump in the 2016 US election, it is an exploration of female power, complicity and sacrifice, and the relationship between mothers and daughters. *The Dictator's Wife* is set in Eastern Europe, where Freya travelled for several months as research, hearing stories of lives under Communism and having many adventures, including on her first night when she was teargassed while attending an anti-government protest in Bucharest.

Available to purchase online from many recognised book sellers, *The Dictator's Wife* is published by Hachette's Headline and has received wonderful endorsements from Marian Keyes, Anthony Horowitz, Emma Stonex and Harlan Coben among others, and was a Best Book of February from Waterstone's.

Freya has many happy memories of her time at RHSB and especially remembers being sent to Miss Bevan (then Head of the Junior School at Hope House)'s office having let off a stink bomb – which Freya puts down to reading too much Enid Blyton! She left RHSB in 2002 when her parents moved to Bristol and then went on to read English at Trinity College Cambridge. Sheila Hirst had been Freya's favourite teacher at RHSB and a particular influence in deciding on her chosen subject! Following University Freya became a journalist at Reuters, covering corporate mergers and acquisitions and later Brexit. Around the time Freya decided to quit and write a book she had an offer



from the Daily Mail to cover the 2016 US election in New York. This planted the seed for *The Dictator's Wife*. Freya explains 'I'm fascinated by public perception and private fact; by ambiguity and the manipulation of truth; and by how our rational minds can so easily be overpowered by fear, and glamour.'

Splitting her time between London and the beautiful beaches of Wales, Freya is currently adding the finishing touches to a second book about female explorers.

## Languages for the Future Conference 2022

By **Kashuf**, Year 10.

Last March was the second year of the Languages for the Future Conference, and what an enriching experience it was. Thanks to the wonders of technology, we were able to have speakers, all former RHSB students, both online via Teams and in person, able to share their journeys of language learning with us. To accompany it all were of course some sweet treats from the various countries where the languages taught at RHSB are spoken, and mocktails.

Our first speaker was Tara Williams (RHSB 2021), who is currently a first year studying German at the University of Oxford. As it is her first year, Tara lets us know the truth about what the shift between school and university is really like! She also provided us with an important understanding of how language degrees can vary greatly in content depending on where you study. Some courses will be more business focused, and some more literature and

philosophy focused (what Tara is studying). She also described the all-important third year abroad, and how there is so much choice there too; you can teach, get a job or study another subject at a university.

Our second speaker was Marigold Whitaker (RHSB 2021), also a first-year undergraduate at Oxford studying Chinese. A key lesson I took from Marigold was that the benefits of learning of learning a language, as well as increased knowledge, are the skills gained, such as determination, resilience and dedication. She also gave us a couple recommendations of websites to have a look at to help our own learning, and she mentioned the "absorption" technique: watching media in the language you are trying to learn. Even just passively listening to something can develop your ear for that language, and you might even pick up on a new word or two.



We next heard from Leah Knight (RHSB 2012). Via Teams we were able to speak to her all the way from Cochabamba, Bolivia, where she is currently based. Her story allowed us to see what the next steps after education look like. Leah works in education, and she has also co-founded a health and wellness project. One very interesting point Leah made is that she doesn't think she would have co-founded that project had she been somewhere else, perhaps here in England. It really is fascinating thinking about how a change of environment can shift your perspective so much.



Saskia Karakusevic (RHSB 2019), spoke, now a second-year student at the University of Bristol studying French. The thing I think people sometimes forget about is that some people don't know what they want to do after school, and that is completely fine. Saskia was in that boat, and so she took a gap year where she spent 6 months at a language school in Montpellier, in the South of France. Along with the lovely weather, she took some time to understand where she wanted to go next, which led to her pursuing her degree. However, Saskia is also very passionate about art which might form part of her future, which just goes to show that a language degree doesn't just mean becoming a translator or a teacher, but is adaptable and can be applied to almost any job.

To end was Olivia Latimer (RHSB 2020). She is studying Spanish and Politics at the University of Edinburgh. Olivia only started learning languages in Year 7, when she joined this school, which I think is a point of reassurance for those who are the same. She is also a great example of taking things step by step. She mentioned going through KS3 and GCSE years with no real thought about what languages mean to her. She then went on a school trip to Alicante, where her passion sparked, convincing her to continue Spanish into A-Level and then at university, along with Politics. Doing two subjects for a degree does just show that languages don't have to be this daunting thing you have to devote your life to for mastery, but a gateway into a world that you can navigate with an open mind and a clear view.

The Languages for the Future Conference was an extremely inspiring and informative event which gave the linguists of RHSB a goal to aim towards in the future. Perhaps in a few years' time we'll see some of those sat in the audience up on stage retelling their stories.

A big thank you must go to Miss Cossey for organising this event, and a continued thanks to the entire RHSB Languages Department for their commitment always to share the treasure of communication and linguistics with us.

## Spotlight on Tara Cunningham

Tara Cunningham (RHSB 2017) is a first-class BMus graduate from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, specialising in jazz guitar. Based in London, she is a collaborator in multiple musical projects, regularly performing both in the city's celebrated venues and further afield. Her work as a band member, collaborator and improviser has been described as having a "distinctive style that draws on both jazz and avant-rock... genuinely impressive" (Ian Mann).

### What are your memories of studying music at RHSB?

I have very fond memories particularly of the band I was in with my friends - we were called Mr Mo's Mo's. We would rehearse on a Tuesday after school, mentored by Mr Whitlam, and would practice songs ready for the upcoming gig nights and performances. It was fun working out parts and playing songs we loved at that time.

### How did your experience of studying music at school inspire you to become a professional musician?

Mr Bradbury, having gone to a conservatoire himself, definitely had a part in opening my eyes to the world of studying music after leaving school, and had the confidence in me that I needed, in order to even consider it.

### Are you still in touch with friends from school?

Yes! Very much so - I currently live with my two friends from Royal High in London. We were actually all in the band I mentioned earlier but sadly now have given up that dream!

### Who is your musical idol? And why?

Since I can remember I have been in awe of David Byrne, singer and bandleader of Talking Heads. Watching him has always been such a huge inspiration for me - he's such a great performer and also a huge weirdo. You can hear that in his writing too - he plays with exaggerating dynamics and uses some great, squelchy synth sounds. I never get bored of listening to his songs.

Full details about Tara's projects and live shows can be found on her website:

[www.tara-cunningham.com](http://www.tara-cunningham.com)

# Farewell to outstanding teachers on their retirement

This Summer, three of our much-loved teachers retired, following an incredible combined service of almost 80 years at RHSB, as we welcome Dr Mark Golder, Nick Evans and Deborah Cowell to our alumnae.

Dr Mark Golder, Religion, Philosophy and Classics, is our longest serving member of staff retiring this year renowned for his quick wit and dry sense of humour. He joined Bath High School in 1986 and continued to work here through the merger with The Royal School. Deborah Cowell, Student Welfare Co-ordinator and Joint Head of PSHE, is a greatly popular member of staff and together with her much loved welfare dogs, Spitfire and Merlin, has been a huge asset to the school and will be sorely missed. Nick Evans, English, has been a vital member of staff for over 20 years, but perhaps will be best remembered for his legendary 'Litlunches' – a popular lunchtime book club for students and staff.

We caught up with Deborah, Nick and Mark to find out about their plans for retirement, what inspired them to become teachers and their experiences at Royal High School Bath.

## When did you join our school?

**Mark (MG):** September 1986

**Debs (DC):** I joined RHS in September 2000, which always makes it easy for me to remember how many years I have been working here. I was a Newly Qualified Teacher, but I had done other teaching jobs, i.e. University Lecturing and teaching English in Greece and Italy.

**Nick (NE):** I joined the School in 2001, having been paired at interview with an obstreperous chain smoker who kept saying she wouldn't come here anyway even if they did offer her a job as the salary was too low. Luckily, I followed her in each interview and lesson observation; I guess, in part, I owe her my job.

## What are your plans?

**MG:** Becoming a trustee of an arts organisation in Frome.

**DC:** I will move back to my home county of Devon to be closer to my parents as they need a bit more support. I will be doing up an old property, as I can't resist trying to fix broken or damaged things. I'm hoping I will be able to do some tutoring, specifically with students who are suffering from anxiety or long-term illness and are finding it hard to attend school in person. I also intend indulging my creative side a bit more, and will continue making my wool sculptures, and hopefully selling some of them too.

**NE:** My plans are simple for the future: walk the dog, keep CrossFit, tour Ireland and Italy, support a local sports team, read a novel from every country in Africa, and – most of all – enjoy Balcony Box 101 at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where, over ten years ago now, a young woman from neighbouring Box 100 leant over and asked, 'You're not an English teacher are you?' I was, and even, thank goodness, remembered her name.

## What first attracted you to teaching?

**MG:** Love of subject and desire to spread the joy.

**DC:** To be honest, I never intended becoming a teacher as my dad was one, and always advised me against it. However, I've always loved showing off my science knowledge, so getting paid to do it seemed like a good move.

**NE:** Two experiences suggested teaching for me: the first malaria, the second food. In 1971, during my Upper Fifth O'Levels at Prior Park, my friend Peter from Uganda suffered a bout of malaria and so missed a term's schooling. As he was good at Maths, I did a deal with him on his return: I'd teach him all he missed in Literature, History and Geography if he helped me with Maths. It worked a treat as my atheistic Maths teacher said my later pass mark of 51% was the only proof of the existence of God he'd seen. The Christian Brothers had taught me how to gamble on the horses, so full marks in the probability question. The second nudge towards teaching was in my student days at Exeter University when a chef from my hall of residence asked me to help him learn to read and write, so I did, and he repaid me



residence asked me to help him learn to read and write, so I did, and he repaid me with meals, hence those life-long kilos.

## What do you think makes Royal High School Bath special?

**MG:** The commitment of the staff.

**DC:** I knew from the start that there was something special about RHSB, and that's why I started and will end my teaching career here. It's not just the beautiful surroundings and the rather quirky buildings. It's the fact that RHSB students have something special about them. I love the fact that we have students from all around the world, and that we can all learn something from each other. This has been exemplified in my last term here, where we have welcomed some students from Ukraine. Their positivity and resilience in the face of such traumatic events has been a real example to our students, and everyone benefits from this.

There are also not many schools where I can turn up to work one day, having been given a stray rescued puppy, and for the Head (Jo Duncan at the time) to say he can become the school wellbeing dog. Then when he became a father, to be persuaded by the registrar, now Governor Lynda Bevan, that we needed two dogs, and I couldn't give away Spitfire's first-born son. I think Spitfire and Merlin have brought a lot of joy to people.

**NE:** Two things I've greatly enjoyed at RHSB have been the International Baccalaureate and working in the Sixth Form team, where you can't sneeze without receiving comprehensive pastoral care (and a jar of Vic vapour rub). The kindness of colleagues and the care and consideration the students receive are two reasons I didn't want to stop working at sixty in 2015. The best thing a student can receive is a teacher's time, I guess. I've enjoyed teaching the IB; I await the day of seeing our IB credentials emblazoned on the back of every Bath bus rather than, as someone on SLT once remarked, 'in places you wouldn't necessarily think of.'



## What was your proudest moment as a teacher here?

**MG:** Three girls being in top five nationally for Philosophy A Level 20+ years ago

**DC:** My proudest moments as a teacher is when pupils have really exceeded expectations when encouraged to do so. In addition to teaching, I have been the Student Welfare Coordinator for the last 14 years, and Head of Year 7 for 7 years before that. This has given me insights into how students struggle with issues beyond the classroom. I remember very clearly a student who struggled terribly with her mental health and required considerable hospital treatment. She came to visit me here a few years ago and showed me her badge that showed her official position as a Forensic Science Officer. She told me I had literally saved her life, and that was in the days when 'literally' actually meant literally. Having taught her Biology in addition to giving her listening support I was especially happy to learn that she had a flourishing career in science.

**NE:** A student here once said she could happily fall asleep listening to me reading at Litlunch, 'just reading' as another called it. I guess another pleasure has been writing references (from Criminology to Theology from Medicine to Physics with Philosophy), as well as helping with essays, personal statements and job applications. One student cried after reading my reference for her as she said I'd described the daughter her parents had always wanted her to be.

## Do you have any memories that really stand out?

**MG:** Being the 'go-between' member of SLT at the time of the merger.

**DC:** Probably the memory that stays in my mind is when we tragically lost Evie Clover in Year 8 to a brain tumour. We had her year group assembled in the Hudson Centre to tell them the news, and Spitfire wandered around and sat with whichever students needed him most. I have never seen such empathy in a dog.

## Tell us something we might not know about you?

**MG:** I was a Benedictine novice 1985-6 in the Vale of Pickering

## In one word, how would your students describe you?

**MG:** Mmmm – benevolent?

**NE:** One word to describe me might be 'lugubrious' as, once again at Prior Park, having read the epistle at daily mass, I was approached by my Latin teacher with, 'Ah, Nicholas, lugubrious as ever.' Lugubrious – oh, the magic of that word, the joy of its 'ous' ending!

## Do you have any 'words to live by' for our current students and alumnae?

**MG:** Solve the problems you can and don't keep worrying about the ones you can't.

**DC:** We all have things in life that frustrate us and make life a little more challenging, and I have spent a great deal of my working life trying to help students deal with these things. If I have two pieces of parting advice for students young and old, it would be these:

Anxiety is good. It stops us getting out of the car when we are in a Safari Park. Anxiety is designed to keep us in the gene pool, so embrace it and use it for your advantage.

If you can't change a situation, change how you feel about it.

**NE:** For the students themselves, I'd say the following: don't learn alone. As with the chef and my mate from Uganda, work with someone at school. Studying English at Exeter University, a girl in my first year called Mary asked me to help her writing literary essays, so I did so weekly; we then agreed that whoever finished their essay first would take the other out for a Devonshire cream tea at nearby Newton Poppleford, where she regularly ate five scones to my three. Ironically, she gained a first while I didn't. This working together continued here at RHSB sharing lessons with Nick Hayward, Lizzie Cunningham and Luke Benedict; brilliant for the students, buoyant for the teachers. These four examples show the benefit of avoiding the isolation of modern learning, the specious metrification of education, the spurious policies of politicians. Find a friend; learn a lesson. To adapt the Liverpool song, it's better not to work alone.

We are so very grateful to Mark, Deborah and Nick's many years of dedicated service to the School and extraordinary commitment to our students and staff, and wish them all the very best for their retirement and next adventures.

If you would like to contact Dr Golder, Mr Evans or Ms Cowell please email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)



## Live Safely

Alumna Georgina Prior (RHSB 2014), has set up a company, Live Safely, alongside her day job at Astra Zeneca. Earlier in March, we were delighted to welcome Georgie back to RHSB to talk to Sixth Formers about Self Defence and Personal Safety, coincidentally on the day that marked 1 year since the murder of Sarah Everard – the tragic news that catalysed countless discussions around women's safety and the development of Live Safely.

Georgie has since returned to RHSB to deliver what we hope will be the first of many Live Safely Self Defence sessions for current and future Sixth Formers – who better than an alumnae to teach our students these valuable skills!

Find out more about Live Safely in Georgina's Formidable Podcast found on [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Link to access the podcast.  
Scan or click here.



# Award-winning Alumna



We are delighted to share that alumna Gilly Smith (RS 1980) won Best Food Podcast or Broadcast Award at this year's Guild of Food Writers Awards for her Cooking the Books with Gilly Smith podcast series!

The 25th Anniversary Guild of Food Writers Awards ([www.gfw.co.uk](http://www.gfw.co.uk)) took place in London on 22nd June at the Royal Institution and was a wonderful celebration of excellence and outstanding work in the food writing industry. The occasion not only saw Gilly pip Grace Dent to the post for the top award in their category, but also saw Delia Smith presented with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award by Jamie Oliver.

Cooking the Books with Gilly Smith can be found on Acast, Apple Podcast and all other main podcast platforms. It's about all of life from climate change to culture and politics to people through the prism of food. It's for foodie book lovers who want to hear something more profound about the way we live, making the link between delicious food and the impact of food production on the land - through books.

Follow Gilly on Instagram @foodgillysmith or [www.gillysmith.com](http://www.gillysmith.com)

Link to access the podcast. Scan or click here.



## Visit Oz is back!

Following an extended covid-enforced pause we are delighted to hear from alumna **Joanna Burnet**, née Richardson (RS 1960) that Visit Oz and Australian Working Adventures are back in action.

Australian Working Adventures is a family owned and run business based in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Their aim is to provide young people with a safe path to fulfilling their work, travel and personal development aims whilst in Australia and they provide a safe reliable pathway to paid employment and a unique working adventure.

Joanna started with their VisitOz programme in 1991. VisitOz is an award winning training and job service providing preparation for work services and gives access to a unique range of employers with paid and volunteer roles all over rural and Outback Australia. VisitOz has assisted over 30,000 young people from 70 countries around the world since 1991.

Joanna and her team have had several children of Royal School alumnae on their programmes in the past, including those

of Sheila Gash, Margaret Vanreenen and Anne Denning, and they have all had a wonderful time!

Find out more [www.australianworkingadventures.com](http://www.australianworkingadventures.com) or email [joanna@visitoz.org](mailto:joanna@visitoz.org)



## Birthday Honours

We are delighted that two of our alumnae were recognised in The Queen's Birthday Honours!



has been awarded a CBE for services to the further education sector.

BHS alumna **Frances Wadsworth**, a further education leader, renowned for her skills in steering improvement in colleges in difficulty,



contributions in general practice and medicine more widely.

Professor **Sarah Purdy** (BHS 1981) has been awarded an OBE in recognition of her clinical, research, teaching and leadership

As well as being North Bristol NHS Trust Non-Executive Director, Sarah is a GP based at Sea Mills Surgery and is Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience at the University of Bristol and Professor of Primary Care. She is also an Honorary Consultant in Primary Health Care for NHS England and has said "I feel surprised, honoured and humbled to have received this award. Working as a GP and contributing to teaching and research in primary care has been a core part of my life for over 30 years and it is incredibly special to be recognised for this."

Link to read Somerset Life's article about Sarah. Scan or click here.



If you are in touch with Frances, please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net).





## Welcome to the Class of 2022!

Earlier in the summer, we were excited to be celebrating the success of our International Baccalaureate students who were among 170,000 IB Diploma Programme students worldwide who sat their exams this year.

These results are the first wave of public examination results for students who, because of the pandemic, have never sat a formal exam, which makes their 100% success rate, with an outstanding average points score of 37 out of 45 all the more remarkable.

Three of our students achieved more than 40+ points which puts them in the top 1% of IB successes globally and the personal achievements of a number of students was remarkable.

Mrs Reynolds said: "We are thrilled for these students who tackled the rigours of the IB Diploma Programme with typical Royal High School Bath grit and determination and were rewarded with a great set of results. It has been a challenging couple of years for these students, and with the support of our dedicated teaching staff we are delighted to see them move onto the next phase of their lives with sure footing."

Mr Luke Benedict, our Head of Sixth Form, said: "We are so proud of each and every student who has taken the IB Diploma, and of the fact that we are the only school

in the Bath area to run it. Through the IB Diploma programme, students develop the professional, academic and personal skills to be ready for future challenges they may face.

Mr Benedict added: "The IB is a testing qualification and does demand a great deal from those who do it, and doubly so within the constraints of a pandemic. But the rewards are immeasurable, of course, and it has been a privilege to see these students grow academically, develop in confidence and flourish in the ways that the IB unlocks. I know they will thrive in whatever they attempt and wish them every success in the future."

After a fantastic ball featuring rapping teachers and dancing, at the end of June our Year 13 cohort and Class of 2022 had their final day as Royal High School Bath students, marking the beginning of their next journey and becoming RHSB alumnae. It was truly touching to witness the interaction between students, staff and parents throughout the ceremony as farewell messages were interwoven with messages of support and encouragement.

Since then we have been delighted to celebrate the success of our A-level students. Like their IB classmates, these students are remarkable in their achievements given the backdrop of their





## Alumnae News

educational journey through Covid. A third of students achieved a remarkable 3 A\*-A grades and the students' destinations are as broad as the subjects they are choosing to study. From Sophie Phipson, who has secured a place on the prestigious BBC Production Apprenticeship and Yael Lyshkow, who will study Computer Science at Canada's leading university, the University of Toronto – to Alexis Qi, a phenomenal art student who will study Architecture at Cambridge University.

STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) were a popular choice with over 50% of students studying Maths at A Level or IB. We are delighted that our students have met their offers to study courses including Veterinary Medicine at Royal Veterinary College, Biomedical Engineering at Kings College London, Medicine at Southampton and

Medical Sciences at the University of Exeter.

Arts and Humanities continue to flourish with superb results in English, History and Art, with students scoring no grade lower than an A in Drama, Religious Studies, Philosophy and Geography. Our language students also gained top grades of A\*-A.

Congratulations to Head Girl, Daisy John who is following her long-held determination to read Law at UCL.

Mrs Reynolds paid tribute to the 2022 cohort saying: "We are thrilled that this exceptional year group, with their first experience of public exams, have gained such strong results. It is testament to their hard work and determination and the inspirational teaching and support from staff. The breadth of talent is reflected in the wonderfully varied range

of destinations and courses our students are now moving to, and we wish them every happiness and success. We also look forward to inviting them back to the school to share their stories and inspire future generations of Sixth Form students."

We all wish each and every one of the Class of 2022 the best of luck in the next stage of their journey and extend to them a very warm welcome to our Alumnae Network.



## Speech Day 2022



Students, parents, teachers and our wider community all gathered for our Speech Day and 2022 Prizegiving when we were delighted to be joined by alumna **Aimee Whitehall**, nee Neaverson (RHSB 2007) as our guest speaker.

Aimee spoke about her career to date in international development and humanitarian aid and how she got to where she is today at the International Rescue Committee. Providing an interesting insight into operating within the current turbulent global climate, we also heard about the significant impact of

global warming and the climate crisis on her work, exacerbated by grain shortages caused by the war in Ukraine.

Giving valuable advice on what we can all do to help overcome the crises facing the world today, Aimee encouraged our students to make their mark on the world as the next generation of changemakers: 'Work out what you want to do, be bold in going after it, challenge yourselves and be ambitious!'

What a fantastic end to our Summer Term and this academic year!



**Link to hear Aimee's speech.**  
**Scan or click here.**





# GS Blackburn Award 2022

Last awarded in 2019, the GS Blackburn Award was due to be awarded again in 2021 but the uncertainty around the covid pandemic, and the limited opportunities to travel, put these plans on hold but the RHBA Committee were delighted to be able to accept applications again earlier this year.

The award is named after a former Headmistress of Bath High, one of our founding schools, Gwendoline Blackburn who was, in her day, the youngest Head ever appointed by the GDST. She led the school during and after World War 2 and managed the rebuilding of Hope House after it was damaged by bombs.

An outstanding teacher she also absolutely loved to travel and set up a fund to enable girls at the school to be awarded a monetary prize to help with travel plans related to their education, or a trip which involves experiences and activities which will broaden their horizons.

The award is given on Miss Blackburn's behalf by the Alumnae Committee and is open to sixth form students as well as alumnae up to the age of 25, although in view of the covid-enforce delay this year alumnae up to the age of 26 were invited to apply.



**Lara Chalkley**, Year 13, was the standout candidate.

Lara won the 2022 GS Blackburn Award for her application to travel to New Zealand to research Asajiro Noda - one of the first Japanese people to arrive in New Zealand in the 1800s and live amongst the Maori. Noda's integration into Maori society was helped by language similarities and shared

cultural values.

Lara will enjoy an immersive experience to learn about Maori culture in order to investigate the similarities between the two cultures. Lara has a keen interest in cultural anthropology and hopes that her trip will lead to some interesting research as part of her university studies.

We shall report back on Lara's trip in due course and very much look forward to hearing how she gets on.



If you are an alumnae under 25 and would be interested in applying for the 2024 GS Blackburn Award please email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net).

## Decade Reps

We now have an established group of alumnae who have kindly joined the committee as Decade Reps. There are, however, a few more slots to fill as we would like to appoint two reps per decade, and pre-1998 per school, alongside two additional reps covering the period of the merger, one ex-RS and the other ex-BHS.

We are therefore looking to fill the following slots:

<b>RHSB</b>	2019-2028	One Rep
<b>RS/RHSB</b>	1996-2001	One Rep
<b>BHS</b>	1979-1988	Two Reps
	1969-1978	Two Reps
	1939-1958	One rep
<b>RS</b>	1969-1978	Two Reps
	1959-1968	Two Reps
	1939-1958	Two Reps

If you DO NOT wish your contact details to be shared with your Decade Rep(s) please email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)

Here is a reminder of what being a Decade Rep involves:

- Decade Reps are simply representatives of your year group and the year groups close in age to you, giving your generation at our school a voice and to help encourage attendance at reunions.
- There is no set time commitment – give as much or as little time as you are able. We hold one meeting each term plus an Annual Review open to all alumnae, which forms part of the main summer

### Keeping in touch

Please find below our existing Decade Reps and how they can be contacted:

RHSB		
2019-2028	Eliza Hyde (2022)	<a href="mailto:rhsb2019to2028@gmail.com">rhsb2019to2028@gmail.com</a>
2009-2018	Leah Knight (2012) Darcy Evans (2014)	<a href="mailto:rhsb2009to2018@gmail.com">rhsb2009to2018@gmail.com</a>
1999-2008	Sarah Dix (2006) Hannah Boyer (2004) Emily Tanner Wardle (2015)	<a href="mailto:rhsb1999to2008@gmail.com">rhsb1999to2008@gmail.com</a>
1996-2001	Former BHS: Leslie Gumas (1996-2003)	<a href="mailto:rhsb1999to2008@gmail.com">rhsb1999to2008@gmail.com</a>
BHS		
1989-1998	Anna Lewis (1997) Paula Marsh (1998)	<a href="mailto:bhs1989to1998@gmail.com">bhs1989to1998@gmail.com</a>
1959-1968	Alix Adams (1960) Judith Marsham (1963)	<a href="mailto:bhs1959to1968@gmail.com">bhs1959to1968@gmail.com</a>
1939-1958	Pam Gooding (1955)	<a href="mailto:bhsto1958@gmail.com">bhsto1958@gmail.com</a>
RS		
1989-1998	Emma Johnson (1990) Carol Beaumont (1998)	<a href="mailto:rs1989to1998@gmail.com">rs1989to1998@gmail.com</a>
1979-1988	Sallie Taylor (1981) Anne Marie Lorenzo (1987)	<a href="mailto:rs1979to1988@gmail.com">rs1979to1988@gmail.com</a>

annual reunion. These meetings can be attended either in person or remotely.

- After each meeting, minutes will be sent round with some key questions to feedback on or vote on, allowing everyone to have a say.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdt.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdt.net).

Thank you for helping ensure true representation on the committee of all generations of our schools.

### NEXT REUNION **Christmas Drinks** at Circo Bar, Bath

on  
**Tuesday 20 December  
2022**

for alumnae from  
**Classes of 2018 – 2022.**

RSVP <https://bit.ly/3D4ICBy> or email  
[rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)



## Christmas Drinks in Bath

In December, we attempted to hold Christmas drinks for our recent leavers at Circo Bar in Bath for the first time since 2019. Sadly, omicron putting in an appearance so close to Christmas severely curtailed numbers and no staff were able to attend, however, a good number of 2021 leavers' rallied by alumna and Decade Rep Mathura Kathirgamanathan succeeded in meeting for a festive get together.

For some this was the first time they had been together since heading off to university in September and the photos showed that it was clearly a very happy and warm reunion, the room no doubt filled with smiles and laughter as both stories of recent months and memories of school were shared.

## Bath High School Reunion

In May we welcomed to Royal High School Bath former students of Bath High School of many different generations from those who graduated in 1955 to individuals who graduated as recently as 1998. There was a tangible buzz in the air as BHS old girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends and teachers many of whom they had not seen since they left school. They also enjoyed a display of items from the School's Archive featuring school magazines, photos and a collection of trophies from different events from across the decades.

We were joined by nine former teachers including Lynda Bevan, who worked at Bath High School and Royal High School Bath for 23 years initially as Head of the Junior School then as Registrar, as well as Margaret Winfield, Head of Bath High School from 1985 to 1998.

Kate Reynolds, Head of Royal High School Bath, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people come back, not just former students but staff and governors including two headteachers; Margaret Winfield and Lynda Bevan. Reunions are all about friends and family forever, a core value that runs throughout the school and continues to do so. Chatting to everyone made it apparent there is so much energy, affection and pride still for the school. It was amazing looking back with all these pioneering women and also sharing with them our vision and thinking ahead to the next 150 years, so we can prepare and empower our future generations, showing what they are capable of so they can achieve their dreams."

Margaret Winfield, who was Head of Bath High School for 13 years as well as Head of Royal High School Bath when the two schools merged, commented in her speech: "I am so glad we are able to get together to celebrate some of our achievements and look forward together. The memories just came flooding back and it was wonderful to see groups of girls from every decade represented. It says so much about the continuity of life and above all, how the friendships made while at the School are enduring. Everyone gathering here today helps reinforce that we are all members of a very big family and while the name of the School may have changed, all that Bath High School stood for, its history and its values remain very much embedded in Royal High School Bath today."

### **SAVE THE DATE**

BHS Reunion in Spring 2024.

**Royal School Reunion on Saturday, 25 February 2023.**

To receive further details email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)





# Annual Alumnae Reunion and Summer Festival



Close to the end of the Summer Term, as part of our whole community celebrations, which included a very soggy Summer Festival, we were delighted to welcome many former students to RHSB for our Annual Alumnae Reunion. Old girls joined us from a wide range of generations, from the indefatigable Unity Marriot, née Brine, who left The Royal School in 1944 having spent much of her school life at Longleat (The Royal School was relocated to Longleat during

WWII) to those that left as recently as 2021. Notably we were joined by several members of the 2002 and 2012 cohorts who were with us to celebrate their 20th and 10th anniversaries.

Whatever their school and generation, all visiting alumnae came together to catch up with old friends, reminisce over their school days and celebrate what it is to be a part of the RHSB family.

Following Royal High Bath Alumnae Committee's Annual Review, and The Royal School Association long-anticipated biennial AGM, the first since 2018 after a 2-year Covid-induced hiatus, everyone came together for a drinks reception where our guests could pour over items from the archives. Items included a display of former uniforms as well as a digital display of photographs, old uniform lists of requirements of yore such as '24 pocket handkerchiefs' and '2 flannel petticoats', and anecdotal memories stretching back to the turn of the century. Alumnae of the Classes of 2002 and 2012 enjoyed



browsing photographs of sports teams from their eras and memorable events such as Staff Strictly Come Dancing, potholing in Cheddar Gorge, a hockey tour to Bermuda, drama productions and more, whilst flicking through past school magazines and year books. Judging by the noise levels in the Rebecca Barrell Room this was all providing much to talk about!

Before unfurling umbrellas to enjoy the not very summery Summer Festival, our alumnae guests then embarked on tours of the school to see what has changed and what remains the same guided by a handful of prefects, boarders and staff – something we all enjoy doing as you never know what stories you might hear!

Many thanks to all those alumnae who joined us and we look forward to welcoming you back to RHSB again soon.

## 30th Anniversary visit

We were delighted to welcome back Rebekah Harris-Baty (Baty), Jo Van Berckel (Vere), Rachel Thackray (Rush), Gemma Raphael (Chapman) and Ali Pieterse (Le Count) last November for a mid-week anniversary tour. Here's Rebekah Harris-Baty's account of their visit:

Returning after 32 years away, we were all over excited at the prospect of walking around our old haunts and seeing what has changed. We are a particularly noisy bunch as Francesca discovered when she showed us around the now Royal High School Bath, having merged since we left all those years ago!

Greeted by the famous 'red stairs' we were given a tour of the school including the boarding area. We were sad to see the infamous 'coffins' had been taken out but what has replaced the old is now a cosy place for the boarders. The high beams in the boarding area brought back memories of climbing between cubies and late-night snacks and talks!

We were very impressed at the Steinway Music School, with a few musicians between us, we would have loved access to what the girls have now and were even treated to a tune from Mr Bradbury on the grand piano! The Art wing was simply magnificent and is testament to the school's facilities. The talent is obviously well nurtured and encouraged.

We all had moments of reflection remembering our days at school including an impromptu sing in what was the chapel! What resonated was the smell, the echoey hallways and a sense of belonging. It was like yesterday we were there...

Whilst there are cosmetic changes, we will always see the Royal as part of us, intrinsically linked to us where our bond was formed and where we had some of our best years. A big thank you to Francesca for putting up with the squealing, constant chattering and Rachel, whose stories were particularly

funny! The five of us have remained friends all this time and we get together as often as life allows and immediately revert back to childlike school behaviour. Our bond is one so strong, formed at school, there forever.



# Anyone for cricket?

New cricket equipment and kit has been purchased for students at Royal High School Bath thanks to the legacy of former student, Laura Lushington.

Laura Lushington was a student at The Royal School which she left in 1938 and expressed her wish in her will that the legacy she left for the school be used 'for whatever the school committee may think fit but preferably for the sports of swimming, cricket or fencing'.

Laura is a shining example of the strong and incredible women we hope to encourage here at Royal High School Bath, and we are touched to have been part of her story. During the War Laura served as a WAAF officer in the Royal Air Force and later came to establish the Van Cat breed in the UK and almost 50 years later the Turkish Van Kedi are a much-loved breed all around the world.

The generous donation has enabled the school to purchase new kit for students including a portable cricket net and wicket, known as a Flick strip. This will mean that students will be able to practise cricket all year round.

Heidi Baber, Head of Sport at Royal High School Bath, said: "The generous donation from the Lushington Estate has been spent on improving the delivery of our cricket provision at Royal High School Bath across both the Prep and Senior Schools. With this money we have been able to purchase a portable cricket net and wicket. This means that we now have a clearly marked bowling area for girls to practise and develop their cricket all year around and the net allows for specific batting, bowling and wicket keeping practise in a safe and contained environment. Furthermore, it has enabled the Prep School to host and play cricket fixtures with ease. The portability and durability of these items means that we can have some form of cricket being played all year around and create multi use sporting areas. Both pieces of equipment have generated a real buzz and excitement for the game, with substantial numbers at our cricket clubs. So a huge thank to the Lushington Estate for their generous donation."

Jemima in Year 10 has also touched on what the new kit means to her as a student:



'The last woman in my family to play hardball cricket at school was my great grandmother in the 1920s, which is why this new cricket kit is a historic message to our generation, and especially girls' cricket. It's a shame it's taken so long, but at least we don't have to wear ankle-length skirts to play in! I loved my first hardball match for RHSB and to win by 40 runs was an incredible achievement.'

We are incredibly grateful to all of those who donate to us, support us or leave us a legacy in their will to offer continued support to our students and the school community. If you would like further information please visit [www.royalhighbath.gdst.net/our-school/our-community/support-us](http://www.royalhighbath.gdst.net/our-school/our-community/support-us)

## Supporting Ukraine

In a humanitarian act to support the crisis in Ukraine, in March we held a Community Day with the aim of raising as much funding as possible and to gather specifically needed donations to serve the needs of those in Ukraine and Europe.

All money raised went to the Disaster Emergency Committee, a centralised organisation disseminating food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection to the specialist charities on the ground. Both students and staff were further motivated knowing that everything we raised would be doubled by the Government's matching pledge.

Students in both schools were encouraged to wear blue and yellow in solidarity with Ukraine, with donations taken in return for wearing mufti. Our student leadership team were hard at work handing out ribbon pin badges throughout the day and at lunch time they provided the starting point for a self-sponsored lap around the school in solidarity with the thousands of refugees fleeing Ukraine on foot. At lunch a meal of borscht soup and holubtsi was enjoyed at the Senior School, followed by a paska cake.

Throughout the day a collection point was made available for dropping items such as dry foods, clothing and blankets. These donations were driven directly to a hostel in Kgjierz, Poland, sheltering Ukrainian refugees, and a volunteer centre in Lodz.

We were pleased to have raised £5,044 which was doubled by the government and have since continued to add to this total through other fundraising events such as our Jubilee cake sale and Year 9 and 10's performance of Ghetto, a story about a theatre company who continued to create art in the Jewish Ghettos of the Second World War.





# Students raise over £1,500 for Alzheimer's Society

Motivated by the impact Alzheimer's disease has had on their families, two of our students held a concert and raised £1,583.96 for the Alzheimer's Society and recently presented a cheque, along with Mr Benedict, to a representative from the charity.

Sixth Form students Megan Ong, Year 12, and Phoebe Wirick, Year 12, made all the arrangements for the concert held in March which featured performances from fellow students. Entitled 'The Playlist' the concert featured students who performed their personal favourites. This resulted in a diverse range of music from Chopin to Coldplay performed by ensembles, including a brass band and orchestra, as well as solos from pianists, singers and recorder players.

Both Phoebe and Megan share a love for music and wanted to create a concert that was inclusive and open to all; whether the performers were musically trained or



not, they could play what they truly enjoy whilst supporting a cause that is close to both their hearts. Phoebe performed a duet on the recorder, composed by her grandfather, and was joined by her mother. Megan chose to perform Libertango with the string group.

## Abseil for Bristol Hospital

In a show of grit and determination, Sixth Former Izzy, has abseiled 100 feet down Southmead Hospital in recognition of both of her grandmothers who had been treated there. Izzy raised more than £600 and was joined by her Mum who also took part in this epic adventure as a mark of gratitude to the hospital and the wider NHS.

Well done Izzy!



Friends of RHS are registered with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

This is an entirely free service that allows you to shop directly at your favourite online stores via the links on the [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and, at the same time, raise a donation for our school without costing you a penny more!

With online shopping on the rise, together we could raise a huge amount of money. Other schools have raised anything from £100 to over £1000 in just a year, and all it takes you is just one extra click!

Getting started is so easy, simply follow the instructions below:

1. Visit **[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)** and search for 'Friends of the Royal High School Bath'

2. Set up an account and choose the Friends as the charity you want to donate to.

3. Next time you want to buy something online, remember to visit the [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for the name of the store you're interested in (e.g. Amazon)

4. Click on the link for that store and continue shopping as normal

5. The store you purchase from will give a commission to easyfundraising, which is then passed on to us as a donation. The commission and subsequent donation can be up to 15% of the purchase price!

To make it even easier to remember to use this tool, you can do the following:

- Download the Donation Reminder on your laptop or PC so you will never forget to collect a FREE donation.
- Use the easyfundraising App on your mobile phone, iPad or tablet.

Please do use this tool as much as you can - thank you so much in advance!

## The Friendship Fund

Our Friendship Fund remains to provide a little TLC to any alumnae or former staff who may need a little cheering up. For example, flowers and cards are sent to those who have experienced a bereavement or have gone through a period of illness, offering a hand of friendship at difficult times.

If you feel that someone would be an appropriate recipient, you can let us know at any time of the year. To do so please email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net). The Fund is entirely dependent on donations from our old girls and many have been very generous over the years.

If you would like to donate to the Friendship Fund, please send a cheque made payable to 'The Royal High School' to the school address, clearly marked that it is specifically for the Friendship Fund. Alternatively email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net) to obtain online banking details.

## 150 Years Ago



In 1871 Emily Shirreff and her sister Maria Grey founded the National Union for Improving Education of Women of all Classes, with their friend Mary Gurney and the Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley. Its objectives included promoting the education of women and girls and "to promote the establishment of good and cheap day schools for all classes above those attending the public elementary schools." This particular aim led to the

formation of the Girls Public Day School Company in June 1872 at the Royal Albert Hall.

This was the birth of the GPDST (now GDST) with the first school opened in Chelsea in 1873, the second in Notting Hill and the third in Croydon. Bath High became the seventh in 1875.

(From Bath High School 1875-1998 by Mary Eade and Royal High School Bath: Past and Present by Anne Ockwell)



The pioneers of equal educational opportunity for girls; Emily and Maria Sherriff, with their two younger sisters, Mary Gurney and Henrietta Stanley



## 80 Years Ago

April 25th and 26th 1942, the last week of School holiday, were the "Baedeker" raids on Bath. Although not yet pupils of Bath High School Anne Palmer (Morgan) and Joan Darvill (Dakin) both remember the terrible noise during those nights when over 400 people were killed. One high-explosive bomb landed on the school laboratories and another on the lawn outside Hope House. (More details in Mary Eade's excellent history). A week later The King and Queen paid a surprise visit to Bath when Miss Cull saw them from the ruins of Hope House. As Hope House could no longer be used, arrangements resulted in the school moving to numbers 1 and 2 Lansdown Crescent. Miss Cull had been

planning to retire but asked if she could go immediately. As the normal procedure would take too long, a different approach saw Miss Blackburn (from Oxford High) appointed Acting Head Mistress from the beginning of the Autumn term. Thus began a new era in the life of Bath High School.

"Souvenirs" of the raid. The bomb crater in the grounds at Hope House was a wonderful wildlife pool – today's Health & Safety would probably have had it filled in! An unexploded bomb made news headlines when it was discovered during some works being done – and we had been walking over it for years!



## 70 Years Ago

February 1952. The death of King George VI.

Miss Blackburn visited all the classrooms in Hope House and other buildings to tell us this important news. A few days later we gathered in the Gym to hear the Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth II on the Radio. For our Annual Prizegiving Miss Pitt (Mrs Dewey) was rehearsing us for the new words to the National Anthem. "Remember (emphasising) it's God save our gracious QUEEN. Long live our noble QUEEN (then, more casually) God save the King." (Teachers are human after all!)

## The Queen's Coronation

I was privileged to have one of the 25 places allotted to The Royal School on the Victoria Memorial for Coronation Day.

6am – Sloane Square Station and then to the Victoria Memorial for a day I have never forgotten. Our places looked all the way down the Mall. My recollection is that we were a few girls amid boys from School Cadet Forces throughout the Country. Thanks to our Military Heritage then, we were included.

One memory for me is the Guardsmen lining the Mall having instruction to remove their great coats in groups of 25 or so, to reveal a ribbon of scarlet all the way down. Then the amazing procession began. It did rain, but spirits were high. Queen Salote of Tonga entertained all as she thoroughly enjoyed herself alone in her carriage under an enormous umbrella.

Too much to relate. It was an amazing day, ending for us with a Balcony Appearance and flypast as we walked away after 12 hours of memorable pageantry.

*Judith Allday, née Paterson*



# Profile of a war-time alumna



As the product of two funding schools with equally rich and interesting histories, enquiries from external researchers always reminds us at RHSB how lucky we are to hold such an extensive archive. One such recent enquiry came from a cousin of Peggy Manistry, Royal School alumna and co-author of *A History of the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army, 1864-1965*.

We learnt from Henry Manistry, that Peggy went out to Malta in 1939 to do intelligence-related work staying there until mid-1942 when she returned to England to continue working for the intelligence services. She was awarded the MBE in 1943 in recognition of her work in Malta. Mr Manistry kindly shared

with us photos of two pages from "Malta Magnificent" a book published in 1943 by Francis Gerard, a colleague of Peggy in the British intelligence operation in Malta during WW2. It describes the person that Peggy was in detail and provides an interesting insight into her life. Clearly she had a good dose of resilience, selflessness and dedication, all attributes embodied in what we think of today as RHSB Spirit!

The attached photo of Peggy was taken in 1943, believed by her family to have been at the time of going to Buckingham Palace to collect her MBE.

Scan the QR code to read the excerpt from *Malta Magnificent*



## Memories of the Royal School 1960 – 1965

In February we welcomed back Royal School alumnae sisters Caroline Brown, Rachel Chancellor and Julia Wathen, all nee Richardson, following which Caroline kindly shared these memories triggered by their visit:

My years as a boarder passed painlessly and mostly enjoyably. I was able to pursue art, my main interest then, and pass A level after only one year in Sixth Form, but music, which has become a much greater love as the years pass, was rather mixed: I followed piano which I had always played but with an uninspiring teacher; I took up 'cello as well in U4th and benefitted from a good, knowledgeable, visiting musician. She bought me a better 'cello for which I raided c. £30 from my post office account, and eventually sold it for £3000 a few years ago. Singing has become a major interest, but my unempathetic relationship with my house mistress, who was in charge of choirs etc., worked against me being asked to be involved in anything in that area.

I remember learning golf with few close friends in Sixth Form: lacrosse never clicked with us so the opportunity for a definite change was seized! We took ourselves weekly to a church basement where we learnt various strokes and practised how to swing a club. I have never used it at all, but these outings were greatly enjoyed at the time.

Another annual pleasure was the Ascension Day half-holiday when we could roam the fields and consume a large picnic well away from school. I think this amount of freedom must have been given in Fifth and Sixth Forms, but of course we were fairly easily recognised and noted through all having to wear games sweaters, aertex shirts and navy wool divided skirts.

Outings to Bristol Old Vic are still strong in my memory – coach, theatre, drama and a late night! I remember Richard Pascoe performing then, and of course he progressed to many higher things.

I was sorry to see the old Chapel in a new guise, but completely understand why this was undertaken. Chapel was so much part the routine every day that it seems to leave a real hole compared to the mix I experienced – my Christian

belief stems absolutely from that time supported by the charming Rev Trevelyan who was an ideal chaplain for a girls' school. My confirmation will never be forgotten because whilst enjoying a special supper with parents at The Hole in the Wall, we heard the unbelievable news that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

We are always happy to arrange tours for small groups of alumnae by prior appointment. To book please email [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)



Rachel (inset) 1970. Julia front row, extreme left. Caroline extreme right, second from back row, 1964

## **Alison Doubleday** (BHS Former Staff, 1976-1995)

Died 14 October 2021

It is a privilege to write about a much-respected colleague, teacher and friend – Mrs Alison Doubleday who died in October 2021.

Mrs Doubleday worked at Bath High School from 1976-1995 and in those years left a profound mark not only on the Classics department, but on the life of the school as a whole. She led the Classics department with distinction, upholding the fine traditions she inherited, but also introducing a new approach to the teaching of classics. Her many students will testify to her skills as a teacher, developing their love and abilities in classical languages. She had the gift of bringing the best not only from her most gifted students, but also from those who found the language more difficult. Her outstanding results are a fine testimony to her work, but even more to the way she was able to develop a life-long love in her students of the classical world. A number of her students distinguished themselves academically when continuing their studies at university. They would be the first to say that this had much to do with the firm foundations laid by Mrs Doubleday's teaching.

Mrs Doubleday never stinted the time she gave to the life of the school. Her administrative skills were much appreciated by her colleagues when she served as Second Mistress. I always valued her considered and wise counsel. The trips she led to the classical world were very special and hugely appreciated by all who went on them.

I was able to visit Mrs Doubleday a few years ago when she was living for a time in Sheffield to be near one of her sons. She had suffered from a most debilitating stroke and although life was hard for her, her lovely smile as well as her acceptance of this serious illness, shone through. Her courage and resilience were an example to us all.

It was a privilege to have known and worked with Mrs Doubleday. She was a fine, inspiring teacher who set the highest standards in all she did; she was a devoted and loyal colleague; she was a thoughtful and sensitive friend with a great sense of fun; she was a person of the utmost integrity. Without the slightest doubt she enriched the lives of all those with whom she came into contact. We all miss her, but none more than her two sons, Simon and Matthew of whom she was justly proud.

*Margaret Winfield, Mary Cookson*

## **Sheila Pinkstone** (BHS Junior School Head 1979-1983). Died 11 September 2022

Sheila's daughter, Christine, has shared with us the sad news of her mother's passing on 11 September at 95 years of age. Born in the same year as HM Queen Elizabeth II, Sheila had a long and interesting life. Her husband worked for the Admiralty (later MOD Naval Department) which meant that he was posted to different places. Sheila lived in Bath, then Malta, back to Bath, Glasgow, Bristol and back to Bath again. She taught in a variety of schools in most of the places she lived and so became a very experienced teacher.

Bath, however, was the place she spent most of her life and it was a city she loved. Sheila also loved teaching in Bath High School's Junior Department, later serving as Head from 1979 to 1983. Christine recounts that she can remember walking around

## **Elizabeth Anne Skipper née Nicholas** (BHS 1942 – 1949) 14th October 1931 – 4th July 2022

Anne, as she was known, attended Bath School from 1942 – 1949 as did her elder sister Mary (Todd), younger sister Sue and later her two elder daughters Jane and Katie, as boarders/day girls.

She graduated from Westfield College, University of London where she studied history and in 1954 married John Skipper whom she had met at university.

In 1959, the opportunity arose for John to work in West Africa, and he and Anne along with two daughters moved initially to Nigeria and then Sierra Leone. By 1970, the family had grown to four daughters and a son, and returned to England to settle in Bathampton, Bath where Anne lived until early 2022.

Anne taught English and RE at various schools in Bath and the surrounding area and on retirement was involved in community work as well as being an active member of the congregation at St Nicholas Church, Bathampton.

She enjoyed many interests including theatre, reading, needlecraft, swimming and walking and was a beloved Granny to 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

## **Rebecca Everson** (RS 1996-1998)

Died 19 April 2022

It is with great sadness we report the tragic and unexpected death of Rebecca. She died peacefully on 19 April 2022, at the age of 37, following a time of challenges to her health. Rebecca was a pupil at the Royal School between 1996 and 1998. After A Levels, she commenced Adult Nursing training at Nottingham University. She then went on to work in Care Homes in Swansea and Bath, co-ordinating activities for residents. Rebecca's career, however, was interrupted by periods of illness. She had a very kind, gentle, generous nature, always caring for others. Family was of great importance to Rebecca. She had a keen interest in animals and the environment. She enjoyed being by the sea and this led her to living in Burnham on Sea for the past 3 years.

Rebecca left us far too soon. She will be missed greatly by her parents Judith and Mike, her younger brother Matthew, and the wider family and friends.

Bath with her mother and being greeted by so many of her former students or their parents proudly telling her how well their daughters had done and how much they valued her teaching.

'When my mother retired, she found life rather quiet; she missed the bustle of school and being needed even when presented with problems. Bath High School, now Royal High School Bath, played a large part in my mother's life and she looked back with complete pleasure on her time there. She also felt great pride in the success of her students.'

Remembered by alumna Anna Lewis (nee Wrench) as 'the kindest, gentlest teacher and my favourite junior school teacher by a mile', Sheila will be missed as a much-loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Sheila has a message for us all, 'enjoy your life, it is precious.'





## Jane Woolrich née Powell

(BHS 1950)

6 December 1932 – 15 February 2022

Jane Karen Powell was born on 6th December 1932, the only child of Donald and Winifred. As her father was an industrial chemist at the Bristol Aeroplane Company her childhood was spent within reach of Bristol, first in Corsham, later in Frenchay. Jane attended Bath High School, along with her close friend Jill. The family say that one memory they shared was as monitors jointly shooing their fellow pupil Mary Berry out of the school hall.

After leaving school Jane studied secretarial skills at Bristol College of Commerce, and in due course she became private secretary to the chief safety officer at the Electricity Council office in Bristol. At that time she began attending evening classes in Archaeology: one of her fellow students was Tony Woolrich. Tony and Jane were married at St John's Frenchay in 1965, and they lived at first in Keynsham. The birth of Matthew and Dominic followed and in 1976 a move to Canalside Huntworth. Since then the family has grown, with Matthew married first to Carrie and then to Lily, and Dominic to Tamsen. Grandchildren and step grandchildren Charlotte, Jack, Connor, Archie and Bethan. Jane had a number of cousins to whom she remained very close.

But since 1976, in other words for over 45 years and more than half Jane's Life, she and Tony have lived in their house by the canal at Huntworth. The basic outline of Jane's life is quickly told, but it leaves a very great deal unsaid. There is so much to remember, honour and celebrate in Jane's life over all these years.

In the local community. Jane was a pillar of the Blake Museum and in serving as a Custodian she followed her mother Winifred. To this she added baking, promotion and publicity, support for special events and in all of these

Jane was thorough, utterly reliable and indefatigable. Jane often served as proof-checker for texts issued by the museum and in doing so she was meticulous.

Soon after they moved to Huntworth Tony and Jane joined the congregation of St Mary's Church and both her sons were in the parish choir. Although at first, because women were not admitted, there was no place for Jane herself she was a willing helper in several ways, not sitting idle during choir rehearsals but finding bits of office work to do and joining in on choir trips and outings. Later she joined the choir herself once women and girls were admitted. Jane served as secretary to the PCC and verged for funerals on occasion.

For a while Jane served as secretary to the Bath High School Old Girls Guild, which would have involved her in regular journeys to Bath, possibly fairly onerous journeys. Not that the difficulties of a journey would put Jane off for a moment and Jane's refusal to be beaten by inconveniences and difficulties shows her strength of character.

When because of his ill health Tony had to leave his employment, reinvent himself and set up his own business Jane faced the need to economise. But being as self-sufficient and economical as possible and avoiding waste of any sort had been her approach from the start. She made her own clothes. She baked and cooked and kept her freezer full. Jane had no TV set, but she was an avid reader and regular listener to Radio 4, and she did the Times' cryptic crossword each day. She was a keen gardener and regular collector of cuttings. She maintained her interest in history and

archaeology--In earlier years she went on digs. Both her sons remember fruit picking at Thurloxton.

Jane died following a fall at home five months before. After a private family cremation, her funeral at St Mary's Church, on 18 March, was attended by about 100 people from the Friends, St Mary's Church, and their wider acquaintance. Most stayed for the Wake afterwards in the Swan Transept and reminisced. Donations in her memory for the work of the Museum Friends raised almost £1000.

### From Pam Gooding. Former Treasurer, BHS Old Girls Guild:

Jane joined the OGG Committee in the 1970's when Anne Palmer had become Secretary. Jane lived at Keynsham and used to travel to meetings by bus. Later, when she and her young family moved to Bridgwater she would come by train, stayed over with friends in Keynsham and I took her there following the meeting. It was not until Hilary moved to Selworthy that Jane finally had a lift! The committee was very active in the running of the Guild. A buffet lunch was provided at the AGM for which Jane always contributed her home-made bread. When we were having problems with printing our newsletters, she helped by arranging to use her church's photocopier which was then a very new technology. In later years she used her secretarial skills by taking on the duties of Minutes Secretary. We were saddened to learn of her death. Thank you, Jane, for all your support.

Jane's husband Tony, has kindly shared Jane's reminiscences of her time at Bath High, found in her papers:

"Thanks very much for the Newsletter – a very good and interesting read. I was extremely interested in Becky's scheme for running the Guild. What a good idea! It would certainly save a great deal of work for the committee which as we all know, has found it increasingly difficult to recruit active younger members.

I was at BHS when Mary Berry was there, although she was 2 or 3 years below me, so I only knew her as a small girl with blonde plaits.

I was, however, one of the first to do 'Domestic Science' with Miss Date who functioned in upstairs rooms at the back of No 12. My form sat the last Higher School Certificate in the summer of 1950. There were only 7 of us, and the exams took place in May, very early in the term. I think the staff wondered what to do with us for the rest of the term – perhaps it was one reason the DS department was set up, to help keep us occupied. We went along once a week and learned how to make Victoria Sponge and Apple Crumble; all this was of course while food was still rationed.

This brings to mind a week later in the term when we were sent off to Youth Hostels in the Cotswolds. How Evathia Mowle, Jean Chivers, and Nemone Lethbridge got there I can't remember, but I, with Jill Febrey, Sheila Philpott and Pat Miller, went by train to Frocester with our bicycles. We were trusted to cope on our own, except that Miss Hicks drove up one evening with Miss Ireland to see how we were getting on. Of course, we had to do some work! Jill and I chose to visit churches, where I sketched, and Jill wrote up details. Evathia and Jen studied Roman places, Pat and Sheila did archaeological sites and Nemone visited Civil War locations. The two Youth Hostels we stayed in were fairly primitive to put it mildly! Luckily the weather was fine for our trip.

Looking back now, it seems almost incredible that seven 17-year-old schoolgirls were sent off like that, largely unsupervised. This was in the days before there were so many school trips and few worries about 'health and safety', and while the country was settling down only five years after the upheavals of the war. Needless to say, we had a whale of a time!"



## The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As one of the world's longest serving monarchs, there are few who will not have witnessed the dedication and love that she has given to our nation and the Commonwealth. Her Majesty has been, and will continue to be, a source of inspiration to girls and women here at Royal High School Bath. We would like to express our sincere condolences and our thoughts continue to be with her family at this difficult time.

Royal High School Bath inherited its Royal connection from one of its founding schools, The Royal School for Daughters of officers of the British Army which had benefited from Royal Patronage, initially from Queen Victoria, since its foundation in 1865. When in 1998 The Royal School merged with Bath High School GDST to create Royal High School Bath GDST as it is today, Queen Elizabeth II granted permission for the School to maintain 'Royal' in its title. The School today remains deeply proud of its royal connection, an important part of RHSB's rich and diverse history.

Several alumnae have contributed to the book of condolence opened soon after Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's death; if you too would like to contribute please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net).





**Michael Cockerham** (BHS Staff, 1995-1998, RHSB Staff, 1998-2010)

**Died 27 August 2022**

We were deeply saddened to learn of Michael Cockerham's passing peacefully at home on 28 August 2022 with his wife, Jane and daughters, Nicola and Joanna by his side.

Michael was Director of Music at Bath High School and the Royal High School Bath from 1995 until his retirement in 2009. He taught music to senior school GCSE and A level classes, directed the school orchestra and school choirs, and oversaw the arrangements for private music lessons. His busiest and most enjoyable times were when arranging the school's major orchestral and choral performances such as *The Magic Flute*, *Grease*, and *Oh! What a Lovely War*, and large occasions such as the Carol Service at St Stephen's and the Thanksgiving service in Bath Abbey.

A proud Yorkshireman by birth, Michael went on to study music as a Choral Scholar at King's College Cambridge. His PGCE was at Westminster College, Oxford, and his first teaching job in 1977 was local to Bath at Monkton Combe School. In 1983 he married Jane (nee Eyers), a BHS alumna, and daughter of Aileen Eyers, also a BHS honorary alumna and teacher. From 1990-1995 he taught at both Cheltenham College and Bearwood College, but now with two daughters Nicola and Joanna in tow, he returned to Bath to start a very enjoyable 15 years teaching on Lansdown. Out of school Michael was Director of Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir, a group of singers who deputise for the cathedral choir and also organist in his local church at Winsley. After Nicola and Joanna had successfully graduated from RHSB Sixth Form, Michael retired from school life in 2009. He went on to be an examiner for Trinity College of Music in London, appreciating travelling to schools and colleges around both the UK and the globe listening to young people making music. The increased spare time in (semi-) retirement meant more time in the garden with Jane, and no-longer bound by terms dates they took memorable holidays to the Isles of Scilly.

Michael was diagnosed with cancer at the end of 2019, and endured chemotherapy and surgery during the national Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020. As the country opened up during 2021, family time was particularly important, now centred around his home in Martock, South Somerset. A cancer reoccurrence in the summer of 2022 led to his untimely death, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.

Michael is hugely missed by not only those in his immediate family, but also the wider music community of Bath, Wells, and the Southwest.

#### **Margaret Winfield has added her tribute:**

It was a great delight to appoint Michael to the staff of Bath High School in 1995. He was distinguished academically, with many musical qualifications to his name; he was accomplished on the piano, organ and wind instruments, and was also a very fine singer – who could forget his talented performances as a counter tenor? He had previously taught at Monkton Combe, Cheltenham College and Bearwood College before joining BHS. He brought us all his

considerable experience and shared his talents most generously. He was a fine classroom teacher, not only inspiring his GCSE and A level students, but encouraging an appreciation of music in those who were not so gifted in performing. He was unstinting in the time he gave to extracurricular activities – the range of choirs, ensemble groups, the band and many orchestras. If there was no suitable music, he was gifted in arranging or writing something that fitted the occasion. No-one could have been more supportive in helping to plan Carol Services, services at Bath Abbey and music for Prize Giving. But I am sure his students will never forget his major school productions where there was fun and discipline in equal measure, friendships were forged, and students were given a musical training that I am sure they will continue to draw on all their lives. Not only did he have the gift of drawing the best from his students, but from his colleagues. His department was a team and he managed them all with consummate skill, so that each was able to make a special contribution. This he did with charm, kindness, understanding and total sincerity.

Much is asked of a Director of Music. Michael never for one moment disappointed. He took on the challenge of moving his department to the Royal High School in 1998, designing new music rooms, establishing new choirs and musical experiences, meeting new pupils and assessing their needs and working with a very large group of peripatetic staff. Not only did he possess the essential qualities of very good administrator, he was a teacher to his fingertips, leading by example; he also contributed to and enhanced major school occasions with his fine musicianship. He was a person of total reliability and integrity who was totally committed to his work at school. But I also knew him as a devoted family man. His wife, Jane, is an Old Girl, as are his daughters, Nicola and Joanna. He and Jane supported their girls totally in their education and in their subsequent careers. Before him his mother-in-law, Mrs Aileen Eyres, was for a long time Head of Religious Education. In a very busy and demanding role he still found time to pursue his own musical interests, particularly with his long-term involvement with Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir, becoming their director, a position he held for 21 years, only resigning because of ill health in 2019.

Michael's life was cut short by illness, but he leaves a special and enduring legacy. The memory of his work, his musicianship, the twinkle in his eye and his calm and reassuring demeanour will remain with us all – colleagues, students and parents alike. It was without doubt a privilege for me to have known him and worked with him.

#### **Susan Hill née Franklin (BHS 1962)**

**May 1944 – January 2021**

Susan sadly passed away in January 2021.

Should you have any memories of Susan's school days and later life to share please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)



### **Lady Alexandra Deverell**

née Cottam (RS 1977-1981)

Died 12 July 2022

On 12 July this year, Alex died at home after a long illness. She was married to Sir Chris Deverell, and was mother to her two beloved boys, Jack and Guy.

Alex had countless friends and remained in touch with many of them from her days at The Royal School; her sister, Henrietta (RS 1976-1983) tells us that it was truly heart-warming to see so many of them join in remembering Alex at a Service of Thanksgiving for her life.

The service was made up of many of the things that Alex loved, including excerpts from her 'Little Green Book', a journal she started to write for Jack and Guy as she turned 50 and determined by Alex to be read after her death. She wrote of her wonderfully happy childhood in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong, from where they would fly back to a life in boarding at the Royal School where so many close friendships were forged.

As Alex's husband Chris explained at the Service of Thanksgiving: "Alex's friends are loyal and devoted and have proved to be such a support throughout her life, especially in the last few years. I think it says so much about how she cared for, and looked out for everyone, despite her challenges"



### **Felicity Mullins, née Hattrell (RS 1961)**

I have attached a photo of myself taken actually by my daughter-in-law on the day of our recent visit. It was fantastic to see my old school again, it has not changed one bit! The last time I was there was in 1984 when I brought my three Australian boys and my husband to visit the school!

I was in Lawrence House and spent most of my time at school playing sport! I won colours for lacrosse, hockey, cricket and tennis and a posture stripe. I also won the either the Rideout or the Swanborough cup for tennis and a cup for the best all-rounder. I did one year in the sixth form trying to get more O-levels! After school I attended the Marlborough Secretarial College in Oxford, where I met my husband Chris Mullins. We immigrated to Australia in 1967. Chris was a high school teacher where he taught Maths, Science and Information Technology. I went back to work when my youngest started school and I worked for doctors in Brisbane for 20 years.

I have one son and daughter-in-law in the UK plus three grandchildren. I am actually in contact still with Jenny Rayner, Georgina Cruddas and Clare Calvert. We exchange news every Christmas. All were with me in Lawrence.

### **Mary Griffiths, née Whittles (BHS 1976)**

In 1962 I started Bath High School aged four, attending for the following twelve years, leaving in 1974 aged sixteen. It would be lovely to have a get together catch up cuppa with others who were there at that time! We have had reunions over the years and there was definitely one planned just before the Pandemic impacted. In a moment of reflection I can say that there were some very good people in our "year", we interacted very energetically, supportively and positively. Various fun stories come to mind. Our formative times were the springboard into our lifetime adventures.

Very best wishes to all, highest regards, love Mary. [Happymarygriffiths@gmail.com](mailto:Happymarygriffiths@gmail.com)

Have you any news to share or are you involved in a project or initiative you would like to tell us about? If so please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)

We would love to hear what you have been up to, as would your fellow alumnae!

CATCH UP  
CORNER



## Abigail Dicks (RHSB 2017)

Abigail had the opportunity to work for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham as a Training avenue Coordinator. I managed the training venue for Hockey, Triathlon and Para-triathlon. Got to meet and look after all the athletes, and teams. I also was able to help with the opening ceremony looking after the technical officials on the night. It was just such an amazing experience and great for sport in the UK!

## An update from Mrs Hurley, Head of Food Technology, for those of you who remember the Thomas's:

I bumped into **Eloise Thomas** (RHSB 2015) in Waitrose. She has finished her degree and has done a couple of ski seasons. She has now been offered an events management job at 'Bath on the beach', for which she would be well suited. Her older sisters **Polly** (RHSB 2008) and **Jemima** (RHSB 2012) are both well and one has had a baby (I cannot remember which, sorry!). **Katie Thomas** (RHSB 2015) is with a lovely boyfriend and has a young baby and feels like she has met her destiny and is very happy.

**Holly Howard** (RHSB 2015) has just started a fabulous new London based job as a Norland nanny and **Hannah Higson** (RHSB 2015) is a primary teacher and is moving back to Bath soon, for a new job, with her boyfriend

One of a rare breed of BHS alumni **Tom Rutherford** (BHS/JS 1977-1980), brother of **Esther Phillips**, née Rutherford (BHS 1987) was spotted at the Bath Life Awards.

## Elizabeth McGeown, née Walker (BHS 1993)

After leaving Bath High School in 1993 I studied architecture at Plymouth University where I gained a BA(Hons). I completed my Diploma in architecture at Oxford Brookes University and then moved London with a group of fellow architecture students. I worked in Central London for a number of years before moving to Northern Ireland where I have been working in private practice since 2005. At the moment I work, for the most part, on bespoke homes which I enjoy very much, however I have previous experience in designing new schools in Northern Ireland and commercial work during my time in London. I am married with two girls and keep in touch with quite a few of my classmates from Bath High via Facebook. I have been interested to see the development that has taken place at the former Bath High site, to Hope House and the lovely grounds of my old school. Lots of lovely memories from my time there, not least that we sat our exams in the school hall which had the unexploded bomb underneath us all that time! I look forward to keeping up with news of the school.

Best wishes, Lizzie.

## Sarah Haynes (RHSB 2017)

Graduated from Oxford in Summer 2021 with a first in Classics and has started a career in Sports Marketing with Two Circles.

## Raneem Khalid Bagedo (RHSB 2011)



Is the founder and Creative Director of KRAIV Investment Company, an established, family-run private equity firm with global investments in a variety of sectors. After moving to the UK at the age of 14, Raneem graduated with distinction in Global Business & Design Management. Before devoting her sweat and brain to KRAIV, she worked with local and international

fashion houses and cosmetic brands in creating aesthetically pleasing digital content. Her years of detailed knowledge and extensive experience in the luxury industry further helped her to host events and create workshops for prominent brands such as Louis Vuitton along with several PR agencies in London. Raneem's interests include traveling, fashion, food, and adventure, all of which led her to establish 'KOA' together with her siblings, courtesy of their particular taste in fine dining. What began as time spent exploring restaurants together with her siblings has now bloomed fully to a restaurant of their own that has certainly set a new benchmark for fine dining restaurants in Saudi Arabia. Her passion and experience in the creative industry have also secured Raneem a part-time position as Marketing and Projects Consultant at Erfan & Bagedo General Hospital.

## Roya Athina Schallig (RHSB 2021)

Roya has spent her gap year modelling in Dubai and Turkey alongside preparing to walk London Fashion Week again this year prior to taking up her place at Royal Holloway, University of London to study Computer Science and Media Culture Technology. In the Spring Roya will be in China modelling for three months; she can be found on Instagram @rroyga and would love any fellow alumnae to give her a follow.

# Would you like to **hold a reunion** with your school friends?

We are on hand to help you catch up with old friends for some reminiscing and find out what everybody's up to now. There are three ways you can do this:

## Organise a gathering in Bath:

we can help you track down your former classmates and, in exchange for some photos and news, will put a couple of bottles behind the bar!

## Return to RHSB:

whether it be for a tour and a catch up over coffee for a smaller group, or a larger gathering in one of our function rooms, we'd love to welcome you back (by prior appointment and subject to availability)

## Join us as a special anniversary group at the Annual Alumnae Reunion:

if you let us know far enough in advance we can prepare an archive display for your year group alongside our regular 10th and 20th anniversary group displays.

Please contact [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)  
for further details or to book.







# Christmas BAZAAR

Friday 2 December

16:00 - 18:30



Over 25 stalls of gifts, games, crafts and goodies

Christmas Raffle

Snowboard simulator

Mince pies, sausage rolls, hot chocolate and mulled wine

Meet Father Christmas

Carol singing

**Senior School, Royal High School Bath**  
(access via Richmond Road)

Buy your tickets online using this QR code and  
join us for some Christmas cheer.

**Girls making their mark**

[www.royalhighbath.gdst.net](http://www.royalhighbath.gdst.net)



# SUPPORT US

## HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

The simplest way to make a single or regular gift is online where you can opt to support RHSB's Bursaries and Assistance Fund, projects at the School's discretion or RHSB's Opportunities Fund.

[www.gdst.net/donate/RHSBath](http://www.gdst.net/donate/RHSBath)

## A GIFT IN YOUR WILL:


Leaving a legacy gift to Royal High School Bath is a simple way of supporting girls in the future and ensuring that the school continues to thrive.


If you let us know that you plan to leave a gift in your will, you will become a member of the GDST's Minerva Circle.

[www.gdst.net/support/gdst-legacy](http://www.gdst.net/support/gdst-legacy)

Email: [RHSalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:RHSalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)

 @rhsalumnae

 Royal High Bath Alumnae Network

 Royal High School Bath

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

[rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net)

Tel.: 01225 313877

## All enquiries by post to:

Francesca Orr, Alumnae and Community  
Liaison Officer  
Royal High School Bath  
Lansdown Road  
Bath BA1 5SZ

# CONTACT POINT

## HOW TO KEEP UP TO DATE

Nearly all our communications are by email, so if you want to stay in contact do please send us your email address by dropping us a line at [rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:rhsalumnae@rhsb.gdst.net) or by updating your details on the alumnae portal at [www.gdst.net/alumnae/portal](http://www.gdst.net/alumnae/portal)

## HOW TO FIND OLD FRIENDS, MENTORS AND MORE

Join GDST Life, the online GDST alumnae network, by signing up at [www.gdstlife.aluminate.net](http://www.gdstlife.aluminate.net) and joining the Royal High School Bath group page for former students of The Royal School, Bath High School and Royal High School Bath.

## HOW WE LOOK AFTER AND USE YOUR DATA

We promise that your details are safe with us – you can view our privacy policy at [www.royalhighbath.gdst.net/privacy-policy](http://www.royalhighbath.gdst.net/privacy-policy). You can choose how you hear from us by updating your details on the alumnae portal.