

CONNECT

The Magazine for the Friends of NGHS 2019

Connected for life



Where girls learn without limits.



A family of 25 schools, expert in teaching girls to be confident, resilient and fearless.

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Registered Charity No. 306983

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Treasured Moments

A special project connecting NGHS alumnae to current pupils at our school.



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We Will Remember Them

NGHS alumna, Emma Brown and some of our Junior School girls represent NGHS at Armistice Centenary events across France and Belgium.



WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

What an exciting time we've had since our last Connect Magazine. Life at Nottingham Girls' High School has been as exciting and full of adventure as ever.

Our girls achieved the strongest GCSE results that we've seen in eight years. The girls succeeded across a fantastic range of subjects, including excellent results in STEM subjects, Music, Languages, Drama, Classical Latin and Greek to name a few. 27% of all results were at the highest possible grade 9, and 50% at grades 9-8 (the equivalent of an A*).

Similarly, our pupils achieved the highest A Level grades in five years with a 100% pass rate, 23% of grades at A* and 53% at A* to A. We are so proud of our girls and are delighted that NGHS has once again equipped young women for extraordinary futures. We have also had the privilege this year of inviting multiple alumnae guest speakers in to speak to our pupils about everything from politics, to law, student life, motherhood, marketing and architecture! Our Friends of NGHS School Community is growing every year and it's a privilege to see people connecting with old friend and teachers, as well as making new connections. We've hosted some hugely popular networking events and



reunions, and have enjoyed seeing former staff and parents come along to our fundraising Summer Fair! We're really looking forward to all of the brilliant events and reunions in this next academic year, and in particular, welcoming our newest school leavers into the Alumnae Network.

We want to do everything that we can to prepare our pupils for adult life, and when they leave us we continue to celebrate their many successes and achievements. It is so important to us here at NGHS to ensure that our current pupils receive input and hear stories from women from all walks of life. It is inspiring and motivating, and we all have so much that we can learn from other generations of NGHS women. This is why we value our NGHS Alumnae

community so much; not only do our current pupils get to benefit from connecting to incredible women with a variety of life experiences, but we also get to celebrate each other's successes and stay connected for life.

"Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed" is the motto that has been at the heart of the Girls' Day School Trust throughout our history.

This is still our ethos here today, we are forward thinking and progressive.

We want our girls to earnestly expand their knowledge and embrace adventure, to be creative.

We are a community who encourage each other to stand out from the crowd, to be different.

SCHOOL NEWS



Exciting times for NGHS Head Julie Keller

Congratulations to our NGHS Head who went from Miss Keller to Mrs Keller in December 2018! We are thrilled for Julie, and her new husband Rob. We are also delighted by their recent news that they are expecting a baby, due in the New Year. We all wish them and their growing family every happiness during this exciting time.



National 3 Peaks

A group of fourteen Year 10 pupils and ten dedicated parents and NGHS staff completed

the National 3 Peaks Challenge this summer. Three countries, three mountains, 24 hours. An outstanding achievement and demonstration of resilience and strength from these young women!



Julie Abbott fishing

This year we celebrated the fantastic achievements of our very own Julie Abbott (NGHS PE) who received a bronze medal representing England in the World Angling Championships in South Africa. What a brilliant role model for our girls!



New York and India

Girls from Y10-12 have had the great privilege of going on some incredible school trips this year. Drama students jetted off to New York, USA to take part in a Broadway workshop, visit NGHS alumna Alexandra King at CNN and of course, see a fabulous Broadway show!

Later in the year, Religious Studies and Philosophy pupils went on a trip of a lifetime to India. The girls visited mosques, temples and Ghandi's house! They had the wonderful opportunity to learn from local guides about the history and traditions of another culture.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Careers and Networking Events

We have welcomed so many NGHS alumnae into school throughout the academic year to talk to our girls and offer exceptional careers advice. We're so thankful to those who have been willing to come back to school and invest in the next generation of young female leaders, and help us to prepare them for the adult world. Our girls have had the great privilege of hearing from inspiring women about everything from public speaking, university life, balancing motherhood and a demanding career, and stories that left them feeling empowered to pursue exciting and adventurous opportunities.



*Sarah Ionnau
House of Commons*



*Sudha Kheterpal
Entrepreneur and Musician*



*Business, Design
and Media experts*

Summer Fair

We held our first fundraising Summer Fair in years, and it was a roaring success! Despite the torrential summer rain, parents, pupils, former staff, alumnae and prospective families all came along and enjoyed the day. We had local independent businesses as stallholders as well as

parents and pupils running activities and selling homemade items. We raised a brilliant £600 for our NGHS Sports and Outdoor Learning provision, ensuring that our girls have access to the best possible excursions, outdoor experiences and sports facilities.



Glitter Ball

Thank you to all Friends of NGHS who attended our fundraising Glitter Ball and special thanks to all those who kindly donated gifts or finances towards our fundraising goal. It was a magnificent evening; the NGHS string quartet and choir performed excellently, and the guest live band were brilliant. We are delighted to have raised a phenomenal £14,500 for the development of sport and opportunities for girls at NGHS.



Productions

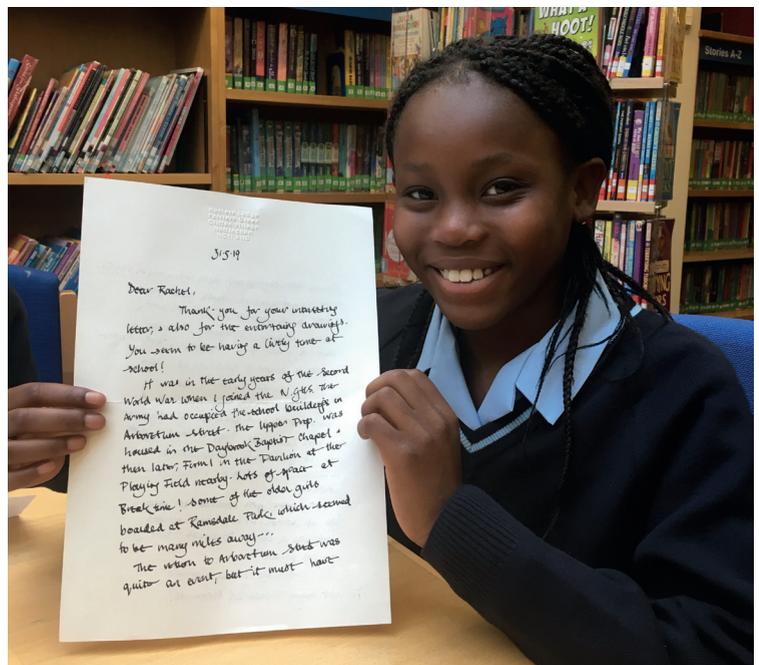
The Squire Performing Arts Centre continues to provide girls across the school with unique opportunities to learn and perform in a cutting edge environment. Concerts and performances are a regular feature in the theatre, from the Reception and Year 1 nativity play 'The Angel Express' to the School Productions of 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat'. All alumnae and former staff are welcome to attend our school productions - so keep an eye out for upcoming dates!



TREASURED MOMENTS

During the Summer Term of 2019, we launched a really special project to connect NGHS alumnae to current pupils at our school. We encouraged Year 4 and 5 girls to embrace the art of letter writing to an alumna buddy who was an NGHS girl from 1940 - 1960. Girls thought about what it is like to be an NGHS girls in 2019, and many asked questions about what it was like to be an NGHS girls in the 40s-60s. We want our girls to feel empowered to find their voice, and use it to tell their own stories. This project has enabled them to tap into a wealth of treasured moments from across the years, which are relatable to their own experiences as NGHS girls.

It was so encouraging to receive so many positive responses from alumnae, writing back to the girls to tell stories about their time in school. Many spoke of their relocation to different sites during the war, gloopy custard in the Dining Hall, and very large gym knickers! It was fascinating to hear reports that many alumnae credit NGHS for igniting a passion for learning in them, and a resilience and assertiveness that they have carried throughout their lives; something we still try to impart on girls today.



3/5/19

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your interesting letter, & also for the exciting drawings! You seem to be having a lovely time at school!

It was in the early years of the second world war when I joined the N.G.H.S. The Army had occupied the school buildings in Arbroath - about the Upper Park was housed in the Dayman Baptist Chapel & then later, Form 1 in the Pavilion at the Playing field nearby. Lots of girls at Break time! Some of the older girls boarded at Remdale Park, which seemed to be many miles away...

The return to Arbroath school was quite an event, but it must have

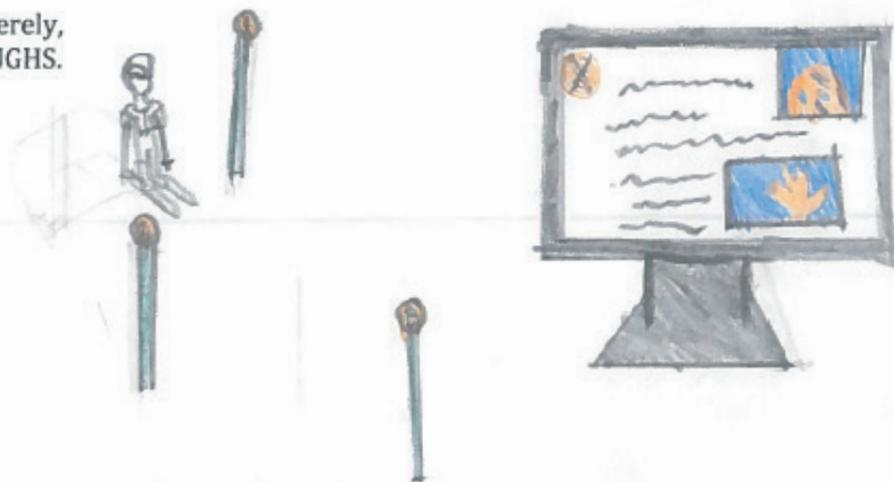
Zoe and Mrs Sturgeon

Dear Mrs. Sturgeon,

My name is Zoë and I'm in year 5. I've been at Nottingham Girls' High since the beginning of year 5 (September 2018). In this letter I will tell you a bit about what NGHS is like in 2019. For starters in 2019 we have two ICT suits (computer rooms) in the junior school. We also all have an iPad each! Did you have iPads and ICT suits when you were at school here? In 2019 we also have an app that tells you how long it takes you to do your times tables and you can improve your speed on it. As well as that we also have a website/app called Firefly that tells you the homework you've been set and gives you other things like websites for the subject your doing! Did you have any of those things to help you with work when you were in school?

My favourite subjects are maths, because I love multiplying and dividing, and my other favourite subject is outdoor learning because I love being outdoors and doing things like making fires (safely of course). The funniest moment in school was when I forgot how to spell my teachers name so I just put Mrs. C instead of here full last name in the Christmas card I gave her. What was your year 5 teacher called? My favourite thing I did was going on a school skiing trip with 5 other girls I knew for a week. It was my first trip skiing, the skiing resort was called Skibound!! Anyway please write back.

Yours sincerely,
Zoë from NGHS.





ME ROWING AT TRENT BRIDGE.



SUMMER 1949

LIVR P. HARRIS
ME AFTER SCHOOL
(WITH MY BROTHER BOB)



IN MY NGHS COAT
AND SCARF
(WITH MY SISTER MARY)

DEAR ZOE,

I AM WRITING TO THANK YOU FOR THE LOVELY LETTER YOU SENT TO MY MOTHER PHYLIS STURGEON (NEE HARRIS) WHICH SHE HAS BEEN SO THRILLED TO RECEIVE. SHE SHOWS IT TO ALL HER VISITORS AT THE SOUTHWELL COURT NURSING HOME WHERE LIVES THESE DAYS.

MUM HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AT N.C.H.S AND IT IS SUCH A SPECIAL PART OF THE MEMORIES SHE STILL HAS.

YOUR LETTER HAS BEEN READ BY ME, MY BROTHER AND MY SISTERS AND WE LOVE HOW HAPPY OUR MUM WAS TO RECEIVE IT.

PHYLIS BECAME POORLY LAST YEAR WITH SOMETHING CALLED A 'STROKE'. THIS MAKES YOU UNABLE SOMETIMES TO REMEMBER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY, BUT YOU STILL REMEMBER ALL THE GOOD THINGS FROM A LONG TIME AGO. THIS IS WHY YOUR LETTER WAS SO NICE FOR OUR MUM TO HAVE FOR US TO READ TO HER.

THANK YOU.

NICK STURGEON XX.

MUM ASKED ME TO COPY HER SCHOOL REPORT, FROM 1954. YOU CAN SEE HER FORM MISTERS WAS MISS RICHESDIKE.

IN 1954 THE GIRLS HAD AN ABACUS IN THEIR FORM ROOM, AND COMPUTERS HAD NOT BEEN INVENTED !!



Quinther Verhaverbeke
PHOTOGRAPHY

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Last year six girls joined NGHS alumna, Emma Brown, to take part in possibly the most poignant school excursion ever as they represented NGHS at Armistice Centenary events across France and Belgium, and we could not be more proud of them.

The six winners of the Junior School 'Armistice 100' competition (Nitya, Priya, Olivia, Maisy, Amelia and Evie) had the huge honour and privilege of travelling to France and Belgium to tour the battlefields and to pay their respects on behalf of the school community.

For ones so young, the girls were a total credit to the school, showing maturity beyond their years and gaining the recognition

and admiration of everybody they met. They joined NGHS alumna and acclaimed mezzo-soprano singer, Emma Brown, as she sang at the various sites.



They met Victoria Wallace, Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. She said to them: "In the twenty-first century, when you're a girl, you don't have to be the queen or the prime minister, you can also be director general of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission."

Perhaps the most moving and memorable part of their journey was at the Thiepval Memorial monument near Picardy in France. At this, the largest monument in the world to missing British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell in the Battle of the Somme, the girls took part in a ceremony organised by the Royal British Legion, Somme

Branch.

Evie and Olivia had the honour of being the first members of the public to lay a wreath, Maisy and Nitya read their own poems, Priya played her violin, and Amelia sang "Amazing Grace," before an audience of over 1,000 people. What an absolutely incredible achievement for these girls, who executed their roles with confidence and poise despite the poor weather, and even caught the attention of The Times newspaper which featured their story and claimed:

"The most beautiful, haunting, moment of the ceremony of remembrance at Thiepval on the Somme came when Amelia Stephenson, a nine-year-old pupil at Nottingham Girls' High School, sang Amazing Grace on the steps of Sir Edwin Lutyens's magnificent memorial."

Needless to say, the school is immensely proud of this group of girls and everything they have done, and grateful also to alumna Emma Brown who said:

"I was delighted to join the girls on their remembrance journey in France and Belgium. They made a big impression on the organisations: not just their poetry and their music, but their deportment and eloquence. It was so lovely to meet them and to reconnect with school."

This whole sequence of events around the Armistice Centenary culminating in the overseas trip will certainly stay with us for a very long time, and the girls should be very proud as they are now part of history and something incredibly special.

"The most beautiful, haunting, moment of the ceremony came when Amelia Stephenson, a nine-year-old pupil at Nottingham Girls' High School, sang Amazing Grace."



BABBLE TALKS!

An intellectual opportunity for new mothers.

Ruth Bennett (nee Dix) Alumna 2002

Spending my entire school life (or close enough – I started in Prep II with the wonderful Mrs Hamilton) at NGHS allowed me to grow up in an environment where being an intelligent and strong-minded woman was completely normal. I never felt there was anything unavailable to me because of my gender. By chance or design, I have spent my life since school in female-dominated environments – I studied English at Leeds University from 2002–2005. At that time the ratio of women to men on the course was, I believe, 3:1. I then forged a career within the publishing industry – specifically the children’s books part of it – where male staff are few and far between. I started as an Editorial Assistant at Bloomsbury and am now Editorial Director at Stripes Publishing, an imprint of the Little Tiger Group (IPG/Blackwell’s Independent Children’s Publisher of the Year 2018). So when I gave birth to my first child, Julian, in October last year, being surrounded once more with women, also on maternity leave and caring for new babies, did not seem unusual to me. What did seem unusual was the lack of

opportunities for us to engage our minds.

Like many of the women around me, I was a first-time mother in my 30s. I had worked as late as possible into my pregnancy, keeping up a demanding workload in a job I loved. I was using my brain constantly, and it felt good. Then all of a sudden, life took on a whole new dimension. I was expecting the transition to parenthood to be hard and it was. But what I wasn’t expecting was that the niggling part of my brain that loves figuring out problems on an intellectual level would not switch off. There is so much available to new mothers today (especially in London) and I could spend my days doing a whole host of activities for both me and baby. But none of the activities on offer seemed to acknowledge that caring for a baby is not equivalent to the kind of mental stimulation we were used to pre-baby. Without it, a kind of cabin fever seemed to be setting in. I was desperate for conversation beyond babies but achieving that with people you only know within the context of becoming a mother is hard.



The solution presented itself when we were on our first big family car journey – to visit my parents for Christmas. I mentioned to my husband that I wanted the experience of engaging my brain, learning something new, but without the commitment involved in taking a course or reading an entire book. ‘Like a TED talk you can bring your baby to?’ he said. There it was: what we needed was an event that was both an opportunity to hear about something new and different, a chance to meet other parents and maybe even spark conversations beyond the latest baby milestones. And so Babble Talks was born. The format is simple, we invite a guest speaker who talks for 20 minutes, then we involve them and the audience in some panel-show-style games and finally the speaker takes questions from the audience. The whole event takes an hour in total and we stay around for lunch



and socialising afterwards. Topics have ranged from genetics to the politics of climate change, and in future months we will hear from Professor Christopher Jackson about volcanoes and Alev Scott on contemporary politics in Turkey, among others. It is still not acknowledged frequently enough that focusing on your own wellbeing as a new parent is of vital importance for you and the baby. Why should maternity leave seem like a period of time when you press pause on your pre-baby identity? The response to our events since we started in March has proven that I'm not alone in feeling this way. We've packed out our first venue (The Wheatsheaf, Tooting, London) every single month and demand has led us to expand to a second venue (The East Dulwich Tavern, London). Who knows where will be next? I see no reason why Babble Talks could not take place in every town or

city with a healthy number of new parents and families. I truly believe it can have a positive impact on the life-changing first year that we spend at home with our babies.

If you think there should be a Babble Talks near you, get in touch at babbletalks@gmail.com. If you'd like to propose a talk, also get in touch. If you're in London and have a baby under 1 year old, come along to one of our events! For listings and more information, go to www.babbletalks.com.



RETIREMENTS

Edna Collingwood

Edna retired this year after working an incredible 33 years at NGHS. Mrs Collingwood originally started work here under the grand guise of Assistant to the Domestic Bursar! She has since worn many hats and stepped into many shoes in varying support and administrative roles from general admin and finance work to her latter roles in catering and estates. There is probably nobody at the school who hasn't required Ed's help somewhere along the way, and she has always obliged professionally and politely.



Alison Henshaw

Dr Alison Henshaw has retired after 15 years teaching Classics at NGHS and we will really miss her! She's been involved in SO many things as a Sixth Form Tutor in the past, and organised lots of trips. Also a member of the staff choir and regular runner at Sports Day staff events.



Eileen Thorne

Eileen Thorne stepped in when Dr Critchley went on paternity leave in 2009. She went on to teach all of the sciences and took on 'Maths in Motion' which was so successful, her team of girls were awarded a place in the national finals.



Steve Price

Steve Price has been at NGHS since 1998 would you believe? So a well-deserved retirement from teaching Physics is on the cards. Enjoy yourself Mr Price, you've been an inspiration.

Rosie Malone

Rosie Malone started at NGHS in September 2012 on maternity cover, and ended up staying for six years! Rosie applied her teaching skills in all Humanities subjects, as well as PSHE.



Helen Talbot

Helen Talbot started in April 2012 on maternity cover and stayed on to teach PE in the Junior and Senior schools, as well as PSHE.

Jenny Towle

Jenny retired successfully in 2018 at her second attempt! She tried the previous year, but couldn't stay away and ended up coming back to teach part-time Biology. Jenny is famed for using songs in her lessons to help her pupils to remember facts. Not only has Jenny taught at NGHS since 1996, but she is also an alumna of the school and has dedicated so much of her life to ensuring that girls today receive the same standard of excellent education that she herself received here.



EXTRAORDINARY ENDEAVOURS

Rachel Bolton-King

Dr Bolton-King left Nottingham Girls' High School in 2004 to study Forensic Science at Nottingham Trent University. Rachel has spent her career serving as a role model for women in STEM, and championing other young scientists to develop their skills.

Rachel was awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship for 2019 to research gun crime investigation processes. She uses her incredible skills and specialist research to fight for justice for UK gun crime victims by insuring that technologies and best practices are working to the highest standard possible. It's wonderful to see an NGHS girl go on to make a real impact in our society today with regards to the pressing issue of tackling gun crime. Our hope is that every NGHS girl follows her dreams and is able to make a positive impact on the world around her like Rachel is doing.

Rachel says, "I absolutely love my job – the role of an academic is so varied. I never stop learning something new, and I could never get bored! I love working with my students, watching them grow, develop their skills and succeed in gaining employment. I equally love working with police officers,



forensic scientists, lawyers and academic colleagues aiming to change the future of criminal investigations and advance the practice of forensic science. I am so excited that I will be a Churchill Fellow in 2019. My project involves meeting and shadowing law enforcement agencies, lawyers, government officials and scientists from all over the world to look at how technology is used in gun crime investigations. If you look at national statistics, UK gun crime is still relatively low, but when we look at gun crime in major cities like London, Liverpool and Birmingham, the percentages are

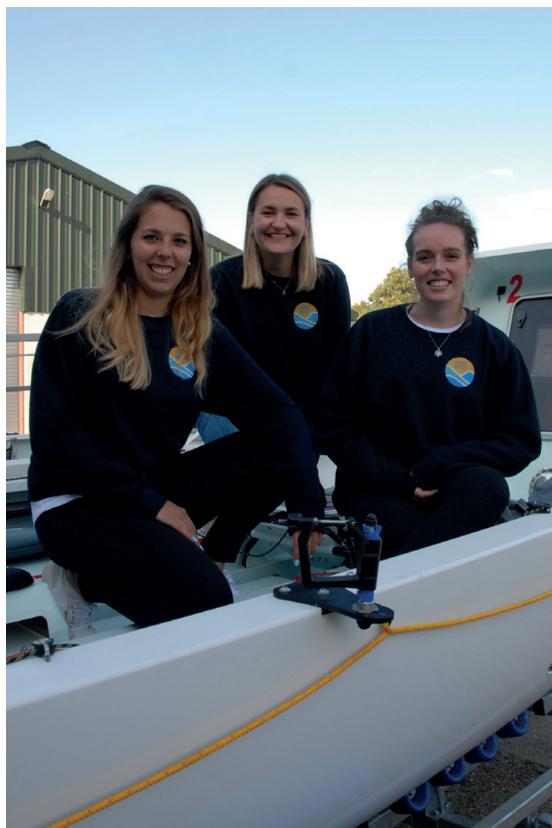
starting to rise significantly. I will learn how existing and emerging technologies are used to detect, investigate, track, trace, solve, prevent, and reduce gun crime - and how this could inform best practice in the UK."

Hannah Walton - the world's toughest rowing challenge

In my final year at NGHS (2010/11) I gave the vote of thanks at prize giving to Sarah Outen, a female adventurer who had just rowed across the Pacific Ocean. Her feat of human endurance and the stories from her journey were incredible, but I remember thinking that ocean rowing seemed like a bit more effort than my standard netball match and probably something I'd never take part in. A few years on from that and my opinion seems to have changed, so much so that in December 2020 myself and two friends are aiming to become the youngest and fastest female trio to have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean.

We will be taking part in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, an annual race from La Gomera in the Canary Islands, to Antigua - just a quick 3000 miles! Once out of the safety of San Sebastian Harbour, we are on our own; unsupported, and at the mercy of the ocean and the elements. The challenge will be relentless, perhaps shown by the fact that more people have climbed Everest, trekked to the North Pole, and travelled into space than have successfully rowed across the Atlantic. We'll face a constant battle of sleep deprivation, salt sores, blisters, 40ft waves, and the physical extremes of rowing for 12 hours a day - 2 hours on, 2 hours off for 50-60 days - sounds like fun?!

When people ask me why I'm doing something like this, my reply is inevitably 'why not?' The confidence to 'just have a go' and push the boundaries of my comfort zone is something which is a remnant of my NGHS days and from taking part in sport throughout school (netball) and university (rowing). For all three of us in Atlantic Antics, sport has shaped our lives, providing friendship and community, along with a way of keeping our minds healthy. Because of this, we will be raising money throughout our campaign for Women in Sport and Rowing Together for Healthy



Minds (RTHM).

We are at the very beginning of our campaign and so now the hard work starts in order to guarantee we are as fit and ready as possible to cross the ocean successfully. This means completing a multitude of courses, deciding which dehydrated meals taste the best (not that I'm sure we'll be bothered after 50 days at sea) and securing sponsorship for the £100,000 it will cost to ensure that we are on that start line next year.

If you are interested in finding out more about our journey or our support for our charities, please head to www.atlanticantics2020.com or @atlanticantics2020 on Instagram.



Francesca Oddie

Francesca Oddie attended Nottingham Girls' High School until 2003 when she left to study Natural Sciences at Durham University. Francesca's career took a unique and interesting turn when she decided to pursue her passions and study at The London School of Astrology, and is now running her successful Astrology business while continuing her studies in Medical Astrology.

Francesca says "I was initially reluctant to train as an astrologer, I had never met an astrologer or even contemplated that astrology might be a career. I have always been into astrology - I remember noting everyone's birthday in primary school - but I became really obsessed in 2008 when my sister's friend told me about my 'rising sign', an astrological principle linked to the time of day we are born. I became a dedicated researcher and eventually, I put my hesitations and preconceptions to one side and enrolled at The London School of Astrology. I completed their three year apprenticeship programme, some online courses and continue to study now with three other schools in London."



OBITUARIES



Mrs Julie Kelly

Sept 1960 – Dec 2017

We were incredibly sorry to share the news in the past couple of years of Mrs Julie Kelly passing away in December 2017. Julie joined the school in 1992 and worked for many years as Head of our Religious Studies department. Ongoing health issues prevented her from continuing in the role she loved so much, eventually leaving the school in 2012. Julie was a kind and gentle soul, and a caring friend to those she worked with and the pupils she taught. She nurtured a love of her subject among the girls, and she returned to the school regularly to see friends and convey her good wishes to other colleagues if they left or retired. We will always be

grateful to Julie for her dedication to our school community – she was a true inspiration and we will never forget her.



Miss Sheila Harris

June 1925 – Jan 2018

Unfortunately at the start of 2018, we heard of the sad news of former staff member, Miss Sheila Harris, passing away at the age of 92. Sheila was a member of our teaching staff from 1947 until her retirement in 1985. She was Senior Mistress several times while teaching Classics, and then taught Religious Studies for the last decade of her career. A much loved staff member and great friend, Sheila kept up her ties with the school and was a regular, friendly and smiling presence

at many reunions and alumnae events. Sheila was an honoured guest at our 140 year anniversary event in 2016 and enjoyed meeting our Sixth Formers and cutting the celebratory cake. Her generous and warm charm made her incredibly popular with everyone from current pupils, to NGHS old girls, and other NGHS staff. We were always delighted to see her return to school, and we will miss her greatly. She made a huge impact on those she taught and continued to be an influential and inspiring NGHS role model after her retirement.



Mrs Ann Stewart

We have also regrettably been informed of the passing of former English teacher Mrs Ann Stewart. Ann taught English for

approximately 10 years until her retirement in 1997. She was also a Sixth Form Tutor for many years, and kept in touch with lots of her former pupils after her retirement. A much respected and loved member of staff, Ann returned to the school in 2011 as a visiting author having published her first book 'Rooktime', which the girls loved.



Mr John Turner

Many of you will remember Mr John Turner who worked at NGHS from 1993 until 2008 in the DT Department. John was also a regular participant in countless Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and a wonderful addition to our NGHS school community.



Joan Fisher by Dawn Fisher

My mum, Mrs Joan Fisher, died on 12th August at the age of 95. She was still living at home with carers twice daily, was still mentally alert and had a good quality of life despite her limited mobility due to arthritis. – Dawn Fisher

Joan taught at NGHS for over 20 years, from the late 1950s through to the early 1980s. Joan is remembered fondly by her past pupils. She impacted and inspired so many young girls during her time as Head of Physics and Head of the Science department at NGHS. We are so thankful for the investment that Joan made in our school by dedicating so much of her life to supporting and empowering NGHS girls.

Julie Waite by Elspeth and Julia

Elspeth Insch (NGHS Geography) and Julia Burns (nee Morris) (NGHS History)

We knew Julie for over 40 years. A small group of us joined Nottingham High School for Girls at much the same time in the late 1970s, and quickly became good friends. Julie, as a young and energetic PE teacher, was always incredibly busy: teaching her lessons, running practices at lunchtime and after school, taking girls to tournaments and arranging and umpiring Saturday fixtures. Nottingham enabled her to learn her craft, develop her skills as a teacher and be ready for greater challenges in due course.

A few months after Julie's arrival, Elspeth persuaded the Head, Miss Lewenz, to let her organise the next ski trip and Julie was an obvious choice of colleague. Gill Scott (History), Elspeth and Julie met in her flat to look through brochures and find the best resort – Chatel in the French Alps. The skiing was good but the real problem was the food – chopped up beetroot laced with mustard served with chunks of bread formed the first meal! Julie was just the right person to be with on a school visit – fun, relaxed, vigilant and caring, the most

sensible of colleagues.

Throughout her life, Julie maintained her love of music; she sang in the Nottingham Philharmonic Choir and latterly in Warwick, played her keyboard and enjoyed going to orchestral concerts and musical theatre. In the early 1980s, after a number of very happy and successful years at NGHS, Julie moved to King's High School in Warwick. She bought her first home and developed new friendships.

Julie loved to travel. She led a number of sports tours, at home and abroad; she spoke enthusiastically of her holidays in Egypt and South Africa. Julia and Julie spent a memorable few days in Venice one May half term, soaking up all that most beautiful city had to offer. Julie even learnt some Italian! Her travels also enabled her to indulge in her other major passion: photography. Julie followed in her father's footsteps here.

Over the years, the three of us managed to maintain our friendship, meeting in the summer holiday and in Stratford upon Avon between Christmas and New Year for lunch, girlie shopping and to share our news. One day Elspeth parked in the very full multi-storey car park with Julie hot on her trail. A number of manoeuvres later she

was in a space. Within seconds Julie had reversed at speed into a tiny space in a corner! She loved driving that sporty little car.

Julie was a most faithful friend who was always kind and thoughtful, generous and supportive. We really miss her.



Judy Lane by Kath Alston

Judy and I knew each other for almost 70 years, bridesmaid, and dearest friend.

Judy (affectionately nicknamed Toops) was a pupil at NGHS from aged 4 to 18 years. She was elected a School Prefect and after her A-levels spent a year as a teaching assistant in the Preparatory Department. In those days the school the badge was an owl and she was a lifelong collector of anything with an

owl theme! All aspects of the school remained very important to her and she always attended class reunions and London OGA meetings.

Passionate about drama and the theatre, Judy was an excellent, acclaimed and versatile actress who brought sensitivity and empathy equally to male or female roles while at school. Later she joined Questors in Ealing, honing her craft there, with roles encompassing Modern Classics, Shakespeare, Restoration Comedies, Greek Tragedies and even, memorably, a mesmerising performance as a sheep! She regularly attended all types of London theatre - traditional, avant garde, musicals, opera - she relished them all.

Judy loved working with children and after training at the Froebel Institute, she enjoyed a long and successful career as a Primary School teacher in Hillingdon, becoming a young Deputy Head aged 27. She returned to the classroom later and in retirement voluntarily played the piano for Assembly at local schools.

Judy enjoyed sport and while at NGHS was always out in the playground during breaks, with a netball or a tennis racquet or playing Hot Rice. She represented the school with great pride in Netball, including once

playing in a major tournament as part of the East Midlands team.

Judy was multi-talented, with rich and diverse interests. She was inquisitive about everything and never stopped trying to increase her expertise, as witness her extensive home library. She gained a Science degree from Birkbeck College, and at West Dean she regularly followed varied Craftwork courses, supplementing her teenage skill in tatting. Popular among her friends, she was outgoing, mischievous and knowledgeable. Always willing to offer a perceptive - or occasionally argumentative - opinion on Art, Drama, Literature, Politics, Music... or indeed any subject!

Although she never married, Judy had a full and varied social life. She experienced setbacks and challenges, as most people do, but her tenacity always carried her through. Her greatest joy and triumph was when she traced her roots, discovering the ready-made family of her birth-mother and half-sister.

In 1993 Judy's health began gradually to deteriorate, affecting her voice and curtailing her activities in drama. In 2007 she suffered a stroke and was also diagnosed with a hereditary heart condition. She became a walking miracle, with five

stents, a replacement valve and a pacemaker; undaunted she carried on her life with determination and vigor.

Always very independent of thought and spirit - bordering on stubborn - Judy persisted in living alone, despite her increasing difficulties and utterly refused to see the necessity of having anything whatsoever to do with modern technology. However, it was this strength of character which ultimately enabled her to fight for so long against her failing health, without complaint and with so much courage. She died peacefully, at home, in her armchair, while watching television.

FRIENDS OF NGHS EVENTS

London Drinks

In May 2019 we had the pleasure of meeting up with NGHS alumnae in London. We had a fabulous evening with NGHS girls from 1950 - 2008. It was wonderful to see everyone networking with women who they wouldn't normally cross paths with, as well as reminisce and catch up with old school friends. When a group of women come together to support each other it always feels very powerful, empowering and inspiring.



Reunion Lunch

Every year we hold a fantastic lunch in school for our Alumnae and Former Staff community. This year in June we welcomed over 70 people back to school! We were delighted to have such a huge number of guests this year, with alumnae and former staff from 1954-2002 in attendance. Special congratulations particularly to the 1969 leavers who celebrated their 50th anniversary this year! Over a coffee (or something a little stronger) old friends greeted each other and chatted about their memories of life at NGHS. It was also lovely that some of them could meet up again with



their old teachers and thank them for the inspiration they provided many years ago. After lunch, many had a good look around the school, remembering those rooms in which they had their lessons, comparing notes and chuckling about those 'naughty' moments when they may not have been on their best behaviour.

Upcoming events

2019 School Leavers Christmas Drinks

Thursday 19 December 2019



Senior Performance: Back to the Land

Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and
Friday 24 January 2020
7.00pm in The Space



Senior Musical: Beauty and the Beast

Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 and
Thursday 19 March 2020
7.00pm in The Space

Reunion Drinks

30 April 2020 at the GDST
Sky Garden, London

Summer Fair

Thursday 7 May 2020

Glitter Ball Winter 2021

Date and location tbc



NOTTINGHAM
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

Save the date!

**NGHS SPRING ALUMNAE REUNION
SATURDAY 20 JUNE 2020**

Special invitation on this particular occasion is extended to those of you who left school in years ending in **5** or **0**!

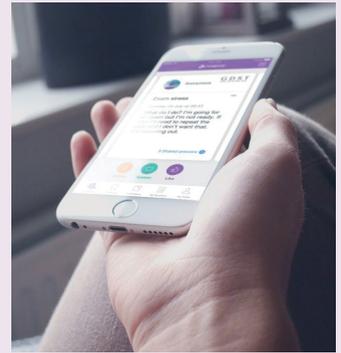
For further details, contact Sian Griffiths
on **0115 941 7663** or
email **FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net**

GETTING INVOLVED

Rungway

All alumnae and former staff are invited to take part in the GDST mentoring scheme, via the new app Rungway.

This app provides the opportunity to answer the questions of current pupils who are looking for advice. Girls regularly post questions about career choices, interview prep, university life and work experience. We want our girls to be connected in with their unique and prestigious alumnae network, to receive advice from experts, hear stories from a variety of life experiences, and talk to incredible women who were once sat where they are now!



Careers talks

Could you share your story and advice with our pupils? We've recently started a campaign called Inspiring Alumnae where we're telling the stories of alumnae from a range of careers and life experiences to celebrate all of the incredible things that our alumnae go on to do. We are also looking for careers speakers to come in and talk to our girls about a variety of fields. If you are an expert in your field, or just have some interesting stories to tell and advice to offer, please let us know. We believe that every NGHS girl has a story to tell! If you would be willing to share yours to inspire our current pupils, please email FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net.



Memories and the Archives

We love to hear from our alumnae and many of you write in with images from your school days. It's great to see how things have changed over the years, so please send us your news and photos. Here are a few examples of images we have received.



1948 Polish Dancing



1951 Sports Day



Biology Sixth Form



Images of the Mistresses Room (left) and Playing Fields (below) sent in by Muriel Barker.



FUNDRAISING AND GIFT GIVING

Our wonderful community support us in many ways. Giving their time, expertise, energy or monetary contributions, we feel honoured to have such a generous community of friends. Every single monetary donation and gift we receive, no matter the amount, helps us to achieve our mission of giving girls the education, skills qualifications and confidence to excel in whatever they chose to do, and to make a difference in the world. There are a number of opportunities to support us, and we hope to gather more support from individuals and organisations for bursaries, so that we can give more girls more opportunities.

The Donor Tree

A popular way that many donors chose to support us is by purchasing a leaf on our beautiful Donor Tree. This stunning art installation takes pride of place



in the Squire Performing Arts Centre. Donors choose a leaf, we engrave it, and it is then added to the stunning tree.

If you would like to purchase a leaf, please complete the online form at nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net/outreach/philanthropy.



The Bursary Fund

Every year, many of Nottinghamshire's brightest girls are unable to access the education they would like to choose because of their financial situation. The Bursary Fund is used to offer the brightest of these girls free places. Every year, we are inundated with bursary applications. With your help, we can more girls these places. help more girls free places, so that they can benefit from an NGHS education, become leaders, and change the world for the better.



If you are able to contribute through fundraising activities or a donation, please do get in touch, every pound you donate will make a difference.

The Opportunities Fund

The Opportunities Fund supports our Bursary Fund by providing extra help with incidental expenses. It helps bursary girls participate in activities and trips that they would not be able to enjoy otherwise because of financial constraints. These opportunities are a vital part of a young woman's education, building her confidence, resilience, teamwork, creativity. These are vital attributes for the leaders of the future. Every donation helps these girls so if you're able to contribute we will greatly appreciate it.

The School Projects Fund

This important fund enables us to maximise opportunities for girls. For example, if we need a new piece of equipment for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, or musical instrument for a particular musical production, the School Projects Fund enables us to purchase these items. Every contribution, large or small, adds up to help us provide the very best opportunities for our girls.



Her future. Your gift.



Contact us to find out more about how you can help girls from all walks of life to learn without limits.

www.gdst.net/support/support-us

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to find out more about our Philanthropy initiatives, would like to discuss a fundraising idea, or if you would like to make a donation, please contact Aisling Hooper, Alumnae and Community Relations Manager, on 0115 935 4410 or email FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Friends for life.

Stay in touch with your school friends to support each other throughout your careers and lives. Access incredible opportunities for networking, careers events, and mentoring. All past pupils are part of the NGHS and GDST Alumnae Network, with over 70,000 members. Find out more about the stories of women who are experts in a huge variety of fields, and who have incredible stories to tell.

Stay connected, and share your story.





NOTTINGHAM
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

ALUMNAE

“

Being a student at NGHS gave me the opportunity I needed to focus on my education and achieve success with support and encouragement from my teachers.

I am an avid believer that you will become everything you dream of being and more, with passion, determination, perseverance and self-belief.

”



DR RACHEL BOLTON-KING
ASSOCIATE PROF
OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

NGHS ALUMNA 2004

Progressive. Creative. Different.



NOTTINGHAM
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

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