
The Ivy Link Magazine 2022



A fond farewell to Headmistress Emma Pattison 2016-2022



Dear Friends

It has been another extraordinary year to conclude my Headship at Croydon High School. Summer 2021 was effervescent, with all restrictions on socialising lifted, but it heralded an anxious winter, with infections rising rapidly at Christmas. All in all, another dizzying year with ever-changing circumstances!

As I recall strategizing at a galloping pace and operationally delivering the unthinkable at breakneck speed, my thoughts have taken me back over the last six years since I became Headmistress. Naturally, things are constantly changing in a school – new pupils and staff joining at every stage, older pupils leaving to embark on exciting next chapters, staff retiring after years in our midst...change is built into the very fabric of school life.

Six year groups have taken GCSEs and A levels, and we have introduced subjects such as Sociology and our bespoke Enterprise Technology curriculum. New events such as Arts Week and Fit February have inspired and challenged us. New facilities such as our beautiful Holt Hall, recording studio, podcast studio, fitness suite and Enterprise Technology suites have enabled our girls to explore their talents and creativity with even more ambition and energy. While the world around us has presented seemingly endless challenges to our everyday existence, I have been incredibly proud of how much we have achieved – together.

That sense of togetherness, the Croydon High spirit – that family feeling that makes our community so unique – has endured throughout and carried us beyond challenge and hardship.

When I look back at the school Dorinda Neligan left behind when she retired as Croydon High Headmistress in 1901 and compare it with the school I will leave behind in August 2022, it is evident that these two schools, though 120 years apart are very much one and the same; united in vision, values, and spirit.

This touching parallel also jumps from the pages of this magazine. I have so enjoyed establishing Croydon High's first Alumnae Governing Board, its members having gleaned such insight in their still relatively young years. I loved reading the memories some of you shared of the time Elizabeth became Queen in 1952 and her Coronation the following year. Wonderful news about young entrepreneurs, advice on work-life balance



and reports on events that so many of you have been a part of demonstrate the vibrancy and positivity of our network. At the turn of every page, I see that Croydon High spirit reflected back. And as the school approaches its 150th anniversary in 2024, I know that its star will continue to blaze brightly in the GDST firmament, as it always has done.



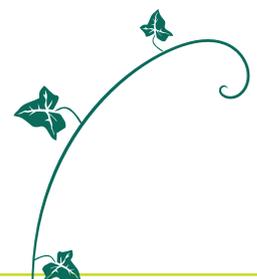
I leave this summer with a mixture of excitement for the future and nostalgia for the last six years, because I know I shall miss Croydon High, its community, and its 'spirit' very much indeed. But I leave unwaveringly confident of its future success. The school's vision and values are steadfast, and this community is as tightly knit today as it ever has been. Under the leadership of a fantastic new Head, Annabel Davies, Croydon High is ready for the future and anything that comes its way.



I take with me treasured memories of the moments I have shared with Croydon High's fantastic alumnae, and I will be forever grateful for your support over the last six years.

With very best wishes

Emma Pattison
Headmistress



Dear Ivy Link Family

Today happens to be the 9th of June, the 189th anniversary of our formidable first Headmistress Miss Dorinda Neligan. Happy Birthday, Dorinda! I am confident that Miss Neligan would be as proud of Croydon High School today as she was when it all began nearly 150 years ago.

And now, from our first Headmistress to our 12th Headmistress, Emma Pattison. We are sad to say farewell to Emma at the end of this term but wish her every success and happiness as she takes up the Headship at Epsom College. My heartfelt thanks to her for her support and encouragement over the last six years.

It is a privilege to keep in touch with members of our community in increasing numbers, the latest of which is the Class of 2022. Welcome to the Ivy Link! What a joy it has been to meet 'in-person' again at alumnae events and reunions this year; I look forward to meeting many of you at our Summer Lunch in a couple of weeks.

I hope you enjoy reading the pages of this magazine; thank you so much to everyone who has contributed their stories and news for this year's edition.

Finally, my thanks to Fran Cook for her continual help and inspiration and to our incredible prefect team who serve at so many alumnae events.

My very best wishes

Karen Roe

Alumnae Relations Manager



KEEPING IT IN THE CROYDON HIGH FAMILY

The Ivy Link Magazine 2021 introduced you to 16 Croydon High staff who are also alumnae. Since then, we have welcomed three more alumnae to our staff team. We asked each new member the same three questions...

1. **Most memorable moment from school days**
2. **Favourite record from the year you left school**
3. **What you love about working at Croydon High today**

Sam Vaughan 1997 – Office Manager

1. There are too many to mention, but fond memories of high jinks, friendships born that I still treasure today, and I still can't hear *Stand By Me* by Ben E King without being transported back to the world's longest coach journey to the Cevennes!
2. *I'll Be Missing You* by Puff Daddy and Faith Evans
3. Without wanting to sound super cheesy, definitely the people! It's a delight to work in a supportive, collaborative, fun, positive and exciting environment – every day brings something different.

Wendy Butler (Saponia) 1998 – Junior School Support Staff

1. There are too many to choose from...I still remember our school trip to Nettlecombe in junior school as this was my first time away from home and the bonus of being able to spend it with my friends. I love that my daughter will experience this too and make wonderful memories from the same trip all these years apart from one another.



The sixth form Croydon High v's Trinity netball match was also extremely memorable, especially as one of the boys played the whole match in his sister's purple swimsuit.

This still gets talked about to this day. I also have to mention the infamous Fashion Show with Trinity; it's where I met my husband!

2. *Intergalactic* by the Beastie Boys. This was always playing in the Sixth form common room.

3. It's lovely to see the girl's confidence grow day by day, and their enthusiasm too.

Rachel Bradley 2011 – Teacher of Drama/English and LAMDA

1. I was considerably unwell during my A-Levels, and the support and care I received from my teachers was immeasurable. Results day was one of the best days of my life; with their help, I achieved my predictions and almost collapsed with joy and pride. It was a momentous day that I will never forget.
2. I have no idea! Sorry! (Editor's choice *Lego House* by Ed Sheeran!)
3. I love how progressive Croydon High is and has become. It is a space that is thoroughly open and accepting of contemporary thought.

Alumnae Governing Board

In July 2021, Emma Pattison established Croydon High's first Alumnae Governing Board (AGB), which she wanted to be made up of former pupils who had been leaders of the school during their time here. The suggestion was that this group meet - probably virtually, twice a term to act as a sounding board for us here in school as we move forward with a strategic plan for the development of Croydon High over the coming years. Emma's feeling was that not only would these women know the school so well but also, now that they were out in the world, they would bring valuable insight into how we are preparing the current generation for life after Croydon High.

I contacted the Head Girls from the last ten years and, in true Croydon High style, within 24 hours, I had very positive responses from ten of them saying they would love to be involved!



Tabitha Kaye
2011



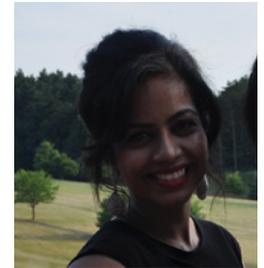
Charlotte Cook (McBride)
2012



Emma Lipczynski
2013



Clara-Mikaela Agyekumhene
2015



Swathy Satheskumar
2015



Ellen Lennox
2016



Fariha Baba
2017



Sophie Haden-Scott
2017



Praveena Senthilkumar
2018



Kristin-Davida Agyekumhene
2019

I thought the project was a fantastic idea and wanted to use my experience to help and give something back to Croydon High. I have enjoyed the meetings - it has been lovely to see some familiar faces! We have discussed a broad range of topics, and it has been exciting to hear about the interesting projects the school has planned.

Ellen

I loved my time at Croydon High and believe I owe a lot of my subsequent successes to the skills I learned in the ten years I spent at the school. Getting involved in the initiative felt like a small way that I could give something back. It has been enlightening to learn about what the school is focusing on at the moment, and great to be able to offer my insights and thoughts where helpful.

Emma

I chose to get involved with the Alumnae Board as it was nice to positively have an impact in school from the perspective of a previous student. The Alumnae Board makes me feel I am still a part of the school community - it has been great to be involved.

Kristin

Over the past year, it has been an absolute privilege to reconnect with these inspiring women. We have shared the school's ideas and strategic plans and asked them to give us the benefit of their insight on areas such as Undivided, our approach to Diversity and Inclusion, pastoral care, relationships and sex education provision, real-life problem solving and the Period Project. It was fascinating to hear their ideas and stories and reflect upon how far the school has travelled.

We are so grateful for their time and consideration and for reminding us of what fabulous choices we made when we appointed them as Head Girls of Croydon High! We also thank School Governor Caroline Gulliver for chairing these meetings and providing valuable input.

We hope this initiative will continue under Annabel Davies' headship and we are always happy to hear from anyone in the alumnae community who would like to be involved.

Fran Cook
Director of Philanthropy and External Relations

~ The Period Project ~



The 'Period Project': Changing the Way Pupils Experience Their Menstrual Cycles

In an assembly to the Senior School in September 2021, Mrs Pattison launched the Period Project: a project

designed to destigmatise and demystify periods. She talked about how women make up 50.59% of the UK population with an estimated 80% of British women experiencing period pain at some point in their lives and 1 in 5 women of reproductive age in the UK suffering from heavy menstrual bleeding. Moreover, the average woman menstruates 450 times in their lifetime, with the total cost of a period worked out at a whopping £18,450 further widening the gender pay gap. Yet periods remain a taboo topic.

Our aim is to create a safe space for pupils to rehearse the challenges of the real world and to that end, we are implementing several exciting initiatives to embed the Period Project into school culture and make sure that we are a period-friendly school where positive, open conversation is encouraged.

This term, we have been busy talking to expert voices in the field, kicking off with a parent webinar in March by gynaecologist, alumna and former Head Girl Dr Karen Morton (1973), where she shared advice relating to common issues experienced by teenagers in her surgery. Karen is the founder and Medical Director of Dr Morton's, a medical helpline service which offers immediate advice and also promotes medical empowerment. Dr Morton aims to help people take control of simple medical problems, which is very much the ethos behind Croydon High's own Period Project.



We have also created a working party of pupils and staff who are helping the Senior Leadership Team understand pupils' experiences of periods and how they are coping with their menstrual cycles. We have already undertaken a fascinating staff and pupil survey to gain feedback on their experiences of having



a period, including their symptoms and coping mechanisms, to inform the additional support that is going to be provided.

We have launched an exciting partnership with Hey Girls, the Period Poverty Social Enterprise, who will be:

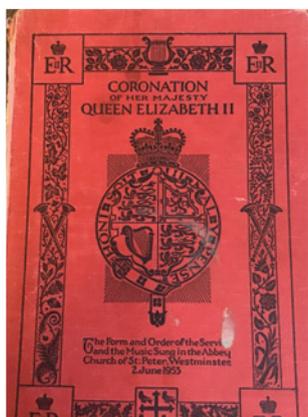
- Undertaking training with staff, providing educational resources and fun activities to encourage conversation, particularly with male staff.
- Providing us with emergency supplies of Hey Girls products in the toilets which the girls can use at no cost.



We have revamped a former caretaker house creating a new well-being hub, with counselling rooms and new "Period Pods", which were launched in May. They are a safe space for girls to retreat to if they are having a difficult time on their period, complete with bean bags, snuggle blankets, heat packs and calming music. Pupils and staff are also in the process of planning and producing a wider well-being offering which will include a podcast hosted by staff and girls and led by computer science and music teacher, Mr Johann Ting.

We are really excited about our Period Project and our aim is to offer a safe environment for pupils to learn more about their menstrual cycle and how it affects their mental and physical wellbeing. Most importantly, we hope to encourage open discussion and conversation – both in school and at home.

Katy Lee,
Marketing & Communications Manager



most of the memories sent in by alumnae, fondly remembered for her smiles, waves, and disregard for the poor weather.

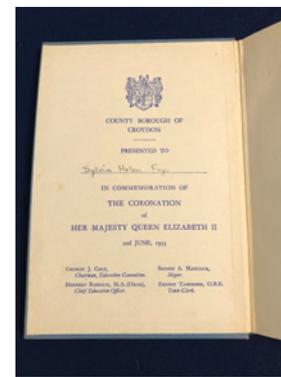
Those who did not receive tickets in the school lottery celebrated Coronation Day in various ways. Some

went up to London with

friends and family to watch the procession, camping with food and blankets the day before to guarantee themselves a good view. They remember the streets being adorned with red and white decorations and the crowd's excitement and joy; singing, streams of military bands, soldiers, sailors, and airmen marching to the music, carriages carrying important guests to Westminster Abbey, and finally, the Queen in her carriage was driven up the Mall to huge cries of jubilation. They were delighted with a second procession from the Abbey back to Buckingham Palace, led by the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II. And to top it all off, that very morning, news reports came in that New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hillary, and Nepali Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay had conquered Mount Everest. The crowd on the

Mall heard the BBC's announcement over the tannoy.

There were plenty of memories of watching Coronation Day on small, black and white television sets too! Some alumnae remembered watching the proceedings on a newly bought television set in their own home, others in a neighbour's or friend's home. It was always a communal event: friends and family crowded around to watch the momentous occasion together, delighted to partake in the proceedings, even at a distance. For many, this was their first memorable experience of watching television! And a few alumnae enjoyed a hybrid



celebration, watching the procession from their fathers' offices and the coronation itself on a television set within.

In all the responses we received, what comes through is a strong sense of national community and identity, a nation brought together in mourning and in celebration. It was a delight reading through our alumnae's responses, and we are so grateful to them all for sharing these special memories with us.

Larissa Scotting, Marketing Team

"The decorations in the Mall were quite delightful – four graceful arches, with the Lion and the Unicorn on top of each one, and a delicate crown and numerous silver balls suspended beneath them. There were poles at the sides of the road with trumpets coming out on four sides, with long red banners hanging down, and crowns on top."

"Early the next morning, the tannoy piped up with 'Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, this is the BBC Light Programme; it has just been announced that we have conquered Everest.' The crowd went wild."

"The King, dead. It seems unbelievable, but it is only too true. He had been very ill. The staff obviously knew already, as they all looked extremely serious. Over dinner, we discussed the news. Elizabeth II – how strange it seems!"

"I do remember Queen Sālote of Tonga, who shared a carriage with Haile Selassie. She insisted on keeping the top down even though it was raining a little, and she waved and looked as though she was having a wonderful time."

Many thanks to the following for sharing their memories: Alison Bond 1954, Dinah Bond (MacFarlane) 1961, Deborah Bray (Warnes) 1966, Linda Chadd 1966, Julia Clark (Boughton) 1954, Jean Clayton (Etheridge) 1952, Fran Gillespie (Clare Taylor) 1962, Rosemary Gold (Bruton) 1958, Avice Harbottle (Condie) 1959, Ann Hatherill (Carter) 1955, Caroline Heath former staff 1983-2004, Christine Hogh (Smith) 1958, Sandra Howard (Paul) 1958, Alexandra Johnson (Luckes) 1957, Ella Jones former staff 1969-1972, Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963, Rosemary Lindsay (Gough) 1957, Anne Mathews (Wilcock) 1954, Marjorie Nicholls (Blumer) 1964, Elisabeth Ohlenberg (Willis) 1949, Margaret Pater 1957, Janeth Pearson (Bicker) 1955, Linda Roer (Hepner) 1957, Sylvia Ryan (Fry) 1960, Anne Shirley (Spikesman) 1963, Gabrielle Singleton (Pocock) 1955, Diana Stainbank former staff 1989-2004, Ann Stranack (Wagstaff) 1957, Rosemary Sykes (Miller) 1957, Margaret Thomson 1965, Elizabeth Tothill (Grosch) 1958, Ann Turnbull (Anderson) 1956, Brenda Twite (Hamilton) 1962, Frances Vail (Traylen) 1961, Cicely Worrall (Jackson) 1947.

Finance top tips from Abi Foster

I started Croydon High School in Year 2. I vividly remember turning up to the 'taster' day when I knew I'd got in, wearing a bright blue dress as I didn't have the uniform yet and my hair was in french plaits. I quickly discovered the Croydon High shirt and blue skirt combo and put my hair in a ponytail, and stayed at Croydon High until I completed the sixth form. The sixth form was a whirlwind: deciding what and who you want to be at age 16/17 still seems strange to me. But there I was, in Mrs Cook's room, deciding what degree I could do that would fund a fancy lifestyle of clothes and nice shoes whilst using my (what seemed like) only skill, Maths.

I went to Bangor University to study Accountancy, and upon coming back, I started my career in accountancy at Jamieson Stone. Within two years, I left as it was too quiet, and I moved into the magazine publishing world.

Working at Condé Nast was tough; I was trying to study the ACA and work as an accountant at the same time. The glamour I'd always wanted was there, but the hours and pressure made it tough; I did not breeze through my chartership, it was one of the most testing years of my life, but I did finally finish with Hearst in 2020.

Now to the really dramatic point in my life...telling my parents that I was leaving my stable job as a chartered accountant to work for myself.

"What is it your business does?"

"Well, I plan to eradicate the gender gaps we face in society".

"By yourself?"

"Yup".

Enter Elent.

Elent is a financial education platform for everyone. I run 1:1 financial consultations tackling people's questions on all personal and business finance, but my greatest achievement is my finance workshops for schools across the UK.

I am a proud feminist and often get told I'm a typical Croydon High girl. I'm a social extrovert and love to chat, but I won't pretend



that starting a business is easy. My passion for eradicating gender inequality and fighting for wage increases makes it 'easier', but running a business can be lonely and heart-breaking. My school years were some of the hardest in my life. Being dyslexic gives me incredible abilities, but sadly passing exams wasn't on my list of special skills. However, I know that being part of Croydon High and the Girl's Day School Trust gave me access to a network of thousands of incredible women across England that I now use daily, and for that, I will always hold my school in special regard.

I knew I was a feminist and wanted to help women and others aged 13, but it took me until I was 27 to find out how that would work. There is no rush, do what makes you happy and don't push against it because life will bring you back to where you are meant to be.

By now, you've got a good gist of who I am, but I would love to know more about you. If you want to chat and tell me about what you do or think I could help you, finance or otherwise, please reach out - hello@elent.co.uk.

Use those around you to help you up.

Abigail-Rose Foster 2012



3 FINANCE TOP TIPS

1. Check your payslip – Learning and breaking down the aspects of a payslip can be insightful and empowering. Most run to the net income, our take-home salary, but it contains essential details such as your tax contributions or student loan repayments. If you've never taken the time to review yours, how do you know if it's correct?
2. Start an emergency fund pot - Having an emergency fund means you can be ready for whatever the world throws at you next. It's not just about preparing for the worst, though – you could tap into it to enrich your life if you ever decide to shake things up and start a business, follow a passion, or travel abroad.
3. Know your credit score - Your credit score can significantly influence your life: a lower score can make borrowing money more expensive or even block you entirely from car finance or getting a mortgage. To stay on top of yours, download one of the credit-score apps, such as Clear Score or Experian, to track your score for free.

To find out more visit Abi's fantastic website – www.elent.co.uk

Leila celebrates at the House of Lords to mark International Women's Day

Leila Green, (Dewji) 2001, is a life-long book lover who co-founded Known Publishing with her brother, Ali, to turn entrepreneurs' experience and expertise into bestselling books. She is an experienced non-fiction writing coach. She helps entrepreneurs become the authority in their niche and grow their business with a book. Leila studied English Literature at Oxford University after leaving Croydon High.

Leila attended a special International Women's Day reception at the House of Lords, where inspirational female founders from across the UK gathered. The event spotlighted over 100 impressive, multi-achieving female business owners being championed by Small Business Britain's f:Entrepreneur #also100 campaign, which showcases the phenomenal contribution to society, economy, and communities that many female founders are making across the country.

Leila was named an f:Entrepreneur #also100 in recognition of her inspiring entrepreneurial journey, which has involved running several businesses that support entrepreneurs with something to say and getting their message out there.

Leila enjoyed afternoon tea and networking in Westminster, meeting peers from f:Entrepreneur #also cohorts from both 2021 and 2022, and special guest speaker Labour MP Dr Rosena Allin-Khan, who paid tribute to the power of female entrepreneurship.

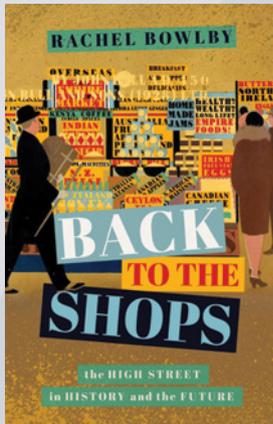
Leila said, "It was so inspiring to meet so many wonderful women doing incredible things: running businesses, supporting the NHS during Covid, running charities, and helping people back into employment. They are all rockstars."

Small Business Britain is the leading champion of small businesses in the UK - f:Entrepreneur campaign was launched in 2017 to highlight the stories of amazing female business owners and help provide inspiration and role models across the wider small business community. In its fifth year, the campaign offers a host of events, training and networking opportunities to boost skills, capability and confidence.



Book Corner

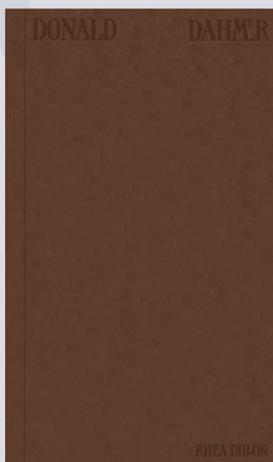
Book Corner Book Corner Book Corner



RACHEL BOWLBY 1975

Back to the Shops: The High Street in History and the Future

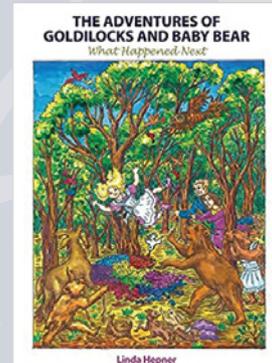
What will become of the shops? More than ever, the high street appears to be under mortal threat, its shops boarded up as the sad 'bricks and mortar' survivors of a pre-online retail world. But behind the bleak appearance, there is more to see. *Back to the Shops* offers a set of short and surprising chapters, each one a window into a different shop type or mode of selling. Old shopping streets are seen from new angles; fast fashion shows up in eighteenth-century edits. They are local community hubs, and they are dreamlands of distraction. Shops are inherently spaces of imagination as well as practicality. They belong with their own surrounding streets and town; they bring back the times and places of our lives. They linger in stories of all kinds, whether far-fetched or round the corner. From butcher to baker and from markets to motor vans—after reading this book, you will want to go back to the shops.



RHEA DILLON 2014

Donald Dahmer

Donald Dahmer is a collection of poems by South London-born artist, Rhea Dillon. Written on her blog between 2018 and 2020, the publication was produced to mark her three-month residency at V.O Curations. Rhea's poems take the form of fluid and fragmented musings; understandings and misunderstandings; and conscious and less conscious textual processes attached to her research-driven conceptual practise and personal experiences. Within the work, words are approached from all angles as a method of unsettling their layers of sedimented meaning. Taking inspiration from Marilyn Manson and his band, the title of the publication, Donald Dahmer, is a cultural portmanteau that nods towards the murkiness of icons and iconography. The title references the first and surnames of the two contemporary figures: Donald Trump and Jeffrey Dahmer.



**LINDA HEPNER (ROER)
1957**

The Adventures of Goldilocks and Baby Bear: What Happened Next

Goldilocks and Baby Bear are both just turning five years old and become fast friends. He is drawn to her impulsive sense of curiosity and she to his warmth. In an idealized childhood near a forest, they have frequent adventures, but are helped along by their friends, wild creatures, and even trees! The stories are a mix of childlike fantasies and real-life experiences which teach kindness, courage, and self-reliance. These stories are only a handful of the many she has told to each of her children and grandchildren. They are true tales, in a way, and so are the creatures who re-enact some of the scenes from her life. Linda thinks they are best read aloud, and she hopes the children listening will have lots of adventures of their own!

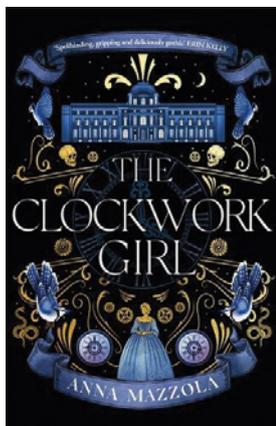


**SANDRA HOWARD (PAUL)
1958**

Love at War

This novel, which is based on a true story, follows the loves and losses of a young woman, Laura Jameson, who leaves her home in Edinburgh early in World War II to chase after a young man, Harry Werner, whom she has fallen for. He had gone out to Uganda with the Colonial Forest Service but has now joined the King's African Rifles to play his part in the war. Laura is strong-willed, proudly independent and has emotional and life-changing challenges to face. She lives through hardships, the loss of a child, and all her early dreamy expectations are slowly

shattered. By the end of the war, she is mature beyond her still young years, living with sorrow and having to adjust to post-war life back home. There is a twist at the end of the story, which ends on a note of hope while leaving its fulfilment to the reader's imagination.

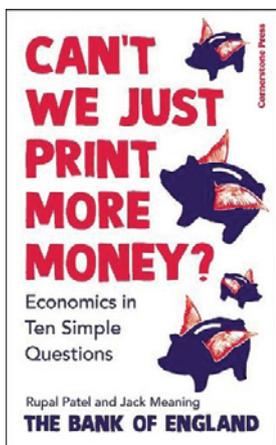


ANNA MAZZOLA 1996

The Clockwork Girl

Paris, 1750. In the midst of an icy winter, as birds fall frozen from the sky, chambermaid Madeleine Chastel arrives at the home of the city's celebrated clockmaker and his clever, unworldly daughter. Madeleine is hiding a dark past, and a dangerous purpose: to discover the truth of the

clockmaker's experiments and record his every move, in exchange for her own chance of freedom. For as children quietly vanish from the Parisian streets, rumours are swirling that the clockmaker's intricate mechanical creations, bejewelled birds and silver spiders, are more than they seem. And soon Madeleine fears that she has stumbled upon an even greater conspiracy. One which might reach to the very heart of Versailles...

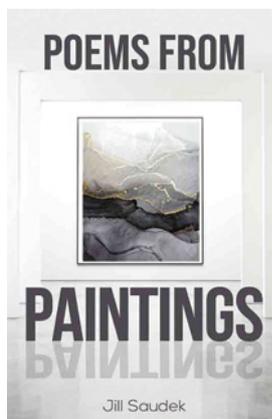


RUPAL PATEL 2010

Can't We Just Print More Money? Economics in Ten Simple Questions

Why are all my clothes made in Asia? How come I'm so much richer than my great-great-grandma? And what even is money? Whether you're buying lunch, looking for a job, or applying for a mortgage, the thing we call 'the economy' is going

to set the terms. A pity, then, that many of us have no idea how the economy actually works. That's where this book comes in. The Bank of England is Britain's most important financial institution, responsible for printing money, regulating banks, and keeping the economy running smoothly. Now, the Bank's team take you inside their hallowed halls to explain what economics can - and can't - teach us about the world. Along the way, they offer intriguing examples of econ in action: in financial crises and Freddo prices, growth stages and workers' wages. Accessible, authoritative, and surprisingly witty, this is a crash course in economics and why it matters.



**JILL SAUDEK FORMER
STAFF 1999-2009
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Poems from Paintings

Jill's poems were inspired by works of art, chosen across place and time for their intrinsic power and the challenge they present to provoke thoughts and feelings in the viewer. Ideally, readers should find a reproduction of the

painting – easily available on the internet – to contemplate, before reading the poem. The hope is that readers might become aware of previously unnoticed aspects of the work and be interested in seeing how their own responses match or indeed conflict with those of the author. Thus, the collection aims to offer an invitation to contribute to an ongoing dialogue between the artist, the poet, and the reader. All art forms open a window into other lives and ways of seeing; this interplay between the genres provides an opportunity to reflect upon much that lies beyond one's own immediate experience.

Book Corner
Book Corner
Book Corner



Exciting News for the entire Croydon High Community

At the end of the Spring Term, the Trustees of the GDST announced that the new Head of Croydon High, from September 2022, will be Ms Annabel Davies.



Ms Davies is currently Principal Deputy Head (Curricular) at Harrow International School, Hong Kong. She has held leadership positions in international and UK-based schools, including Surbiton High School, throughout her career.

During her time as Assistant Principal at Surbiton High, Ms Davies became an enthusiastic advocate of the benefits of an all-girls' education. In her own words, she believes that "a strong character, the ability to be creative, resourceful and resilient, and to display strong emotional intelligence are essential traits that need to be developed during a girl's educational journey."

This sounds like a perfect fit for the Croydon High philosophy, which focuses on the individual's academic adventure,

wide-ranging opportunities to excel, a balance between challenge and individual support and passionate and dedicated staff for whom the girls are always the priority. Every girl, every day.

Ms Davies is very much looking forward to meeting the school community at the end of the summer term, but in the meantime was happy to answer some of our questions to enable us all to get to know her a little.

How do you feel now you have been appointed as the next Head of Croydon High School?

I feel absolutely delighted to be taking up this position at what is clearly such a fantastic school and at a very exciting phase in its development. Whilst going through the interview process, I was incredibly impressed with all aspects of the school and all those I met. I am really looking forward to joining the school, meeting all the pupils, parents, and staff, and getting to know the community.

What attracted you to Croydon High School?

There were so many things! Firstly, I am passionate about girls' education and believe in setting girls up with the skills and qualities they need to succeed in a dynamic and ever-changing world. I don't believe there should be any barriers to what can be achieved, and I feel strongly that every girl will have individual qualities to be nurtured. I could see so many excellent things at Croydon High, and I really wanted to be part of it!

We all agree academic results are important but so are the 'soft skills' or, as I call them 'essential skills' that are required to be successful in the modern world. Having worked at two through-schools, Harrow International School Hong Kong and Surbiton High School, I love the school environment that takes a child from age 3 – to 18, so this was a big attraction for me. There is so much that the pupils can gain and learn from each other in this sort of environment.

I was also excited to see the educational innovation going on at Croydon High, and I knew that I would be delighted to build on this and lead the next stages of development.

What makes you a good fit for the role?

I believe in a broad and balanced education that is innovative and forward-thinking, and I knew when I started to explore Croydon High School, this ethos was very much in place. Secondly, having attended St. Swithun's School, in Winchester, as part of my own education and having worked in an all-girls' school before moving to Hong Kong, I knew that I enjoyed being in an all-girls' environment.

In terms of Croydon High itself, I was incredibly impressed by the achievements of the pupils and the vibrancy across both the website and social media. I believe in technology enhancing educational outcomes, and I could see a lot of exciting initiatives taking place at Croydon High.

How will you adjust to moving from an international co-ed boarding school in Hong Kong to an all-girls' day school in the UK?

I think I have worked at almost all types of school to be honest! I spent nine years in the state sector before moving to the independent sector and then onto the international sector. I have taught in all-boys', all-girls' and co-ed environments, as well as day and boarding schools, so I think I have a lot of experience in adapting. I also think in terms of the two schools, Harrow Kong Kong and Croydon High, that actually, there are many similarities.

They both have a diverse and vibrant community, hard-working and inspiring pupils, and a passionate and committed teaching staff. My five years in Hong Kong have been absolutely amazing (despite the challenges of a pandemic!), and I feel that it has given me a global outlook, which I will be bringing back with me. I have learnt about different cultures and had some fantastic experiences. There will always be a little piece of Hong Kong in my heart, but I am excited to return to life in the UK.

What are your plans for Croydon High School?

Overall, I want to build on the excellent work that Emma Pattison and the staff are already doing. The school is moving in a very exciting direction, and I am looking forward to continuing to strive for excellence in all areas. As we all know, the pandemic has been incredibly challenging over the last couple of years, so I am keen to support pupils and staff as we reintegrate back into a new normal. I want the girls to continue having a plethora of opportunities, discover new ones, and be inspired by each others' achievements.

As I mentioned, I am a big believer in developing essential skills and will be keen to look for opportunities for all pupils to develop these further across the school. I definitely believe that

collaboration over the school's direction is vital, and so I am looking forward to working with all members of the community to achieve this.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Time with family and friends is incredibly precious as life can be very busy, so I always savour these moments. I also love culture; seeing new places or attending a concert or a show are things I particularly enjoy. Whilst living in Hong Kong, I have had the opportunity to do quite a bit of travelling, so I will be keen to continue my journeys.

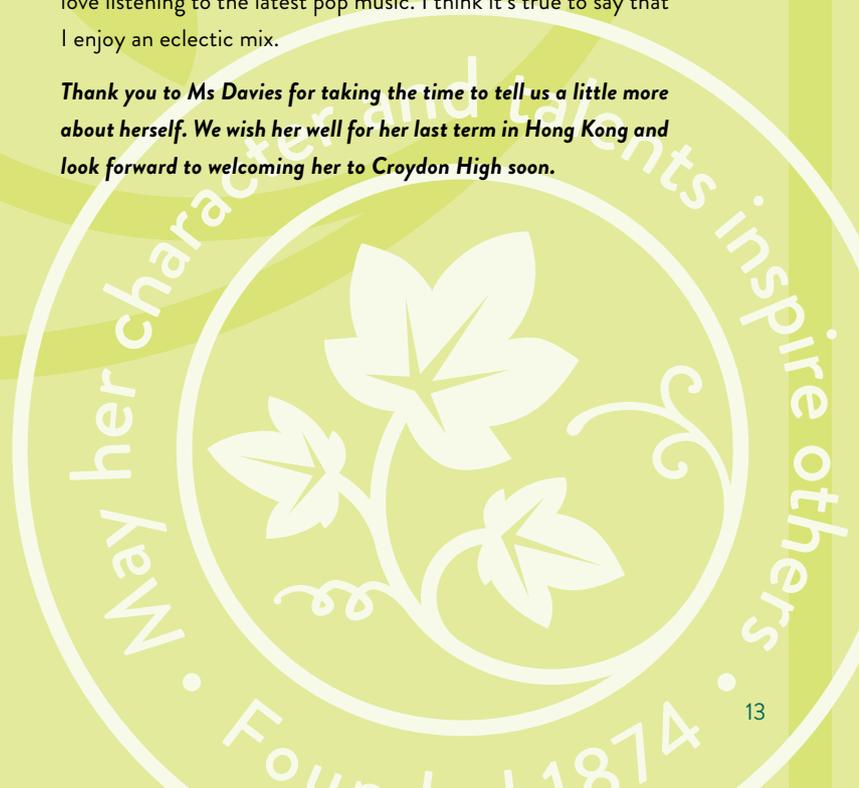
I also enjoy walks in the sun! (I have been spoiled with the weather in Hong Kong, so I am managing my expectations on this!) And finally, music. Music is my passion and why I became a teacher, so playing and listening to music is something I really enjoy doing when wanting to unwind and relax.

Tell us more about your musical background and tastes.

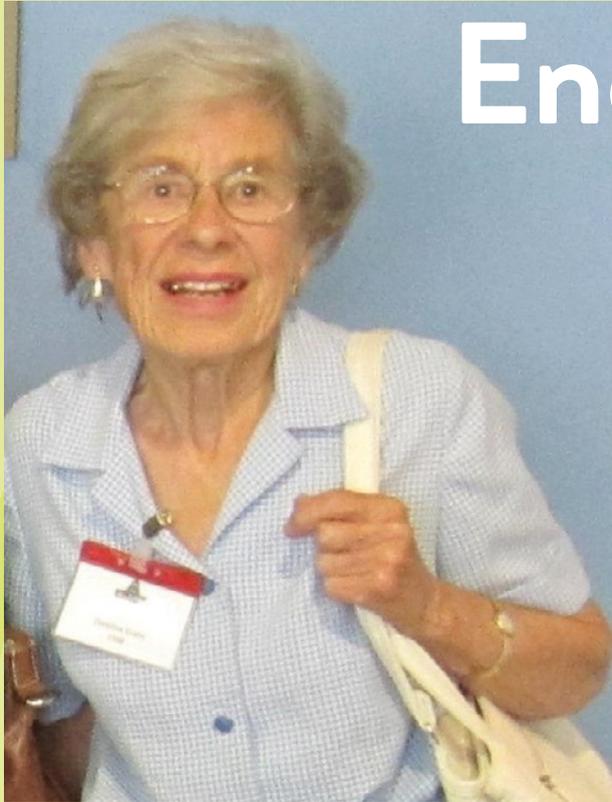
My passion for music started during my days at Prep School when I was fortunate to have had the most fantastic Director of Music, who I am still in touch with. He was an amazing teacher who inspired me to aim high! Having achieved my grade 8 flute when I was 12, I went on to be awarded a music exhibition to St Swithun's in Winchester before attending Wells Cathedral School for Sixth Form as part of their specialist music programme.

I was awarded a music scholarship at Royal Holloway University and knew I had to follow a career in music, which is why I became a music teacher. I love playing in orchestras and chamber ensembles and singing with Big Bands. I am a huge fan of composers such as Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky, but I also love listening to the latest pop music. I think it's true to say that I enjoy an eclectic mix.

Thank you to Ms Davies for taking the time to tell us a little more about herself. We wish her well for her last term in Hong Kong and look forward to welcoming her to Croydon High soon.



Enduring Gifts



Many GDST schools have benefitted from legacy gifts over the last 18 months – Howell’s in Llandaff, Nottingham, Northwood, Belvedere, Wimbledon, Bromley and Blackheath. All these gifts will be used to enhance the educational experience at these schools and, in many cases, will be used to create new bursary awards.

Croydon High School learned of a generous legacy gift from Miss Christine Evans, who was a pupil at the school from 1939 to 1948 and sadly passed away in October 2018. Miss Evans was born in 1929 and attended Gonville Road Primary School. She won an assisted place at Croydon High School and went on to study French and German at Girton College, University of Cambridge. After graduating, she took a secretarial course and worked in France and Belgium and then for some time in Jerusalem. She had an eye for detail and was an excellent proofreader.

She loved travelling far and wide and was also a talented Scottish Country dancer. She edited the Croydon Scottish Country Dancing newsletter for 36 years and served as chairman and social secretary. She was an active member of Croydon High’s alumnae network and a member of the Trefoil Guild and numerous other local societies.

Christine was very involved with St Stephen’s Church in Thornton Heath, volunteering as a Sunday School teacher and serving as secretary to the church council and Friends group.

She was passionate about local history and regularly participated in local walks with a group. She was very knowledgeable on many subjects, so she was also a sought-after team member when it came to quizzes.

Croydon High was delighted to commemorate Miss Evans’ life and generosity by awarding Sixth Form bursary awards to talented girls from disadvantaged backgrounds who joined the school in September 2021.

Including a charitable gift to the GDST or one of our individual schools in your Will is a wonderful way to make a truly significant contribution. If you would like to learn more about how to leave a legacy gift, email us at giving@wes.gdst.net

Sam Davies
Head of Philanthropy GDST
Alumna, Portsmouth High School, Class of 1994

Your legacy, her future

As the UK's largest educational charity, the GDST wanted to offer free wills to supporters. We were delighted to launch our partnership with a top online will writing service called Farewill. As a GDST alumna, you will now be able to use their platform to write your will for free.

There are many practical reasons for having a Will, including:

- **making it easier for loved ones to deal with your affairs after you have passed on**
- **ensuring that your assets and possessions are given to the people and causes of your choosing**

We are grateful that many alumnae from schools across the GDST family choose to leave a legacy gift for the advancement of girls' education.

Leaving just 1% of your estate could make such a difference to Croydon High girls of the future. However, including a gift is not a condition of using the will writing service.

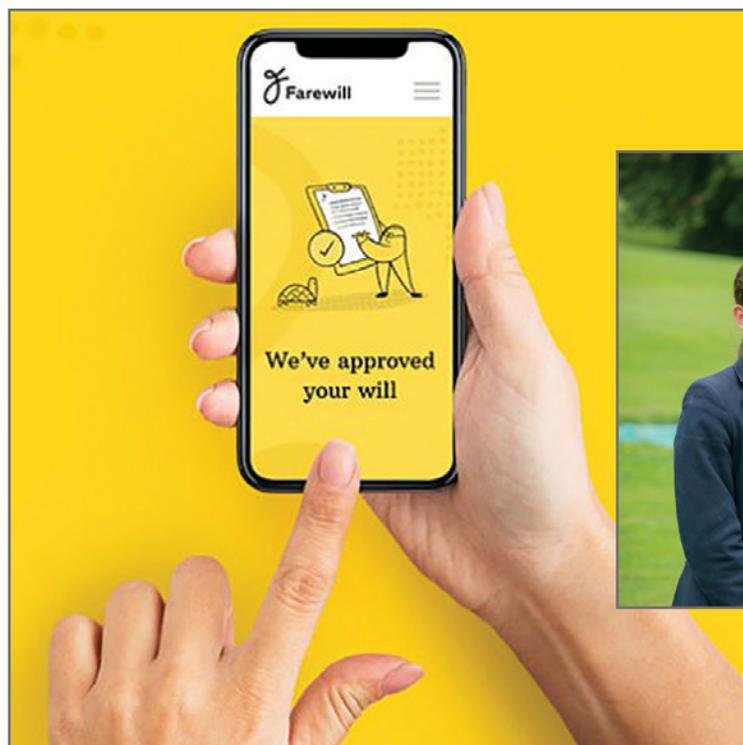
To get started today, visit www.farewill.com/gdstlaunchfreewills

Farewill is renowned for its' incredibly user-friendly platform and currently writes, on average, 1 in 10 wills in the UK. They have been commended for their easy to follow, step-by-step process of writing a will, and on average, it takes just 15 minutes to write your will.

If you'd prefer to arrange your will over the telephone, please visit www.farewill.com/gdst-phone to book an appointment, quoting the GDST as the charity name when prompted.

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your will, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Fran Cook
Director of Philanthropy and External Relations



PS. If you have already pledged a gift to us in your will, please do let us know so we can include you in the Minerva Circle, our special society for those who have pledged a legacy to the GDST or a GDST school.

TAKE TWO CROYDON HIGH GIRLS

Margaret Ibbott (Brown), Class of 1956 and her Granddaughter, Sophie Fitzpatrick, Class of 2022

MARGARET

I joined Croydon High School in the VIth form in 1954 when my family moved from Canterbury to Croydon. The school was then on Wellesley Road, where Lunar House now stands. Wellesley Road was not then a dual carriageway, and there was no underpass. The Whitgift Centre had not yet been built and opposite the school were the playing fields of Middle Whitgift (I assume because it was in the middle of the town, now the Trinity School of John Whitgift). Their school buildings opened onto the High Street, which is now pedestrianised. The boys joined us for after-school ballroom dancing lessons in our hall – the quickstep, the waltz, and the foxtrot.

Two large Victorian houses for infants and juniors were north of our main building.

The VIth form was in The House, an end-of-terrace single-fronted house to the south and entirely separate from the main building, with steps up to the front door. The Arts VIth were on the ground floor where the front and back rooms had been knocked into one, and we sat around an arrangement of desks. Some of our lessons were in the main building. At the back of the main building were two tennis courts, a hockey pitch and what I remember as a Nissan hut where I once sat for an exam, dressed in my coat and my left arm on a radiator on a freezing cold day - lucky I am right-handed! School assembly was held every morning in the main school hall. Each form filed in and sat cross-legged in rows on the floor while the prefects and staff sat on chairs around the walls. Miss Adams, the much respected, diminutive, formidable headmistress, took Prayers, we sang a hymn and then there were school notices. (I am afraid we usually referred to her as 'Fanny' – indeed, we still do. I wonder if she knew!) Plays were put on there. Once we put on a sketch of our own devising, I remember nothing of it except the line 'What a



beauty is boon'? Miss Boon taught history. We seem to have been rather cheeky. The hall was also the school dining room – school dinners were adequate - I will say no more! I don't remember any outings, but a few of us used to go up to The Old Vic together to the Saturday matinee plays, which were great fun.

The school uniform for the VIth form was a navy blazer, a hat, a navy skirt and a white shirt and school tie in winter, and a cotton dress in a choice of colours in the summer which could be home-made, but there were strict rules concerning the length of skirts and sleeves – all worn five days a week. There were no dressing-down days.

Most of the teachers were women, and most were unmarried. This was the generation which lost so many men in World War II. (Unmarried women likewise taught the teachers of my mother's generation following World War I). I had Miss Kershaw for French, Miss Jackson for German and Miss Spaul for Latin. (Latin A. Level was necessary for entry to Oxbridge and London Universities). There was a 3rd year VI for students applying to Oxford and Cambridge. Sadly Miss Spaul died of cancer during our time, which was a great shock.

Margaret Ibbott (Brown)

With thanks for the help of Judith Price (Ebben).

SOPHIE

I joined Croydon High in Year 7 in 2015 – my grandma was overjoyed as soon as she found out I was accepted!

The uniform has had a re-design, while of which the lime green is a questionable addition! Both designs seem to be starkly different from my grandma's, especially since she had both a winter and summer uniform. We have a lot of autonomy in the Sixth Form over uniform; Mon-Thurs being casual-formal, and then dress-down Friday. Like most of my peers, I take advantage of dress-down Friday and arrive in a very relaxed fashion. Most of the time, this is joggers and a hoodie, which my grandma was very surprised about!

I take Politics, 3D Design, and Geography for A-level. I can assure you that the linguistic skills of my grandma were unfortunately not passed down to me – Herr Symes will vouch for this (I took German at GCSE)! Whilst it is the case for some in my year, I do not spend all my time at school in the Sixth Form area. I will go to the 3D workshop or the Sixth Form Art area (with the spiral staircase!) for 3D. Luckily, Geography is right next door to where I spend most of my time in 3D. Politics is in the Sixth Form area, so it being less than a minute's walk away is a blessing when I have Politics first period on Monday. All I'm thankful for is not having to trek up K-block anymore! I can confirm my grandma would not be a fan of this setup since all her A-Levels would require her to go to K-Block.

One of the most amusing conversations I've had with my grandma was about her using chalkboards when she was at school and then explaining that I had never seen or used a chalkboard in school, leading me to explain what a smartboard is!

Since I live in close proximity to the school, one would think that I would be more relaxed about arriving at school in the mornings. But for most of the past two years, I have been getting to school at 7:20am to get some extra work done. Whilst I'm sure this isn't ideal for my mother who must take me, I am my most productive early in the morning when nobody is around. Plus, it looks good on my report!

Something I have not taken advantage of properly in Sixth Form is the chance to go to Sainsbury's (or KFC) for lunch. My peers were very disappointed when they found out at the start of Year 12 that we were not allowed to leave the premises due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

There are lots of co-curricular opportunities at Croydon High; I particularly enjoyed Handball in Year 8, which I loved, and, if I do say so myself, was quite skilled!

School trips were quite hit and miss for me. However, to this

day, I can say that Skern was my favourite trip. It is probably the best approach to try and get 60 strangers to bond. Surprisingly, sitting on the coach for 4-5 hours there and back was one of the trip's highlights. There is nothing like screaming at the top of your lungs with 60 other people in a confined place. I'm sure Mrs Miller (Miss. Dixon at the time) – the head of Year 7 - was having the time of her life!

I had a German pen-pal and participated in the German exchange like my grandmother. As I have said previously, though, languages are not my forte, so I spent my time in Germany speaking English to my pen-pal and her family. My father likes to say that my pen-pal spoke better English than I could, which I find quite harsh!



Work-Life Balance

How do you get it right?

There were some inspiring talks during our Careers Convention in March, including a panel discussion on work/life balance...



ELLIE MCCARTHY
2017 - A&E STAFF
NURSE, CROYDON
NHS TRUST

Since graduating from university, I have worked in A&E as a nurse, and I am now a sister in the resuscitation department in A&E. I love my job and the people I work with but it is stressful and hectic.

Doing shift work means I do 12-hour day/night shifts 3-4 times a week. I have found it difficult to switch off from work, especially with work WhatsApp groups and emails. I've forced myself to turn off notifications when I'm off work, which can be difficult as you can feel as though you're missing out, but since doing this, I've found it much easier to relax when not at work.



ELLEN LENNOX 2016
- FUTURE TRAINEE
SOLICITOR, NORTON
ROSE FULBRIGHT

I find it challenging to separate working and relaxing whilst studying for my Legal Practice Course. It is hard to avoid feeling guilty when I'm not doing work, but downtime is very important.

For me, it helps to use different spaces where possible so that where I work is different to where I can relax. I also like to block out time where I can completely switch off – whether that's cooking tea in the evening, doing some exercise, or seeing friends.



GEORGIA SYMS 2013 -
DIRECTOR SCYELINE
LTD, BESPOKE
TAILORING

Juggling the demands of a successful career and an enjoyable personal life is an ongoing challenge while working long hours. My top tips to keep your work-life balance on track are:

- **Set boundaries with staff/clients and learn when to say 'no'.**
- **Give yourself adequate time to complete tasks.**
- **Know when to ask for help from others in the industry or friends/family.**

Ultimately, owning your own business will be full of ups and downs, but if you genuinely want the most out of it, you must take the rough with the smooth and realise how lucky you are to be doing what you love.



HONEY GABRIEL
(ADEBUSUYI)
2010 - ACTOR
AND VOICEOVER
ARTIST. PRODUCER,
DIRECTOR, AND
COACH

Schedule everything! Even your rest time. I put everything into my calendar. Firstly so I don't

forget anything, but secondly, because it forces me to find balance in my life. I schedule a time where all I do is watch TV. And although things can change, it pushes me to focus on spending time on myself so I don't burn out.



**LEILA GREEN
(DEWJI) 2001
- BUSINESS CO-
FOUNDER, KNOWN
PUBLISHING,
STRATEGIST FOR
ENTREPRENEURS**

Beware of thinking you can do it all. No matter how much you love your work, your brain needs a rest. When I first started my business, I worked seven days a week from my mum's kitchen table. It was not sustainable. I realised I needed to look after myself if I wanted the energy to make it long-term.

I set strict boundaries for myself and would advise you to do the same, and yes, that applies to social media too – no work emails or socials out of hours.

Beware of thinking you can do it all. No matter how much you love your work, your brain needs a rest. When I first started my business, I worked seven days a week from my mum's kitchen table. It was not sustainable. I realised I needed to look after myself if I wanted the energy to make it long-term.



**SU-LIN GARBETT-
SHIELS 1998 -
HEAD OF CRISIS
MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT,
FOREIGN,
COMMONWEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE**

Your work-life balance needs pretty constant review: it can change with each job, throughout a job, and certainly over your career. On returning to work after my

first child, I did 4.5 days of work in 4, taking Wednesdays off but went full time after the 2nd. Honestly, the best thing you can do for your work-life balance is to choose a partner or support system that supports your career and genuinely shares (family, administrative, emotional etc.) responsibilities for the household. It's the modern-day take on "marrying well", perhaps? Without that, it's a struggle.



**SUZANNE APLIN
(HUNT) 1991 -
GROUP SALES
AND MARKETING
DIRECTOR AT
WESTON HOMES PLC**

I have done well in my career, in a very male-biased industry, largely due to a rather work-biased attitude.

My honest opinion is that the most important thing is to find an industry/business/arena that truly interests you so that work is not a chore from which you seek to escape or is seen as something outside of your 'real life'.

In my view, for real job and life satisfaction, it needs to be your vocation, something you love and are deeply proud of doing and always want to learn more. For job satisfaction, I have always needed to throw myself into it completely, with passion and drive to do my best.

To a point, whether we like it or not, your choice of work at least partly defines you; everyone always asks, what do you do for a living? You spend far more waking hours at or doing work than anywhere else. Work flipping hard and love what you do and your life falls into place.

E V E N T S

Our Ivy Link Community are always welcome at school events



CHARITY GOLF DAY

In September 2021 we held our second charity golf day in aid of The Rowdown Inspire to Aspire Foundation at the De Vere Selsdon Estate Golf Club. Despite a chilly start, all 27 golfers enjoyed the sunshine and the golf. This year we included a team event which added extra excitement to the day. It was lovely to see parents (present and past), alumnae including Kate Haden-Scott (Anderson) 1984 and Louise Fullard 1978, and friends of the school and the charity get involved.

YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE AFTERNOON



In November 2021 Year 11's thoughts turned to Sixth Form as they enjoyed an afternoon session led by Mrs Bradshaw and her team who challenged them to think about their A level choices and the paths these choices could take them along. They were helped in this by a visit from four of our ex-Head Girls (three virtual

and one in person) who shared their own personal journeys and offered encouragement and invaluable advice. The Q&A session that followed was particularly useful and informative. We are so grateful to Tabby Kaye 2011, who after a spell in Finance is now in the Met Police, specifically in a Gang Unit in North London; Kristin Agyekumhene 2019, now in her 3rd year studying software engineering in Edinburgh; Swathy Satheskumar 2015 now back studying medicine in Prague after an interim period in the Civil Service's Cabinet Office; Josie Cunnington 2020, currently studying medicine at Nottingham.

It was lovely to hear all our alumnae acknowledge so positively their experiences and the support they received when in the Sixth Form at Croydon High.

CAROL SERVICE

In December 2021 the Music Department treated us to an evening of absolutely exquisite choral music, setting a festive tone and raising spirits as the autumn term drew to a close. The service, combining nine readings interspersed with traditional and contemporary musical arrangements, really showcased the talents of our pupils and their dedicated teachers.



As always, we took the opportunity to honour our first Headmistress (1874 to 1902), Dorinda Neligan, whose memorial plaque is in The Minster, as we laid a wreath of roses and ivy to recognise the legacy of this inspirational woman.

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

In conversation with...

GDST
ALUMNAE



CAMILLA BOWRY
GLOBAL CHARITY FOUNDER

Talks about meeting the needs of children around the world and her unexpected journey into the charity sector.

Alumna Camilla Bowry is the founder of the charity Sal's Shoes, delivering shoes to children living in poverty worldwide. Sal's Shoes (named after her son) began in 2013 after Camilla collected a bag of her son's outgrown but not outworn shoes. She was reluctant to throw them away but unable to find a suitable charity to take them, so she sent them to a friend overseas who delivered them to a children's oncology ward. Camilla chatted to Emma Pattison about her motivations and journey into the charity world and how the privilege of a sound education gave her the confidence and sense of self-belief to set something up from scratch. Eight years on, some 2.75 million pairs of shoes are walking again in 52 countries, and more than 41000 pairs alone have found their new feet here in the UK over the past 12 months. Many tuned in from schools across the GDST. It is no surprise that Camilla was a finalist in last year's GDST Alumna of the Year.

CALAMITY JANE

In February, girls from Years 7 to 13 delivered four fantastic performances of Calamity Jane. The show was packed with songs sung by 'Calamity' and 'Bill', and the ensemble backed them up brilliantly. Calamity, played by Beth, and Bill, played by Fallon, were stars of the stage and brought laughter to the audience throughout the performance. When asked how she thought the play had turned out, Mrs Webb, Assistant Head at Croydon High, responded, "Calamity Jane is certainly the strongest production we have performed at Croydon High in my time. The overall quality of acting, singing, musicianship, stage and technical work was outstanding. The feedback from the audience was fantastic – it was wonderful to be back in front of a live audience!" We were glad to welcome some of our alumnae family to the show and will share details of next year's show with you as soon as we know.



OFF BY HEART COMPETITION



For the first time, the finalists of this year's junior school Off by Heart Competition were able to perform in

our new Holt Hall before a small but excited audience of parents and friends. The adjudicator, alumna Claire Gimblett (Wood) 1976, was very impressed at the performances and the girls' great confidence, and she was able to make lovely comments about each performer. She said that it was tough to choose a winner as the standard was so high, but eventually the winner was announced as Sarah from Year 6, with her performance of Creative Writing by Gervase Phinn. Junior school drama teacher and alumna Ros Broyd (Willey) 1973 ran a drama club when she was in the sixth form at Croydon High, to which adjudicator Claire attended!

CAREERS EVENING 2022

In March, we hosted our biannual Careers Evening for pupils in Years 9–Upper Sixth. We had a great turnout despite the weather, and alumnae, parents, and friends shared their career experiences with pupils. During the evening, there



were some inspiring talks, including a panel discussion on work/life balance and a Q&A with four alumnae who have founded their own businesses. There was also an opportunity to learn more about applying to university and the courses available in Higher Education.

We were joined by delegates from a wide range of career sectors, including Technology, Construction, Healthcare, Law and Finance. We also had delegates representing more unusual careers, including Bespoke Tailoring and Professional Show Jumping. Thank you to all our representatives for sharing their insights. Delegates said they had some great conversations, and they were impressed with the confidence and enthusiasm of our pupils. Pupils went away inspired and informed. Massive appreciation to alumnae Suzanne Aplin (Hunt) 1991, Helen Butterfield (Cattell) 1993, Su-Lin Garbett-Sheils 1998, Isabelle George 2017, Leila Green (Dewji) 2001, Avneet Kalsi 2016, Ellen Lennox 2016, Eleanor McCarthy 2017, Lorna Mellings 2001 and Georgia Syms 2013

YEAR 6 ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE AWARDS EVENING



The judges and guests were WOWED by Year 6's projects and how confident our girls were when delivering their presentations at the Enterprise Challenge Awards Evening 2022. It was an impressive showcase of their entrepreneurial, presentational, and technological skills. The girls spent many hours working on their pitch-perfect

presentations to the judges, who were utterly taken aback by the quality and standard of work produced. Judges included Katie Brown (Bird) 2009 and former Deputy Head of Juniors (1997–2001) Ann Lawson, who taught Katie!

ACTING CAREERS CHAT WITH HONEY

In May, alumna Honey Gabriel (Adebusuyi) 2010 came into school to talk to a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils about her career as an Actor and Voiceover Artist. The event took a Q&A format and, over croissants and juice, pupils asked lots of excellent questions about what a career in Acting is like. Honey shared some of the challenges and the high points of her career, giving pupils a positive and realistic view of working in the arts. It was interesting to hear how Honey had not thought about a career in Acting while at Croydon High and had in fact first worked in Private Equity! Honey is now carving out a career for herself, having graduated from Drama Studio London during the pandemic, starting her career with virtual productions during lockdown. Honey was incredibly inspiring, showing our pupils what can be achieved with tenacity, determination, and hard work.

Ivy Link Reunions



The Class of 2020 Reunion – in person!

We were delighted to host our first in-person alumnae event in September 2021, 18 months after the pandemic began. Online events are a great alternative way of meeting but there is nothing better than gathering face to face. This cohort faced up to the challenges of COVID life with their trademark resilience and good humour so this time together was very special.

Non-stop chatting, joy and laughter continued even into the carpark when the event closed.



An Ivy Link Easter Reunion

After the Easter break, we welcomed back girls who left the Sixth Form last summer - the Class of 2021. Prosecco, Croydon

High's famous brownies with an Easter twist and a good catch up were the order of the occasion. All the girls were very happy to see one another and staff alike. Conversations centred on how much they love University life with new friends and new challenges. Several girls talked about how much they miss their Croydon High family and how glad they are to have opportunities to return. Once a Croydon High girl... always a Croydon High girl!

The Ivy Link Spring Tea Party

What an amazing Tea Party we had for senior alumnae and former staff of the school after a three-year break due to the pandemic; an event that is always a highlight. For the first time, the event was held in the Holt Hall foyer which proved to be a fantastic venue. The tables were set with a delicious traditional afternoon tea, bunches of daffodils everywhere and union Jacks in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on what was a particularly beautiful spring day. Our guests spent a delightful couple of hours reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates, sharing memories. Our new prefect team mingled well with our guests, engrossed in tales of Croydon High in bygone days. Younger pupils



who participated in the Ivy Letters Project surprised their 'pen pals' with a brief visit. As if that wasn't enough, we also celebrated the 92nd birthday of one of our guests, former staff member Daphne!

Our guests made their way to the Holt Hall where Mrs Pattison gave a very warm welcome, updating them on all the latest news from the school giving assurance of how much our community appreciates the support of the Ivy Link.

We were entertained with some wonderful individual musical performances from junior school pupils plus poem recitals followed by senior school students who sang *Love You Dearly* and *Secret Love* from *Calamity Jane*.

A Very Special Netball Reunion



Wonderful weather, delicious match day teas with Pimm's and an action-packed netball game! On Saturday 21 May, a special reunion took place at Croydon High School with some members of the school's netball teams, dating back to 1979, returning to school to compete in the third Ivy Link Netball Challenge Cup. It was fantastic to see many of our alumnae, some with their families, participate in friendly yet very competitive matches. Over 35 netballers took part, ranging in age from 19 to 61, and there were plenty of fine netball skills still in evidence in all five teams. It showed that if you learn something well, it stays with you for life! We were happy to welcome spectators who came to support their schoolmates, catch up and reminisce. It was great to see some former staff, including PE teacher Liz Robertson who took numerous netball teams to the National Finals at Croydon High from 1966 to 2001. The top two teams equalled 18 points, so it all came down to a goal difference of 3. It was just as exciting as the battle between Manchester City and Liverpool the following day! We were delighted to present the Ivy Link Cup to the winning team – Sydelle Davey 1992, Sue Wright 1992, Shola Apena-Rogers 1996, Mary Latham 1996, Millie Oughton 2010, Lily Rogers 2010 and Ellie Haden-Scott 2018. Congratulations!

9 June is Dorinda Day ~ Celebrating an inspirational woman



Our first Headmistress, Dorinda Neligan was born on 9 June 1833. She would have been 189 this year which even for a woman as remarkable as she undoubtedly was, would have been quite an achievement! But then Miss Neligan was someone who reinvented the norms and challenged expectations and the anniversary of her birth is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our inspirational founder and her legacy.

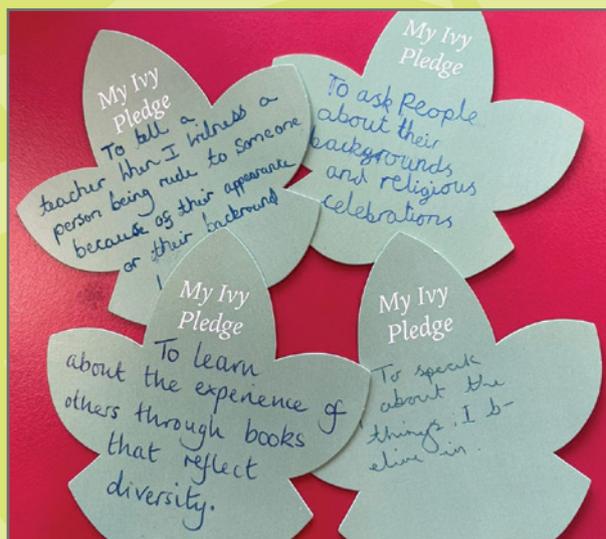
The school she founded began in a very small way and only 88 pupils were on the roll when Croydon High School opened in September 1874. The numbers increased rapidly and some six years later 230 pupils moved to purpose-built premises in Wellesley Road, Croydon.

Miss Neligan was a formidable character who had served with the Red Cross in France during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870; where legend has it, she was left in sole charge of the wounded at Metz. After retirement, so incensed at the long delay in giving women the vote, she became a militant suffragette. We know this sense of justice and equality of opportunity has been passed down through the generations of Croydon High girls.

How proud Miss Neligan would have been to witness the campaigning spirit of our Amnesty Groups throughout the years and their passionate response to equality and human rights issues. Croydon High was the first school in the local area to educate girls. Despite the scandal it caused amongst the gentfolk of Croydon, Miss Neligan would not accept that young women did not deserve the same educational opportunities as their brothers.

In 1885, hitherto almost unheard of for girls, chemistry was introduced to the curriculum. No practical work was allowed

initially – it was considered far too dangerous! But in 1902, about a year after Miss Leahy succeeded Miss Neligan as Headmistress, a science demonstration room, forerunner of the laboratories, was built – no doubt instigated by Miss Neligan. One can only imagine her delight at the number of Croydon High pupils excelling in the sciences both here and at university and the opportunities presented by Enterprise Technology and available in our Mac Suite and podcasting room. I would love the opportunity to introduce Miss Neligan to the remarkable pioneering pupils in our Junior School, who are so passionate and committed to many important issues, even at such a young age and who see no barriers in what they seek to achieve.

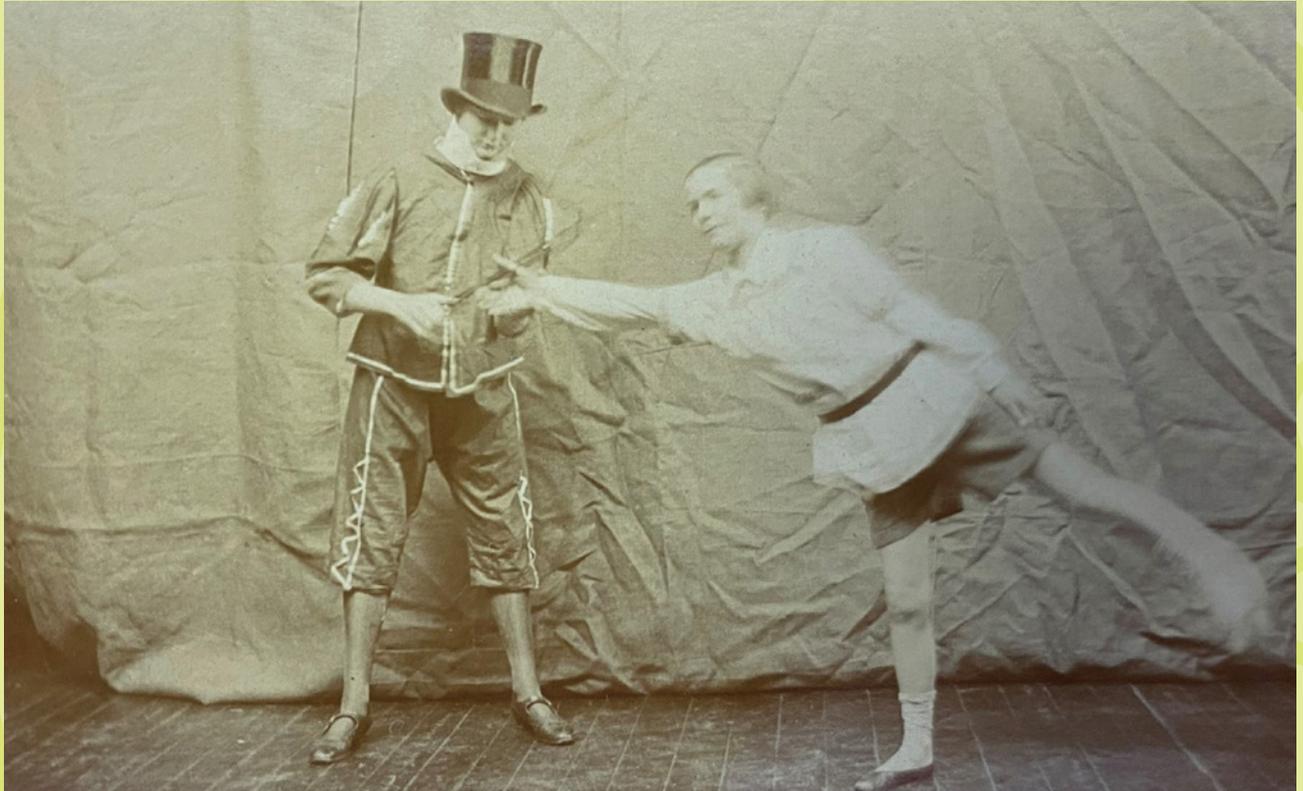


Everything we know about Miss Neligan tells us that her principles were unwavering and that she was ready, always, to stand up for what was right. I do not doubt that if she could be with us today, she would lead the charge for promoting and celebrating diversity and inclusion. She would certainly be an active supporter of the GDST's 'Undivided' programme, which we follow here at Croydon High, striving to address diversity, inclusion and real change more widely within the education sector.

To mark Dorinda Day 2022, we will reflect on the journey we have made as a school community and encourage each other to continue on this path. Each member of the school is being asked to make an Ivy Pledge; something that will make a difference to their understanding of what it means to be 'undivided at Croydon High' These Ivy Pledges will be displayed in school as part of our whole school commitment to Dorinda Neligan's remarkable legacy.

Fran Cook
Director of Philanthropy and External Relations

Archive Treasures



Monica Connery (Stubbs) 1930



Former Croydon High teacher of French and Spanish, Helen Turner, made a fascinating donation to our archives of her grandmother's 1929 schoolbooks including First Aid, Needlework, Laundry, and Housewifery all beautifully written and

illustrated throughout. Helen's family have also donated Monica's school reports, Matric Exam Papers and photos.

These classes were under the direction of an experienced technical mistress and a woman doctor gave lectures on first aid and home nursing. Pupils were entered for the junior housewife examination of the National Council of Domestic Studies. Monica received a first-class certificate at an awards ceremony in 1931, as reported in the *Norwood News*. Monica Mary Stubbs (b. 1912) was the fourth of eight children; two died in infancy, and the family lived in Woodside, Croydon. Monica's two sisters and brother

(Frances b.1909, Helen b.1910 and Basil b.1913) started at Croydon High in April 1920. A younger sister Sibyl (b. 1919), also attended later. Monica's mother, May Wood, also attended Croydon High from 1893 to 1898.

Monica loved school and enjoyed many activities, including netball, gymnastics and drama. She was not especially academic but excelled in practical areas. In 1930 she sat the 'National Council for Domestic Studies Junior Housecraft Examination' where she and one other Croydonian were the only girls in the country to gain a distinction in theory that year.

When she was about 14, she was 'co-opted' to be the small person in the staff play, which that year was 'Struwelpeter'.

In 1923, as soon as she was old enough, she joined the 33rd Croydon Girl Guide Company, a school company. Her Captain was Miss Winter, a member of staff. She stayed in Girl Guiding as a Guide and Ranger leader and a Trainer and Commissioner until she died in 2001. She always said she owed so much to the influence of Miss Winter and her team.

Monica left Croydon High in 1930 and trained as a secretary.

Her older daughter, Bridget Connery, was a pupil at the High



School from 1944 until 1947 and Bridget’s older daughter, Helen Turner, taught French and Spanish at the school from 2019 until 2021.

Monica’s sister Helen had a son and daughter (James and Elizabeth Kelly). Elizabeth also attended Croydon High School from 1944- to 1958. Elizabeth’s four daughters, Jean, Anne, Mary and Ruth Foster, were all at Croydon High in the 1970s and 1980s.



Diana Metzner (Berthoud) 1969

We were delighted to receive a parcel from Germany containing school photos, reports and a fantastic set of exercise books and schoolwork from the 1960s.

Diana wrote a wonderful memoir to go with the collection to give a picture of school life in the 50s and 60s. Current pupils are fascinated by Diana’s school books and enjoy reading her account, which is précised below.

Junior School

The first form was called Kindergarten, where we wore our own clothes with a gingham check overall on top. The following form was Transition, where we began wearing a uniform with a

tie and hat. We started in “The Elms” building and moved on to “The Homestead”.

When a girl had her birthday in the Junior School, she wore a crown all day; this was designed to hold flowers, so she appeared to have a crown of flowers. Once I misbehaved I was sent out of the classroom to sit on the ‘naughty bench’ as a punishment.

When I heard a grown-up coming, I didn’t want to be seen, so I decided nobody could object if I had to go to the toilet just at that moment. In our science lessons, we did exciting things like look after silkworms. We could unwind the natural silk on their cocoons! I was very proud that to feed the silkworms, the teacher had asked the Headmaster of Trinity School (my father!) for permission for us to go to the Tree Walk on the Trinity grounds and pick leaves off the row of mulberry trees.

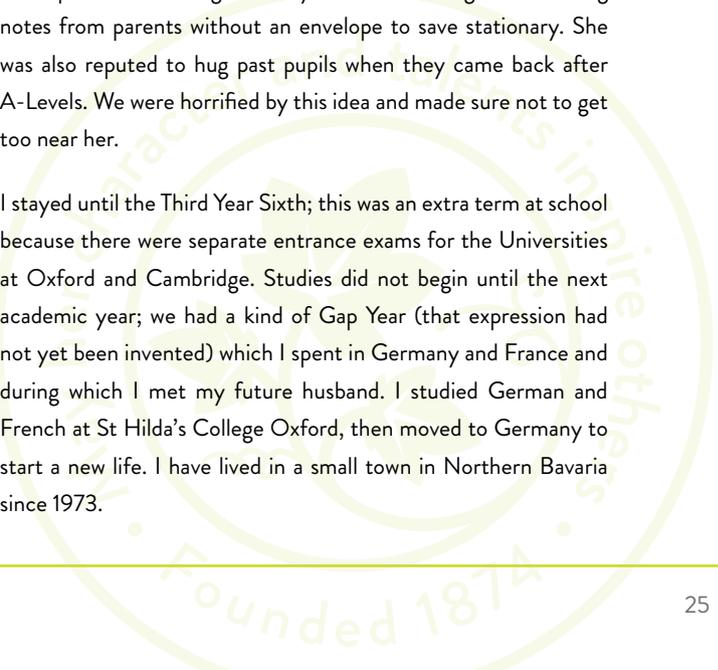
Senior School

This was a larger building on the other side of the road and the year group also became much larger, as we were joined by girls who came because they had got a scholarship on the results of the 11+ exam. So, some of the girls were fee-paying with well-off parents, and others had free places and possibly less affluent parents, and they were presumed to be brainier than the fee-paying ones, which quite often was the case. After Year 3 in the Senior School, some girls were allowed (advised?) to take up fewer academic subjects. For example, I think Home Economics could replace Latin.

A vivid memory of the school on Wellesley Road was that there was only one Hall for Assembly and lunch. After the entire Senior School had been to Assembly (sitting on the floor), the caretaker had to set up tables and benches. After lunch, forms took turns to help the caretaker pack up all the tables and benches.

Miss Cameron was my Headmistress for most of my time who had the reputation of being a “canny Scot” as she urged us to bring notes from parents without an envelope to save stationary. She was also reputed to hug past pupils when they came back after A-Levels. We were horrified by this idea and made sure not to get too near her.

I stayed until the Third Year Sixth; this was an extra term at school because there were separate entrance exams for the Universities at Oxford and Cambridge. Studies did not begin until the next academic year; we had a kind of Gap Year (that expression had not yet been invented) which I spent in Germany and France and during which I met my future husband. I studied German and French at St Hilda’s College Oxford, then moved to Germany to start a new life. I have lived in a small town in Northern Bavaria since 1973.



AND IN OTHER NEWS...



Kirsty Walker 1992

Congratulations to Kirsty, who has been appointed Vice President (External Engagement) at University College London. Kirsty is currently UCL's Executive Director of Media and Public Affairs. She takes up the role in August 2022 following a successful and wide-ranging career in political communications and journalism, including spending nearly 13 years as a political correspondent based in Westminster. Kirsty's mother told us, 'I think her achievements are a huge credit to the rounded and excellent education she received at Croydon High School.'

Picture caption - In 2012, Mr Vickery invited Kirsty to speak to some of our Sixth Form students.



Baroness Gabrielle Bertin 1996

Congratulations to Gabby, who received the Peer of the Year award at the Parliamentarian of the Year Awards 2021. Gabby works

to tackle VAWG and Domestic Abuse and is Vice-Chair of the

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse. Gabby is also a Trustee at the British Normandy Memorial Trust.



Rosemary Gold (Bruton) 1958

Congratulations to Rosemary, who raised over £5,000 for the World Bicycle

Relief. Rosemary's 80th birthday challenge last October was to Skydive! A bicycle can make an extraordinary difference to those challenged by distance in the developing world. Instead of walking for many arduous hours to school, clinics and markets, a bicycle

can bring speedier, safer, and more efficient ways to help people learn, work, access healthcare and care for others. Well done, Rosemary, you are an inspiration!



Rebecca Bevington-Smith (Reid) 1997

Rebecca worked in the food industry when she left school but, feeling she needed a more stable career, also completed an accountancy apprenticeship.

Rebecca went on to work as an accountant for a big London firm.

In 2005 she gained a diploma at Leith's School of Food and Wine. She took a job as a cook with the National Trust, but morning sickness forced her to stop working with food, so she returned to accounting. Rebecca quit her job during lockdown and spent the summer growing food and creating recipes. In September 2021, she started a blog - *All About That Taste* - returning her to her true passion. www.allaboutthattaste.co.uk



Alison Hall former staff 1975-1979

Croydon High parent, Kate Cutis, got in touch to tell us about meeting a former teacher. When at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club, Deal, to celebrate her mother's captancy, she and her daughter Robyn, a keen athlete, met with a 'lovely lady' called Alison Hall. Alison plays golf with Kate's mother, Frances. Alison taught PE at Croydon High from 1975 to 1979.

A small world indeed, and where better to pose for a photo than in front of a well-stocked and gleaming trophy cabinet. The captains' drive in was a real success. Frances hit a superb drive, followed by a huge cheer from the crowd, to which she took a well-deserved bow! Alison told us, "It is only late in life that I realised what a privilege it was to work for the GDST. I have only fond memories of Croydon High. I arrived just after Elsa Cameron retired. She was an amazing woman and the school enjoyed a very, very successful period under her leadership. I worked under Miss McMaster and

Miss Mark. Both were very supportive of my early years.” Our loss was Streatham and Clapham’s gain as Alison took deputy headship there from 1979 to 2005.



Alison with Robyn and Year 7 netball team in 1978

Vivien Doyle (Walker) 1962 – memories of the Hut and Dregs



(Back row) Pamela McQuilkin, Ann Sherwell, Vivien Walker, Lesley Peake, unknown, Elizabeth Laird, (front row) Ann Lloyd, Wendy Broad

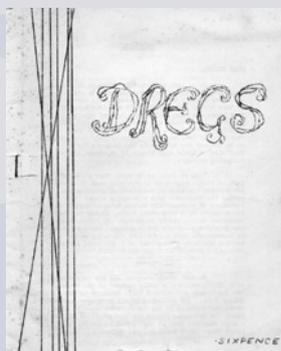
The Hut!

‘The Hut’ was a large ramshackle structure next to the playground in the Wellesley Road school. We sixth formers loved being there, set apart from the main school building.

It stood at the far side of the upper school playground, made of wood with a corrugated iron roof. My friend writes: “We used part of it as classroom/lecture theatre and used science labs upstairs.” I think it also housed the third year sixth form for those who wanted to sit Oxbridge entrance exams. In the photo, behind the wire fence, you can see a large new building; this was Croydon YMCA

Dregs!

Dregs was written by my rebellious friends and me in the true spirit of the 60s. We thought the official school mag very dull and decided to write our own satirical version. It was printed by



the mother of our friend Judy Fisher, I think, on a Roneo Duplicator. We had to assemble the pages and then staple the booklet. All very exciting in those far-off days!

In 2016 Vivien interviewed her old school friends about their memories of the school.

The recordings can be found on our website : www.croydonhigh.gdst.net/alumnae-the-ivy-link-memories

Would like to find...

Fiona Brown

Fiona was in the Elms and Homestead from 1960 to 1964 and would like to contact any of her class who remember her. Fiona remembers being a wave in the ‘Walrus and the Carpenter’ production! She would love to hear from former classmates.

Susan Shakeshaft

Sue Pearl (Roer) would like to find Susan Shakeshaft, who attended Ashburton Primary School with her until 1955.

The Edwards Sisters

Margaret Thomson 1965 would like to contact Elizabeth, Susan (or Mary?) and Caroline Edwards. Margaret remembers a mock US presidential election when JFK was elected and Liz, with her friend Patricia campaigned for Kennedy. Liz was a prefect and member of the school cricket team and possibly left school in 1960/1. Caroline (now Schiele) was in the same year as Margaret but moved to Essex in the 2nd form. Susan/Mary left approximately 1957.

Jacqueline Plumb (Everist) 1962

Jacqueline has lost contact with many of her friends from Croydon High and would love to hear from anyone who would like to get in touch.

Please get in touch with Karen Roe at:

ivylink@croy.gdst.net if you would like to contact Fiona, Sue, Margaret or Jacqueline.

Mary Finch, a true Croydon High Heroine

How many times in your school days did you walk past this memorial plaque in honour of Mary Finch? Initially located in the Wellesley Road school building and now pride of place in the corridor leading to the drama studio in our present building.

So, who was Mary Finch?



In January 1911, aged 9, Mary Finch joined Croydon High School at Wellesley Road. She had previously attended Downs Court Preparatory School. Her two younger sisters, Margaret and Grace, also attended Croydon High School. By 1913, the Finch family lived at 'Skerryvore' on Oakwood Avenue in Purley.

Mary was an extremely gifted student – academic, athletic, and accomplished at drama and music. She was Head Girl from 1919 to 1920 and passed her first medical exams whilst still a pupil in the Sixth Form. She served as captain of the netball and lacrosse teams and secretary of the cricket club. And she passed the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music exams for violin.

After Croydon High School, Mary attended the London School of Medicine for Women at the Royal Free Hospital and had completed two years of study.

Why is there a memorial to her?



In early August 1922, Mary and her family went on holiday to Gorran near St. Austell in Cornwall. They were joined by their friends, the Wood family, from Norbury.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 30th August, the Wood family, together with the Finch siblings, went to Porthluney beach for a swim. It was here that Mary, her younger sisters Margaret

and Grace, her brother Jack and 15-year-old Stuart Wood found themselves in difficulty due to the strong current.

Despite Mr Wood's repeated attempts, he was unable to assist them. Mary, who was not a particularly strong swimmer, first

brought her sister Grace to the shore and then returned to attempt to rescue Stuart. Whilst the others managed to reach the shore, Mary and Stuart were swept away by the strong current.

The following evening the body of Mary was found by a local carpenter at a place named 'Blue Corner', close to where she had disappeared. Stuart's body was recovered the next day.

At the inquest, the coroner stated, 'the conduct of Miss Finch was very plucky, she gave her life for the boy and but for her, one of the little girls also would have drowned, she could not have done more.'

Mary was buried on September 5 at Bandon Hill Cemetery on Plough Lane, Wallington, following a service at the Friends Meeting House on Downs Court Road. On her coffin was white heather collected by her father from the Cornish moors. The villagers of Gorran sent wildflowers. On her tombstone are carved ivy leaves, the symbol of Croydon High School.

A public memorial to Mary Finch

In the following year, funds were raised by friends and colleagues for a public memorial to honour the heroic efforts of Mary Finch. If you look closely at the junction of Downs Court and Selcroft Roads in Purley, you will find a wooden memorial seat on a red brick platform in front of a yew hedge. The plaque reads

"In Radiant Memory of MARY FINCH of Purley. She gave her life in attempting to save a friend from drowning August 30th 1922 Aged 20 years."

To mark the 100th anniversary of Mary Finch's courageous efforts, we will be placing a commemorative wreath at this memorial seat on August 30th.

A memorial prize was set up in honour of Mary Finch, declaring that she lived in the spirit in which she died. The prize was awarded to a girl in the Sixth Form for public spirit and service to the school. The first girl to receive this prize was Doris Goodsell in 1924. Our very own Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963, former secretary of the Old Croydonians, received the award in 1961. We believe that this prize was last awarded in the late 1990s. Perhaps now may be an appropriate time to reinstate this award on the 100th anniversary of Mary's death.

(Sources - Mary Finch Heroine of Purley by Alan Hardcastle and Croydon Guardian 28 June 1990)



O B I T U A R I E S

It is always our sad duty to share news of those in our community who have passed away. May they rest in peace – our thoughts are with their loved ones.



**LORNA MARGUERITE
BUSHELL (BEEVERS) 1962
PASSED AWAY
AUGUST 2021**

Lorna was born in Purley in 1944 and started at Croydon High in 1952, aged 7. She was in the same form as Jacqueline du Pré and was

herself a talented pianist who was unable to take up the scholarship she was offered at the Trinity College of Music. On leaving school, she trained as a tri-lingual secretary at the French Lycée. In 1964, she became secretary to the Chief Engineer on the Channel Tunnel Site Investigation, which laid out the eventual course the tunnel was to take. In that year, she also met her husband Paul, whom she married in 1968. Three of their four children were girls, Claudine, Delia and Phoebe, all of whom went to Croydon High from the age of 5 to 18 and then followed their father to Oxford University. In later years, Lorna started a successful chess club. In his eulogy, her son David said of her, 'Mum was one of life's unsung heroes who would seek no praise or attention to herself but enjoyed giving many acts of small kindness to others, often making a real difference in their lives. She understood the value of selfless human connection and was always a great mentor to younger generations.' She died on 11th August 2021, a few weeks short of her 77th birthday. She will be greatly missed by her husband, four children and ten grandchildren.

With thanks to Lorna's daughters Delia and Phoebe.



**LOUISE MARGRETHE
BYWATER (MORGAN) 1957
PASSED AWAY APRIL 2022**

1938 -2022. Nurse, mother, hospice volunteer, friend.

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen. (Elisabeth Kübler-Ross)

With thanks to Louise's son James.



Top row left to right: Alison Bond, Sally Kidd, Margaret Adams, Gillian Aylett. Seated is actress Sheila Attenborough (Sims) 1939 at the 80th anniversary celebrations. The smallest girl at the front is Catherine Burridge.

**SALLY KIDD (HARMAN) 1954
PASSED AWAY APRIL 2022**

I don't remember a time when I didn't know Sal; as two blonde tots, we became buddies and never looked back. Good friends for a lifetime with differing temperaments, the same school education, living on three different continents. We both grew up in Chipstead, and in 1946, Sal joined me at Croydon High after the 11+ exams. We remained classmates through to A levels and college acceptance. With her clear, calm voice, Sal proved herself a competent actor, in 1951 starring as St Joan, a memorable performance. She was elected Head Girl when the school celebrated its 80th birthday, so she was on the front steps to welcome the Duchess of Gloucester. When the duchess addressed the school, Sal gave a confident welcome in a strong, calm voice. At 15, we both got the serious travel bug, encouraged by the farsighted 'Fanny' Adams, and went off for school exchanges to Germany, where Sal made lifelong friends. Once at Bedford College, we spent part of our first year at German universities. As young adults, Sal spent a decade with her family in Tehran, and I had moved to New York. By the late 70s, I travelled every year to Europe, stopping off to visit Sal, and within a half-hour, it was as if we'd seen each other the previous week. A warm welcome, lots of laughter and wry curiosity, and her great sense of compassion.

With thanks to Alison Bond 1954



**RUTH MARTIN
(POYNNDER) 1951 PASSED
AWAY FEBRUARY 2022**

Ruth loved her schooldays and especially taking part in many sports - a love of which continued throughout her life. Indeed, she played tennis and golf until her early eighties and was always proud of making it to Junior Wimbledon.

She was also an excellent skier, a keen and accomplished performer on the amateur stage, an artist, and most importantly, a wonderfully sociable and kind friend to many. Ruth was a proud Old Croydonian and served as Chairman of the Old Girls'. Ruth always spoke of her Headmistress, Dr. 'Fanny' Adams, with huge respect. Ruth often laughed at the memory of attending, as a parent (her daughter Sally had attended Croydon High), the very last end-of-term Assembly in Croydon, before the big move to Selsdon and days before the

demolition of the old buildings; when all pupils, parents and visitors were put in detention by the Head for an apparent misappropriation of some bathroom ware!

As a young wife, Ruth had enjoyed living in West Africa with her husband Peter and young family but happily came home to live in Sanderstead and later in Woldingham and Warlingham, enjoying her gardening and keeping up with friends and family and travelling the world. Ruth was an adored mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Many of her 'old' school friends were amongst the 250 plus who attended a marvellous Thanksgiving Service in March, typically bathed in the Spring sunshine, at her beloved Church in Sanderstead.

With thanks to Ruth's daughter Sally Marks 1972

PAT MASON (SHIELDS) 1955 PASSED AWAY JUNE 2021

Pat was Head Girl in her last year at Croydon High, leaving to study Physics at Bristol University. She worked in industry before marrying Martin and having two children, Neil and Sally.

Unfortunately, Martin died young, after which Pat went into teaching and taught at the Royal Ballet School, where Darcey Bussell was one of her pupils. Sadly, in later years, she had Parkinson's disease and cancer. She was always very positive regarding her health, helped towards the end by Neil becoming her carer.

With thanks to Ann Hatherill (Carter) 1955



GERDA PERROTT (HOFFER-LECHNER) 1954 PASSED AWAY JANUARY 2021

Gerda was born in Vienna in 1936 and arrived in the United Kingdom at the age of 3½ in 1939. Her parents put her on one of the last Kindertransport trains to leave

Vienna before the start of WWII. She arrived in London and was collected by foster parents (the Simmonds) who lived in Croydon. Sadly, both originally from Romania, her parents did not survive the war and died in a concentration camp. After the war, a decision was taken to bring Gerda up as naturalised British, although contact continued to be maintained with relatives abroad.

At 17, she met her husband, David - who went to the boys' school next door to Croydon High. They married in 1957 and were together inseparable for 61 years until David died in 2018. Dexter was born while David was still at Oxford in 1962.

They took Dexter as a one-year-old to Africa in 1963, where they then had Jeremy in Khartoum in 1964. After a few years in the Sudan, where David taught law at the University of Khartoum, the family returned to Exeter, where David worked at the university until his retirement. Gerda later became the organiser for the local Citizens Advice Bureau. Gerda has been described as unique and memorable, loved and respected by those who know her. She was brought up in the Church of England, and her faith was strong. She was not afraid to die, and her positivity greatly influenced others.

After all, Gerda was not only reunited with her beloved David but also with her parents, who she last saw as a bewildered child aged 3½ in Vienna at a railway station long ago.

With thanks to Gerda's sons Dexter and Jeremy.

EVELYN RICHARDSON (PERIAM) 1941 AND FORMER STAFF 1947-1983 PASSED AWAY APRIL 2022



Born in 1923 in Thornton Heath - she had one older brother (my father). Her father was a civil servant, and her mother came from Devon - the youngest daughter of a family of nine who farmed. Shortly

afterwards, the family moved to Shirley, Croydon. She attended Croydon High from 1934 to 1941. During the war, she was evacuated with her mother to Colwyn Bay, North Wales, from where she did her teacher training course. At the end of the war, she returned to Shirley and started working at Croydon High in 1947. In 1980 she married Richard Richardson and moved to Caterham in Surrey. She retired in 1983. They travelled extensively around the UK, US, and Canada in their retirement. She was widowed in 2015 but continued to live in her lovely home until her death.

With thanks to Evelyn's niece Jenny Johnston.

I first met Evelyn with her warm and humorous welcome when I was six years old in 1975 at the front door of Croydon High School for Girls. I was not in Evelyn's (Miss Periam's) class, but she was a well-known presence. Nature lessons were something that I did have with Miss Periam. I remember that she took us on walks, and she excitedly showed us a badger's sett that was on the school grounds. In my second year at Croydon High, I was in Mrs Richardson's class, and sadly she passed away that year. My mother suggested that we visit her widow, Mr Richardson - Uncle Rich - who lived very close to us; we took him peppermints and regularly visited to keep him company. Slowly but surely, Evelyn started showing up there as well. In 1979 Evelyn and Rich announced that they were getting married. Our Christmases spent with them are treasured childhood memories for me. As I left the UK, I saw less of Evelyn, but we always visited if we were in the area. I am so glad that my family and I managed to see Evelyn in February. During the Jubilee celebrations, the Queen reminded me of Evelyn. I think they have the same no-nonsense, wry approach to the world that makes them get on with things and be kind to everyone around them on the way. Thank you, Evelyn, for being such an important, formative and loving part of my life.

With thanks Meriel Newey 1987

JUDITH STANCOMB (COOPER) 1960 PASSED AWAY JUNE 2021

Judith passed her 11+ and was offered a place at Croydon High School, where she was happy and excelled academically. Her A levels in English, Greek, Latin and French (with two distinctions) led her to a scholarship to read English at Girton College, Cambridge, in 1961. Judith met Andrew Higgins at university and they married

in 1964. They moved to Oxford, where Andrew continued his academic pursuits. They separated amicably in the early 70s but remained friends. Judith's working life started at the Poetry Society. She then moved on to a post as Librarian at the newly formed Centre on Environment for the Handicapped. In 1972 she moved to the Royal Anthropological Institute. In the early 1980s, Judith joined the London Institute of Archaeology's Prehistory Department as secretary to its teaching staff. During this time, Judith made her first trip to Romania as part of an archaeological fieldwork team. During this part of her life, Judith became involved in helping many Romanian people. Judith's passion had always been for the Classics, and in the mid-eighties, she attended Birkbeck College, University of London, to study for a further degree. It was at Birkbeck that she met her second husband, Bill Stancomb. In retirement, Judith and Bill moved to Devon, where they spent a few happy years before finally moving to Market Lavington in Wiltshire. Judith never stopped learning, and her mind and intellect were as sharp in later life as in her early years.



**BARBARA THOMPSON
STAFF 2006-2021**

Barbara had worked as a cleaner at Croydon High School since 2006 and was a stalwart of J-corridor and the Art rooms in particular. Her joyful demeanour, broad smile and positivity were always welcome, whether first

thing in the morning or at the end of a long day. She is greatly missed.



**MARY SHACKEL (GRIMES)
1961, FORMER STAFF 1977-
1999**

Popular former pupil and beloved Head of Drama, Mary was described as a Croydon High School institution. Mary, a very accomplished actress, walked the school boards herself, under the tutelage of Mary Duncan,

playing the leading role in Richard II to great acclaim. She was the first girl to be accepted at the National Youth Theatre, finding herself acting alongside Martin Jarvis and other actors who were later to become famous. Mary, however, decided - luckily for Croydon High - to go into teaching after attending the Royal Academy of Music, Speech and Drama. Under her charismatic leadership, the drama department went from strength to strength at the school. Remembered with affection are all those large Guild productions such as Godspell, Oliver and My Fair Lady and popular and successful performances of plays like Daisy Pulls It Off and Wind in the Willows. Her high professional standards always commanded polished performances from every girl. She wouldn't hesitate to tear a strip off a staff member in a staff panto rehearsal if she thought she wasn't paying attention or hadn't learned her lines properly. In everyday drama lessons, she allowed her pupils to explore social and personal issues and find something out about themselves and others. Mary coached countless girls to very high levels of achievement in Board examinations, several of whom went on to act professionally. Mary's drama room was a haven for staff and girls who wanted to

discuss a problem, share some news, or cry on an understanding shoulder. After leaving Croydon High, Mary continued to teach individual lessons, participate in productions at the Miller Centre and was an active member of the Old Croydonians. Mary's daughter Jane and two granddaughters, Alice, and Emily attended Croydon High. Jane is a teacher in the Croydon High Junior School.

From the School Magazine 1999 by Gill Sharpe staff 1987-2000



**PAT WINTER 1957 PASSED
AWAY OCTOBER 2021**

Champion of all animals

On Easter Sunday, 1938, Pat was born to Margery and Alan Winter. Margery nee Hickson was an Old Croydonian, and her sister, Pat's Aunt, Olive Simpson. Pat joined Croydon High in 1949 from Sanderstead County Primary School, now Gresham School. Soon afterwards, Pat was sent to The British Children's Home in Davos, Switzerland, for six months as it was thought the mountain air would do her asthma good. She returned to Croydon High but stayed down a year, joining us, the 1957 leavers. Pat loved all animals, and before school, she would collect the Greengrocer's horse from his field and ride him to the shop, ready for his delivery duties. After school, she would collect and ride him back to his field. In return, she was allowed to ride him at weekends. Pat enjoyed dancing and was always in the chorus of the Sanderstead Dramatic Club's Annual Pantomime. Unsure what to do when she left school, she worked as a dental nurse and then went to Connecticut, America, for 18 months to be an au pair to a family. Then Pat worked for Legal and General. Eventually, she decided to work for The Cats Protection League, rescuing feral cats from the grounds of Netherne Hospital and re-homing them. She was awarded the MBE for services to cats. Her school friend Clare Druce (Spalding) remembers staying at Pat's maisonette with Anita Guiton (Burns) to celebrate this. Pat loved feeding the badgers in her garden on the edge of Forestdale. She would video them and show me them when I visited. She was very kind and helped her neighbours by driving them to hospital appointments. Pat was very close to her younger brother John and her niece and nephew Alison and Toby. She taught them to love nature and all animals and birds. Pat was a loyal friend. I shall long remember her.

With thanks to Angela Warren (Curtis) 1957

**JOYCE CHIARI (CANNON) 1946, FORMER STAFF
1959-1967 PASSED AWAY JANUARY 2020**

ISOBEL GIBSON PASSED AWAY IN APRIL 2022

**HELEN SPINKS (WOODS) 1984 PASSED AWAY
APRIL 2022**

**ELIZABETH WHEATLY (HUGGINS) 1953 PASSED
AWAY DECEMBER 2021**



Croydon High celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style



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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy throughout the magazine, we hope you will please forgive any minor errors and please inform us of any major ones!