
The Ivy Link Magazine 2023

Ecologists say...

Young trees grow better when planted in areas with older trees. The roots of the young trees can follow the pathways created by former trees.

Over time the roots of many trees graft themselves to one another, creating an intricate and interdependent community where older trees share resources with younger ones so that the whole forest thrives.





Dear Friends

As you may know, I started as Head of Croydon High in September last year. I returned from Hong Kong in July where I lived for five years working at Harrow International School as Principal Deputy Head (Curricular) looking after the curriculum and teaching and learning from Early Years to Year 13. Before that, I worked at Surbiton High School as Assistant Principal and for the first part of my career, I worked in a boys' school in the state sector in Bromley. So, I have worked in almost all types of schools... state, independent, all boys, all girls, mixed, international, boarding and day! I have loved them all. However, I can honestly say I have never experienced working in any school where the strength, goodwill and support of the alumnae community was as powerful as that I have experienced here at Croydon High. It is remarkable and I am so grateful for everything it brings. I know that this is, in large part, due to the tireless commitment of our Alumnae Manager, Karen Roe who works so hard throughout the year, nurturing the relationships that make this possible.

I can hardly believe I am coming to the end of my first year at Croydon High. While there have been many happy occasions to celebrate, we were of course all deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic news in February about Emma Pattison and her daughter Lettie. We are so grateful for the many kind messages of sympathy and support we received from the Ivy Link community.

I know I am biased as the Head of this wonderful school, but I truly believe Croydon High School is a place where we get the best out of each and every girl. It is a school where we want to educate our girls to have a global perspective so they can see the world from different viewpoints.

It is a school where we celebrate diversity and individuality and where our pupils have a voice on this matter. It is a school where there are opportunities for all and not a one size fits all approach. It is a school where the staff are committed to supporting each child in their care. And importantly, it is a kind school, and this is what we encourage at all times.

It is for these reasons and more that I am delighted to be leading this wonderful school. I am ambitious for our future and above all I want our current pupils to have the courage to follow in the paths forged by our magnificent alumnae community and to leave us with the confidence and aspiration to be the change makers, the influencers and the voices of the future.

It has been a delight to meet some of you at various events this year and I very much look forward to seeing many more of you at the Ivy Link Summer Lunch.

My sincere thanks to Karen for all she does and for putting together this year's wonderful Ivy Link Magazine which I hope you will enjoy.

Have a wonderful summer!

With very best wishes

Annabel Davies

Head

Dear Ivy Link Family

Welcome to this, the 12th edition of the Ivy Link Magazine, and thank you to everyone who has contributed news, fascinating stories and snippets of interesting information. Over 120 alumnae names are mentioned in this edition, not to mention all the lovely faces in the photographs!

We are very fortunate that the Ivy Link community are actively involved in school life, from sitting on our Governing Body to helping with practice interviews, attending productions and concerts, joining reunions and generously offering their time to support the Progression and Futures programme to provide advice and guidance to students.

The photograph of the cedar tree on the front cover of this magazine is situated on our beautiful grounds. Earlier this year, we heard a rumour that the tree was planted by Queen Elizabeth 1 as part of the Selsdon Park Estate. We cannot deny or confirm this rumour and would love to hear from you if you have any information. Nevertheless, the sentiment of the words reflects the relationship between former, current, and future pupils - **an intricate and interdependent community where older trees share resources with younger ones so that the whole forest thrives.**

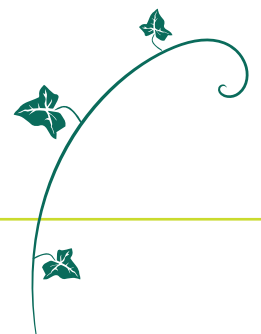
My appreciation to Annabel Davies and Fran Cook for their continuous support and encouragement. Thank you to our incredible Prefect Team who support so many alumnae events.

Please continue sending us your memories, news and achievements; we love hearing from you.

Warmest wishes

Karen Roe

Alumnae Relations Manager



May her character and talents inspire others

Emma Pattison joined Croydon High School as Headmistress in September 2016.



Her impact, over her six years with us, was immense – on the school community, on alumnae, and on the wider GDST family. Friends and colleagues describe her warmth, her smile, her easy laugh and her ability to connect with people of all ages and in any situation. This, combined with an awe-inspiring energy and work ethic, meant that Emma was respected by all who worked with her. More than this, though, she was genuinely loved.

From her first Ivy Link lunch in June 2017, through the many individual and group meetings, reunions, and alumnae events that she attended over her years as Head, Emma forged and sustained a very strong connection with both former pupils and staff. She had a genuine interest in people; she loved hearing their stories of the school in days gone by and sharing her vision for taking it forward. The Ivy Link was very important to Emma – she often talked about how inspired she was by the incredible women she met through this network.

Emma was a true leader, unafraid to take difficult decisions. She would never ask something of others that she would not do herself. She oversaw fundamental change, brought stakeholders with her and instilled belief, confidence and pride in her team. This opened an exciting new chapter for Croydon High with burgeoning pupil numbers and a growing reputation locally as “the school everyone is talking about”.

Emma also formalised the school’s ethos into a motto – May her character and talents inspire others. And she introduced what would become the school’s mantra, Every girl, every day. Throughout many challenges, including a global pandemic, Emma led the school with courage and real empathy which came partly from her perspective as a parent. Her daughter, the lovely Lettie, joined our Nursery and was with us until the end of Year 2. Like her mum, Lettie will be forever remembered for her smile, her exuberance and her determination to take on the world.

Emma and Lettie leave a far-reaching legacy, and the school will be honouring their memory in a number of ways. On Sunday 25 June, many of us will be coming together for a Celebration Concert in the school grounds, to share our memories and demonstrate our love and respect for them both.

We know that Emma and Lettie’s family take great comfort from the outpouring of love that has come from so many and we will continue to focus on supporting them and the school community they cared about so deeply.

Their character and talents will forever inspire every girl, every day.

Fran Cook, Director of External Relations and Philanthropy



© Bronac McNeill

Graduate Stories

We have loved seeing your photos. Thank you for sharing.



Louisa Charalambous 2019

Kingston University – Midwifery

After achieving a First Class Honours I am now working as a newly qualified Midwife and I'm loving it so far, it's really been amazing!



Samantha Martin 2019

Breda University of Applied Sciences - Creative Media and Game Technologies

I am living in Edinburgh at my first job as a mission designer at Rockstar North, creators of Grand Theft Auto.



Payal Shah 2019

University of Birmingham – History

Currently, I am doing a law conversion master's at BPP University where I am set to graduate in January 2024.



Grace England 2018

University of Leeds – Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Leeds.

I then went on to do the law conversion (GDL) at the University of Law (Moorgate campus) and have just finished my final exams for the LPC (solicitor's course).

I completed a vacation scheme with the law firm Stephenson Harwood in March who have offered me a training contract, So, theoretically I am a 'future trainee solicitor'!



Damini Patel 2018

University of Birmingham – Pharmacy

I am currently working as a trainee pharmacist at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital.

Do send us your photos –young or not so young(!) We would love to hear from you.
ivylink@cry.gdst.net



Antonia Pollard 2018

University of Sheffield – Physics with a Year in Industry

I am now training as a tax advisor with Evelyn Partners in Salisbury.



Anna Tokarski 2018

University of Birmingham – Economics and Political Science

I graduated last year and have been travelling southeast Asia, back for a few months before I go again to Australia in search of a grad job



Shivani Chheda 2017

The University of Hertfordshire – Business Economics

I am currently working as an Account Manager at Fathom, a software company.



Nicola Coulthwaite 2017

University of Bath – Sport and Exercise Science

I have moved to Melbourne, Australia where I am a PE and psychology teacher at a girls' secondary school. I aspire to move into a pastoral role once I have gained more experience. I'm absolutely loving it and am also in the process of doing some counselling qualifications so I can best support pupils in need. Learnt my craft from the best.



Sophie Haden-Scott 2017

University Of Exeter – Art History and Visual Culture and History

Digital Marketing Manager of a corporate experiences and entertainment company called The Together Collective. We started in 2020 and are now a team of 5 offering lots of different virtual and in-person experiences to corporate teams. I head up the marketing of the business and I am doing a Marketing Diploma alongside my job.



Ellie McCarthy 2017

London South Bank University – BSc in Adult Nursing in 2020

I am starting my Masters in Advanced Practice in Emergency Medicine in September.



Farheen Qureshi 2016

Coventry University – French and Spanish

I am teaching both Spanish and French (also a year 7 form tutor) at Oaks Park High School Carshalton.



Dr Parviz Lakha-Kassam 2004



When I was 16 someone asked me what I wanted to do, I said, “Medicine, Law, Business and Education.”

This year has been a somewhat “everything” year for me - from getting married to starting a new job and now being pregnant and about to embark on Maternity Leave - and so it seems pertinent to reflect on my journey from Croydon High School as a student back to Croydon High School many years later as the Head of Progression and Futures. The school is unusual in that we all seem to come back in some capacity or another, be it as a teacher, a member of support staff, a parent or even as a mentor. There is something in the water, something in the air that just somehow calls us back.

I joined Croydon High as a 6-year-old in the Junior School and my memories are filled with an undeniable sense of warmth and pride. I still harbour vivid memories that I carry with me to this day: the break time rush; the smell of coffee that lingered outside the staff room; the amazing teachers who were warm, ebullient, and kind; the smooth curve of the blue spiral staircase and the wonderful librarian who gently encouraged us to devour books. As we grew bigger, we would look over to the “big school” across the playground and realise that was one day where we were destined to be and this was where our future would be planned and secured.

I also remember my first day in Senior school as though it was yesterday. The rush of students on the way to assembly; the never-ending chatter through the hallways, the long walk up K-block; the smell of textbooks both new and passed down; the buzz; the energy; the sense of achievement. I relished every second of that day.

It became apparent at some stage that I wasn’t a straightforward student to pigeonhole - in that my interests were wide and diverse. There were a number of avenues that I could have gone down and I tell the students now that this is okay. To have a wide set of interests is completely fine. It’s how you navigate your way through and devise a plan to set yourself up in life. Finally, I tell them that it is possible to do everything that you want to do in life. I have done it.

When I was 16 and someone asked me what I wanted to do, I said, “Medicine, Law, Business and Education.” I am pleased and proud to say that I managed in some capacity to do all these things and more than I had ever even dreamed of - allowing me to work for prestigious institutions and with interesting people, running my own companies and even at one stage to become the youngest serving member on GMC Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service panels. But it all started with a conversation in an office with a careers advisor about where to start, and the rest fell into place. I often say it was a combination of life having its own ideas alongside the loose semblance of a coherent plan. My life unravelled in such a way that one thing prepared me for the next and that experience, in turn, prepared me for the next thing to come along.

My role here at Croydon High sort of fell into my lap. Having already established myself in the education sphere, I wasn’t looking for a new role but this role found me as I was mindlessly searching Google for answers to mundane questions, and after a flicker of excitement and some encouragement from my lovely husband, I decided to apply especially as this role was special; it was at a school that had given me so much. I was asked to join with the mandate of “shaking things up” and “doing things my way” - music to my ears. When I am in a role where I am given the space and the ability to create, restructure and solve - I grow, I thrive, and my potential becomes limitless. These are the types of roles that I live for, they give me a spring in my step and each day of work ceases to be work and feels like an absolute joy. I have loved speaking to students here and helping them find their feet and adored figuring out where this role has the potential to go and grow within the school.

And so, this year has been wonderful, from restructuring the systems that were already in place and implementing new plans to dreaming of the ideas yet to come. Amidst all of this, I fell pregnant and am now about to embark on a brand new job until I return to Croydon High. Being a mum is the first job I have taken on that I feel entirely unprepared for, but also one that I know will bring me new joy in a completely different way. As I said earlier, life has its own set of plans and another thing reiterated to me throughout this pregnancy is to “go with it” and find the positive in every second, however tough the bumps can be. And that’s an excellent life lesson when thinking about your future too!

Dr Parviz Lakha-Kassam 2004
Head of Progression and Futures

GDST Alumna of the Year Award

Croydon High's nominations have seen eight finalists and one winner since the competition began in 2012. Last year's nomination and finalist was the incredible Susie Ma.



Susie Ma is an award-winning entrepreneur and philanthropist. She is the Founder and CEO of Tropic Skincare and a dedicated philanthropist with a keen focus on creating a healthier, greener and more empowered world. Tropic Skincare has been recognised at numerous stages, including 'Fastest Growing Skincare Brand in the UK' in the Sunday Times Virgin Atlantic Fast Track 100 league table for five years running. Most recently, JP Morgan has ranked Tropic Skincare as the 14 best female-powered company in the UK.

Its commitment to sustainability and disrupting the industry has also been widely recognised, including Best Carbon Neutral Brand' in the Marie Claire's Sustainability Awards. In 2021, Tropic Skincare was awarded 100/100 on 'The Good Shopping Guide's Ethical Accreditation Index', a high accolade highlighting their commitment to meaningful change.

Susie Ma is an inspiration to many: in 2018 she secured a place on Forbes 30 Under 30 list, specifically for her work in the Retail and E-commerce category. Susie's personal philanthropic pursuits are deeply embedded into the ethos at Tropic Skincare. With her leadership, Tropic frequently raises funds for brilliant causes, including the Trussell Trust, United World Schools, and Beam and Eden Reforestation Projects. This year alone, Tropic has funded a year's worth of education for 4,000 children in rural Asia who would otherwise not receive one. Tropic Skincare also funded and opened a new forest with Forestry England in Hampshire, free for the public to visit.

Susie has taken part in three Strive Challenges, pushing herself to the limit physically and mentally to raise funds for Big Change, an education charity focused on enabling young people in the UK to thrive.

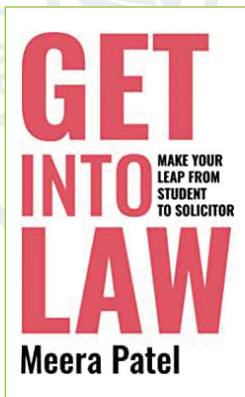
We are really proud of Susie and all she has achieved, but despite incredibly strong support for her, she was pipped to the post in the final vote.

At the time of writing, the finalists of the 2023 award have yet to be announced.



Congratulations to Newcastle High's Dr Ellie Cannon, NHS doctor, broadcaster and health writer who received the GDST Alumna of the Year Award 2022.

BOOK CORNER



**GET INTO LAW:
MAKE YOUR LEAP FROM
STUDENT TO SOLICITOR**
BY MEERA PATEL 2006

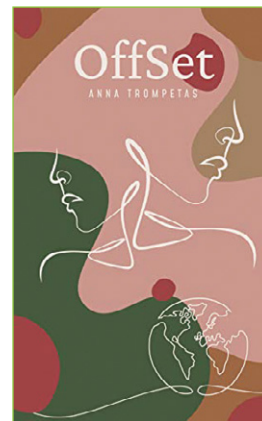
Get Into Law is a 10-step personal-development book enabling you to make your unique leap from student to solicitor. Get into Law has been workshopped and purchased by UK universities and schools, including but not limited to

Kings College London, City University, Westminster University, and the GDST. It is also part of the Mayor of London's Inspire My Career programme with LMP Action. Get Into Law is described as 'an insiders-guide to getting a training contract', 'a pocket-mentor', and 'a tool to accelerate student employability'.



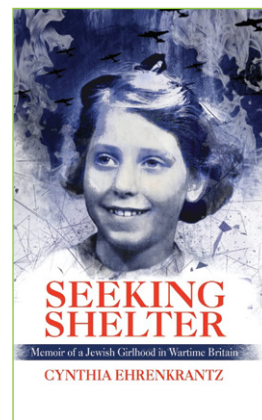
HONEY AND SUGAR GET ADOPTED
BY GEORGINA DAY 2009

Honey and Sugar Get Adopted is a lovely children's story that emphasises our need to rescue animals instead of buying them from a pet store. Thousands of animals daily are being brought into rescue centres needing a home. Even more are in a home where their needs are not met as their families don't understand their animal's natural behaviour. Rabbits are currently the third most loved companion animal (following cats and dogs). Still, they are also the most misunderstood, mistreated and abandoned - something many struggle to explain to our children. Follow Polly's story and learn as she learns the true meaning of family and how to respect our animal's differences!



OFFSET
BY ANNA TROMPETAS 2010

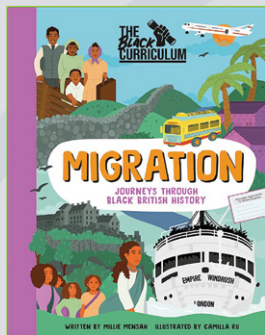
You pay people to serve you food. You pay people to clean your home. You even pay people to do the things you're meant to enjoy; walking your dog or taking care of your kids. Payment in exchange for service makes the world go round. But where would you draw the line? The world is in climate crisis. After an international crackdown on carbon usage, OffSet was born: a system which allows individuals to buy (and sell) carbon allowance from one another. But with militant surveillance of those at the bottom, personal freedom is soon a thing of the past for many. Alice and Sam live side-by-side in two very different Londons. While Sam struggles to provide for her son, on the surface Alice 'has it all'. The two women develop a tentative friendship, but their lives take a dramatic turn against a backdrop of frequent climate disasters, an increasingly hostile government, and rising tensions between those with and those without.



**SEEKING SHELTER:
MEMOIR OF A JEWISH
GIRLHOOD IN WARTIME
BY CYNTHIA
EHRENKRANTZ 1951**

Cynthia Ehrenkrantz was six in 1939 when Britain entered World War II. Seeking Shelter is her vivid child's-eye account of life in wartime England as she lived it: an adored only child in a large Jewish clan whose comfortable existence becomes one of food shortages, gas masks and air-raid sirens, and - worst of all - being sent away for months and years at a stretch to escape German bombs. Contending with bullies, rushing from a warm bed to a backyard shelter when sirens wail. Life is hard but also good: shining in a school play, collecting foil for the war effort,

celebrating Passover...These mixed realities of wartime mark young Cynthia forever in ways only adult Cynthia can understand.

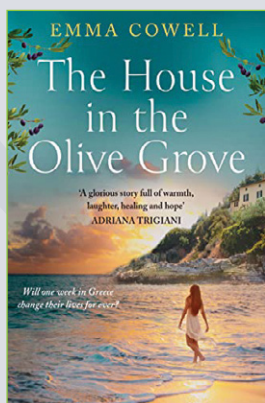


**THE BLACK CURRICULUM
MIGRATION:
JOURNEYS THROUGH
BLACK BRITISH HISTORY
BY MILLIE MENSAH 2003**

Uncover the journeys that define Black British History in this informative, boldly illustrated collection of migration stories.

Learn the incredible untold stories of the people, places and journeys that shaped Britain, and be inspired to continue learning beyond the page. In this brand-new series from The Black Curriculum, learn how migration has shaped Black British History. Discover how migration has been part of British history right from the start. For example, did you know Black people lived in Britain during Roman times? Or that there was a Black trumpeter in Henry VIII's court?

Discover the Black British people who campaigned for the abolition of slavery in the 18th century, like Olaudah Equiano. Find out what brought people to Britain in the 20th century and what life was like for them. Learn how migration is important to Britain's identity and history and how it continues today.



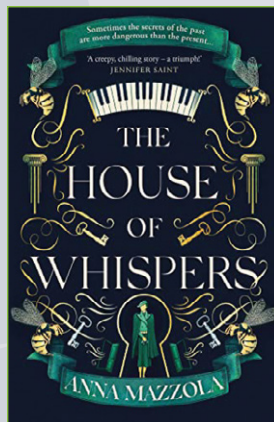
**THE HOUSE IN THE OLIVE GROVE
BY EMMA LLOYD-COWELL
1995**

Will one week in Greece change their lives forever? Chef Maria is running a successful cookery school in her home village of Petalidi, Greece – but she is also running from the secrets of her past. Food journalist Kayla

thought this was going to be just another work trip. But right before she leaves for Greece, she discovers that her whole life is built on a lie.

Jewellery maker Alessandra has always lived according to her own rules – despite what it has cost her. But she has just had some devastating news. As these three very different women come

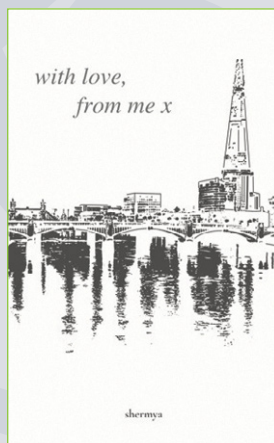
together at the house in the olive grove, unlikely friendships blossom, and a season of self-discovery begins. Will the sumptuous flavours, sapphire waters and golden sands of Greece give each of them the answers they desperately seek?



**THE HOUSE OF
WHISPERS
BY ANNA MAZZOLA 1996**

Once you let her in, she'll never leave... Abi Allerton is happily married. She lives in a beautiful Victorian semi that she and her husband Rohan have lovingly renovated. Her past is firmly behind her. When her old university friend Grace gets

back in touch, Abi is hesitant. Their friendship was intense and all-consuming. But with Rohan away for work, Abi could use some company, so she agrees to let Grace stay. Before Abi realises her mistake, it's too late. Grace is back to her old ways, and Abi is losing grip on her calm, well-ordered life. Because Grace knows Abi's secret – and she'll never let her forget it.



**WITH LOVE, FROM ME
BY SHERMYA MODUPE
2021**

A heartfelt collection of the world's clichés but this time, they're from my eyes, looking at you. Maybe you'll see something you didn't before.....

Shermya Modupe is a poet and storyteller who has been writing stories, scripts, and poems from a young age. Her words have been shared in national competitions, speeches and between her and her loved ones. Alongside writing, she is working on her acting dreams and her BA in culture, media and creative industries. Whilst unsure of what's next for her, you can be sure she's forever finding love and poetry in between sunrises and avidly awaiting the next season of euphoria. She would consider poetry her saving grace and wishes for you to find saviour in her words too.

Pakistan 1997 as a pupil...

When I was offered the opportunity to trek through Pakistan for a month, I signed up enthusiastically, although I was slightly less confident when D-Day came around! I still remember clambering onto the coach to the airport, smiling and waving externally but wondering what I'd got myself into. I was stepping into the unknown with Wilson (my rucksack!)

After something of a convoluted flight, including a stop off in Jeddah and then again in Riyadh (necessitating one of the group wearing a plane blanket as a sarong to cover her legs) with people standing at the back of the aircraft smoking, we arrived in Islamabad, and the adventure started. I think it's probably best to quote the group diary for our first impressions:

"Islamabad was 38 degrees at 5pm – everyone was dripping. It was so hot. There was a definite culture shock for all of us. Hundreds of eyes stopped and stared at the 30 girls melting in the heat."

After acclimatising at the Paradise Inn in Rawalpindi and organising ourselves into a group leader, assistant, environmental officer and medical assistant, we hit the Karakoram Highway to Gilgit. We watched the scenery change from urban grey to grass and paddy fields. We spent a month trekking, including the Asumbar, Shandur and Birir passes, and doing project work.

Reading back through the group's trip diary evoked memories of clambering up near vertical climbs, a turned-over Jeep necessitating us to offload belongings and walk while drivers navigated the vehicles through landslides, playing cricket using the EPIRB (emergency beacon) as part of the wicket, drinking from rivers of glacial meltwater (purified with iodine), visiting Peshawar where we'd been warned of the possibility of unrest juxtaposed with the serenity and verdant green of the Kalash

Valleys and, most vividly, sleeping under the stars, watching shooting stars unsullied by light pollution.

...and Zanzibar 2022 as a member of staff!

Fast forward 25 years, and Wilson still has my back! I returned to Croydon High in October 2021 and was lucky enough to be asked to lead a group of pupils on a trip to Zanzibar alongside Mr Ting, Mrs Gower and Ms Pryce.

The journey to Zanzibar was nail-biting! A delay at Heathrow meant that we would have missed the flight from Doha to Zanzibar, but thankfully, due to the number of passengers affected, the airline held the flight, so we arrived as planned. On arrival at Paje, we enjoyed a village tour ending up on the incredible beach dotted with kite surfers and sand like icing sugar!

We visited the Seaweed Centre where we saw the process of seaweed-based products being made and went to a sponge farm for an informative talk and then snorkelled amongst the sponges. Economically, Zanzibar predominantly relies on the spice industry and tourism, but farming sponges and seaweed are sustainable alternatives to fishing, particularly for women, working

to reduce pressure on natural resources.

We enjoyed a walking tour of the mangroves, learning about their relevance in both biodiversity and economic terms, the National Park to see the endemic Zanzibar red colobus monkeys and a butterfly farm. The spice farm was a hands-on experience where we tasted a multitude of crops, such as jackfruit and starfruit. A highlight was visiting a school and seeing their day in full swing, as well as cultural activities such as a Swahili cooking lesson and a talk on Masai culture. Importantly, we spent an afternoon picking up litter from around the beach.

We moved on to Stone Town, the historical, old part of Zanzibar City, a maze of narrow alleys lined by little shops, houses, and



places of worship. We undertook our first Swahili lesson then our first excursion from Stone Town was to Changuu Island to see the historic prison and giant tortoises, the oldest of which was 197 years old!

Our itinerary included lots more snorkelling and a stand-up paddle boarding session, collecting rubbish from the mangroves. Other highlights included the historical tour of Stone Town, where we bumped into Freddie Mercury's aunt and uncle, had a lesson on Islam, and a morning at the Recycled Arts Centre, where we made soap and paper. A day at Chako, an inspiring enterprise empowering women, creating souvenirs and other items from recycled glass. My favourite part of the trip was the day spent on Safari Blue, a beautiful traditional Dhow boat, snorkelling, swimming in the mangroves, visiting Kwale Sandbank, and then on to have a spectacular seafood lunch. We returned home under full sail, a day I will never forget.

The last expedition was to visit the slave market memorial, which was both sombre and enlightening, an opportunity to visit the tiny, underground chambers where slaves were kept awaiting auction, as well as the church built by missionaries on the site of the slave market. There is a tribute to Dr Livingstone, who stayed in Zanzibar before his final expedition.



My expeditions to Pakistan and Zanzibar are difficult to compare – one was land-based with a trekking and project-work focus, and the other comprised diverse experiences and insightful learning; however, the relevance for pupils is identical.

Both trips were an incredible enrichment opportunity to build confidence, curiosity, ingenuity, and self-belief, contributing to the inspirational characters and talents of all the participants in true Croydon High style!

Sam Vaughan 1997



Alumnae Spotlight

Last autumn, the Croydon High weekly NewsLinks introduced a feature called 'Alumnae Spotlight'. Here we show the wonderful women who were featured. Further information can be found on the News Highlights page of our website.



Tasia-Jade Bogle 2021

Semi-Finalist of the Black Heritage Undergraduate of the Year Award 2022



Meera Patel 2006

Director at Deloitte, business advisor, lawyer, author and speaker



Jemma Upton 2015

From Biology to Sport to Robotics



Michelle Tempest 1994

Investor, advisor, author - health, care, digital, AI and education



Abigail-Rose Foster 2012

Founder of Elent, teaching financial education in schools and businesses



Sarah Bolt (Black) 1991

Co-Founder of Women in Dairy; Technical Knowledge Exchange Manager at Kingshay Farming and Conservation Limited



Leila Green, (Dewji) 2001

Book writing coach, book publisher, triplet mama!



Charlotte Clapperton 2018

First-class honours in Voice and Operatic Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, master's degree in Voice and Opera Performance at the Royal College of Music



Kirsty Walker 1992

Vice-President (External Engagement) at UCL



Rupal Patel 2010

Senior Economist at the Bank of England



Ramona Gohil 2010

TechRound Top 50 BAME under 50 Entrepreneurs 2022





Honey Gabriel 2010

Actor and voiceover artist.
Producer, director, coach. Diversity,
equity, and inclusion manager.



Shola Apena Rogers 1996

Lecturer in Forensic Psychology at
the University of Birmingham, co-
founder of the African Caribbean
Education Network



Anna Mazzola 1996

Senior Solicitor at Centre for
Women's Justice, writer of
historical thrillers



Ciara Riordan 2011

Senior Criminal Enforcement
Officer at The Medicines and
Healthcare Products Regulatory
Agency, Founder of The Real
Project educating young
people about the law relating to
relationships, domestic abuse and
violence against women and girls.



Claire Stranack 2018

Design Analyst at Deloitte



Esther Leong 1989

Intrapreneur turned entrepreneur,
founder of New Chapters
Educational Travel and Technology



Rae Denman 1991

Medical Tattooist, Para-medical
Camouflage Specialist



Chimmy Ngoma 2012

Sales Enablement Associate,
Corporate Social Responsibility
lead, Future Leader Role Model
for HERoes Women Role Model
Lists 2022, Women in FinTech
Powerlist 2022



Suze Kundu 2001

Director of Researcher and
Community Engagement at
Digital Science, Trustee of the
Royal Institution of Great Britain,
Science Communicator



Anita Biswas 1987

Head of Sports Medicine at the
English Institute of Sport

Who do you think we should shine the spotlight on
in the future? Contact ivylink@cry.gdst.net



Anyone for Cricket?



The first evidence in the archive of cricket being played by Croydon High girls is from a 1919 photo. Cricket was played on the grass on the grounds behind the Elms and Homestead before the move to Wellesley Road. Matches mentioned in school magazines include those against Sutton High, Bromley High, Wimbledon High, Wallington, Woldingham, Beckenham Girls Grammar, fathers and staff. Mollie Hunt taught at Croydon High from 1957 until 1962. Mollie was an English cricketer who played as a right-handed batter and right-arm off-break bowler. She appeared in three Test matches for England in 1960 and 1961, all against South Africa. She mainly played domestic cricket for Kent.

Cricket at Croydon High 1966 to 1992 by Sheila Plant, former Head of PE and England Cricketer

Cricket, pre-1966, was taught, in my opinion, very successfully, using limited space and facilities. We had a healthy fixture list involving local schools and several players appeared in Surrey County Juniors XI's.

The move to Selsdon provided us with a wonderful "Cricket Bowl", a professionally laid turf cricket square and hard surface practice net on the far side of the Selsdon Park Hotel drive. Our summer

term opponents were very envious, but looking back over those years, the use of the net was very limited as the poor teacher could only be in one place at once! The timetable for all PE lessons was a single period which lasted thirty minutes if you were lucky. It needed an innovative approach to conjure up a session of "real" cricket skills and simple games, which would involve a class of 30 girls. Getting the whole class involved reduced the number of daisy chains made!

I was lucky that I had attended a local cricket-playing grammar school, where the Headmistress was none other than Amy Bull, the first ever selected Captain of an England Women's Cricket Team.

Most of the girls at Croydon High who enjoyed the challenge of cricket were taught their batting and bowling skills indoors in the Gymnasium, with a variety of balls which were not the leather 4 ¾ oz cricket ones! The "hard" ball was kept for fixtures. I experimented with lacrosse balls, as they were less bouncy when honing stroke production, and less painful for catching practice. Old tennis balls were injected with water for me by the science staff using a syringe, and those were used to play small-sided games on the grass hockey pitch, which was out of use in the summer term.

Plastic gamester balls had their use too, especially when one-half of the ball was sealed up with Sellotape and then used to illustrate the movement of the ball through the air by bowlers, to provide swinging deliveries. These adaptations allowed me to develop a form of "quick" cricket which provided more involvement by the pupils and better use of the single lessons entitled "Cricket"!

The pupils who were selected to represent the school received more advanced coaching. In the early years in Selsdon, we played five or six matches and were always entered in the county six-a-side tournaments. Girls regularly played in the Surrey Juniors XI, some were involved in Club cricket and on one occasion, we took part in a national indoor six-a-side event. Several players went on to play for Surrey and one of our most outstanding cricketers, Susan Bynoe, played for Young England in the second World Cup the women organised in this country. As a medium-paced bowler, she could wipe out the opposition in a few overs and was a "class" batter (that we then called "batsmen"!)

I was approached by the Chairman of the Women's Cricket Association to put down my ideas on teaching the rudiments of the game in pamphlet form. And this, I believe, was printed and

taken by her to the MCC at Lords. I was, presumably as a result of this, invited to take a group of our girls to the ITV studios in West London, the filming to be a part of a programme shown around tea-time on TV. A minibus was sent to transport us and our limited equipment which included the surprisingly heavy stumps on springs.

A few years on, equipment bags were manufactured with plastic bats, balls and stumps for young players to demonstrate mini cricket at breaks in play at matches on county grounds etc. As time was passing, so were the number of girls' schools playing cricket and when I retired in December 1992, I was saddened that my role as Head of Department, would not include teaching Cricket. Thirty years later, Croydon High has the chance to use first class facilities to teach a game which has really taken off, especially for women, with the introduction of the white ball game.

I wish you well, whoever you are. For 29 cricketing summers, I loved teaching the game and the arrival of the Sports Hall late in my career, made my job even more enjoyable.

Thank you, Sheila Plant.

Sheila is an English former cricketer who played primarily as a right-handed batter and wicketkeeper. She appeared in nine Test matches for England between 1960 and 1968.

She also played domestic cricket for Surrey from 1955 to 1974.

Ruthless, she was - yet simultaneously brilliant.

Such are the qualifiers that I would use to describe our cricket teacher, Miss Sheila Plant, at Croydon High in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Brilliant, because she was able to teach us in a way by which we were readily able to learn. Brilliant also, because her own cricketing skills won her a place in the England Women's Cricket Team. Ruthless, however, because our team practice sessions were extremely intense - 'HIIT' (high-intensity interval training) one might say - but without the 'intervals' during which we could catch our breath, rest our brains, and temporarily recover!

If the weather was wet, or the sky dark outside, we would practise in the gym.

Although lacrosse was never played at Croydon High at that time, we were in possession of one or more containers replete with hard, rubber lacrosse balls whose bouncing characteristics against the gym floor mimicked well the ricochet of a cricket ball from grass. Arming each girl with a bat, Miss Plant would bombard us with one

lacrosse ball after another, relentlessly, forcing us to deflect and defend, honing our batting skills in the process.

Then she would take up a bat herself, place us in 'slip' fielding positions around her, and strike the balls which we girls bounced at her, compelling us to develop our reflexes for ball-catching, thereby refining our fielding prowess. The faster all these things happened, the more I lapped it all up; I loved it!

Maryla Carter (Ignatowicz), aka 'Ig' 1971



Liz Robertson, Sheila Plant and Ann Tugwell – all former PE staff at a recent event

Miss Plant was my dearest games teacher

Miss Plant was always very patient and fair, she seemed to me to instil excellent team playing in the truest sense. Miss Plant was also our Gym teacher and was wise enough to realise that each person has to find the sport to which they are most suited so when having seen Olga Korbut on TV in the 1972 Olympic Gymnastics competitions, I knew at once that Gymnastics was what I longed to do and asked her about Gym clubs and she gladly recommended Croydon Gymnastics Club to me. I have turned a cartwheel in every country I've been to since (remember to empty your pockets first). I have continued with Gymnastics up until Covid (age 61years) after which the club I was attending closed so I am now looking for a local gym (any offers?) where I can continue to cartwheel, pirouette on a beam, roll over a bar & hang upside-down, all of which, I am sure, have been good for my health and soul. Miss Plant was my dearest games teacher and I will be forever grateful to her for helping my dreams come a little bit true and keeping me healthy. Cricket or Gymnastics, I feel honoured to have been taught by her. I can only ever remember Miss Plant smiling, even though my skills were probably frustrating for her.

Elizabeth Forrai 1976

In memory of Susan-Ann Dowle (Jansen) 1956



Susan-Ann left our school in 1956 but reconnected with us in later years and visited on a number of occasions. She was a vivid, larger-than-life character whose passions included fast cars and cricket! When we were notified of her legacy, we wanted to ensure that her personality was reflected appropriately.

So, as well as ring-fencing some of the funds to support our bursary programme, which she strongly supported, it seemed appropriate to channel some of her gift into developing our provision for cricket at the school. We sought approval from family members in their capacity as Executors and this was enthusiastically given.

In April of this year we were able to formally recognise her wonderful act of philanthropy with an event where we officially opened the Susan-Ann Dowle Cricket Wicket, as well as announcing our plans to establish a two year Sixth Form Bursary (the Susan-Ann Dowle Sixth Form Bursary) and create an opportunities fund, which will enable the school to help pupils access specific opportunities when these arise.

A number of VIP guests, including family and friends of Susan-Ann and former Croydon High Head, Debbie Leonard, who played such an important role in nurturing the relationship with Susan-Ann during her time at the school, gathered together in the

Holt Hall to remember her. It was also an opportunity to recognise the important legacies of former members of the PE Department going back to 1963 and their roles in supporting the school.

An address from one of our former Sixth Form Bursary Scholars also made the transformative power of a bursary extremely clear.

The group then moved into the school grounds where Ms Davies officially opened the wicket and our Cricket Captain Eleanor bowled the inaugural ball.

This ball will be made into a trophy which will be awarded annually to the Croydon High Hardball Player of the Match, in the first home game of every season played on our wicket.

Unfortunately, the heavy rain earlier in the week meant that the planned match against Kent College had to be called off due to what would have been 'marshy' conditions for the outfield, although the cricket wicket was in perfect condition! The match will be rescheduled soon and we look forward to it.

It was a very special occasion and such an important opportunity to be able to honour the memory of our former pupil and all she has given to our school.

Fran Cook
Director of External Relations and Philanthropy



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/gdst-croydon

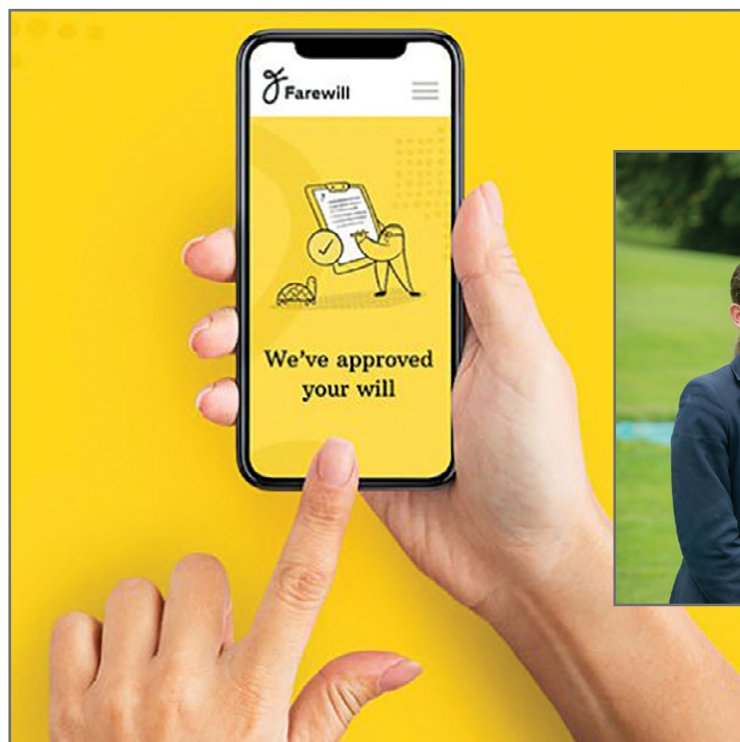
Farewill is renowned for its' incredibly user-friendly platform and currently writes, on average, 1 in 10 wills in the UK. They have been commended for their easy to follow, step-by-step process of writing a will, and on average, it takes just 15 minutes to write your will.

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 External Relations and Philanthropy



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.

Your Cricket Memories



This photo was taken in 1960 at the 6-a-side Southern Counties Tournament. Croydon High pupils in the photo were the winners and semi-finalists. I was one of the first to sit on the bench and the others joined me as the Croydon Advertiser photographer came and snapped us. I was very proud of my cricket pullover that I had knitted myself. Most wore their normal school V-necked pullovers.

Back row L to R – Judith Hayward, Gillian*, Gill Steer (Blake). Front - Margaret Charlesworth, Margery Swinton, Alison Ziller (Archbold), Jessica Saraga (Byng), Christine Hughes*, Sarah Goulding. *Can you help us to confirm these names?

We were very lucky because three of our PE teachers were keen on cricket. Diane Crowley played for Surrey and the newest member of staff Mollie Hunt played for Kent but also played for England along with the great Rachel Heyhoe Flint. Miss Adams announced when she would be temporarily away in the winter as she was playing with the England squad in Australia. After Miss Hunt's arrival at school, we hardly lost a cricket match. She introduced the squad to doing circuits twice weekly and she improved our ball and batting skills no end. She was truly an inspirational teacher. When I chose to go to Worcester College of Education, because they played cricket, she told me to go for county trials and if I met Rachel Heyhoe Flint, I was to introduce myself as one of her prodigies.

I made the Worcester team and played against Rachel Heyhoe Flint as she played for Warwickshire.

Margery Swinton 1961

Between 1953-1962, we had two teams, and I was in the second team. Because there weren't many schools fielding two teams, we didn't play often but I remember being very impressed with St Paul's facilities, compared with our one playing field.

The reason we played it so seriously was that our games mistress at the time, Mollie Hunt, had played for England. I wish your present teams the best of luck.

Sandra Pollard (Sturrock) 1962

The Wellesley Road pitch doubled up as the Hockey pitch in winter and the area was surrounded by a high red brick wall to give privacy to the neighbouring homeowners. I was Cricket Captain that year (possibly 1952/53) - a stylish batsman if not a high scorer. In one innings all the hours spent practising strokes came together! The ball flew from my bat and sailed high over the wall. I received the £10.00 a dad offered to any girl who achieved this feat. I remain convinced that I had my eyes shut - at least head well down - when I made the stroke, only trying not to get out, not win £10.00. No one was more surprised than I was!

Margaret Cashman (Abbott) 1953

As both cricket and hockey were played on the only playing field we had, it must have been a huge challenge for the groundsmen to make a smooth pitch. I do remember that catching the ball hurt!

Jean Nicholson (Cracknell) 1963

I enjoyed cricket as a summer sport (and netball until I made the under-15 team and discovered that some opposing teams thought it was a ferocious contest rather than a game). Also, I was reluctant to get to school early to do push-ups! By contrast, cricket was a leisurely sport, requiring skill and strategy, but not a killer instinct. Training was limited to running around the field, with time to enjoy simply being outside in better weather as part of a team. Even as Captain of the U15s, my laid-back approach is probably one of the reasons I didn't continue to represent the school. Cricket at school is in my memory as time out from A-levels in the sunshine - something I look back on with pleasure.

Alison Ziller (Archbold) 1963

I really loved sport and was in the netball, rounders, hockey and tennis teams. When cricket was introduced, I vividly remember Sheila Plant, a fresh, young, new member of the staff, teaching us how to play and organising a match against the Dads! I can't remember who won, but I suspect it was the Dads! I shall always remember Miss Plant's enthusiasm and love of cricket and encouraging her pupils to learn a new sport.

Susan Filer (Brundle) 1967

My memories of cricket in the '60s revolve around Mollie Hunt, our Games Mistress who took it very seriously. Word had it that she insisted on cricket being taught and played at school or she would leave. I developed an understanding of the game and field positions such as Silly Mid On and Silly Mid Off! Cricket is a fine team sport; so typically English with women playing it just as well as men. So, good on Croydon High for reintroducing it. Well played!

Anna Freeman (1963)

I played on many of sports teams. Miss Hunt was our gym and cricket teacher, and I believe, Vice-Captain of the England Women's Cricket Team. We had very little in the way of protective

clothing and only the wicketkeeper had big gloves. I played Silly Mid Off, honing my ducking reflexive. Living in America for many years, with no opportunity to watch a cricket game so searching my childhood memorabilia has brought back many happy memories of time at Croydon High

Gillian Zackham (Eglowsky) 1966

I was utterly non-sporty with no clear recollection of playing school cricket, but only yesterday, prompted by a random question, I humorously mentioned I had once been on a sports team - as a temporary reserve for the Second Junior Eleven. I was very proud of this rare elevation at the time, although was never actually asked to play or to turn up for matches - some neighbourhood boys allowing me to bat with them in back gardens had informed me that I was 'not bad - for a girl!' I suppose those minutes of practice gave a glimmer of hope to my despairing sports teachers!

Linda Hepner (Roer) living in Los Angeles 1957

My cricket memory is very small but significant to me. I wasn't good at sport, but due to rain during one PE lesson, Miss Plant took us into the gym and taught us some 'cricket moves.' I discovered the joy of overarm bowling and remember the thrill of being complimented by Miss Plant on my technique.

Katy Haynes 1974

My only cricket memory is being hit in the eye with the ball on my first go as wicketkeeper. Luckily the lens of my specs fell, so no serious injury, but it put me off rather!

Sharon Vanderzee (Duck) 1970

Our sports teacher at the time (who shall be nameless!!) was a great cricket enthusiast and a member of the English ladies' cricket team. They were playing at The Oval, so she organised a group of us to go and spectate! Our teacher was out for a duck!! Mortifying for her I guess but we thought it hilarious!!! Typical teenagers...no sympathy whatsoever!!

Anne Laver (Matthiae) 1963

Captain of the 2nd XII, 1971. This makes me feel quite a fraud as I am sure the position was due to my superior age rather than my cricketing prowess. Not an onerous role, but one that led to pleasant evenings on the glorious full-sized cricket bowl at Croydon High. I recall the smell of cut grass, insects buzzing, the sun on my back and the ridiculous white, knee-length divided skirts we wore, catching on pad tops as you ran along the crease. My enjoyment of cricket did not lead to a career with the MCC as in my friend Anne Welham's case, but maybe a nudge to working outside as an entomologist (speciality earwigs in Apple orchards). Thanks to the 11plus, a scholarship and the Victorian founders of the GPDST. If only ALL schools could be even half as well appointed.

Marian Phillips 1971

My clear memory of cricket lessons is that I loved them. I never liked rounders; poor eyesight and co-ordination prevented me from hitting the ball (don't think I EVER hit the ball) or running fast enough to stay in. But Miss Plant's enthusiasm for cricket was huge and infectious.

I enjoyed seeing her have such a good time. Also, if you keep your bat in front of the wicket, which I understand is correct, the bowler actually aims AT IT, making it so much easier to hit the ball and score a run.

Celia Wright (Green) 1976

Playing for the First Eleven against Bromley High, I opened the batting. On this occasion, I really had my eye in and scored 49 not out. Unfortunately, Miss Southgate our games mistress was unaware of this and declared, so I never got my half century! She was most apologetic, but I never had such a high score again!

Daphne Garment (Hubbard) 1954

I was in the third form when we moved to the new school building in Selsdon, complete with fabulous facilities, and a cricket bowl nestled within the gentle contours of a Surrey hillside. I wasn't a brilliant cricketer, but not completely useless either - except as a bowler. I fielded; as wicketkeeper, or in deep field along with Eleanor Tarbox, the best long-distance thrower in our team. But on one super-memorable occasion, Wednesday 29th May 1968, we were playing at home and I was placed at Silly Point (very silly, there were no

protective helmets in those days). All the skills which Miss Plant had imparted came together on that sunny, balmy late afternoon. Our best bowler, Shirley Lanning (aka 'Lennon'), bowled ball after ball, and girl after opposition girl, perhaps caught in two minds, wielded her bat so that the ball glanced off the edge and fell, PLOP, into my cupped hands. Aaaaah! All those hours of practice in the gym were at last paying off. This happened no fewer than four times, and we won the match! Oh, happy days.

Maryla Carter (Ignatowicz) aka 'lg' 1971

I was and still am, very proud to say that I went to a school for girls where they taught cricket, a rarity, and especially that I was taught cricket by Miss Plant who played for England. I was delighted when I discovered that one of my mother's Oxford University friends had played in the same team with her.

Unlike hockey, cricket was more lady-like, relatively safe and very pleasant and I grasped the rules for a short time, but lapsed as I haven't used them much since. Sadly, although very co-ordinated at dance etc, I never succeeded at catching, throwing and hitting, so my memories are mainly of being OUT straight away, spending the rest of the game, reclining on the grass in the sun with friends, by the beautiful Cedar tree, while watching from the sides in a rather English, village green manner.

Elizabeth Forrai 1976



reunions

The Ivy Link Summer Lunch 2022



After a three-year wait, we were delighted to welcome alumnae to the Ivy Link Summer Lunch 2022. We met groups from the classes of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 1982 celebrating notable anniversaries, including 14 ladies attending an Ivy Link event for the first time, plus six former staff. Despite the rail strike, guests travelled from Scotland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Devon and the Sussex coast.

Our visitors were greeted with a Pimm's reception and an exhibition from the school's archives. After a delicious lunch, Year 7 Lara entertained us beautifully by playing Bartok Rondo (no. 1 from Three Rondos on Folk Tunes). After Mrs Pattison's speech,

in which she talked about how much we value the relationship with our alumnae, some of our current prefects introduced themselves and shared their goals and ambitions for the years ahead. Many in the audience remarked upon their confidence and natural charm, and we greatly appreciate the girls who gave up their time and represented the school so impressively. Then there was time for tours, and so many memories flooded back as alumnae walked through the corridors and classrooms!

What an amazing group of women; we should not be surprised by that, of course, as they are Croydon High girls and always will be.

Croydon High 1970 Leavers Reunion – while it was late, it was worth the wait!

After two years of conversations on Zoom and an ongoing thread of email exchanges, we finally came together in person on Saturday, 15th October 2022, to celebrate our long-postponed 50th anniversary of leaving Croydon High School.

Over thirty of us gathered in the school dining room for a private year group lunch hosted by the school. We were treated to a 1970s retro menu specially chosen for the occasion and surrounded by memorabilia and photos thoughtfully selected to evoke memories and stimulate the conversation – not that there was much danger of the conversation stalling!

While the lingering impact of COVID doubtless restricted the



travel plans of some, our group included women who had travelled from Australia, Canada and Belgium, as well as from across the United Kingdom.

It was a real coming together of friends, with people mixing across the group and not simply staying within their friendship group. This was in no small part due to the Zoom catchups and email conversations which had brought us together over the previous two years. Indeed around 45 of us had joined one or more Zoom conversations. Some of us had not even been at the school at the same time, but all considered ourselves members of the CHS 1970 Leavers.

We are very grateful for the support from Karen Roe (Alumnae Relations Manager) in agreeing to the event and for the time and energy Karen and her colleague, Fran Cook, devoted to ensuring its success. This included providing an extensive guided tour of the school at the conclusion of the lunch – an excellent opportunity to explore the current facilities or simply enjoy another trip down memory lane.

The reunion didn't end with the lunch. For those able to stay for the weekend, there was a wine-tasting at Denbies Wine Estate on the Sunday morning, followed by lunch kindly hosted by Sallie Thomas in her home, plus a myriad of smaller catchups. It was a wonderful time to come together, renew friendships, forge new ones, and reconnect with the school and our early years (in whatever way that felt important to each of us!).

Since the reunion, there has been a renewed unleashing of memories to our shared, collective email thread (which includes some 60 women around the globe) – about the school and especially about our teachers – some funny, some poignant, some respectful, and some less so! What has been wonderful is that this has, again, brought in many of those who could not attend the Reunion. We are fortunate to have a treasure trove of photos from the Reunion (available to all members of the CHS 1970 Leavers

cohort) courtesy of John Dennis (Alex Broadey's husband). Thank you, John.

And last but not least, thank you to all of you who have travelled with us across the past 60 years or so (some of us began together in 1957).

To the class of CHS 1970 Leavers!

Alex Broadey, Sue Lippmann, Sallie Sheridan (Thomas), Sue Hanson (Tiffin) and Gillian Turner

The Class of 1982 – so good to catch up!

On 12 November, over 20 Croydon High Class of 1982 leavers met in Covent Garden, central London, for a belated 40-year reunion. Attendees travelled far and wide, including North Yorkshire, Wales and the southwest, to meet with old school friends.

It was great to catch up with everyone, some of whom I hadn't seen since leaving CHS and some last seen at the 20-year reunion! We are in touch with about half of our year group but would love to broaden this to more.

The lunch went well, and we all felt sorry for the other diners sitting near us, as the noise level was pretty high due to all the chatting and laughing going on. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we went to the Royal Opera House for tea/coffee to keep chatting. Following this event, we have set up a WhatsApp group and are planning to do more informal get-togethers rather than wait another 20 or 40 years to meet again!

If any other leavers from this year group want to join the *WhatsApp* group, please contact me at afarrar@chalgroveuk.com, and we can add you.

Big thanks go to Carolyn Robertson (Swain) for arranging the venue and the very topical decorations.

Alison Farrar (Hughes)





The Ivy Link Tea Party 2023

Ms Davies hosted her first annual Tea Party in March for senior alumnae and former school staff. The tables were set in the Holt Hall foyer with a delicious traditional afternoon tea and bunches of daffodils everywhere.

Umbrellas were on hand for a particularly rainy spring day; we have had sunshine at all nine previous parties! Our guests enjoyed reacquainting themselves with old friends and classmates and sharing memories. Lower Sixth girls mingled well with our guests, engrossed in tales of Croydon High in bygone days.

After the most delicious afternoon tea, our visitors made their way to the Holt Hall, where Ms Davies gave a warm welcome, assuring us how much our community appreciates the support of the Ivy Link. Entertainment followed with Year 4 girls performing extracts from their Peter Pan production, and Sixth Form students followed with Aila singing 'Pilate's Dream' from Jesus Christ Superstar. The final two songs were 'Stand By Me' by Ben E King and 'Twist and Shout' by The Beatles, performed by Olivia and Talia. Our guests clapped along to the beat and thoroughly enjoyed returning to the swinging sixties.

A Fabulous Netball Lunch Reunion

Almost 100 Croydon High netball players and seven staff gathered at Cropham Hurst Golf Club, South Croydon, on 15 April 2023. Their love of netball, the friendships made on the court together,

with their respect and admiration for their teachers drew them to this fabulous reunion. The impact of dedicated, enthusiastic sports coaches can last a lifetime.

Anyone involved in England Schools' netball from 1970 to 2005 knew CHS were a force to be reckoned with on the court. This was primarily due to the amazing leadership and coaching from Liz Robertson. Her teams were so successful, playing top-class netball for their age and always competing fairly! CHS won 16 National Schools titles in that period and countless County, Regional and Trust Rally tournaments. Several players went on to represent England.

Liz, ably supported by Ann Tugwell, Alison Hall, Sally Kibble and Liz Colman, with the wisdom of Mary French, gave us all more than just netball skills. The staff instilled a sense of pride in us, belief in our abilities, the importance of teamwork, health, competitiveness and confidence. The bonds and friendships made on the court are still strong decades later, something so evident at lunch.

We came from near and far, with Rachel (1976) flying in from California and Alex (1995) coming in from Canada. The atmosphere was buzzing with so many like-minded 'girls' reminiscing, laughing, and enjoying such a truly special, unique get-together. Funny anecdotes were exchanged, and the highs and lows of training were remembered, particularly the endless running and step-ups in the gym at break times! We could almost feel those cold, wet, windy mornings at Priest Hill and the excitement of setting off for a National Finals tournament.

Never underestimate the power of sport or the influence of a person. Such is the legacy of Liz Robertson's career at Croydon High. Thank you, Liz, for organising this very special event, and we all look forward to the next one!

Jenny Butterworth (Jones) 1979



E V E N T S



A Concert to celebrate alumna Jacqueline du Pré 1963

In the Autumn term of 2022, the Music department celebrated the life of one of Croydon High Schools' most famous alumnae.

Jacqueline du Pré joined the school as a talented and promising cellist and went on to conquer the world of classical music with her fantastic sense of interpretation and freedom of technique often associated with a much smaller instrument such as the violin.



She sadly lost her battle with multiple sclerosis in 1987 – at the tragically young age of 42 – and the celebration concert marked the 35th anniversary of her death. The day started with an assembly performance of the 1st movement of the Elgar Cello Concerto by Amy in Year 13 (the concerto that made du Pré famous at the age of 17, when she premiered it in the Royal Festival Hall) and continued with a lunchtime concert at Croydon Minster, showcasing some of the talents in the school.

A poignant memorial ceremony for Mary Finch 1920, a true Croydon High Heroine



In last year's Ivy Link magazine, we brought you the story of Mary Finch. Mary was the former Head Girl at Croydon High, and on 30th August 100 years ago, she heroically gave her life to save another.



We wanted to mark the 100th anniversary of her death. Mary saved her sister from drowning in the sea whilst out swimming on holiday and then, returning to the water to save a friend, she succumbed to the strong current and tragically, drowned.

Her home at the time was just around the corner from the memorial bench at the corner of Downs Court Road and Selcroft Road in Purley. A team from Croydon High, including Deputy Head David King and his three young sons, had given a spruce and tidy to the bench itself and the area around it, ready to mark the day. On the morning of Tuesday, 30 August 2022, some members of the Croydon High community with local residents met at the Mary Finch memorial bench. It was good to meet new people, all with the same aim of keeping Mary's memory alive.

A special thanks to Phil Thomas from the Riddlesdown Residents Association and John Power for alerting the local community.



Thanks also go to Assistant Head Emma Webb and Councillor Simon Brew, who addressed the gathering, and pupils Amalie and Arabella, who laid a wreath on behalf of Croydon High School.

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 her own impressive public spirit and service to the school. The first girl to receive this prize was Doris Goodsell in 1924. It seemed an appropriate time to reinstate this prize on the 100th anniversary of Mary's death. In June 2022, Freya Marsden was awarded The Mary Finch Prize at the Sixth Form Celebration, for her commitment to our school community.



The Class of 2023 Crystal Ivies

Crystal Ivies is the name we give to the girls who have been at Croydon High since either Nursery or Reception until the Upper Sixth. This year's Crystal Ivies, Amba, Amelia, Amy, Katherina and Rianna were treated to a special celebratory lunch and trip



down memory lane with Ms Davies, Ms James and Mrs Gower, and their nursery class teachers (from 2008!) Mrs Pickett, Mrs Grinham, and the then Junior Head, Mrs Wilson. They brought photos from

their first year at Croydon High, and stories were shared with plenty of laughter. After lunch (and several photos), they travelled the short distance to Juniors, greeted by the nursery girls excited to sing the 'The Tiny Caterpillar' song. The Crystal Ivies stayed to play with the nursery girls with great enjoyment, so much so that it was hard to tear them away. The Nursery girls loved having the Crystal Ivies with them to play in class. One girl said, "I loved colouring with the big girls; they're fun. I wanted them to stay in Nursery forever!" Our Crystal Ivies have now become part of the Ivy Link Alumnae network alongside all their Class of 2023 cohort. We wish them all well and look forward to seeing this exceptional year group at future reunions and events. Once a Croydon High girl, always a Croydon High girl!

The Chrystall Carter Public Speaking Competition with guest Judge alumna Meera Patel 2006

In January 2023 Year 11 Tara competed in the semi-final of the Chrystall Carter Public Speaking Competition against Bromley, Blackheath, Sydenham and Sutton. Tara spoke powerfully and purposefully for seven minutes (without any aids or prompts!) on her topic 'Out of school and out of luck? Women's education in the developing world'. She then answered questions with compassion and skill for a further three minutes. The competition was fierce: all girls did brilliantly delivering their speeches. Tara was really lucky to hear feedback from some awe-inspiring judges, including alumna Meera Patel who praised Tara for her effective use of time, and ability to deal with questions. We are delighted to announce that Tara was victorious and went through to the final at Sheffield High in March where she was the overall winner.



And in other news...



Congratulations to Vanessa D'Souza 2004 - MasterChef Semi Finalist 2023!

Vanessa stated on Facebook that entering the show, her only goal was to be herself, cook the foods she likes to eat and present them in the only way her neurodivergent brain can handle.

"I'm just a simple girl from Croydon trying to make her food dream a reality. Receiving a late autism diagnosis was a real game changer for me understanding and owning my true authentic self. This led me to pursue my love of cooking & building my brand 'The Autistic Chef'. As a sum of all my lived experiences my food inspiration spans my Portuguese-Goan heritage, my East-African born and raised parents, my travels to 50 countries, as well as my neurodiversity. Get ready for inclusive recipes and sensory plating ideas, honest reviews on accessible restaurants and things I genuinely believe in, and a whole load of what it's like for me being my actually autistic self! I don't want to just raise awareness for autism and neurodiversity, I want to be part of making neurodivergent lives easier and making a world not designed for us a better, inclusive, and more understanding place."

Josie and Ness reunite at the BUCS Rowing Head Race



In February both Ness Beal 2020 and I competed at the BUCS (British University & College Sport) Rowing Head Race. After not having seen each other in ages, it was great to spot another GDST girl from afar and both soon realised we were wearing our old Croydon High sports kit! It was great to catch up and of course, we were soon talking about Emma Pattison and our fond

memories of her. One of my favourites that sticks with me is talking with both Emma and Ness at our Croydon High School reunion a year after leaving school. Ness mentioned to us how she had started rowing at university and was loving it. She told me how she thought I would enjoy it and Emma agreed. I told them both I would start and see how it goes. I wish we could tell Emma now that we had seen each other at this event and both won medals in a sport we started at university after talking to her, I hope she would be proud. I wish I could also tell her that I am now captain of the women's squad here in Nottingham. As I raced at the weekend, I wore my old Croydon High kit under my Nottingham one in memory of Emma, crossing the finish line to win Bronze.

Josie Cunnington 2020

A Very Special Invitation



I was invited to the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla by the Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF). This charity was founded by HM King Charles in 2010 when he was The Prince of Wales. They aim to empower family farms and support rural

communities in the UK and have invested more than £10 million in projects across the last decade. I became involved with this charity after taking part in research in collaboration with Aldi into the barriers young people face when entering the agricultural industry. I then spoke on their behalf at Groundswell Agricultural Conference and took part in their "Opening the Gate" webinar series, aiming to encourage school and college leavers to consider a career in agriculture.

Coronation Day started extremely early, meeting at 5.30am for breakfast at the charities head office, and we were sitting in the Queen Victoria Memorial Grandstand by 8.30am. Although wet and cold, the atmosphere in the crowd was brilliant, with people chatting, passing food around and having sing-alongs to entertain us while we waited! We got to see the King and Queen twice when they passed directly in front of the stand, and another highlight for me was seeing William, Kate and the children waving as they went past. My day ended by talking live on BBC News with Christian Fraser and Katty Kay about my involvement with

the Prince's Countryside Fund, and my ongoing research with Farms for City Children, sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Butchers, evaluating the impact the charity has on young people who visit their farms. Farms for City Children enables children from all backgrounds to experience living and working together on farms, being totally immersed in rural life.

We also spoke about my experience at the Coronation – how the £4 festival poncho I invested in did a brilliant job of keeping me dry, and the impressive horsemanship of a rider with a runaway horse! It was an absolute honour to be invited to the Coronation with the PCF, and thrilling to be interviewed live on TV!

Liz Tree 2017

Congratulations CJ!



A huge well done to National Business Women's Awards Third Sector Champion Silver Winner, Camilla Bowry 1998 for her charity Sal's Shoes. The Business Women's Awards are an opportunity to support and share in their vision to raise the profile of industrious,

hardworking and entrepreneurial women in business! Sal's Shoes was set up, to re-home and repurpose shoes for those who need them. In 8 years, the charity has found new feet for over 3 million pairs of pre-loved children's shoes in 57 countries around the world. Croydon High School makes a positive footprint with Sal's Shoes. During the last couple of days of the summer term 2022, together as a school community we supported this worthy cause by donating shoes of all sizes. The Senior Reception area was bursting with many bags of donations.

If you are interested in supporting this amazing charity again, or you would like to encourage others to do so, visit the website at www.salsshoes.com/donations/toetotoe

Rhea Exhibits at Tate Britain



We were very proud and excited to hear that alumna and former Head Girl, Rhea Dillon 2014 is exhibiting at Tate Britain as part of their Art Now series which showcases emerging talent and highlights new developments in British art. Rhea's collection of work

titled An Alterable Terrain brings together new and existing sculptures, examining material and colonial histories and

considering the formation of British and Caribbean histories. Rhea's extraordinarily powerful portrait of her grandmother still hangs proudly in our Senior Hall as a constant reminder not only of her talent but also, we think, of the positive influence of strong women as role models. We love that this portrait keeps company with the one of our founder Dorinda Neligan in the same Hall! Rhea's exhibition at Tate Britain continues until 1 January 2024.

Welcome to two new Alumnae Governors

Ros Broyd (Willey) 1973



Ros has links with Croydon High School that span more than 50 years. Moving to the Croydon area at the age of 14, she became a pupil in the Senior School. Many years later her own daughter attended the school from Nursery to the Sixth Form and

Ros joined the teaching staff in the Junior School where she developed a rich programme of study and shared her passion and skills in Drama for 19 years. Retiring from the staff of Croydon High in 2022, it is with complete commitment to the school that Ros is looking forward to the transition of her role from pupil, to parent, to teacher and now to a member of the Governing Body.

Nailah Fraser-Haynes 2003



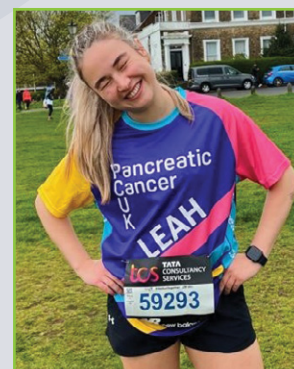
Nailah is a Senior Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange Manager at the Rail Safety and Standards Board, an independent safety, standards, and research body for the GB rail network. She is also a champion for Health and Wellbeing at work. She has over

10 years' of experience in relationship management, brand development, and strategic partnerships, including planning and strategy development for collaborative partnerships and networks.

As an alumna, Nailah has lived the Croydon High experience first-hand, and still has fond memories of her time in the Senior School. She looks forward to continuing to support its mission in this role as a Governor, to empower girls and young women, and encourage learning without limits.

Congratulations to Leah Watkins, Class of 2019,

who ran the London Marathon in April, raising £7583 for Pancreatic Cancer UK in loving memory of her wonderful mum Yvonne.



Thanks for the

“It hardly does its duty!”



I was surprised to be awarded the job of prefect in my final year at the school. Miss Cameron, a somewhat frightening and distant Headteacher, was also surprised, candidly telling me that it was only the confidence of the other girls and not the staff that had landed me such an honour. She was not at all sure that I was up to the task. I'm slightly ashamed of my behaviour back then, especially as I later found to my surprise, how much I loved being Headteacher of a state primary school. Of all the 'Miss Cameron stories', this is my favourite.

Second-year sixth-formers were allowed to wear civvies. The 60s were swinging, and I planned to meet a boyfriend (from Whitgift) after school. I had on a beloved Biba mini dress and was walking along a corridor when Miss Cameron rounded a corner and walked towards me. She passed me with a nod, and I heard a strangled cry. 'My dear!' I turned around. 'Your skirt! It hardly does its duty! Why from behind, I can see, well, I hardly like to tell you!' Hilarious on reflection, she was sensible not to make more of a 'to do' about it. **Vicki Johnson (Smith) 1967**

Mayday help with Anniversary Cake

I was at Croydon High from 1950 to 1963, as was my sister Margery in the year above me. Miss Adams was Head then. How well I remember all three school buildings but especially the senior school where I was for seven years, including the freezing winter of 62/63 when there was no heating as the coal was frozen in the yard at East Croydon station. We wore our coats, gloves, and scarves in class. The late great Jackie du Pre was in my year, so we were lucky to have odd concerts from her with Yehudi Menuhin and his sister, and once, the pianist forgot the song! My mother made all the cakes for the 80th birthday; they were so big she had them cooked in the Mayday Hospital oven as hers wasn't large enough! **Anne Kemp (Swinton) 1963**



Coronation Coach and Horses

I'm writing to thank you so much for the birthday card which you so kindly sent for my 75th birthday.

I was absolutely astonished when I opened the envelope and found the contents, what a thoughtful idea. It coincided with my special birthday, augmented by the Coronation the next day!

memories...

I can only vaguely remember the Queen's Coronation when I was just five and had just started school that summer term.



I still have the little Coronation coach and horses (complete with all the riders!) that my grandmother gave me, so I had it out on show for this time when my friend came round to watch the event with me all day!



In addition, I had outside the antique flag; my mother had for King George VI's coronation in 1937, which goes with me up to London for any Royal events, the last being standing in The Mall (with the same friend) for 5 hrs to watch the procession of the Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall last September! **Gillian Holtom (Ivens) 1966**



Remembering Peggy Lines

I enjoyed reading the latest news from school! The art trip to St.Ives reminded me of Miss Lines (1954-1963), who taught Maths and Physics at the school when I was a pupil. She was part of the Lines Brothers family who owned Triang Toys and Hamleys, where she became CEO and

designed their iconic logo carrier bags. From an article on the North Devon Museum's website, it seems that she had a long and creative retirement in Devon. **Di Clarke (Singleton) 1968**
An Act of Kindness I Still Remember

Regrettably, I remember almost nothing from my two years at The Elms where, for one of my two years, the teacher's name was, I think, Miss Ede. I remember she racked her brains to find things for me to do during break time. On one occasion, I recall she typed the names of London landmarks on



sticky labels and presented these and a map of London to keep me busy, an act of kindness I still remember after nearly eighty years! In my form, there were two other boys, David Gilbert and Malcolm College and in the year above was James Kelly - he must have been very lonely.

John Gowlland attended Croydon High 1944-1946

We were delighted to meet John in May when he visited Croydon High to donate some items to our archives. We knew that boys joined Croydon High's Kindergarten in the St Leonards building in the late 19th century and early 20th century but did not realise that boys were still attending in the 1940s; we would love to discover more on this.

John's mother, **Mary Gowlland (Raymond) 1929** attended Croydon High as well as his sister **Rosemary Milton-Thompson (Gowlland) 1955** and two daughters, **Marylka 1999** and **Alexandra 2003** who have both been of great support at careers conventions and workshops. John and Rosemary kindly donated an Isobel Wrightson painting of The White Bear in Featherbead Lane that they inherited from their mother. Rosemary also donated her school photos, 80th birthday service, school concert and open day programmes, plus her ties, pins, and embroidered pinny, still with embroidery thread in the pocket! This item will interest current and future pupils in the years to come.

ISABEL WRIGHTSON



In 1911 Miss Wrightson became assistant art mistress at Croydon High and senior art mistress from 1928 until her retirement in 1951. She began to exhibit in 1919, including the Royal Institute and the Royal Academy in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1922 Queen Mary, grandmother of Elizabeth II, bought an Isabel Wrightson painting entitled 'Anemones' to add to her watercolour collection at Buckingham Palace. The following year Queen Mary purchased a further painting, 'Tulips'; *she was a great admirer of pictures of flowers* stated the Daily Mirror on 27 March 1923. Miss Wrightson was a gifted and sensitive artist; she inspired generations of girls at Croydon High. Her outlook was always enthusiastic and forward-looking, encouraging new staff to try fresh techniques. In 1935 she decided to study further at the Forbes School of Painting in Newlyn in the parish of Penzance. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, she continued to spend time in Cornwall, producing a number of attractive paintings of local fishing ports.

Her last Royal Academy exhibit was 'A Cornish Lane in January' in 1951. After her mother's death in 1955, Isabel moved to Worthing, where she continued to paint until the age of 81; she

Artist Isabel Wrightson, class of 1908 and former staff 1911-1951

Isabel Wrightson was born in Croydon in 1890.

After attending Croydon High School, she studied at the Byam Shaw School for Drawing and Painting.

died in 1971. Her gift to the school was a potter's wheel which we still have to this day. Miss Wrightson was ever thoughtful of other people, and when she died, she left over 200 paintings to be sold in aid of the Croydon High Guild of Charity in the hope they would find good homes.

THANK YOU TO THOSE IN OUR IVY LINK COMMUNITY WHO SENT US THE FOLLOWING STORIES OF THEIR ART MISTRESS.

Isabel Wrightson was our Art teacher at Croydon High, and my first lesson with her was in September 1950. She had us sit at a table and stare at a pineapple in the middle. She told us to close our eyes and draw it. It was the best art lesson of my life! Three periods a week were split between sewing and Art. By December, it was obvious that anything I sewed could never be put on display! My white satin bloomers we made for orphans were misshapen and full of needle holes! I gladly chose to spend the entire afternoon in the Art Room with Miss Wrightson, who continued to encourage me.

LINDA HEPNER (ROER) 1957

I was at school when Miss Wrightson was the art teacher. I remember her showing us some of her lovely paintings, and I have enjoyed painting all my life. I appreciate the inspiration she shared from her love of painting.

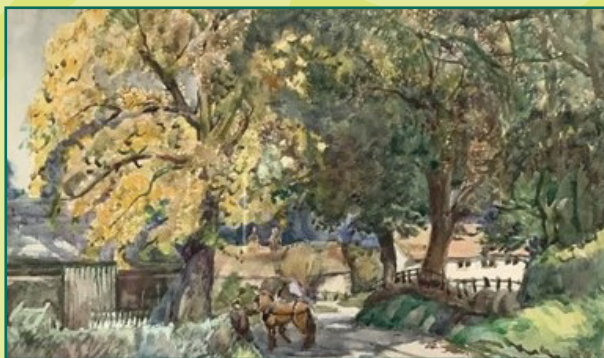
ELISABETH OHLENBERG (WILLIS) 1949

Isabel Wrightson taught our form, Senior 1 20, art in 1950-51. As our classroom was next to the art studio, we saw more of her and her paintings than some did. She was very amused that she had also taught my mother art and constantly called me Mollie. I think she found that neither of us was very gifted artistically! Although my autumn term report reads "Ann has good ideas and a good sense of colour, but her expression is confused" by the summer, it was "Good on the whole"! Looking back 50 years I realise she inspired my interest in paintings, and I appreciate the privilege of being taught by her.

ANN STRANACK (WAGSTAFF) 1957

I was so glad to see the message about Isabel Wrightson. I used to enjoy art lessons with Miss Wrightson for five years till taking my 'school certificate' in 1949 and have never forgotten her very unexpected praise of a certain snowy picture!! But I never knew she was such a good artist. I am so pleased to hear all about her now.

KATHLEEN NEWMAN (DOIDGE) 1951



Isabel Wrightson was one of the few teachers who taught both my mother Amy Mary Raymond 1921-1929 and myself. I inherited one of her paintings from my mother and have always enjoyed it. (Rosemary kindly donated her Isabel Wrightson painting of The White Bear in Featherbed Lane to Croydon High.)

ROSEMARY MILTON-THOMPSON (FORMERLY METCALFE NEE GOWLLAND) 1954

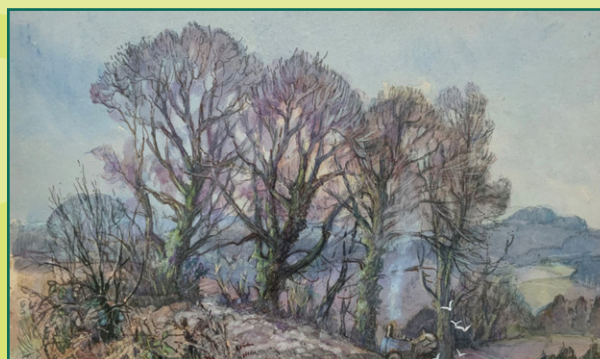


When I was at Croydon High School, they sold some of Isabel Wrightson's paintings in 1971, and I bought one. It still hangs in one of our bedrooms.

It is a farmyard scene in brown(ish) inks. I always regretted not choosing a more colourful picture, but I am glad to have a sample of her work. I remember she had left these works to be sold to benefit Croydon High – certainly a charity.

ELLA JONES FORMER STAFF 1969-1972 ALUMNA OF SHEFFIELD HIGH GDST

You may be interested to know that we have a signed watercolour of Isabel Wrightson that has been our pride and joy for some time. It originally belonged to Margaret Ross, who taught Classics at Croydon High from 1951 to 1977. She told me that there was a sale at the school of some of Isabel Wrightson's paintings, and it was then that she bought the one we now have. Margaret taught me at CHS from 1951 until I left in 1955. It was she who, when I was looking for a teaching post south of the river, told me that the post of Head of Classics at CHS was going to be advertised. So, I applied and was appointed in 1973. In this way, my one-time Classics teacher became a member



of my department! We had stayed close friends and were given such a warm welcome when we visited, and it was always lovely to see the Isabel Wrightson painting over the mantelpiece. Margaret went into sheltered accommodation in 2005, and the Wrightson went with her. She died in 2010, and because of our long friendship, the family asked me to give the speech at her memorial service. After the service, a daughter asked my husband and me if there was anything of Margaret's that we would like to have. We said the one thing we would love would be the Isabel Wrightson painting. And they were happy to give it to us. We have always been delighted to have it: as well as being a beautiful thing in itself, it is a constant reminder of a very special friendship.

ANNE MATHEWS (WILCOCK) 1954

My mother, Irene Barlow, née Holtorp (1912 - 1997), was a pupil at Croydon High (initially at the Purley branch) from about 1918 to 1928/30 and was taught by Isabel Wrightson in the senior school and spoke warmly of her. My mother had, and I have now, a small painting by Isabel Wrightson of the artist's sister. I am very fond of it.

HELEN HOLDEN (BARLOW) 1962





An unusual art display took place recently at a lunch party arranged by Eleanor Redshaw when we met to show our paintings by Isabel Wrightson to Mary Pat Larman who was researching the late Royal Acamadican. The paintings had been sold in aid of Guild following Miss Wrightson's death. Those in the photo from L-R are Eleanor Redshaw (former staff 1969-1973), Mary Pat Larman (former parent and volunteer archivist), Sheila Plant (former staff 1964-1992) and Mary Knight (Hermes) 1963 and former staff 1970-1973 (also former parent and former secretary of the Old Croydonians Committee). Those of you who were pupils in the early 1970s will recognise members of the Geography Department all friends of Homer, Miss Tebble's alligator who 'resided' in Room 13 at the top of K block!

MARY KNIGHT (HERMES) 1963

~ ART & 3D DESIGN TRIP TO ST IVES ~

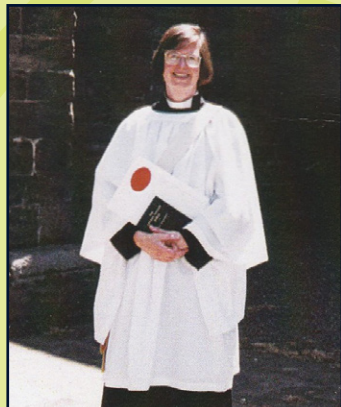
When we were in St Ives for our art trip in October 2022, we learnt about many women artists such as Barbara Hepworth, Janet Leach, Marlow Moss and Isabel Wrightson. Isabel Wrightson mainly used watercolour in her paintings. She painted pictures of the harbour and the boats around St Ives. It was amazing to learn about her as not only was she a student at Croydon High, but she was also a teacher here too! Her paintings were atmospheric, and the colours are true to what we saw in St Ives. It is true what they say colours are so different down there.

ELIZABETH T, YEAR 10



Obituaries

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.



**THE REVEREND
ELFRIDA SAVIGEAR
1967, PASSED AWAY
NOVEMBER 2022**

“Elf” joined CHS in the 5th form, when her family moved from Birmingham to a large house in Purley. I recall crazy weekends: “The Archers” playing loudly on the landing to get us out of bed; incessant ball

games with the dog, riding her rocking horse (!) and Elf playing the French Horn.

True to the Archers, she studied agriculture, and after a time volunteering in Swaziland, she settled into a lecturing post near Guildford – and wrote a book on garden pests!

But there was something else calling.

While at school, Elf dedicated her life to Christ at a conference. She began to sense a call to ordination, and although the Church of England did not immediately accept her application, her determined conviction about her calling eventually saw her right through to priesting in 1994 – the very first year that the church accepted women as priests: Elf was a trailblazer for many. She mainly served in rural parishes, co-authoring a book about rural ministry. She was much-loved (with her dogs!) in each parish she led and served, making a lasting impression upon its people.

She died with Benson’s Syndrome, and the church was packed out at her funeral, redolent with the affection in which she was held.

She was a remarkable woman, hidden away in a rural setting, unmarried, pouring life and soul into those around her in the service of Christ. Thank you, Croydon High, for bringing us together. It’s been a privilege to know her and follow her journey.

With thanks to Revd Mary Parish (Castro) 1967



**VALERIE YAZDABADI
(BROWNE) 1958,
PASSED AWAY
JANUARY 2023**

Valerie lived in the same area all her life, growing up in Selsdon and then moving to Warlingham. After a short career as a hairdresser, she married

Adi Yazdabadi in 1965. They remained together until Adi passed away in July 2020. Mum was a housewife while her children grew up, and then once we were all older, she took a job as a dinner lady at a local school until she retired. She cared about the environment, was a vegetarian, a teetotaler, and had a strong Christian faith. She was a regular parishioner at St Christopher’s church in Warlingham, where she helped with the teas and coffees, and with messy church. She enjoyed a number of clubs, from tap dancing to flower arranging, the WI and keep-fit, and she regularly attended talks given by the RSPB. Valerie was very peaceful, quietly social, calm and serene, and never had a bad word for anyone. She would regularly say, ‘if you have nothing nice to say, then don’t say anything’

Valerie was diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer at the end of September 2022 and spent her last three months at Tandridge Heights nursing home in Oxted. She is survived by her four sons, Steven, Paul, Nigel and Alan and ten grandchildren

Some lovely things were said about Valerie in sympathy cards; one that sums them up is from the WI ‘No matter what life threw at her she always had a smile, never moaned and always saw the positive in people and situations’

With thanks to Valerie’s son Paul



**DR DOROTHY
ATKINSON,
FORMER DEPUTY-
HEADTEACHER
1982-1985, PASSED
AWAY FEBRUARY
2023**

Dr Dorothy Atkinson was the Deputy Head at Croydon High from 1982 to 1985, serving under the Headship of Miss Mark; she was also a teacher of Chemistry. She remembered her time at the High School fondly.

Dorothy had been among the first handful of women to gain a First in Chemistry at Oxford and studied there with Nobel Laureate Dorothy Hodgkin. But Dorothy was more interested in inspiring girls to study chemistry than her achievements, which were considerable for her generation.

Dorothy’s teaching career began at Sheffield High School GDST. After bringing up her three sons, she returned to teaching at Croydon College and Selhurst School for Girls before joining Croydon High. Her three sons went to Trinity and so had their own connections to Croydon High. Dorothy took up headship at

Wallington High School for Girls in 1985, where she spent seven years before her retirement. Dorothy gave her time unselfishly to pupils, staff, and parents throughout her career.



**PAMELA CHURCH,
FORMER JUNIOR SCHOOL
STAFF 1988-1997, PASSED
AWAY FEBRUARY 2023**

Pamela Church was born in St Thomas' Hospital in 1937. She attended Mitcham County Grammar School for Girls and began her working life as a secretary in the newspaper industry. When her two children

started school, Pam trained as a Primary School Teacher and taught at Winterbourne Junior Girls School for many years. Later in her career, she moved to Croydon High School, where she helped coordinate the introduction of technology. She was a class teacher in the Junior school and taught some IT in the secondary school. She loved her time at Croydon High and regularly spoke fondly of her students and colleagues.

Pam enjoyed her retirement and travelled to many parts of the world. She also enjoyed playing bridge and bowls, gardening, and spending time with her family.

With thanks to Pam's daughter Helen Ovenden

**EUNICE TONKIN (CHANIN) 1950, PASSED AWAY
AUGUST 2022**



Eunice worked as a secretary for a large shipping company, a tobacco company and then for the NHS at her local hospital until her retirement. Eunice was widowed quite early and didn't have children but kept herself busy with her love of travel, writing to the many friends she met on her trips and outings and spending time gardening.

Eunice was very knowledgeable and enjoyed crosswords, she was also a great knitter, her greatest passion was cruising, and she visited many corners of the world. Eunice also volunteered at her local hospice shop and Standen, a local National Trust property.

We didn't get to talk about her school days much, but they must have meant a lot to Eunice. After she passed away, we found she had kept some bits and pieces from her school days, including two school year photos, her scarf, badge, emblem and various exercise books, which we were pleased to pass over to the school.

Eunice sadly passed away just before her 90th birthday. An avid supporter of the RNLi and all things nautical, Eunice requested that her ashes be scattered at sea. We are pleased to say that the Newhaven Lifeboat crew gave her a good send off, for which we are grateful. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

With thanks to Jane and Peter Tatsfield, friends and neighbours for over 35 years.

HELEN POOLE (CHECKER) 1944, PASSED APRIL 2023



Throughout her lifetime, Helen surrounded herself with friends from various backgrounds and with a variety of interests. She was a talented musician, exercising her craft as a church organist, a teacher of piano and violin, and as a member of Orchestra London (Ontario), London Community Orchestra and Chamber Music

quartets for several decades. A primary school teacher, she was also a lifelong learner who enjoyed exercising her mind with her books, puzzles and interesting conversation well into her nineties. Helen's close circle of friends provided her with comfort, love and companionship throughout her illness. She was predeceased by her husband, Stewart, survived by her children, Sarah and Mark and many devoted friends, nieces and nephews.

With thanks to Helen's daughter Sarah Braund

**DR PHILIPPA HETHERINGTON 2002, PASSED AWAY
NOVEMBER 2022**



Philippa Hetherington joined Croydon High School from Canberra, Australia, in 1997. Having moved across the world, she quickly settled in and fully embraced life at CHS. Her warmth, positivity, playfulness and genuine interest in those around her made her popular across her whole year, and despite

only staying in the UK for a couple of years, she developed deep friendships that lasted for the rest of her life.

At CHS, Philippa was particularly interested in music and drama. She had the most beautiful soprano voice and enjoyed having singing lessons, joining the choir and taking part in school performances, including Carmen and Godspell. She was also an avid reader and attracted to understanding big political issues, leading her to join the debating team and become a formidable opponent on the debating circuit. Once Philippa returned to Australia, she completed her degree in History at the University of Sydney and her PhD at Harvard University, where she also completed a secondary certification in Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality. Endlessly curious, she also found time to learn Russian, and combined all her interests to become a leading scholar in the cultural, social and legal history of Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union, with a particular focus on the intersection of this work with feminist theory and issues of migration.

This work eventually led her to return to the UK and a permanent academic position at University College London. While she was back in the UK, Philippa first received her breast cancer diagnosis. Having completed the initial round of treatment, less than two years later, it returned. Despite the cancer spreading quickly, and adjusting to treatments and paralysis, Philippa continued to read, research, write and teach – demonstrating her unerring commitment to her work, students and colleagues.

She also took up a new role during this time, becoming a monumental activist force for breast cancer treatment. This included campaigning for access to a new drug in England, Trodelvy, which now provides vital relief to many women living with breast cancer.

Philippa died to the sound of fireworks on 5th November 2022. She was surrounded by people that she loved and is missed every day.

With thanks to Louise Kettle (Sullivan) 2002



JOAN CARTER 1946 PASSED AWAY MAY 2023

Joan was very proud of her old school, particularly its promotion of and aspirations for young women; this was an era in which if you pursued a career, and few did, once married, you had to give it up. Joan never married. She had

to delay university for a year as the priority was given to young men returning from WW2. Her chosen subject, including her beloved organic chemistry, led to her specialising in colour and dyes, leading to a career in the print industry. Periodicals, as newspapers were called, had been very black and white, so this introduction of colour was very exciting and groundbreaking.

She made sure there was life outside her career; she became an advanced driver and loved speed, therefore, became a rally driver and raced at Thruxton and Silverstone. Her favourite holiday was to drive her sports car to Southend airport, drive it into the back of a huge, decommissioned transporter plane, land at Le Touquet and drive to the Italian Dolomites for a spot of mountaineering.

She was an excellent shot and a regular at Bisley, played squash and travelled the world. She went bird watching in Belarus at the age of 86.

She used to get a bit frustrated driving HGVs as, at under five feet, she needed wooden blocks on the pedals to be able to drive.

Joan, ever a scientist, had an inquiring mind to the end and enjoyed meeting the present-day pupils at the annual teas with her friend Freda well into their 80s. A life well lived.

With thanks to Vanessa Kerr



AMANDA GABB (VAUGHAN) 2000 PASSED AWAY JANUARY 2020

Amanda joined Croydon High School in 1989 and quickly made her mark! She enjoyed successes both academically and in the co-curricular arena at school then at the University of Warwick, successfully graduating with a BA in English Literature in July, 2003.

That October, Amanda launched her career in London, and thrived climbing the corporate ladder in the advertising world, finding herself

at just 24, working hard as an Account Manager while undertaking all the responsibilities of a Director with blue chip company accounts. On enquiring about promotion to Director, Amanda was told she was too young, so she promptly 'retired' from advertising and took a year off for the Gap Year that she'd never had.

After a period of travelling and following a conversation with a friend who umpired polo at Guards, Amanda spent six months working in Australia for Kerry and James Packer at their polo estate. Responsible for looking after 10 polo ponies, Amanda loved every minute of her time there.

Immediately upon returning from Australia, Amanda went into banking. With no prior experience, she joined the Commodities Sales & Trading Support team for a major investment bank. Ever committed, Amanda triumphantly gained her MBA in 2014 and progressed to become Marketing Communications Director at Barclays, evaluating the commerciality of their marketing activities, until she died, aged 37 from bowel cancer. Diagnosed in September, 2019, Amanda passed away in January, 2020, leaving a husband of five years and a fourteen month old son, Humphrey.

Amanda loved travel and visited 37 countries during her life as well as revelling in horse riding, eventing and dressage. Amanda was a vibrant, determined, inspirational character and lives on forever in our hearts.

With thanks to Amanda's sister Sam Vaughan 1997



ROSEMARY LANG (LE MAY) 1937, PASSED AWAY OCTOBER 2022

Picture of Rosemary on her 11th birthday (1st May 1930) with her elder sisters Peggy, Vivien and Carol. Her eldest sister, Nancy, had left CHS by then.

Rosemary Le May joined her four elder sisters, Nancy, Peggy, Carol and Vivien when she started at Croydon High in the 1920s. Their mother, Gertrude Down, had been a CHS pupil in the 1890s, followed by her younger sisters, Hilda and Elfrida. Several daughters of subsequent generations have since continued the tradition, both in Croydon and Portsmouth. Rosemary spoke fondly of her time at CHS and upheld the values learnt both at home and school, living a useful and fulfilling life until her recent death aged 103.

With thanks to Rosemary's daughter Jo Shercliff

MARGARET KIRK 1969, PASSED AWAY OCTOBER 2022

Margaret had great affection for her old school and enjoyed catching up by reading GDST Life.

SUSAN HENDERSON (FLITTON) 1974, PASSED AWAY DECEMBER 2022

PAMELA RICHES (SKILTON) 1956, PASSED AWAY DECEMBER 2022

HELEN MILLS (RODD) FORMER CROYDON HIGH STAFF 1949-1950 AND WIMBLEDON HIGH ALUMNA 1942, PASSED AWAY MAY 2023

From Queen Victoria and Dorinda Neligan to King Charles III and Annabel Davies

During our Coronation assembly, we showed our pupils the Heads of Croydon High who have led the school since 1874. Twelve Heads have led Croydon High under seven monarchs and in this time so much has happened.

Queen Victoria 1837 – 1901



- 1838 Slavery abolished in the British Empire
- 1863 Opening of London Underground
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone
- 1880 Education compulsory for children under 10

Dorinda Neligan 1874 to 1901



- 1874 Croydon High School opened North End with 88 pupils.
- 1885 The study of Chemistry began at CH – unheard of for girls
- 1890 GPDST Prizegiving attended by HRH Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria. Miss Neligan encouraged girls to tie an ivy leaf in their hair to stand out as Croydon High pupils.
- 1901 Miss Neligan became a committed suffragette.

King Edward VII 1901 – 1910



- 1902 First trans-Atlantic radio transmission
- 1903 Wilbur and Orville Wright of the US made the first manned and controlled aircraft flight
- 1905 First motor buses in London
- 1907 Parliament rejects Channel Tunnel scheme

Marion Leahy 1901 – 1924



- 1911 A Junior branch of Croydon High opens in Purley, with 14 pupils.
- 1914- 1918 The Great War
- 1924 A new Hall and four new classrooms were built in time for the School's 50th anniversary.

King George V 1910 – 1936



- 1914 Outbreak of World War I
- 1919 Lady Astor becomes the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons
- 1922 The British Broadcasting Company starts radio transmissions
- 1926 John Logie Baird demonstrates the world's first television in London

Ella Ransford 1924-1939



- 1925 Miss Ransford led the school through a period of high unemployment and financial difficulty in the country as a whole.
- 1928 Games at Croydon High flourished and two red tennis courts were laid down as well as a new playground.



King Edward VIII 1936

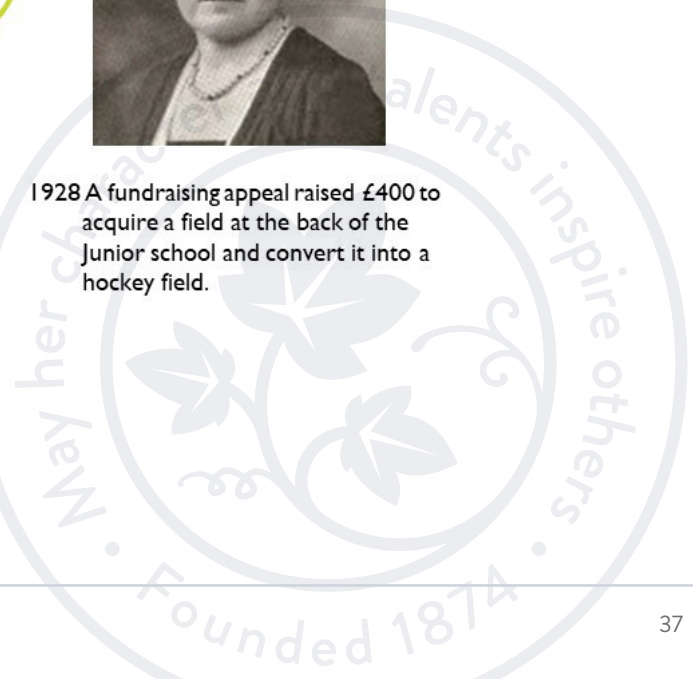


- 1936 The BBC inaugurates the world's first television service at Alexandra Palace in London
- 1936 On 10 December, King Edward signs the Instrument of Abdication to marry Mrs Wallis Simpson

Ella Ransford 1924-1939



- 1928 A fundraising appeal raised £400 to acquire a field at the back of the Junior school and convert it into a hockey field.



King George VI 1936 – 1952



- 1939 Germany invades Poland. The outbreak of World War II
- 1940 Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister
- 1947 Princess Elizabeth marries Philip Mountbatten
- 1948 National Health Service establishes free medical treatment.

Margaret Adams 1939-1960



- 1939 A group of pupils were evacuated to Eastbourne
- 1940 Government orders given that pupils would need to move from Eastbourne to South Wales
- 1944 A buzz bomb landed near Croydon High, doors were blown in, glass shattered and every tile on the roof moved.
- 1945 School returned to a period of normality, despite rationing

Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2022



- 1952 Elizabeth accedes to the throne on the death of her father, George VI.
- 1953 Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climb Mount Everest just before Coronation Day
- 1953 Francis Crick and James Watson unravel the mystery of DNA
- 1967 Capital punishment abolished

Elsa Cameron 1960-1974



- 1964 The foundation stone is laid and blessed in Selsdon with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Guest of Honour, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester,
- 1966 The new school year started in Selsdon and Miss Cameron took assembly in the new school hall.
- 1967 HRH The Duchess of Gloucester visited again and praised the beautiful new school.

Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2022



Agnes McMaster 1974-1979



Agnes Mark 1979-1990



Pauline Davies 1990-1998



Lurna O'gilvie 1998-2007



Zelma Braganza 2007-2010

- 1978 The world's first test-tube baby is delivered in Oldham, Greater Manchester
- 1979 Margaret Thatcher succeeds James Callaghan, becoming Britain's first woman Prime Minister.
- 1982 Britain goes to war with Argentina over control of the Falkland Islands
- 2007 Queen Elizabeth II becomes the oldest-ever reigning British monarch

Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2022



- 2011 Prince William marries Catherine Middleton.
- 2012 Queen Elizabeth II opens the London 2012 Olympic Games
- 2013 Birth of Prince George.
- 2015 Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning British monarch surpassing her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

Debbie Leonard 2010-2016



- 2010 Junior School extensively refurbished; Facilities include state-of-the-art multi-sensory 4D room.
- 2011 The Ivy Link is established.
- 2012 Ivy Club Wraparound Care and Little Ivy's Stay and Play for toddlers.
- 2016 Building began of a new sports pavilion

Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2022



- 2016 The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union.
- 2020 The United Kingdom leaves the European Union
- 2020 Worldwide coronavirus pandemic
- 2022 Death of Queen Elizabeth II, aged 96 years

Emma Pattison 2016-2022



- 2016 Enterprise technology launched as part of the curriculum
- 2017 Rebranding of the school and new school uniform.
- 2021 Period Project launched
- 2022 Forest School created in Junior School
- 2022 Wellbeing hub opens

King Charles III 2022 –



Annabel Davies 2022-



Artwork by Morayo Adeagbo 2018



In loving memory of Emma and Lettie Pattison



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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! We have been able to print 'in house' this year. Huge thanks goes to our Senior Office team.