



BRIGHTON
GIRLS

GDST

GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Brighton Girls House System

Brighton Girls school operates a House System.

There are House events throughout the year, and by taking part in these events you can win House points for your House which will all contribute towards the Banfora Cup.

You can also win House points by gaining merits or commendations and taking part in the B-Right-On Challenge, TPQ or any performances e.g. concerts and dancing or holding leadership positions.

Each girl is a member of one of the four houses:

Grey

Gurney

Lyttelton

Stanley

House Captains 2021

House Captains work across the whole senior school. They work closely with staff Heads of House to ensure all students have the chance to enjoy competing in House activities such as the House Song Competition.

Grey: Mia Barrow

Lyttelton: Maya Powell

Gurney: Ayesha Potts

Stanley: Cluny Graham

Staff Heads of House:

Grey: Miss Plank

Lyttelton: Miss Hart

Miss Symes (Deputy)

Miss Parsons (Deputy)

Gurney: Miss Pearson

Stanley: Miss Scotcher

Miss Martin (Deputy)

Miss Szkolar (Deputy)

House symbols

In 2014 the school held a competition to design symbols for each of the Houses.



Grey
Designer:
Sophie
Lindenfelser



Gurney
Designer:
Eleanor
Finlay-Christensen



Lyttleton
Designer:
Emma Griffiths



Stanley
Designer:
Anna
Rubenstein

Where do the names come from?

Pioneers in Girls' Education

The Girls Day School Trust (GDST) was founded in 1872 by four pioneering women, Mrs Maria Grey, her sister Miss Emily Shirreff, Lady Stanley of Alderley and Miss Mary Gurney. They believed that girls should be entitled to the same academic education as their brothers. At that time, girls of means were educated either at home or the ladies' academies, where the focus was more on accomplishments than academics.

After a public meeting at the Royal Albert Hall in 1872, the founders launched The Girls' Public Day School Company, selling shares to raise the funds to open girls' schools. In January 1873 the first school opened in Chelsea, with many more to follow. The founders wanted a GDST education to be accessible to able girls, whatever their background, and offered scholarships from the outset. This principle is still

fundamental to the GDST today and we provide financial assistance to approximately 1,100 girls every year.

One of the founders, Maria Grey, went on to be a campaigner for votes for women. And a number of GDST girls grew up to be active in the Suffragist and Suffragette movements.

Brighton Girls

Brighton Girls was founded, as Brighton High School, in 1876, at Milton Hall in Montpelier Road. It moved to "The Temple" in 1880, an isolated building which when it was first built in 1819 had views of both the rolling hills and the sea. The school was one of the earliest schools to be part of the Girls Public Day School Company, and the first Head Miss Creak was an inspiring but unconventional figure, and it wasn't until 1921 that the House system that we know today was adopted at Brighton Girls.

GREY

Maria Georgina Grey (1816-1906)

A British educationalist and writer, born in London to William and Elizabeth Shirreff. Her father's position as an Admiral meant that by 15 she had lived in Paris, Normandy and Gibraltar. In Paris, she and her sister attended boarding school, and then travelled widely - studying Italian, French and Spanish, and using family contacts to meet contemporary intellectuals. They started their literary work, writing collections of letters, and later their first novel in 1841. In the same year, she married William Grey, nephew of a former Prime Minister. He funded the sisters' 1850 treatise "Thoughts on Self Culture Address to Women", arguing women should not receive an education for the purpose of finding a husband, but a more comprehensive schooling. In 1870 she campaigned with the Society of Arts to form the National Union of the Improving the Education of Women of All Classes, a committee that would evolve into the GDST.



GURNEY

Mary Gurney (1836-1917)

Mary Gurney was born into a family with an already impressive history of activism. Both her grandfather and great aunt had been instrumental in abolishing slavery in Britain. Perhaps it was due to these liberal ideals that Mary's parents provided her with such an atypical education for a girl in that age. It was this education that not only enabled her to produce translations of French, German and Spanish literature, but also inspired her to pass it on. Even from a young age, she taught her sisters at home, and later published the work "Are We to Have Education for Our Middle Class Girls?", promoting schooling for women. She allied with Maria and Emily Grey, alongside Henrietta Stanley to form the GPDSC at Albert hall in 1872. Even after forming this Company, she continued to attend weekly meeting at the schools to encourage their development, and set up scholarships for the Trust in her will.



LYTTELTON

Lord Lyttelton (1817-1876)

George William Lyttelton, The Fourth Lord Lyttelton, was a vocal supporter of educational reform for women. As one of the original founders of GPDSC, he argued for a more intellectual curriculum for women to set them up to be able to support themselves in academic careers. However, his own daughters criticized him for not providing them with the kind of tuition he idealized, instead giving them a 'slip-sloppy' education. Despite not believing that his contributions would cause real social change to the position of women, he used his title and power to set up many grammar schools for girls.



STANLEY

Baroness Stanley (1807-1895)

Henrietta Stanley, Baroness Stanley of Alderley (née Dillon-Lee).

Lady Henrietta Stanley was a Canadian-born campaigner. Her father was the Viscount Dillon, and her mother the sister of the Baron Oranmore and Browne. Due to her family's status, she received

education in Canada and Italy. Her Grandson, the philosopher Bertrand Russell commented "My grandmother's outlook, throughout her life, was in some ways more Continental than English. She was always downright, free from prudery, and eighteenth-century rather than Victorian in her conversation. Her French and Italian were faultless." In 1826 she married Edward Stanley, who became the Baron Stanley in 1850. She used this influence to help the cultivation of Queen's College, and staunchly defended "the right of women to the highest culture hitherto reserved to men". She founded Girton College and supported the newly founded GPDSC.

