

Giving

A celebration of your support

2019 - 2020

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Contents

4	Bursaries
8	Student hardship
9	Our academies
10	Capital projects
14	Outreach
16	Alumnae volunteering
20	Staff giving
21	Student volunteering
22	Prizes and scholarships
24	Gifts in wills
26	Why you give
30	The future is hers

You will see QR codes throughout the publication. Hover the camera of your smart phone over them to open a web page. You will be able to read more from the women and girls who have benefited from your support, as well as discover additional content which brings the impact of your giving to life.



Future leaders start here, thanks to your generosity.

Thank you for supporting the GDST, our schools and most importantly, our girls – and especially this year when we have all faced significant challenges.

Philanthropy has been at the heart of the GDST since its inception in 1872. This word is formed of philos (loving) and anthropos (human being) and means the desire to promote the welfare of others. GDST Giving is our new way to celebrate philanthropy across our family of schools. Many of you contribute financially, whilst others give time or expertise for the benefit of students or other members of the community. We want to showcase the direct impact of your support on the lives of girls and young women. I am hugely grateful to every single person and organisation for your help.

The GDST was founded by four pioneering women. Until then, education for girls and young women was limited to only those with means and primarily concentrated on domestic accomplishments. Our founders' legacy is a family of schools which, nearly 150 years on, remains focused on their original vision of enabling access to a fully rounded education for girls from all backgrounds.

Your support has changed lives, provided new technology, built state-of-the-art facilities, and enabled more students to access a GDST

education. At this unprecedented time, you have continued to help, and we cannot thank you enough.

The world has changed immeasurably due to the global pandemic, and the need to redress social imbalances is now greater than ever. As a charity, we invest all surplus income into advancing the education of our students. But even before the pandemic, the number of applications for bursaries from bright and ambitious girls was far greater than could be accommodated.

In a post-COVID world, our Hardship Fund will continue to be needed as the impact of the pandemic unravels. Our current students have already had so much disruption to their education; it's now more important than ever to give this generation the tools they need to succeed.

I am delighted to share that during the financial year 2019-20, the GDST raised a total of £3,044,000, with £2,033,000 being received in income and £711,000 secured in future pledges. In addition, £1,526,000 was received in income against previous year's pledges. In total, we received gifts from 1,184 generous donors.

So, thank you very much for everything you've given - and continue to give - to help girls learn without limits. As well as leading the GDST, I am proud to say I am also a donor; I am delighted to be in such great company.

Cheryl Giovannoni

Chief Executive, Girls' Day School Trust
@cherylGDST



A new year, a new appeal

In February, we launched a new GDST-wide fundraising campaign to our alumnae across our fee-paying schools – *Help Girls Learn Without Limits*.

Our aim is to increase the number of bursaries that can be offered every year to talented girls whose families would otherwise not be able to afford fees for a GDST education.

The response has been fantastic, and from September 2020, we started working with schools to share the campaign with their parent communities.

Increasing the number of bursaries across the GDST for bright and ambitious young women is our priority. As you will see throughout *GDST Giving*, bursaries benefit recipients and their families who wouldn't otherwise be able to access a GDST education.

But additionally they bring so much value for other students, who will learn in an environment that is full of girls from diverse



backgrounds, representative of the world they will find beyond the school gates. 1,050 students across the GDST currently benefit from a bursary – your support is helping us to increase the awards we can offer each year.

Between the launch of the campaign and the end of the 2019/20 academic year, 253 of you have donated and pledged a total of £135,124 to the bursary campaign.

Khadijah Mellah - then just 18 years old - made history at Goodwood when she won the Magnolia Cup. She was featured as one of our 25 alumnae in the Help Girls Learn Without Limits campaign launch brochure, having received a bursary which enabled her to attend Sydenham High School.

Read more about Khadijah's story by scanning.



Your support creates lasting impact and helps determine futures

Three musically talented sisters all attended what was then Brighton & Hove High School (now Brighton Girls) in the 60s and 70s, each benefitting from the direct grant system.

To read their full stories, use the QR code to visit our website.



“I had a music teacher who opened up my musical horizons; he gave me the freedom to find myself as a musician and really broadened my knowledge.”

Alison Reynolds

*Piano Tutor, Royal Northern College of
Music and Uppingham School
Alumna, Brighton Girls, Class of 1975*



“Having a bursary gave me the chance of an excellent education where high standards were normal and expected and I don’t think that I would have even got into the Royal Academy of Music otherwise.”

Hilary Quinn

Music Teacher

Alumna, Brighton Girls, Class of 1979



You can read more about the impact of GDST bursaries by scanning the QR code, which shares the story of Brighton Girls bursary recipient Matylda and her mother Magda.



“Now, looking back, I know I couldn’t have gone on to do what I’ve done without the financial support. It gave me the opportunity to develop the activities and interests that I needed to in order to have a successful career in the music business.”

Helen Garson

Former Professional Double Bass player

Alumna, Brighton Girls, Class of 1976

Your role in the year

You supported other families experiencing hardship.

Towards the end of March, we launched the GDST Hardship Fund to support girls whose families' circumstances had been impacted by COVID-19, to the extent that they were no longer able to pay school fees.

Girls across the GDST schools received hardship awards for the Summer Term thanks to the generosity of donors and cost savings made by the necessity of reducing school operations, which was also added to the Fund. Many parents generously chose to donate the

fee reduction received for the period of time the schools were closed.

The unfortunate reality is that this additional support fund will be needed for some time to come, as the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic continues to have an impact over the coming months.

Thanks to your generosity, many students had further disruption to their education abated.

You donated £43,988



the world changed

You bridged the digital divide for our GDST sisters.

The pandemic also brought a new need to our attention. Having launched a Guided Home Learning offering across the GDST, we realised that many girls at our sister academies, Birkenhead High School Academy and The Belvedere Academy, were unable to participate fully due to lack of suitable devices.

Thus the Academies Student Support Fund was launched, to ensure every girl had access to a laptop.

Thanks to your generosity, all girls have returned to school fully equipped with the resources they need to benefit from their education.



142 donors generously aided the Student Support Fund.

80 laptops were provided to the academies as a result.

You donated £24,680

“I was trying to share my brother’s computer which meant that I wasn’t always able to do the live lessons because he would be using it too.”

“I would like to thank the donors as the access to a device that can help me with my school work has significantly reduced my stress through the turbulent and unsure predicaments.”

Read more about this fund and the words of those who benefited by scanning.



You are funding pioneering learning environments

During the last academic year, outstanding educational facilities were made a reality at GDST schools thanks to the financial support of their communities.

Raising the roof

In January 2020, The Waterlow Hall was officially opened at South Hampstead High School.

A magnificent concert marked the occasion, the first of many to be performed in the hall, showcasing the girls' musical talents.

A total of £3 million was donated, bringing the vision of creating an outstanding facility for performance at South Hampstead to life.

To read more about Waterlow Hall, scan the QR code.



Supporting the arts

In March 2020, the first lessons took place in the new Ada Benson building, a brand-new centre for Sixth Form and the arts at Oxford High School.

The facilities include a National Theatre Live standard auditorium, digital design and fine art studios, textiles atelier and a health and wellbeing centre.

£150,000 was kindly donated by the community.

Creating spaces for growing minds

To expand the book selection in Kensington Prep School's new library, parents were able to sponsor non-fiction books to enhance cross-curricular learning.

In total, over £100,000 was raised for the transformation of the library, which put reading at the heart of the school.

The library features cosy seating areas, modern child-height bookcases and space to house over 10,000 fact and fiction books.



Watch this space: future projects you can support

Inspiring future generations of scientists

Northwood College for Girls will be opening their new science facilities in September 2022. They will be used by young people in the local community as part of the school's partnership programmes, as well as by Northwood College pupils in lessons and extra-curricular activities.

Facilities fit for our sports stars of the future

Campaigns to fund new astroturf facilities at Bromley High School and Sutton High School will launch this academic year. Both will be utilised not just by students, but by community groups and young people in their local areas.

Going full STEAM ahead

Parents and alumnae have contributed generously to exciting new developments at Wimbledon High School. *Project Ex Humilibus* will allow the school to transform their Sixth Form offering, radically enhance their dining provision and assembly spaces and most excitingly take STEAM, their innovative cross curricular approach to education, to the next level. The first phase has now been completed with the launching of the new STEAM tower (pictured right) in September 2020.

Thank you so much to all those that have donated, raising over £1.5m in gifts and pledges out of the £3m target.

To read more about *Project Ex Humilibus*, scan the QR code.





Working with our communities

Now's the time

Northampton High School held their #Now'sTheTime conference in the Autumn Term thanks to funding generously provided by HSBC. The aim of the initiative is to support young women who are looking to pursue careers in medicine. A host of illustrious speakers presented to the students, which included those from partner schools in the community.

Reach for the stars

25 students from maintained schools in South East London join Blackheath High School students each year at the Royal Observatory in Royal Greenwich Park to work towards a GCSE qualification in Astronomy. The school has funded the project since 2011, offering this highly specialised qualification to encourage students to pursue a career in the sector.



Improving our environment

Girls at Putney High School enjoyed a whole day off timetable in October 2019 for their Breathe Conference, packed full of activities to build awareness, understanding and appreciation for the environment.

Students from local schools also joined and formulated plans to drive forward positive change upon their return to their own schools. Funding was generously provided by the GDST's long-standing partnership with HSBC.

Our girls mean business

In November 2019, Shrewsbury High School held their first ever Women Mean Business event thanks to support and funding provided by HSBC. Speakers at the panel event included female business leaders from the community, including Shrewsbury High School alumna Carol Homden CBE (Class of 1978). The event was also open to students from local state schools.

To read more about these projects, scan the QR code.



“The Breathe Conference was a highlight of the school year. Not only did the girls embrace and enjoy the conference on the day but the awareness, take-aways and key learnings they gained have lived on.”

Pippa Gilbert

Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning), Putney High School

A virtuous cycle



Mentoring your GDST sisters

The 2019/20 academic year was the most successful year so far in terms of mentoring, thanks to so many individuals who chose to give their time and expertise for the benefit of another member of the GDST community.

Since the launch of the GDST mentoring programme in 2014:

422 alumnae have mentored 435 members of the GDST community.

£250,000 worth of time has been donated by mentors.

Since the launch of our unique GDST Rungway app in 2018 enabling alumnae to support current GDST Sixth Formers:

1,000 alumnae have signed up to support pupils with career advice.

For more information about our mentoring programme, scan the QR code.





To be or not to be

In March 2020, 150 girls from 22 GDST prep and junior schools put their hearts and souls into reciting lines from *Twelfth Night* and exploring the beloved play in a series of interactive workshops at Shakespeare's Globe. This opportunity came about thanks to Margaret Casely-Hayford, alumna of Streatham & Clapham High School, who coordinated this experience for the schools in her role as Chair of Shakespeare's Globe.

“It's so important to champion girls' education, investing in future generations with our money and perhaps more importantly by giving our time and experience, to lay these invaluable foundations.”

Margaret Casely-Hayford

To read more about why Margaret chose to give back in this way, scan the QR code.



26,000 UK pupils inspired

This year, Norwich High School's *Inspiring Changemakers* conference was bigger and better than ever. Thanks to the online format, the opportunity was able to be opened up to more than 26,000 young people from schools across the independent and state sectors for the day's activities. The illustrious speaker roll curated by Norwich High School totalled 43, including eight GDST alumnae and three parents.

To read more about the Inspiring Changemakers conference, scan the QR code.



The GDST alumnae family

Social networking the GDST way

At the start of the pandemic, we were humbled that many alumnae reached out to us, wanting to know how they could help others. And thus, the GDST Helps Facebook group was born. It has over 1,300 members, with alumnae sharing expertise, stories and helping one another.

I'm studying Occupational Therapy. I'm currently putting together an activity pack for my local community, aimed for those who are elderly. The pack aims to promote cognitive stimulation and reduce boredom! This will be distributed when food shops are delivered to them. If anyone would like the resource for their community (or even family) then let me know! Also, if anyone is interested in studying OT then feel free to send me a message and I'll try to answer any questions X

Yes please! Just for my parents. I'll PM you

Hi Everybody, I left Wimbledon High School in 1981 and I have 25 years' experience working as a Psychotherapist and Couples Counsellor (currently seeing people online only). I would be happy to answer any queries on psychological well-being (including anxiety), building great relationships and dealing with relational problems.

Hi, I sent you a message

Alumnae can join by
scanning the QR code.



Opening up access to our community of 70,000 alumnae


Our alumnae network is one of the largest of its kind anywhere in the world. A community of women from all walks of life around the globe, who are there to support and inspire each other.

GDST Life, a networking platform just for GDST alumnae and Sixth Form, is the gateway to this community. Having launched in September 2020, it already has over 2,000 members who have signed up to connect with one another.








Alumnae can sign up by scanning the QR code.





As an alumna, you can:

-  Register for events and online courses
-  Find a mentor and become one yourself
-  Join professional networking groups and join in the discussions
-  Make new connections and find old friends
-  Keep up to date with news from your school and the GDST

Being part of the GDST family is about being part of something bigger. To join GDST Life and see what it can do for you, sign up or log in today.

Our staff going above and beyond

We are incredibly grateful to staff throughout the GDST who have worked tirelessly, putting the education and wellbeing of our girls first at this unprecedented time.

One example of staff going beyond the call of duty was staff at Royal High School Bath, where staff responded generously to the request for support of the Academies Fund.

Louise Scott, Head of Careers, organised a virtual quiz and curry night for staff and parents, raising £1,419.

On realising it wouldn't be needed for a while, Dr Mark Golder, Senior Teacher, kindly initiated a donation from the Senior School's Staff Common Room Fund.

Along with a plant sale organised by staff member Tim Knobbs, and the proceeds from a sale of home-grown rhubarb organised by colleague Andy Leather, the total raised throughout the lockdown period through the efforts of staff at RHSB stands at an amazing £1,783.

Thank you to all our staff that go beyond the call of duty every day.

Julia Touloumbadjian, who works at GDST Trust Office as Estates Manager & Business Partner, explains why she chose to donate.



“I knew that my contribution would go towards providing an opportunity for bright and ambitious girls to progress their education. Through this unprecedented time, the GDST's forward thinking has shown that we can deliver, whatever the circumstance.”

Scan the QR code to hear from Julia about why she donates.



Lockdown letters

At the very start of lockdown, when all individuals aged 70 years and over were advised to isolate, South Hampstead High School launched a pen pal scheme, inviting alumnae to join.

Students were matched with alumnae who left the school from 1936 – 1956. Over 60 pairs of pen pals had weekly contact. Students wrote weekly to alumnae in lockdown all over the United Kingdom, and even to one alumna who had emigrated to Australia. Many alumnae, students and their families have since emailed to say how much they benefitted from corresponding with each other and sharing stories about their times at the school.

The school is hoping to invite all alumnae who participated and their pupil pen pal to their annual reunion lunch in 2021.

Hannah said:

“I signed up for the scheme at the beginning of lockdown as I thought it would be nice to be in touch with someone who would share their perspective of the current time we are living through. As Anne and I exchanged the first few letters, I learnt a lot about her character and her love for travelling and literature.

I am thankful because this scheme has allowed me to build a wonderful friendship in which I learn so much and I will continue to write to Anne in the future.”



*Anne Woolf (née Weber),
Class of 1948*



*Hannah, South Hampstead
High School student, Year 13*

Scan the QR code to read more.



Recognising achievement and ambition

In the 2019/20 academic year, 73 girls from across the GDST family of schools received prizes or scholarships. Prizes cover numerous academic disciplines such as creative writing, poetry, foreign languages, and all-round academic achievement.

Scholarships are also varied and can be awarded to provide financial support for extracurricular activities at university, or funding a volunteering trip in another part of the world. In many cases these prizes and scholarships are funded by generous supporters.

Highlighting the empowerment of women and girls

The International Women's Day Prize for students at Newcastle High School for Girls was established thanks to the generosity of Margaret and Christopher Vane, parents of a former pupil.

The annual competition invites girls to submit a piece of work focussed on empowering girls and advancing women's rights.

This year's winners were four Year 7 students - Aania Ahmad, Inari Bari-Jones, Lucy Grey and Maz Ogunkoya – who created a short film on heroic women throughout history.

The Frederica Lord University Scholarship

Some of the prizes and scholarships offered are designed to support students when they leave their GDST school and go on to higher education.

One such award is the Frederica Lord University Scholarship, which was established by Christopher Fildes in memory of his wife, Frederica Lord. The award, which is worth £1,000 to the winner each year for three years of university study, can be used to fund travel, societies and other wider intellectual pursuits.

Abby, who was a student at Howell's School, Llandaff, received support from the Frederica Lord Scholarship.

“Being chosen as the winner of this scholarship allowed me to partake in an array of activities throughout the duration of my three years at university, which otherwise would not have been possible.

I would like to thank Christopher for his kindness and generosity in providing this support throughout my studies.” - Abby

“The scholarship’s aim is to allow the recipient to fully access all the opportunities that universities offer, such as travel, societies and extra-curricular activities. I’m so pleased to be able to give that extra bit of support to bright students like Abby.”

- Christopher

You can read more about the Frederica Lord Scholarship and watch Newcastle’s winning prize video by scanning the QR code.



Abby, third from right on the back row.



Leaving a legacy for the next generation

We want to honour those GDST women who are sadly no longer with us, and who left a gift in their will for the benefit of girls' education.

Legacy gifts from the following were received by the GDST in the 19/20 academic year:

Sophia Hankinson

(Norwich High School, Class of 1947)

Suzanne Hudson

(Howell's School, Llandaff, Class of 1962)

Peggy Mason

(Nottingham Girls' High School, Class of 1939)

Shirley Park

(Nottingham Girls' High School, Class of 1945 & Bromley High School, Class of 1950)

Since 1983, just over 300 members of the GDST community have left gifts in their will, contributing £8,250,000 across the GDST and our schools, all of which has helped us to provide an accessible, forward-thinking education for bright and ambitious students. Legacy gifts have supported bursaries, prizes and scholarships, new buildings and facilities or have been left to an alumna's school for them to use where the need is greatest.

In the 2019/20 academic year, £108,552 was received in legacy gifts left by GDST alumnae.

Make your lasting impact

If you have included a gift to the GDST or an individual school in your will or would like more information on how to do so, please get in touch by emailing giving@wes.gdst.net. All those who have made this commitment will be invited to join The Minerva Circle in 2021, a special society recognising their generosity.

The Peggy Mason Bursary

At the end of the last academic year, Nottingham Girls' High School received a generous bequest from the estate of Peggy Mason. Margaret 'Peggy' Mason attended the Junior and Senior School until 1939. The gift will fund a 50% bursary for six girls joining Nottingham Girls' High School Sixth Form, the first of which started in September 2020.

Peggy was a true GDST girl, a passionate believer in fairness, confident and fearless, she was much respected in her community and amongst her many friends. She was acutely aware of the importance of a good education particularly as her schooldays had been considerably foreshortened by the war.

You can read all about Peggy Mason, and more of the words of the recipient of the Peggy Mason bursary by following the QR code.



“I’m so grateful to the late Mrs Mason for enabling me to attend a school that empowers hundreds of girls to be the best that they can be, every year. I promise to make the most of this once-in-a lifetime opportunity and will honour Mrs Mason’s memory.”

Peggy Mason Bursary recipient

Year 12 student, Nottingham Girls' High School

Nottingham Girls' High School, 1935 - when Peggy was a pupil



Why you give

“I’ve seen first-hand the impact of bursaries on girls and families.”

“We chose to give to the hardship appeal earlier this year as it seemed like a small way of helping during the pandemic.”

To hear from Val Dunsford, former Head of Sheffield Girls’ and donor to the school, scan the QR code.



Scan the QR code to read why Sydenham High School parent, Mallika supported this year.



Val Dunsford pictured on results day at Sheffield Girls’





JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

John Lyon's Charity has been providing bursary support to girls attending GDST secondary schools in northwest London since 1997. To date, they have committed to funding 22 individual bursary awards at Notting Hill & Ealing High School, Northwood College and South Hampstead High School. When all the pupils that are currently being supported leave Sixth Form, the Charity will have given almost £1million in bursary funding.

“We believe it is very important that girls from every background are given access to a high quality education. Bursaries can transform lives. They can open doors to different worlds, ones that were previously unimaginable.”

Scan the QR code to hear more.



For the last two years, Croydon High School has received funding for Sixth Form bursaries from a locally based private family trust. The couple were keen to support academically able students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds with the determination to succeed at Sixth Form and we here at the GDST were happy to help make this happen.

“The future of the UK depends on developing the best of the best.”

Scan the QR code to find out why they do.



Why you give

“Without the bursary I received during my time at school, I wouldn’t have been able to continue studying there when my family experienced financial hardship.”

Portsmouth High School alumna, Aimee, explains why she donated. Scan the QR code to hear more.



Aimee Walton, Portsmouth High School, Class of 2010



“Having experienced the advantages of a GDST education, I wanted to give something back.”

Oxford High School alumna, Lynne, gives to bursaries - hear why by following the QR code.



Lynne Blanchfield, Oxford High School, Class of 1977



HSBC has supported more than 400 GDST girls since 2002 by funding means-tested bursaries. This powerful and long-standing partnership has ensured that bright girls can access a GDST education, regardless of their financial circumstances.

“HSBC has been delighted to have supported over 400 girls through secondary or Sixth Form education at GDST schools over the past 20 years. Our part-funding of bursaries through the HSBC Scholarship Programme has enabled these girls access to education, who otherwise might not have had this opportunity.”

The recipient of a HSBC Scholarship award said:

“My scholarship definitely gave me the pride and confidence to believe in myself and my capabilities at school. It allowed me to go to a school that nurtured and looked after me, personally and academically. Something I know I wouldn't have had elsewhere.”

Read more about HSBC and our partnership with them by scanning the QR code.



We'd love to hear why you donate.

Please let us know and also what you think of our first edition of GDST Giving by emailing giving@wes.gdst.net

Phoebe thanks you

Phoebe joined Year 7 at Croydon High School thanks to the generosity of supporters like you.

“When I found out I was going to Croydon High School, I was overwhelmed. I would like to say to those who give money to bursaries, thank you so much for providing such a great opportunity for me. I will make the very most of it.”



Read more words from Phoebe and her mother by scanning the QR code.



The future is hers

Giving is a powerful word and an even more powerful action. In the world we find ourselves in today, giving - in all senses - is especially crucial.

I hope that this publication has shown how giving by a wide range of individuals and organisations has had a huge impact across the GDST and on girls' education generally. No matter the size or form, your giving is greatly appreciated and has created opportunities.

In the school year 2022-23, the GDST will be 150 years old. During this milestone anniversary, we will launch our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date. Simply, we must increase the number of bursaries we can award across our schools to bright girls from all walks of life. We hope that you will join us and support our ambitions for even greater diversity and inclusion at our schools and to continue nurturing future and representative generations of talented, innovative and fearless women.

I will always be grateful for the full bursary awarded to me to study at Portsmouth High School. Without it, I may not have become the person I am today, doing the job I love so much. All those years ago, I knew I mustn't squander the chance I'd been given and put everything I had into making the most of it.

And now, I am proud to be able to help give others the opportunity to change their lives.

Thank you to all our donors for the opportunities you are giving. I hope you feel proud too.



Sam Davies

Head of Philanthropy, GDST
Portsmouth High School, Class of 1994

P.S. We always welcome the chance to speak directly to our donors about their experiences and any ideas they have for our activities.

Please feel free to email me on s.davies@wes.gdst.net and we can arrange to meet.

Read about Sam's experience as a bursary recipient at Portsmouth High by following the QR code.





The Girls' Day School Trust

www.gdst.net/support  @GDST & @GDSTalumnae

10 Bressenden Place, Westminster, London, SW1E 5DH

The Girls' Day School Trust is a limited company and charity registered in England Company No. 6400. Registered Charity No. 306983. The GDST Academy Trust is a limited company and charity registered in England No. 6000347