



# High Flyer

– NEWS FROM –  
**Prep to  
Sixth Form**

**Celebrating  
Diversity at  
Manchester High**

**Shaping the  
Enquiring  
Mind**  
Early Years Education

**Spotlight on  
Drama**  
Fostering  
communication skills



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# High Flyer

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#### GREENER WAYS TO ENJOY HIGH FLYER

If you would prefer to receive your copy in a digital format, please notify us by emailing [development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk) and we'll make sure the next edition of *High Flyer* lands swiftly in your inbox!

## Welcome

Welcome to the 62nd edition of Manchester High School for Girls' High Flyer magazine. As ever, in this Autumn/Winter edition we are celebrating both the academic and extra-curricular achievements of our students, as well as celebrating our dedicated staff, alumnae, governors, friends and our wider School community.

In this edition, we will introduce you to our new Head Girl Team, discuss our approach to Early Years Education, celebrate the diversity of our community and look back at our incredibly successful Celebrations and Awards Evening. The stories, photographs and testimonies shared here are a shining example of what makes our school community so special.

We also celebrate our Year 11 and Senior Sixth students' results; which were truly outstanding last year. Over 95% of all A-level grades were at the highest level of A\* to B and over 80% of all GCSE grades were 9 to 7. We know that our leavers have the foundation to go on to achieve, to excel and to sustain that love of learning gained at Manchester High, well beyond the school gates.

Education is about academic fulfilment, but it is also about the development of character, both of which result in our wellbeing - the ability for each of us as individuals to flourish. Thus, education is about more than results, it is about developing the character and the values that can enable us to live happy, fulfilled lives.

Our pupils are prepared to take risks, embrace their love of music performance, develop their passion for charity work, build their confidence in drama and dance, and work together in sport – whether they win or not. Their participation in competitions, olympiads, debates, Model United Nations, Young Enterprise and beyond are all invaluable contributions to school life and form a fundamental part of the holistic educational experience offered by MHSG. I hope you enjoy this edition!

**Mrs Helen F Jeys**  
Head Mistress



*This edition, as always, exemplifies our approach to educating our students – who we know will go on to be global citizens and courageous motivators of change.*



# Bumper Results Success for the Class of 2022

## A-levels

**The first year group of students to sit A-levels without having sat a full set of GCSEs had every reason to celebrate this summer.**

Years of disruption to their education caused by the Coronavirus pandemic did not stop the Class of 2022 from enjoying huge success.

Over 95% of all A-level grades were at the highest level of A\* to B.

Ann Goddard, MHSG's Pastoral Deputy Head, said: "Grades are one thing, but it is what they reflect that matters and these results demonstrate how resilient our students are. MHSG students have shown their absolute resolve and true grit throughout the Pandemic. This is the first set of public examinations they have done and they have worked incredibly hard. Their achievements are remarkable."

The School has seen a bumper set of results this year, with students off to a wide range of universities; to study subjects from Medicine, to Music, Engineering to French & Portuguese.

Hawa Dar, a bursary student from Levenshulme who sat on the Head Girl Team, achieved 3 A\*s and secured a place to study Medicine at Cambridge. She said: "It's been a rollercoaster of events. We went into lockdown, we had to adapt to teaching from home. The teachers were so supportive, and it was difficult for them too; it was a brand new situation for all of us.

"But we were all in the same boat and we all supported each other through it. Manchester High's community is amazing, it's like a little family. I want to say a massive thank you; my friends and family have been amazing. Me going to Cambridge is because of all of them."

One Manchester High parent, Arpana Hathi, whose daughter Raakhi secured a place at Hertford College, Oxford after achieving 3 A\*s, said: "We're ecstatic. She's done so well. We chose to send our daughter here for the balance the school strikes between firmness and fairness and the well-roundedness they encourage. It's that trust - I know when I send my daughter there every day that she is safe, getting the best and is getting opportunities."

Head Mistress Mrs Helen Jeys said: "We must not underestimate the challenges A-level students have faced across the country with uncertainty characterising their A-level experience. The grades our students have achieved, after these turbulent few years, are even more outstanding as a result; indeed, they are the well-deserved consequence of their fantastic work ethic and positive approach to study as well as the care, support and superb teaching of the staff here. I could not be prouder of our Class of 2022.

"Our Senior Sixth students are a talented, conscientious, inspiring and resilient group of young people who will, I am sure, continue to challenge and excel in their chosen fields. We look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as they progress beyond the school gates."

*"It's been a rollercoaster of events. We went into lockdown, we had to adapt to teaching from home. The teachers were so supportive, and it was difficult for them too; it was a brand new situation for all of us."*



Hawa



Helen Jeys with the students and proud parents



Abigail

## GCSEs

**Our Year 11 students enjoyed equally impressive success.**

Over 80% of all GCSE grades were 9 to 7.

Jennie Hodson, the School's Teaching & Learning Deputy Head said: "Our students have worked incredibly hard in challenging circumstances to achieve these fantastic results. Their achievements reflect how determined and resilient they are and the support they have had from the School throughout the pandemic. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved."

Year 11 student, Laylan Khoshnau, from Bramhall, said: "This has given me confidence. I've had opportunities and options and been given a place to shine. The support from teachers has been amazing and I was happy coming to school every day."

One Manchester High parent, Hayley Thake, whose daughter Ruby achieved eight Grade 9s and two Grade

8s, said: "I couldn't speak more highly of Manchester High. It's been a difficult time, but it just shows the mettle and the ethos of the School and the students. I trust the school completely, they're well practised and my daughter has been so well supported, they've been absolutely amazing."

Mrs Helen Jeys said: "These fantastic results are testament to our pupil's determination and drive, as well as their ability to overcome the difficult circumstances of the last few years with resilience and grace. This, combined with the superb support and teaching at Manchester High, has ensured these well-deserved grades.

"I am incredibly proud of our Year 11s, who are an inspiring, diligent and talented group of young people who I have no doubt will continue to thrive. As a school, we look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as they continue with life in the Sixth Form."



Ruby



Tanatswa

*"This has given me confidence. I've had opportunities and options and been given a place to shine."*



Spotlight On

# Manchester High School for Girls' Values

Mrs Helen F Jeys - Head Mistress

Like many thousands across the country, I queued for many hours to pay my respects to the late Queen, while she lay in state in Westminster Hall. I talked to pupils about my experience during assemblies the following week and the lessons I had learned from a weekend that I, and my family, will never forget. What I had not expected, though, was how overwhelmed I would feel by the compassion demonstrated by so many people during those ten and a half hours, waiting and walking in a queue to pay my respects - from the person who opened her house so that people could use her bathroom facilities, to the army reservists distributing tea, coffee and cake during the early hours, from those collecting leftover food for the homeless to those singing to entertain those who had waited for so long. The weekend, I told pupils, provided reassurance that, just as Jean-Jacques Rousseau argued in the 18th century, we, as humans, possess a natural goodness and we have the capacity to extend this to other members of our community.



Compassion is one of our school values and is something that we see reflected in the actions of our pupils on a weekly basis. From those who support friends when they are struggling, to those who go litter picking in the local area every week, to those engaged in charity work to benefit those close to home and those abroad, our pupils understand the vital importance of compassion and its close relative, empathy.

Indeed, even though I dislike the term, 'soft skills' such as empathy - that real willingness and ability to try and understand the perspective of others, and compassion - the willingness to act on this understanding, are seen as increasingly important to employers and to effective leadership.

For instance, Google - one of the most successful companies in history - analysed their personnel and found that the most productive and engaged members of its teams were those who possessed well-developed soft skills like empathy and compassion. The so-called 'Project Oxygen' concluded that future employees needed to bring these soft skills to the interview table, as well as impressive STEM skills. Indeed, I am a firm believer that compassionate leadership is just as important a tool in my own role as Head Mistress as my understanding of educational pedagogy and knowledge of regulatory requirements. The importance of empathy and compassion in any organisation, is one of the reasons why I have introduced the acronym 'RADIO' to Manchester High this year, standing for:

- **R**espect
- **A**ctive listening
- **D**ialogue
- **I** speak for myself only
- **O**ops! ('We make mistakes and we should forgive')

The acronym reflects an approach to communication that should underpin all of our interactions. At Manchester High, if we are to stand by our value of compassion, we should listen to others actively, demonstrate respect and forgive if someone makes a mistake in their communication. This is even more important when digital communication makes the ability to empathise and demonstrate emotional intelligence even more difficult. I hope that RADIO - as well as our focus on charity work, mentoring, wellbeing and mutual support - will continue to emphasise to our pupils that the building of character is so incredibly important to what they develop during their time at Manchester High. Indeed, it was music to my ears when I heard that, upon receiving her A-level results, a member of the Senior Sixth said that Manchester High had taught her the importance of integrity alongside the encouragement to love learning. I am certain that this quality, alongside her A-level results, will take her far and enable her to be an agent of change, just like so many before her.





Our archivists passed me a piece written by Mary Tout, historian, educationalist and suffragist, who was a pupil at MHSG from 1886 - 1892 and a Governor from 1900 - 1925. In the 'Monthly Record of Educational Thought & Progress', Mary noted that a Manchester High student "learns to judge her fellows by the standard, not of what they possess nor of what they profess, but of what they are." Tout goes on to describe the pupils, quoting Stevenson, as a "radiating focus of goodwill...their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted...We appreciate much these softly burning candles, which take the form of happy girls who will in due course as women be able to throw their light wider, and brighten the dark places of the city."

What is so reassuring is that despite the ongoing evolution of Manchester High, those founding principles remain, and our values – though recorded with different words – reflect those same notions. Our ongoing aim at MHSG is to ensure that our pupils achieve their potential, but to think that potential is purely an academic endeavour is to miss the point about humanity and, in my view, about what is so special about the School I lead. Compassion, empathy, respect – soft skills or crucial tools to the building of character - are so important to the success our pupils go on to achieve and what they reflect on a daily basis in school. Indeed, as Martin Luther King so beautifully summarised, it is "intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education." How right he was.



*"A Manchester High student learns to judge her fellows by the standard, not of what they possess nor of what they profess, but of what they are."*



# Sport



## Hockey Success

Congratulations to our U14 hockey team who became Greater Manchester's Champions in October. Well done to Sophie, Eloise, Hattie, Grace, Martha, Amaani, Chloe, Halle, Frankie, Izzy, Zara, Enna & Gracie who are off to represent Greater Manchester at the next round.



## Manchester City Academy

Massive congratulations to lylah in Year 6 who has been re-signed to the Manchester City Football Club's Academy. Huge well done on such a fantastic achievement!



## Climbing Debut

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil Cesca, who has had a very successful start to her first season of competitive climbing. She recently competed in the Junior British Lead Championships, Welsh Lead Championships and is now ranked 25th in England and 23rd in Wales. She is competing for a chance to qualify for team GB in the Youth Climbing Series next.

## Artistic Swimming World Championships

Evie in Senior Sixth has been competing for Team GB in the Artistic Swimming Junior European Championships and the Junior World Championships. She finished ninth in the Technical Duet, tenth in the Free Duet at the Euros, and eleventh and thirteenth for the same events at the World Championships.



# School News







### Kayak Promotion

Chloe in Year 7 won a national Division 2 canoe slalom race in Bedford and gained promotion to Division 1 in Kayak. She has become the youngest English girl in Division 1 by a whole two and a half years.

### Tennis Ace

Year 5 pupil, Millie, competed in the Cheshire County Junior Championships at Hoole Tennis Club and won the U11s Girls Singles, came second in the U12s Girls Singles and won the U12s Mixed Doubles. Well done, Millie!



### Our Golf Star

Year 10 student Isabella won the Royal Birkdale ladies scratch golf event over the Summer. She scored -4 and -3 across two rounds, including a hole in one.



# Partnerships

## Spooktacular

This term, our Sixth Formers and staff turned our lecture theatre into a spooktacular space for the pupils of St. James Primary School to enjoy some Halloween activities as part of our outreach programme.



# Performing Arts

Besides their LAMDA examination success, our students have had a fantastic few months of performances, music and excursions.



## Annie

Our students performed the Musical 'Annie' to a sold-out hall in June 2022. Reviews of the show labelled it 'brilliant' and 'fantastic'!



## New York

Our Drama students enjoyed a busy trip to New York in June 2022, where they explored the Big Apple, enjoyed the sights and saw 'Hadestown' and an accompanying workshop with members of the Broadway cast.

# Music

Senior Sixth Former, Amy, won this year's Warburton Competition and played 'Concertino for Flugelhorn' by William Himes in front of a packed audience at the Bridgewater Hall during this year's Celebration & Awards Evening. Well done, Amy!





# Celebration & Awards Evening

**2022** *“Tonight is about our whole School community, not just those who walk across this stage.” – Mrs Helen Jeys.*

This year's Celebration & Awards Evening was an incredible night of live musical and dance performances and a celebration of academic and extra-curricular achievement. The event is the jewel in the School's crown – an amazing showcase of all of things that make Manchester High School for Girls' students, staff and community so remarkable.

In her welcome address, our Head Mistress, Mrs Helen Jeys, said: *“Aristotle saw education as a holistic enterprise – one that necessitates valuing empathy, compassion, accountability, integrity, confidence and courage. Fundamentally, education is about academic fulfilment, but it is also about the development of character; both of which result in our wellbeing; the ability for each of us as individuals to flourish.”*

With a theme of Wellbeing, this year's event showed our richly diverse community at its absolute best.

All of our prize winners and the students who celebrated their examination successes that evening are a real credit to the School.

Our Guest of Honour, Naomi Davis, who left MHS in 1983 and is now a consultant in Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, delivered a captivating keynote speech. Naomi shared her personal experiences of belonging to MHS, the vital importance of working in diverse teams and her reflections on treating the injured following the terrible bombing at the Manchester Arena five years ago.

Our Warburton Prize winner, Amy, gave a beautiful solo performance of 'Concertino for Flugelhorn' by William Himes.

Our Archivists, Mrs Pamela Roberts and Mrs Gwen Hobson, shared a fascinating video, exploring the School's attitude to the Wellbeing of its students throughout the decades since MHS was founded and our Head Girl

Team delivered moving and insightful speeches and were remarkable ambassadors for the School's student body.

Celebration & Awards Evening 2022, as it is every year, was so moving and such a resounding success thanks to all of the invaluable contributions continually made to MHS – from the students, staff, governors, alumnae, friends and our wider whole school community.



## Our Librarians' Recommendations

For our pupils from Reception to Year 2 we recommend:



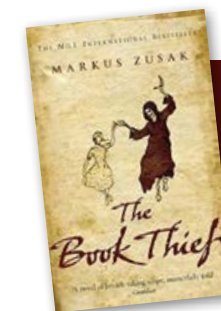
**OUR TOWER**  
by Joseph Coelho

Award-winning poet, playwright, author and Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, wrote this deeply immersive picture book based on his personal experience of growing up in a tower block.

The story follows three children in search of an adventure who visit the stunning green landscape visible from their tower block window. They leave their bleak, grey tower and use their imaginations to embark on a magical journey to an underground world. From this experience, they realise that magic has existed in their tower block all along within the beauty of their community.

The lyrical text and rich illustrations work brilliantly together to convey our connection to nature and appreciation of community.

For students in Years 7-11 we recommend:



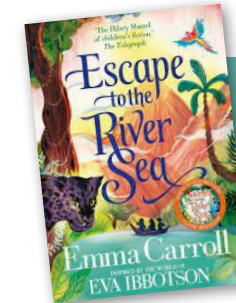
**THE BOOK THIEF**  
by Markus Zusak

'The Book Thief' transports readers to Nazi Germany between 1939 and 1943 and introduces them to a very different WWII story.

It is heart-breaking and uplifting all at once and will appeal to a wide variety of readers.

This novel has earned praise as an instant classic, won several book awards, has been made into a major motion picture and has most recently become a stage adaptation.

For our pupils in Years 3-6 we recommend:



**ESCAPE TO THE RIVER SEA**  
by Emma Carroll

This is a compelling novel inspired by Eva Ibbotson's bestselling, classic masterpiece, 'Journey to the River Sea'.

'Escape to the River Sea' is meant to be a sequel to the original novel, but works equally well as a standalone. It is sure to be a real treat for those who have previously enjoyed 'Journey to the River Sea'.

Emma Carroll does an exquisite job of taking the reader on a historical journey to the Amazon rain forest where we revisit known characters, as well as meeting new ones.

For our Sixth Formers we recommend:



**OPEN WATER**  
by Caleb Azumah Nelson

Winner of Debut Novel of the Year at the British Book Awards, this is an exquisitely written, poetic novel.

An exploration of race and masculinity, Nelson leads the reader through intense illuminations of love and life.



# CAREERS TALKS

With the employment landscape constantly changing, we want to help prepare our students for the world beyond Grangethorpe Road.

Our 'Insight Into...' virtual careers talks provide an opportunity for students in Year 7 to 13, and their parents, to hear from members of our wonderful MHSG community about their chosen career paths, how they got to where they are and the many twists and turns they have faced along the way.



## 2022-2023 Insight Into... careers talks

### INSIGHT INTO...

#### ...EDUCATION

6pm Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

#### ...SPORTS

6pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### ...GRAPHIC DESIGN & ADVERTISING

6pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

If you are a student and would like to virtually attend any of these talks, you can book your place now at:  
[www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/about-us/careers-futures](http://www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/about-us/careers-futures)

If you are a member of our alumnae community and would like to support our **Futures programme**, either via our 'Insight Into...' talks or our mentoring scheme, '**Project Pankhurst**', please contact [development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk).

Your help and advice are invaluable to our current students and help us deliver the best possible careers programme.



# Meet the Governor

## Naveed Yasin

**MBBCH (HONS), CMGR MCMI, MBA, FRCS (TR & ORTHO)**

Originally from Yorkshire and having studied in Wales, I have been in Manchester for over 15 years and see myself as a Mancunian by choice rather than accident of birth. My connection with the School has been through my two girls at MHSG, which has given me the insight into how important the School is in championing diversity.

I currently work as a Complex Spine Surgeon in the NHS, having trained both here in the UK and overseas, including Australia. Other than treating patients with spinal conditions, I also have a focus on preserving an individual's right to self-determination as the Consent Lead. Furthermore, I am the Chair of Division for Tertiary Medicine and Critical Care. I have a passion for tackling institutional bias and I am a Director for a national hate crime charity. More recently, I have completed an MBA and a master's in leadership and management. I work closely with Manchester University where I am an academic advisor providing support to undergraduate medical students.

MHSG is a school that empowers girls from all backgrounds, not just by unlocking their academic potential, but also by providing them with the vital skills needed to become successful and independent women, as well as the leaders and thinkers of the future. The staff and governing body are made up of individuals who are passionate about the School and its pupils. I feel proud to be part of and work with this team.

*"MHSG is a school that empowers girls from all backgrounds, not just by unlocking their academic potential, but also by providing them with the vital skills needed to become successful and independent women, as well as the leaders and thinkers of the future."*





# Head Girl Team

It is an immense privilege to be announced as the Head Girl Team for the next academic year. Our team is led by Head Girl, Eve, and supported by Deputy Head Girls, Catrin, Ebube, Maryam, Natalya and Rebecca.

**We feel incredibly fortunate to represent the values and community of the School of which we are so proud.**

We take huge inspiration from Head Girl Teams that have come before us. They are all incredible role models, and we admire the impact they have each had on the School. We now hope to emulate their successes and make our own mark upon life at Manchester High. We are full of ideas and eager to get started – especially with regard to work around our chosen theme for this academic year – Wellbeing.

Wellbeing has always been at the heart of MHSG's ethos. The School's focus on empowering girls and shaping

them into well-rounded individuals for nearly 150 years is testament to this.

Given recent events and the current climate, as a Head Girl team we feel pupils' wellbeing is more important than ever. Nothing is more important than being happy.

Wellbeing encapsulates the physical, psychological and social health of a person. It is also crucial to building confidence and self-esteem. At Manchester High, we know that nurturing all of these elements is fundamental to an individual's fulfilment and success.

This year, as Head Girls, we would like to encourage everyone in the Manchester High community to consider, look after and value their health and wellbeing, while we support one another, as we always do.

## Q&A with the HG Team

**What made you want to be part of the Head Girl Team?**

**Eve said:** "Being part of Manchester High has inspired me so much since I've been here, so my reason for wanting to be on the Head Girl Team is a little selfish really! I want to ensure every student is inspired just as much as I am and I really fancied wearing the team's iconic Ivy Leaf badges! They are always the most stylish addition to a blazer!"

**Catrin said:** "I wanted to be on the Head Girl Team because, when I first joined the School and throughout the lower years, I really admired the confidence and supportive nature of the Head Girls and wanted to be a positive figure for younger students in the School."

**Which of your new duties are you most looking forward to?**

**Ebube said:** "Definitely being more involved in all the goings-on in school. I'm particularly looking forward to planning for all of the leavers' events like the Prom!"

**Rebecca said:** "I am excited to work with a group of young people who are passionate about making a change and helping the community."

**What has been your favourite moment so far in your role?**

**Natalya said:** "Organising the entertainment at the Jubilee event, doing glitter tattoos and painting all the Prep girls' faces! It was very funny and rewarding seeing how much they loved them!"

**If you could meet one person from any point in time, who would it be?**

**Catrin said:** "Freddie Mercury. One word: iconic!"

**Eve said:** "Roberta Metsola - the current President of the European Parliament. I think she is one of the most incredible women - a strong and inspiring leader, and her speeches definitely don't get enough credit; they're absolutely epic!"

**What is your favourite thing to do to relax, and look after your wellbeing?**

**Ebube said:** "Have a long shower and a bit of a spa evening and then get Netflix on!"

**Rebecca said:** "My favourite thing to do is napping. I love a good nap – anytime, anywhere, any place!"

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be?**

**Maryam said:** "Time manipulation!"

**Natalya said:** "To be able to speak every language in the world or know every lyric to every song, I just think it'd be so cool!"



*"I want to ensure every student is inspired just as much as I am."*



# Celebrating Diversity

## at MHSG

One of our School Values is Individuality. It has been a busy time for our students and staff celebrating this value across the whole school community.

This academic year's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) captains have now been appointed and are busy planning events and discussions for everybody to get involved with. Congratulations to our Diversity and Inclusion School Captains for 2022-23: Ezra, Amelia, Jasmine, Natalie and Deputies Rain, Alice, Manahil and Bella.

Their role is to lead on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events within school, liaise with form groups, listen to feedback and ideas, attend form DEI forums and to help shape the School's direction on all things DEI from a student perspective.

Last year, current students wrote a draft DEI Charter for the School. This is now in its final stages of preparation and has been discussed with students, staff, alumnae and our governors.



Lunar New Year



Diversity Captains

# Events

So far this academic year, we have enjoyed a visit from a Rabbi for Rosh Hashanah, Black History Month assemblies and a Black History Heroes competition.

We also enjoyed our first Individuality Day, which took place on Tuesday 1st November. The entire day of events for all year groups featured speakers on Disability, Race & Allyship, Individuality and Intersectional Feminism, as well as form presentations and form discussions on the School's DEI Charter.



Our brand new Diversity Banners are now hanging in pride of place inside school. These patchwork quilts were designed by our students in June and were lovingly stitched together by Miss Large.

Our DEI captains are set to lead a number of events across the rest of the academic year.

Last year, we celebrated Lunar New Year, Eid, Diwali, International Women's Day, Pride and LGBTQ+ History Month and much more as a school community. We look forward to celebrating these and many more festivals and events in 2023.



LGBTQ+ History Month



International Women's Day



Rosh Hashanah



Eid Celebrations



### Inside the Classroom:

# Brand New Learning Opportunities

Mrs Jennie Hodson, Deputy Head for Teaching & Learning

## Mandarin

MHSG has reviewed its curriculum over the last academic year and introduced Mandarin as a taster language for our Year 7 pupils.

For half a year, alongside either French, German or Spanish, all students now have the opportunity to embrace this new subject.

We wanted to diversify our languages teaching, offering a language that has a completely different alphabet, is of increasing business importance globally and is one of the most widely spoken languages outside of Europe. An added benefit is the cultural awareness our pupils will gain through their study.

We hope that, through these taster lessons, students will discover a new passion. Over the coming years, we will support students so they can continue studying Mandarin and, if the programme proves popular, we are considering introducing Mandarin as a GCSE option in September 2025.

With this new programme, we are building on our Preparatory Department's existing offering and our extra-curricular Mandarin club for Sixth Formers.

We have native Mandarin speakers, as we do with all of our languages, within school. This course is designed to give those of all abilities an introduction to the study of Mandarin.



# The Design, Technology & Innovation Programme

At Manchester High, we believe it is really important for students to develop problem solving skills, solve real world problems, make and build things for themselves and become creative thinkers.

These skills link strongly with Science, Computing and Maths, but are crucial across all subjects.

Currently in Year 7, our students study three units as part of the Design, Technology and Innovation Programme; including food, textiles and product design.

As part of their lessons, pupils have been using computer software to design sustainable homes for the future. Our

latest major purchase is a laser cutter, which pupils are already using as part of their sustainable homes modelling.

For a long time, we have focused on Food and Textiles as part of our Design & Technology offering. Whilst we believe everyone, including those in co-educational environments, should be studying these vital skills, they can be seen as traditionally female subjects.

We are, therefore, exploring other areas as part of the programme; for example electronics and resistant materials including plastics, polymers and resins.

We are excited about developing and diversifying our programme in the future – enabling our students to learn about Design and Technology in different areas, focusing on new skills and creating innovative thinkers for the future.







# How do the very best schools ensure pastoral care is the best it can be?

Mrs Samantha Gibbons – Head of Preparatory Department

**Education and health are inextricably linked; without sound physical and emotional wellbeing a child will not reach their full potential. To put it simply, happy children will thrive.**

A quick look around the websites of all schools will inevitably uncover resources and reading material on all manner of 'pastoral' issues - from digital safety to managing anxiety, tackling racist issues to bereavement, to name but a few. You will find pages devoted to a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities - physical, musical and expressive. These too are all important in looking after the overall wellbeing of our young people. You will also find lists of designated safeguarding leads, their deputies and other teachers trained to support the pastoral needs of all pupils, and this is right and proper. Indeed, "having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' wellbeing", in accordance with statutory provisions, is an aspect of the wider responsibility of all teachers under the Department for Education's Teachers' Standards 2013.

Even with the above in place, excellent pastoral care does not just happen. It takes a good deal of time and effort to ensure it becomes a cultural norm within a school, so all parents should be looking for wellbeing in the school's stated aims. It must be at the front and centre of the school's values. But how can a prospective parent dig deeply into the ethos of a school to truly understand, if the high-quality pastoral care they write so lucidly about

is really embedded? To truly understand this, I believe it is important to look beyond the pages dedicated to it on the school's website.

At MHSG Prep, we acknowledge that looking after a child's wellbeing begins at birth, and that the acquisition of language is indivisibly linked to the healthy development of young minds. A wide vocabulary positively impacts a child's ability to name and therefore understand their emotions as well as communicating their feelings. A child who only knows the words 'sad' and 'happy' may find it difficult, therefore, to articulate feeling disappointed, jealous, frightened or thrilled. In fact, the more words a child acquires into their lexicon, the greater they understand themselves - which is a key building block to robust mental health. Furthermore, there is strong evidence that children with language difficulties at age five are more likely to suffer mental health problems in adulthood. This is an important starting point, and effective schools recognise this in the context of mental wellbeing and therefore provide language-rich environments for all pupils. The best schools take this further and actively teach the language of feelings and provide interventions and therapies which support children struggling with self-regulation. At MHSG, our Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 programmes of study are underpinned by this philosophy, and so we seek every opportunity for the pupils to develop their language skills and vocabulary from the very beginning of their education with us. We intervene

| *"All parents should be looking for wellbeing in the school's stated aims."*





promptly when pupils show signs of distress in this regard, liaise with parents and put in place therapies to support the pupils in overcoming these difficulties.

Furthermore, parents may well be familiar with the Personal Social and Health and Economic Education (PSHE) taught in all schools and the 'Relationship Education' that is now statutorily required, but the most effective schools understand that an age-appropriate understanding of brain function underpins the PSHE programme, and ensures that young people make the most of this aspect of learning. At MHSG, we timetable lessons for 'myHappymind' training; a programme designed "to give today's children the skills to thrive in tomorrow's world". Our students begin by learning about the brain and its functions, before focussing on how to build character and resilience. Acknowledging that "You were born to be real, not perfect" (Ralph Marston) is a thread woven into all that we do at MHSG. Furthermore, pupils should learn that balancing their academic endeavours with the pursuit of their own interests, as well as finding time for rest and relaxation, is an important life lesson, and one that promotes healthy attitudes to life and learning in preparation for their future lives.

In addition to the taught curriculum are the more subtle aspects of adult child relations, which are critical for a community in which pupils will thrive. Take a tour of any school on a working day and you will be able to see the interactions between pupils and their teachers in a real and uncontrived sense. Watch carefully, for in the best schools you will notice the positive nuances of that relationship; the humour used to encourage and motivate; the confidence of the pupils and their willingness to be

engaged in their learning. These are all signposts that the pupils are well looked after. The sincerity of this relationship should shine through and spread to the relationship they forge with parents too. When teachers and parents work together, the positive outcomes for pupils are profound. All schools seek the very best teachers with the academic credentials to bring about excellent progress, but a truly great teacher is kind and empathetic too.

It seems obvious, but a school who really is putting wellbeing at the heart of all that they do will have systems in place to deal with all day-to-day issues that arise: a full suite of safeguarding policies, with evidence that these are working in practice; a programme of study and extra-curricular activities, which engage pupils fully and lead to outstanding academic and personal development. But much more than that, they will have teachers who care deeply; who know their pupils' unique characteristics and embrace them. If you are considering a new school, try and visit on a working day - watch the school in action, look at the faces of the children and judge for yourself if they look happy and fulfilled.

*"Our students begin by learning about the brain and its functions, before focussing on how to build character and resilience."*



**Mrs Samantha Gibbons** – Head of Preparatory Department



# Early Years Foundation Stage Education at Manchester High

Mrs Esther Garbutt, Reception Teacher



*“How does a rose lose its petals?”*

*“Why does a wasp have a sting?”*

*“Why are willow trees droopy?”*

*“How do hedgehogs cuddle their friends?”*

All of those questions, and many more, arose from the discovery of one single footprint in the mud while outdoors with our Early Years girls. As parents, I am sure you are all too used to hearing “why?” and “how?” questions such as those above. However, as a teacher, I cannot hear them often enough. Enquiry is something we all do every day: it is how we learn. Enquiry from my perspective is designed to sustain, grow and nurture this natural disposition towards curiosity.

Experience in Early Years Education has shown me, time and again, that providing quality time for sensory exploration in a more play-based context helps to stimulate questions and provoke investigation.

It is always fascinating to see pupils spending time outside in nature, where their play is more diverse, with imaginative and creative activity; which fosters language and collaborative skills. Indeed, the questions asked at the start of this article informed our provision for the following few weeks, led predominantly by the pupils themselves.

At MHSg, we strive to encourage curiosity of mind. While learning outdoors and through exploratory play, our pupils are likely to encounter opportunities for decision-making that stimulate problem solving and

creative thinking. That is because outdoor spaces are often more varied and provide many more opportunities to wonder and ask questions.

As is the case throughout the School, we strive to find every opportunity to develop a healthy and active lifestyle and promote a sense of wellbeing. Our younger learners often acquire knowledge most effectively through active movement, taking on board information through sensory and physical experiences which support brain development. We are so fortunate to have a rich, sensory, ever-changing environment within the MHSg grounds. Our outdoor classroom and surrounding areas are full of exciting features to explore and investigate, with a myriad of opportunities to learn through active enquiry, play and talk. This enables us to encourage our pupils to play adventurously, to build dens, to dig water channels and to create stories. It is vital that we are teaching our pupils how to manage potential hazards, particularly when they encounter unpredictability as part of their play.

Finally, I am ever mindful that we are raising the next generation of planet protectors. Encouraging pupils to form a connection with the natural world around them helps them to understand conversations around sustainability and saving our planet and carry these values with them as they move up through the School.

*“Enquiry is something we all do every day: it is how we learn.”*



# Prep Adventures

Our Preparatory Department has had a busy start to the academic year.

Across all of the year groups, there have been some fantastic activities that enable the pupils to explore their creativity and individuality as well as learning a lot along the way.

Here are just a few highlights of what our Prep pupils have been getting up to.

## Space Day

The whole of the Prep had a brilliant time dressing up as astronauts, building constellation models and learning about the universe for Space Day. The highlight was a huge star-gazing, projector dome that immersed everyone in the cosmos.



## Chocolate Masterclass

Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed getting creative in a chocolate masterclass. They made their own lollipops and may have sneaked a mouthful or two of chocolate along the way!



## Bread Making

Our youngest pupils in Reception enjoyed a special bread-making masterclass with our catering manager, Peter. They all had a fantastic time learning and getting covered in flour.



## Reception's First Term

Our lovely Reception class has been busy settling in, making new friends and having plenty of fun in their first term at school.



## Harvest Festival

Our Prep students collected harvest donations for Emmeline's Pantry in October. We had KSI & KS2 assemblies with parents and staff and all donations were sent to the food bank for the benefit of our local community.





# Out and About With the Archivists

Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, our archivists, Mrs Gwen Hobson and Mrs Pamela Roberts, have been out and about in the quest for more information about the history of MHSG.

They said: "In May, we were invited to a talk in London about alumna, Christina Ratcliffe, who was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to the war effort in Malta in World War 2. The talk was given by Group Captain Paul McDonald OBE, who used material from our archive to write biographies of Christina and the ace RAF pilot, Wing Commander Adrian Warburton, with whom she fell in love. Sadly, Adrian went missing in action in 1944, and his body was not found until 2002.

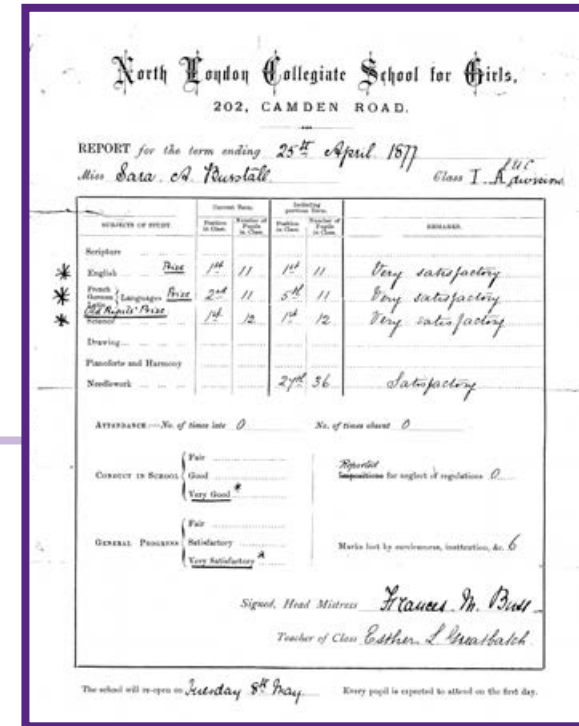
"Christina is still regarded as a heroine in Malta; she arrived in Valletta as part of a dance troupe, but also worked as an aircraft plotter during the intensive aerial bombing of the island. She is the subject of a musical play, 'Star of Strait Street', first performed in Valletta in 2018. We saw one of two performances in London later in 2018; it is a bittersweet tale of bravery, love and loss, with songs evocative of the period and newsreel footage of the siege of Malta. A documentary telling Christina's story is also in production as a tribute to her great spirit and her tremendous contribution to Malta's defence.

"While in London, we also visited North London Collegiate School with Ellie Horrigan, our Alumnae and Development Manager and former pupil of North London Collegiate School. Our Founders used NLCS as a model for Manchester High, and our second Head Mistress, Sara Burstall, was a pupil there, so it was fascinating to explore the material held in their archive relating to MHSG. We are grateful to their archivists who, amongst other things, have sent us scans of Sara Burstall's school reports and of correspondence between her and the second Head Mistress of NLCS, Dr Sophie Bryant. As we expected, Miss Burstall's reports were excellent, and she was awarded many school prizes before going on to study Mathematics at Cambridge. To our amazement, we also stumbled upon the Manchester High absence book for 1877 containing initials of absentees and reasons for absence. No one can explain why this happens to be in the NLCS collection and not ours. We were very moved by the sixth entry on the 27<sup>th</sup> March for a case of scarlet fever, as it notes the death of the pupil on April 1<sup>st</sup>."

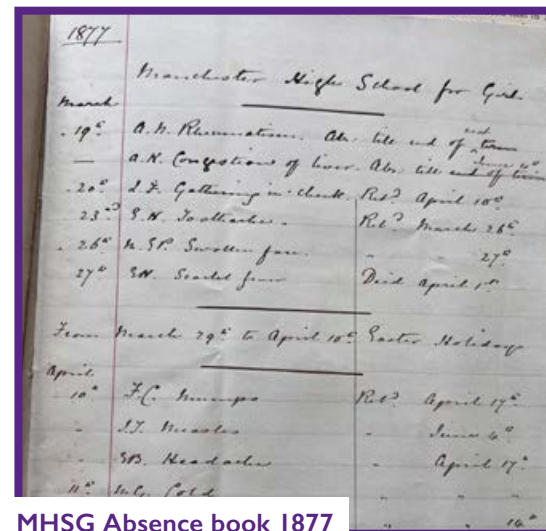
If you have any questions about the history of MHSG, or if you have any memories, photographs or mementos of your time at the School, please contact the archivists on [archives@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:archives@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk).



Sara Burstall in 1921



Sara Burstall's School Report in 1877



MHSG Absence book 1877



Adrian Warburton and Christina Ratcliffe



# Upcoming Events

for Alumnae and Friends

## 2022



## 24 Nov

### In Conversation with... Catherine Mayer

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Time:** 6.00pm to 7.30pm

**Format:** In Person and Virtual

**Venue:** Manchester High School for Girls

**Address:** Grangethorpe Road, Manchester, M14 6HS

**Price:** Free

Alumna, Former Editor of TIME magazine, co-founder of the Women's Equality Party and author of best-selling biography of King Charles III, Catherine Mayer is returning to school to share her pearls of personal and professional wisdom with students, staff, alumnae and parents. Hosted by our Head Mistress, Mrs Helen Jeys, Catherine's fascinating insights into the contemporary world of politics, the Royals and international journalism will no doubt prove inspirational.

### Festive Lunch

**Date:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Time:** 12.00pm to 3.00pm

**Format:** In Person

**Venue:** Manchester Hall

**Address:** 36 Bridge St, Greater, Manchester, M3 3BT

**Price:** £55 including a welcome drink, two course buffet selection and half a bottle of wine per person.

Fill up on festive cheer at Manchester Hall, where we will be celebrating the spirit of the season in the stunning Museum and Library rooms. Formerly a Freemason's Hall and situated between the John Rylands Library and the People's History Museum, this extraordinary venue will no doubt play host to some extraordinary conversation.



## 9 Dec

### Carol Service at St Ann's Church

**Date:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Time:** 1.00pm to 2.00pm

**Format:** In Person

**Venue:** St Ann's Church

**Address:** St Ann Street, Manchester, M2 7LF

**Price:** Free

Our traditional Christmas Carol Service at St Ann's Church has been a staple in the MHSG calendar for many years, with many guests choosing to combine the service with a trip to the Christmas Markets. By booking your ticket in advance, you will secure a seat at this wonderful festive concert, but limited tickets will be available on the day.



## Class of 20, 21 & 22 Reunion

**Date:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Time:** 4.30pm to 6.30pm

**Format:** In Person

**Location:** Manchester High School for Girls

**Venue:** Grangethorpe Road, Manchester, M14 6HS

**Price:** Free

We cannot wait to welcome back our alumnae from the Classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022! Whether you've just completed your first term at university, are in the midst of an apprenticeship or exploring the world on a gap year, this is the perfect opportunity to catch up with former classmates and teachers over drinks and nibbles.



**13  
Dec**

# 2023



## Founders' Lecture with Ruth March

**Date:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

**Time:** 7.00pm to 8.30pm

**Format:** In Person and Virtual

**Venue:** Manchester High School for Girls

**Address:** Grangethorpe Road, Manchester, M14 6HS

**Price:** Free

Ruth March is part of Astra Zeneca's Oncology Senior Leadership Team. She has led the development of the company's industry-leading capability in precision medicine, including £185m worth of investment and ground-breaking, brand new patient care technologies. In this fascinating lecture, Ruth will share her unique experiences from working at the forefront of her field, as well as advice for those wishing to follow in her footsteps.

**1  
Feb**



**Scan to  
book your  
tickets**

Tickets for all events, including those that are free of charge, must be booked in advance by visiting [www.ticketsource.co.uk/MHSG](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/MHSG)

Alternatively, please contact the Development Team: [development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk) or 0161 224 0447





Over 350 students receive LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons as part of their day at school, and this option is open to all individuals from Year 3 to Year 13. Lessons range from public speaking to acting and verse and prose. Our results are outstanding with 100% of students achieving Distinction in the latest round of examinations at the end of the Summer Term. Alongside this, there are lunchtime Drama clubs which are open to all students, regardless of their dramatic background or ability.

We pride ourselves on offering a huge programme of trips every academic year. In June 2022, we took 24 students on our second trip to New York. Everyone enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Big Apple, complete with a trip to the musical 'Hadestown' and an accompanying workshop with members of the Broadway cast.

This year, we will be taking a trip to London to see 'Back to the Future' and taking in the thrills of the Warner Brothers Studio. We are also seeing 'Mamma Mia', 'Guys & Dolls' and the world premiere of 'Sylvia', based on our very own Pankhurst family.

Curriculum visits include 'Much Ado About Nothing', 'The Glass Menagerie', 'Noughts & Crosses', 'Theatre de Complicité' and 'Julius Caesar'.

The Department hosts a wide range of evening events to showcase our work. Last year saw 'Chicago' and 'Annie' as our two musical extravaganzas, and we are rehearsing 'Grease' ready for the opening night in November. Such productions are open to every single member of the school community - if they want to take part, they can!

We allow students to explore aspirations through annual Monologue Slams, Cabaret evenings, LAMDA medals performances, Junior Performing Arts showcases, A Play in a Week, Examination presentations for parents, the Year 8 inter-form performance competition and a Prep LAMDA afternoon.

In July, a Year 9 student won the audience award at the grand final of the English-Speaking Union's Shakespeare competition, which was held at the Globe Theatre in London. Our Year 10 GCSE students also stage an annual Christmas show for a local nursery school. The event is always filled with laughter, singing and heartfelt joy. Such celebrations allow our students to share their many talents with others or to work backstage and enjoy working together as a team, nurturing collaboration and community. This artistic work is often vibrant, exciting and thought-provoking.

We enjoy workshops and masterclasses with a range of professionals from the Arts industries. These include choreography sessions, special effects make-up classes, devising tips and audition simulations. Staff and students alike feel the benefit of engaging with experts, and we all come away with fresh ideas to try out. There are also exciting collaborations with other local schools where our students reap the benefits of sharing experiences with those outside of our school community.

Students are happy in our care. They know the Drama Studio is a space without judgement, where they can express themselves artistically and develop their own micro-community throughout a GCSE or A-level course. Collectively they are sharper, they're more vital.

As the late Sir Peter Hall said to me [Mrs Haves] and my friends, when we graduated from our Drama PGCE course many years ago: "The world will always need Drama teachers. They show us what it means to live."

## In the Spotlight: Drama at MHSG

Mrs Jill Haves, Head of Department

In the Drama department at MHSG, we foster communication skills, nurture talent and encourage collaboration. We want every student to work in a stimulating, exciting and rigorous environment. It is very important to us that our young people develop self-confidence and essential life skills. Students thrive under our care, and there is an extensive range of rewarding opportunities available to all.

## Meet the Staff

Mrs Jill Haves  
Head of Department

Ms Jane Burley  
Drama teacher and Head of Middle School

Mrs Magdalen Price  
Drama and English teacher

Mrs Celia Polley  
Drama and English teacher

### Speech and Drama teachers

Mrs Helen Carter, Ms Claire Lever, Ms Susannah Lloyd, Ms Rachael McGuinness, Ms Roz Norbury





# Support the MHSG Bursary Fund

Every year we are faced with more applications for bursary places than we can offer. As an increasing number of families face financial difficulty, the Bursary Fund is more crucial than ever.

Our vision is excellence: to deliver a pioneering, innovative, and dynamic learning experience within a compassionate and caring environment for a needs blind, diverse community where the wellbeing and happiness of every individual and the fulfilment of their potential are our priority.

As the School of choice for girls in the North-West, our pupils - like those who have attended the School before them - will go on to be global citizens and courageous motivators of change.

Our Bursary Fund honours the intentions of MHSG's founders – to enrol the brightest pupils regardless of their financial circumstances.

By donating a small amount each month to the Bursary Fund, you can help us ensure that we fulfil our ambition to support any child who would benefit from an MHSG education.

**£10**  
a month

will buy PE kit for  
a bursary student

**£15**  
a month

will pay for a bursary  
student's first  
residential trip

**£25**  
a month

will cover a term of  
lessons on a musical  
instrument

## Support us



You can set up a monthly donation online by visiting [www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/alumnae/support-us](http://www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/alumnae/support-us) or email [development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk)



## In their own words...

"I remember my mum opening the letter from Manchester High and starting to cry.

"For a split second, I was so confused as to whether they were tears of joy or not, until she said, "YOU GOT IN WITH A BURSARY!" We could not believe what the letter said because the only way I could attend MHSG was with a 100% bursary. I realised, even then, how much Manchester High would help to shape my life.

"When I started my journey at School, I didn't know what to expect, because I had come from a small state primary school. In Year 7, we went to Lakeside and this is where I first realised that I had entered an institution where the core values and foundations were built upon an idea of community, and this brought me a great deal of comfort.

"Since then I have made new friends and had so many experiences from learning new languages and trips abroad to a broad range of extra-curricular activities, ranging from Model United Nations to Chess Club.

"I once sat in a crowd of people and watched a Manchester High girl talk about her life in school at an Open Day and I wanted to be just like her. But I never thought, years down the line, I would be talking at that same event and inspiring another little girl somewhere in the crowd to join Manchester High. That is one thing the Bursary Fund allows, for girls to come and join this amazing place, regardless of their financial background.

*"Without Manchester High and the Bursary Fund, my life, my goals, everything would be so different."*

"As I approach my final year, with the prospect of studying Medicine at university, I look back upon my time here quite often, knowing I have gained invaluable skills and life lessons. Without Manchester High and the Bursary Fund, my life, my goals, everything would be so different.

"Manchester High School for Girls has made me realise what I can do and helped me to achieve my full potential."

**Current Bursary Pupil**





## Our Values

Manchester High School for Girls nurtures...



**COMPASSION**

We foster a culture of respect for others, tolerance, kindness, honesty and service. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to their community, locally and globally.

**INDIVIDUALITY**

We are proud of our diverse community and know every pupil as an individual. We support their aspirations and encourage the development of resilience and self-confidence, so that our pupils can become tenacious, independent and happy.

**INNOVATION**

We empower our pupils to think for themselves and to experiment, express opinions, develop new ideas and challenge stereotypes. We encourage them to be 'risk-takers', embracing the importance of failure and viewing challenges as stepping-stones to future progress, enabling them to be self-confident agents of change.

**LEARNING**

We inspire a lifelong love of learning and promote the highest standards of intellectual curiosity and academic rigour among both our staff and pupils.

**WELLBEING**

We believe in prioritising the all-round development of our pupils and encourage the pursuit of enjoyment, fun and mindfulness; recognising that happiness is fundamental to success.

## Our Vision

**Our vision is excellence:** to deliver a pioneering, innovative and dynamic learning experience within a compassionate and caring environment for a needs blind, diverse community where the wellbeing and happiness of every individual and the fulfilment of their potential are our priority. As the School of choice for girls in the North-West, our pupils - like those who have attended the School before them - will go on to be global citizens and courageous motivators of change.



Keep in touch



## A continuing relationship with Manchester High School for Girls



In your time at MHSG, whether that was as a student, member of staff, or part of the wider community, we know that you will have made lifelong friends that you still catch up with and chat to, whether you left School five years ago or 50!

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) laws mean that all charities, of which Manchester High School for Girls is one, need the clear consent of supporters and friends to send updates and information with regard to fundraising campaigns and general activities such as mailings and events.

Unfortunately, when this came into force in May 2018, we sadly lost contact with a number of alumnae and members of the wider School community who did not provide us with their communication consent preferences.

If you are a member of our alumnae or wider School community and received this issue of *High Flyer*, be it by post or email, it means that you have already provided us with your communication consent preferences, and we are thrilled you want to keep in touch with Man High.

## Pass it on! We want to keep in touch

Manchester High School for Girls is nothing without its alumnae and the wider school community, and we would like to reconnect with as people as possible, particularly as we approach our 150th anniversary in 2024.

If you know of any friends who do not hear from us, please pass this message on to them and encourage them to update their details. Please also let us know if you have moved house, your contact details have changed or if you want to update your contact preferences.

[www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/alumnae/keeping-in-touch](http://www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/alumnae/keeping-in-touch)

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