

# High Flyer

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Confidence as the crucial ingredient

– NEWS FROM –

**PREP TO 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM**

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVE

Step into MHSG history

## SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

Building character and resilience



IN THIS EDITION OF

# High Flyer

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#### GREENER WAYS TO ENJOY HIGH FLYER

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## Welcome

Spring is always a time of hope and joy and there is a feeling in school that, just like the emerging green shoots, we are moving into a more positive and optimistic world in 2022.

Students are certainly making the most of the relative freedom that they have experienced so far this academic year and embracing all the extra-curricular opportunities on offer in school. In this edition of *High Flyer*, we celebrate the creativity and performing talents of members of our community, who have enjoyed a return to the limelight, and discover how our Sports Department effectively delivers 26 different sports across the School!

We also explore how the opportunities afforded by single-sex education can benefit children from the age of four and how the many advantages of leadership roles in building confidence and self-esteem continue to have an impact beyond the gates of Manchester High.

Alumna, Hillary Briggs, is testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of our students. You can read how her journey took her from a male-dominated career in production management and logistics in the auto industry to qualification for the Team GB Age Group Triathlon Team in her sixth decade.

As we head towards the Summer Term, the theme of community continues to be a focus and we hope you are inspired by reading some of our Founders' Day Pledges which epitomise the compassion and kindness demonstrated by our fantastic students.

**Mrs Helen F Jeys**  
Head Mistress

AS WE HEAD TOWARDS THE SUMMER TERM, THE THEME OF COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE A FOCUS AND WE HOPE YOU ARE INSPIRED BY READING SOME OF OUR FOUNDERS' DAY PLEDGES.

# High Flyers



## Anyi Boasts Several Strings to her Bow

17-year-old Anyi hit the headlines in the autumn after releasing three singles with her twin brother, Han. She then had another brush with success when her 'Winter Swan' painting was awarded third place in a national art competition!

Her artistic journey began back in 2020 when the sixth former collaborated with her brother on an album of songs about her personal struggles with loneliness. Having just started at Manchester High, Anyi used the composition to reflect on the feelings of isolation she had experienced during her high school years. Together, the twins recorded and produced the album, *Life Sketches*, in their bedrooms, with Anyi on violin and vocals and her brother playing the piano. The debut single, released in October, received positive feedback and even secured them an interview with BBC Radio Manchester!



Whilst creating the album, Anyi also entered some paintings into the prestigious Artists of the Year contest run by the SAA (Supporting All Artists). Three of her seven pieces were shortlisted in the competition that saw over 4,000 beginners and professionals entering in a variety of styles from still life to abstract art. Anyi was awarded third place from amongst 250 pieces in the Young Artist of the Year Category for 17 to 25-year-olds for 'Animal or Wildlife' pictures. It was chosen by a panel of judges that included internationally acclaimed artist and multi-award-winning television presenter and producer, Neil Buchanan, and writer and Arts broadcaster, Lachlan Goudie.

Whilst she paints just for fun, Anyi hopes to study music after she finishes at MHSG, but in the meantime, you can listen to the album:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/hanandanyi/life-sketches>

## Riya Challenges Streaming Giants

Sixth Form student, Riya, took on some of the world's biggest online streaming platforms in the autumn, having discovered that films and series that are screened online in the UK are not currently classified.

While writing her Extended Project Qualification, Riya wanted to explore the impact of the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why* on teens and whether there was any truth in the notion that it encouraged US teenagers to commit suicide. She was shocked to discover that there is no mandatory certification for series that are streamed on platforms like Prime, Netflix and other Video on Demand (VoD) apps.

Concerned by this, she set up an online petition on Change.org to raise awareness; this secured over 300 signatures in a matter of days. Riya then took these to a local Member of Parliament, who escalated their concerns and raised the issue with the Minister for State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure, Julia Lopez, MP.

In late November, Riya received a response from Ms Lopez. It appears that a recent consultation on audience protection standards has "asked for views on whether age ratings should be mandated on VoD services, as well as the role of other audience protection measures, such as pin codes and content warnings." It is evident that Riya is part of a much larger discussion, and the coming months will surely see an increase in media coverage on the issue.



## A Sister Act

Emma and Amy proved to be a real sister act when they both successfully auditioned for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

Whilst this will be Amy's fourth year playing the flugelhorn in the band, it is the first time that her 13-year-old sister, Emma, has participated. Amy will play in the Youth Band section whereas Emma will be making her debut playing the euphonium in the National Children's Brass Band. The orchestras provide a brilliant opportunity for the girls to work with some of the best brass band tutors in the world, as well as other leading educationalists, and will also introduce them to other like-minded musicians.

It is not just the sisters who have developed a passion for brass instruments, though! Even their mum has started playing and, on occasion, they can all be heard playing together! Between them, the talented family can play five instruments, but it is Emma who hopes to pursue a career in music one day. In the meantime, the sisters will continue to perform with the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band and are looking forward to playing with the national brass bands later this year.



## Perfect Poetic Declaration from Year 6

The 10th December saw the launch of the inaugural Greater Manchester Poetic Declaration of Human Rights on Human Rights Day 2021.

In a collaborative project between Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights UK and Curious Minds, school children across Greater Manchester were asked to respond to one of the Articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A poem created by Prep pupils in 6JC, in response to Article 4, was chosen as one of the final 30 poems to fit the 30 Articles. Their poem is a thought-provoking reaction to the article that "no one should be held in slavery for any reason." You can watch Kaiya and Selmas recite their poem on the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights UK YouTube channel or read it below.

**Congratulations to Year 6 on contributing to an amazing and very important initiative.**

*Nobody has any right to make us a slave.  
We cannot make anyone our slave.*

- Article 4 of the Declaration of Human Rights

## No Slavery

Let there be freedom  
So heavy chain become warm blankets  
And hard metal bars bend like soft rubber  
Let caged bird break free of their prisons,  
and soar into the distance  
Let their golden feathers become quills  
which spill  
The ink of a thousand stories  
So fears melt away.

Let there be belonging  
So children have a place to call home  
Let a mother hold her child, without fear  
of being sent away  
Let children run back home without  
feeling insecure  
Let tears fall on soil to form new plants  
where they can grow to become much more  
Let the teardrops from a little girl fade away  
as she sees her home come back together  
Let refugees live the life of another citizen,  
without breaking down.

Let there be equality  
So that all races can live happily  
Joining hands and singing in harmony  
So that people can walk without worry  
And so that innocence doesn't have to  
be buried  
So that black, brown, white can live together  
And stay together in peace.

Let there be better treatment  
So the cows can be free to roam the fields  
So the horses on farms can be free of  
their work  
So the whips can be burnt in a fire of worries  
So people can be as free as the waves  
in the sea  
So people can walk in the streets with  
no fear  
So people can be free of torture.

Let the people be born free  
Let the children run around the fields free  
So parents can go to work and put food  
on the table  
So people can have their own hopes  
and dreams  
Let happiness flow through children  
So people can have their opinion.

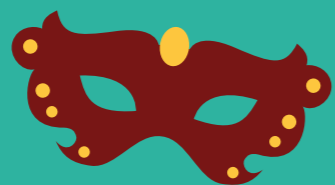
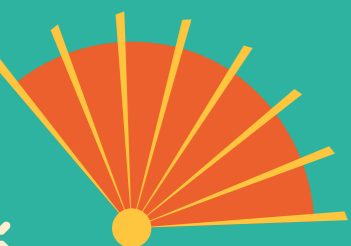
Let there be relaxation  
So babies can sleep calmly at night  
And unicorns can gallop in a child's dream  
So children can go to school feeling happy  
And adults can lay on the soft white clouds,  
looking out at the oceans  
Let the soft pillow sink you into a deep  
sleep with a shhhhhhhh shhhhhhhh  
Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.



*The 6JC Poem Published  
in the Greater Manchester  
Poetic Declaration of  
Human Rights.*

# CREATIVE CORNER

As the curtain came up on the Autumn Term, the stage was set for a series of concerts and shows that would dazzle Manchester High audiences!



There had been little opportunity for performances in front of a live audience during the last academic year and the Music and Drama Departments were eager to return to centre stage.

The annual Warburton Competition in October was the first musical event of the year showcasing the talents of Sixth Form musicians who competed in front of adjudicator, Rebecca Broome, and a live audience, in the longest-running competition in Manchester High's history. The award has been presented every year since 1935 and this year, Senior Sixth student, Thaejus, was awarded first prize for her beautiful piano recital of Elgar's Sonata in E Minor Op. 82, whilst Eve and Charlotte were highly commended for their piano and vocal performances.



THAEJUS



A WRIGGLY NATIVITY

Following her success in October, Thaejus went on to star as Billy Flynn in the Kander and Ebb School musical production of *Chicago*. For two nights, students brought some razzle dazzle to Manchester High, tangoing their way through performances in a fabulous collaboration between the Music and Drama Departments.

Head of Drama, Mrs Haves, was thrilled to be directing a big production, "It was an absolute joy to see a large cast of students back on stage performing. We were lucky to have been able to do a small-scale production of *Sweeney Todd* at the end of the Summer Term, but this felt like a return to normality!"

It was not just older members of the School community who had their turn in the limelight! Prep got in on the act in December with three days of festive plays that began with Reception performing *A Wriggly Nativity*, saw a very *Grumpy Sheep* in Year 1 and culminated with Year 2 introducing us to *Ralph the Reindeer*!

IT WAS AN ABSOLUTE JOY TO SEE A LARGE CAST OF STUDENTS BACK ON STAGE PERFORMING.

With more festive performances from the Music Department at St. Ann's Church in Manchester and the annual Christmas Concert in school, it was a beautiful end to the Autumn Term and left us wanting more! Sadly, the cancellation of Celebration & Awards Evening meant that we had to wait a little longer than anticipated for more musical mastery, but there are plenty of performances planned for the spring!



CHICAGO



CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR LOCAL PRIMARIES

# Our Library Recommends

As we continue to encourage all of our students to read, read and read (!), we recommend the following books:



For our pupils from Reception to Year 2 we recommend:



**MIGHTY MIN**  
by Melissa Castrillon

A stunning picture book with delightful illustrations that help draw in the reader. Mighty Min promotes self-confidence and bravery, encouraging a gentle approach to solving conflicts. With elements of humour and adventure in a whimsical garden setting, this is an enchanting read.

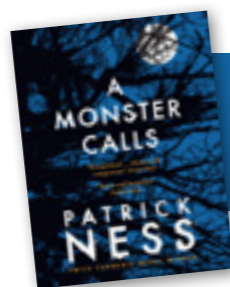
For pupils in Years 3-6 we recommend:



**THE GIRL WHO STOLE AN ELEPHANT**  
by Nizrana Farook

This wonderful fast-paced adventure has short chapters making it captivating, even to reluctant readers. Set in the Sri Lankan jungle, the book explores themes of loyalty, friendship and bravery and makes the reader feel both the threats and the beauty of the fantastical environment in which it is set. Full of diversity and culture, it is a beautifully told story.

For students in Years 7-11 we recommend:



**A MONSTER CALLS**  
by Patrick Ness

Chosen by Book Trust to feature on their recently compiled 100 best books of the last 100 years, this hauntingly beautiful book stays with the reader long after they have finished reading it. Although tackling sombre themes, it is an emotional journey that addresses grief in a very unique and redeeming way and can be enjoyed by a range of ages on different levels.

For our Sixth Formers we recommend:



**GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER**  
by Bernardine Evaristo

Winner of the Booker Prize 2019, this is a feminist narrative that presents the reader with a broad range of experiences from 12 women over the last 100 years. This beautiful book is written with compassion and humour and addresses issues of identity, race, womanhood and the realities of modern Britain.

**YOUR  
'INSIGHT'  
IS NEEDED!**

Over the last six years, we have delivered 30 "Insight Into..." talks in conjunction with members of our fabulous alumnae community!

These have taken place both face-to-face and virtually, providing students with invaluable information about career choices. In recognition of the work we do in supporting students with their future careers, we were named a finalist in the Student Careers Programme category of the Independent School of the Year Award in the Autumn.

Without our former students generously donating their time, our programme would not be as comprehensive and successful. Over the years, we have been privileged to host over 150 speakers from our alumnae community,

covering careers spanning from Dentistry to Digital, Languages to Law, Finance to Fashion, Science to Sustainability, Make Up to Medicine, Politics to Performing Arts, Engineering to Espionage, Cyber Security to Charity, Broadcast Journalism to BBC Apprenticeships and Psychology to PR.

Having recently held our final talk of this academic year, we are busy reviewing our most recent programme and coming up with ideas for talks in 2022/23. This is where we need your help! If you are a parent or student and there is a particular field that you are interested to hear more about, let us know! Alumnae: if you love your career, want to fly the flag for your specialism and help us develop this popular programme by offering to speak at one of our Virtual Insight Into talks, then do email us!

Parents, students and alumnae can get in touch by emailing the Development Team at: [development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk).

Don't forget, you can view many of these talks on our YouTube Channel here: [www.youtube.com/ManchesterHigh1](https://www.youtube.com/ManchesterHigh1)

# Meet the GOVERNORS



## Wakkas Khan

BDS, FRSA, DL

I grew up not far from Manchester High School for Girls and my older sister attended the School in the 90s. In my day job I work as a dentist, but I have had a varied career covering fields of international diplomacy, education and community cohesion, as well as acting as an advisor for various government departments. I am currently the Chair of both The Prince's Trust Mosaic North West — a charitable mentoring initiative founded and supported by HRH Prince of Wales — and the Trustee Diversity Panel. In 2017, in the aftermath of the Manchester Arena Bombing, I founded Young Interfaith — a national grassroots initiative that seeks to bring together young people of all faiths and none to inspire them to collective social action — and, in 2019, I was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

The governing body, like the School itself, is made up of people with different experiences, skills and backgrounds which is a massive asset to the School. Not only does being a governor offer me the privilege of supporting some of the brightest young minds in the country, but as a passionate advocate for social mobility, one of the things that has drawn me to MHSG is their commitment to providing education to academically gifted students regardless of circumstance, background and ability to pay.



## Kate Dickson

MA

As a former student, it is a pleasure and a privilege to serve on the governing body — although it can be quite demanding too! The school has of course changed a great deal since I left in 1985, but the atmosphere and the attitude of the girls are much the same. I am in awe of what the current students achieve, but recognise that my own qualities of conscientiousness, determination and pursuit of excellence derive from being a Manchester High girl.

My role as Chair of the Estates Committee includes considering how the buildings and grounds might reflect better the heritage of the School and its values (refreshed in 2021) and be updated to meet modern demands. The coming months will be very exciting as we embark upon the development of an estate masterplan, to steer future developments. This builds on the maintenance plan we have developed to enable us to prioritise repairs and renewals, which was very helpful when we needed to manage expenditure more closely at the height of the pandemic. As an architect, I bring relevant professional expertise, although my day job as a heritage consultant usually focuses on properties considerably older than Manchester High's buildings!

## Professor Fiona Smythe

BSC, PHD, FRGS

I spent much of my childhood moving between schools as my dad's job shifted from Ireland to London and then to various cities across the UK. In total, I went to eight different schools in the state and independent sectors that varied from the distinctly average to the truly brilliant.

Although neither of my parents had been to university, I was encouraged to study at the highest level. I went to Bristol University to study geography and then, after completing my undergraduate degree, I taught in a school in London before coming back to Manchester to study for a PhD. My ambition was to become a professor, inspired by an economic geographer called Doreen Massey who, when I was an undergraduate, was one of a very small number of female professors in any geography department. I made it — today I am a Professor of Geography!

Alongside that role, I am Vice-Dean for Teaching, Learning and Students and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. I oversee all undergraduate and master's teaching and students within the faculty which is home to approximately 17,000 students from 120 countries around the world. In these roles, I often reflect on my own educational experiences and those of my children. What drew me to MHSG when I was looking for a school for my own daughter, and what led me to become a governor, was its vision of education, which reflected so many of my own views. Manchester High is an amazing school that provides girls with a wealth of life skills and a fabulous education. It supports students to identify their strengths, nurture their talents, to be resilient and ambitious without compromising on their personal values. I have always loved the fact that the Pankhursts went to MHSG, but imagine my joy when it turned out that Doreen Massey was also an alumna of the school!



## Giles Burton

BSC, C.ENG, F.I.STRUC.E, F.CONSE, F.C.S

With Mancunian grandparents it was probably inevitable I would find myself at UMIST doing an engineering degree 30 years on from my father. Having grown up in leafy mid-Cheshire and attended the Grange Junior School, Manchester was a big change! On graduating, my first engineering job was in a small, central Manchester-based practice where no two days were the same.

My first involvement with Manchester High was as Design Engineer for the music wing at the start of the 1980s. We had an eminent acoustics professor advising the project to ensure it performed acoustically, which presented a big challenge on the structural front. In later years, the Sixth Form Centre and the extension and modernisation of the Prep Department followed.

As a Chartered Engineer, and the Senior Partner of an engineering consultancy with several branch offices and subsidiary companies, I was delighted to replace the retiring governor with expertise in building knowledge. The experience I had meant that the Estates Committee was a natural fit. I was initially co-opted to the board, but have since enjoyed over two years as a governor. The thing that has most impressed me about the School has been its diversity and inclusivity and the dedication of the staff.

Currently, I also act as a consultant to the same practice I started with. A quieter life, or so I thought! My time is spent as an expert witness, still problem solving and sharing opinions, inspecting buildings and making sure projects are built correctly.





When the Head Girl Team took office back in September, they were determined to do their bit to rebuild the Manchester High community, celebrating its diversity and reconnecting girls across the School through assemblies, events and activities.



HEAD GIRL TEAM

Halfway through their tenure, we caught up with the Head Girl Team to see how they are getting on. Head Girl, TiAnna, was quick to tell us that the Autumn Term had been a busy one for the Team! *"We have been balancing Head Girl duties alongside A-Levels and applications for university, but it has been a rewarding experience and we have loved meeting students from all different year groups."*

With the introduction of the new school values in September, the Team were soon involved in presenting assemblies to students explaining the thought behind the values and how they can be used to inspire students.

**WE ARE ALL PROUD TO BE 'IVIES' AND WE WANTED THE REST OF OUR COMMUNITY TO FEEL THAT CONNECTION!**

Indeed, the girls have been working hard on their theme of community and have been regularly meeting with different age groups at student council meetings where they have listened to their concerns and suggestions, supporting them in their discussions with the Head Mistress and teaching staff.

The student leaders were also kept busy helping at various open events in the Autumn Term – meeting prospective pupils and their families and sharing their love of the School. To finish off the term, they hosted a Well Being session for Year 8 students on the topics of cancel culture and events in history that have been overlooked.

It was another opportunity for them to meet with younger students whilst teaching them about historical events. The Team soon discovered that the younger students were not afraid to share their opinions!

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO STICK TO OUR AIMS OF RECONNECTING THE GIRLS, HELPING THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR IDENTITIES AND INSPIRING THEM TO BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES AS WE STRIVE TO SET AN EXAMPLE.**

So, have they achieved their aim to reconnect the community? *"It has been a challenge,"* admits TiAnna. *"The pandemic is still making it difficult to do everything that we planned, but we are hopeful that the Spring Term will bring more possibilities."*

The Team were involved in creating videos for our Celebration & Awards event that highlighted our new values. Continuing with their proactive approach, they subsequently turned their attention to the Spring Extravaganza — a concert hosted by the Head Girl Team which includes performances from students and staff — and are looking forward to continuing to connect the school community for the next few months before their study leave. They are certainly doing a fantastic job and we wish each of them the very best for their forthcoming examinations.



# Women in Leadership

## Confidence as the Crucial Ingredient

by Mrs Helen F Jeys - Head Mistress



Every year, I am invited to the annual Girls' Schools Association conference and I always feel privileged to have the opportunity to listen to outstanding speakers whose messages enable me to reflect on the education offered at MHSG. The conference also provides me with the time to reflect; a precious but vital commodity in leadership.

This year, Libby Purves — the British radio presenter, author and journalist — spoke about women in leadership and she left me with much food for thought. Purves proposed that in the media, female leadership roles tend to be presented as one of two extremes; either the 'soft' female leader, one who is easily swayed, or the Meryl Streep *'The Devil Wears Prada'* autocrat!

Furthermore, Purves referred to Anne Hathaway who, in an interview about her role in the 2011 film, *'One Day'*, stated that her first and immediate response when she was told that she would work with a female director was to doubt her abilities. Hathaway said:



### WE WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE'S VOICE IS HEARD AND THAT STUDENTS ARE — AS INDIVIDUALS — KNOWN.

*"I'm so scared that I treated [Scherfig] with internalised misogyny... I'm scared that I didn't give [Scherfig] everything she needed or that I should have because I was resisting her on some level."*

Hathaway was praised for her honesty, but her comments reflect the reality of internalised stereotyping that many may feel and, most importantly, an attitude that we must continue to oppose as we encourage more women to enter leadership roles. One of the ways, I believe, that we can do this is through the building of confidence in our students.

There are many ways in which we do this at Manchester High. Our students are encouraged to speak out for what they believe. But I also think that confidence is at the heart of the Manchester High ethos; we encourage and we assert — continually — that there should be no barriers to success, particularly those which may relate to potential gender difference.

We also emphasise strong women in curriculum areas, as well as members of our own alumnae who inspire us as firsts in their field and, obviously, we are also careful not to use stereotypical words to describe girls or women.

I have talked extensively in the past about the *'Ban Bossy'* campaign and of talking about girls as *'leaders'* and as *'assertive'* rather than *'bossy'*. The latter carries with it such negative connotations; rather we should be praising girls for their leadership skills and not assuming that examples of assertiveness are negative. Indeed, as Sheryl Sandberg states, *"I want every girl who's told she's bossy to be told instead that she has leadership skills."*



Furthermore, we are surrounded by examples of brilliant women in society who talk openly about the strengths they have as leaders. For instance, Dame Kate Bingham — fundamental in the procurement, manufacture and distribution of the Covid vaccine — stated that it was her problem-solving approach and willingness to work as a member of a team, which led to her incredible success, despite focusing, occasionally, on the reasons why she could *not* rather than the reasons why she *could*. However, she said that this is something she just needed to ‘get over’ and this came with confidence and self-belief.

**I AM ALWAYS STAGGERED BY THEIR DESIRE TO REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS IMPORTANT, TO MAKE A CHANGE AND, PERHAPS, IT IS THIS CONFIDENCE THAT WILL PREPARE THEM FOR THE CHALLENGES OF LEADERSHIP IN THE FUTURE.**

Therefore, rather than young girls questioning themselves when faced with the prospect of leadership, we should be asserting positive messages about young women, their abilities and the prospects they have to be hugely successful.

I see examples of our students' willingness to take on leadership roles on a daily basis. From their roles on the Head Girl Team, as representatives for their form, the student council, eco-society, diversity and so on — Manchester High students take their responsibilities seriously and really want to make a difference.



From the student who knocked on my door a few months ago, asking if we could plant more trees in our grounds, to those who want to talk to me about the importance of standing up for women against violence, I am always staggered by their desire to really make a difference, to stand up for what is important, to make a change and, perhaps, it is this confidence that will prepare them for the challenges of leadership in the future.

Giving our female students the opportunity to engage in leadership roles is vital, both inside and outside the classroom. Furthermore, such opportunities are not offered as a ‘one-off’. Aristotle’s “excellence... is not an act, but a habit” is an important lesson to teach our students. And, for those who find taking on such roles difficult, encouraging students to be ‘risk-takers’, and incorporating this characteristic as a virtue to be encouraged at all levels of the school, is important.

**I WANT EVERY GIRL WHO'S TOLD SHE'S BOSSY TO BE TOLD INSTEAD THAT SHE HAS LEADERSHIP SKILLS.**

The development of confidence makes all the difference and I firmly believe that the majority of our students have the confidence to lead by the time they leave Manchester High. I also know that our students' wish to make a positive, ethical difference will enable them to succeed. Indeed, in his *Analects*, Confucius argues that being virtuous, leading fairly and wisely, thinking and then acting decisively, are crucial to success; qualities our students have in abundance.



# Lifelong Learning



In keeping with our Learning value, and to celebrate all members of our community, we wanted to share how some members of staff have challenged themselves and learned skills that have enhanced their lives.

Having previously had experience in the face-to-face Teaching of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), School Secretary, Sara Kennedy, was intrigued by how it might work in an online-only setting. Looking for a new challenge during lockdown, she decided to research suitable courses — six months later she was awarded a CELTA qualification for teaching English as a foreign language online.

Geography Teacher, Rachael Daly, continues to utilise the skills she learned in supporting visually impaired individuals in the community after her graduation. Inspired by the community support that her grandmother had accessed for her own visual impairment, she took a course in helping people who are blind. Years later, the techniques that she learned are still relevant today and she regularly uses her skills to help members of the blind community.

**WE INSPIRE A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING AND PROMOTE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AND ACADEMIC RIGOUR AMONG BOTH OUR STAFF AND PUPILS.**



WHY CHOOSE A  
**Single-Sex  
 Prep School?**



Much has been written about the benefits of single-sex education for 11+, but as Head of Prep, Sam Gibbons, writes, to only promote it for girls post 11+ does a disservice to girls-only prep schools.

The idea that co-education is best in the formative years of young girls is as much a myth as the suggestion that single-sex schools shield young girls from the 'real' world.

A girls-only education is so much more than that. It is precisely this type of education that equips girls with the attributes and qualities needed to take their place in the world as confident, educated and well-balanced young women.

**THEY ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SO THAT GIRLS FEEL ABLE TO TAKE RISKS, MAKE MISTAKES, COLLABORATE AND LEAD OTHERS.**

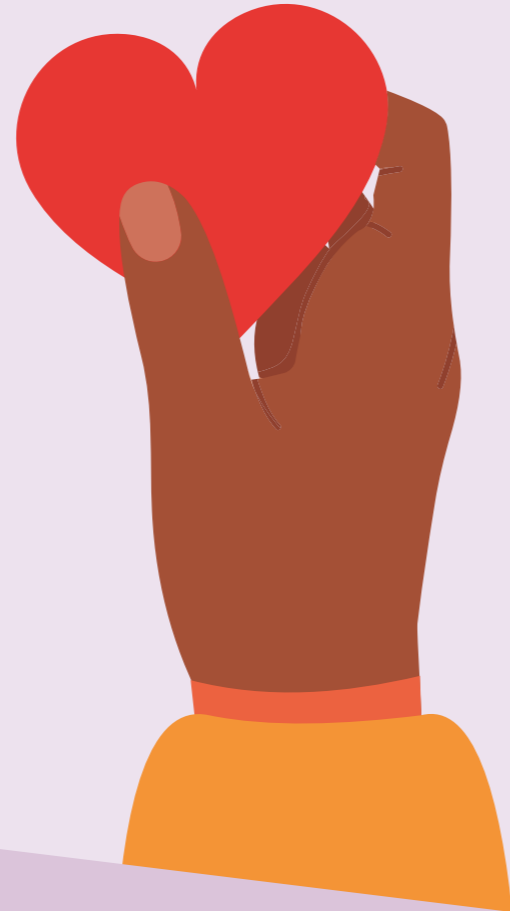


HEAD OF PREP, SAM GIBBONS





# ALL THINGS PREP



## Leading by Example

As Mrs Gibbons so eloquently outlined in her piece about the advantages of single-sex education, girls at Manchester High have many opportunities to take on positions of responsibility throughout their time in Prep.

From iPad Champions to Form Captains, pupils can assume leadership roles from their first year in school. Deputy Head of Prep, Mrs Shingler, believes that this is fundamental to giving pupils a sense of pride in their school community. She said, "By becoming a Form Captain, a member of the School Eco Group or School Council, pupils are able to learn valuable skills – they learn the ability to collaborate, develop confidence and can enjoy a sense of ownership for the duty they have undertaken."

This is particularly true of the Big Sister scheme which sees Year 6 pupils 'buddied up' with a Reception child at the beginning of the Autumn Term. EYFS Teacher, Mrs Anderson, is full of praise for the initiative, "When girls start in Reception in September, it can feel quite daunting for them, but by introducing them to a 'big sister', it gives them a sense of belonging and helps them settle into the school community." The older and younger pupils enjoy weekly playtimes together and, in non-Covid times, would also share regular reading sessions, both of which encourage the friendship to grow.



BIG SISTER SCHEME

For Head of Prep, Mrs Gibbons, it is also a great opportunity for the Year 6 pupils who are about to embark upon their final year in Prep. "By becoming role models, they are more likely to recognise how their behaviour can inspire younger members of the community and strive towards being the best version of themselves."



DIVERSITY DAY



WINTER SOLSTICE

## Community

It is not just through leadership that Prep pupils can feel that sense of belonging and community. By joining the Prep Choir or Orchestra or becoming a member of a sports team, they still achieve that same sense of pride. Indeed, Mrs Shingler is quick to point out that groups and societies in Prep are totally inclusive. "We want all girls to feel they can join any group or society regardless of their ability."

**IT IS NOT ABOUT BEING THE BEST, IT IS ABOUT FEELING PART OF A TEAM WHETHER YOU ARE CELEBRATING SUCCESS OR BUILDING RESILIENCE AFTER A SETBACK.**

Another popular group that girls can join is the Diversity Group. Launched last year, girls in both the infants and juniors meet to discuss how the different cultures within Prep can be celebrated in an inclusive manner. Diversity Day was the perfect way to achieve this, and girls were invited to come into school dressed in clothes that reflected their identity – Year 1 even created pictures

and storyboards about their heritage. Mrs Gibbons said, "We are fortunate to have so much diversity in Prep and so many parents willing to come in and share their rich cultural history with us. Last term, Reception enjoyed a visit from a couple of parents who came in to talk about the importance of the Winter Solstice in the Chinese calendar – it was wonderful to see the girls painting Chinese symbols. We also welcomed parents into school to teach us about Diwali and Sixth Formers came to our assemblies to celebrate Hanukkah with us."

The Head of Prep added, "Understanding who we are and celebrating individuality has been a key focus for us this year and it has been a privilege to involve our wider community. The girls are learning compassion and understanding from so many different people. Indeed, each girl in Prep created a butterfly with one 'one kind word' written upon it for anti-bullying week."

**THESE ARE ALL UNIQUE AND ARE A WONDERFUL REMINDER TO US ALL HOW IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALITY IS.**

# Charitable ACTS

Since it opened its doors in 1874, Manchester High School for Girls has embraced the spirit of community, recognising the importance of kindness and charity.

Even in the 1890s, the School Golden Rule Society was set up with the motto "Be you to others kind and true and always unto others do as you would have others do to you." The same values are still true today and each year the school community comes together to raise money for charity in a variety of ways.

Dressing-up is a favourite fundraising activity and it seems that staff and students are always eager to swap their uniform for something more exciting! During the Autumn Term, they donned their denim, paraded in pyjamas and strolled around in festive sweaters to raise money for Jeans for Genes, BBC Children in Need and Save the Children.



CHILDREN IN NEED



JEANS FOR GENES

By mid-January, the School community had already raised a total of £3,757.46 for a number of different charities and had also collected items in the run-up to Christmas for local foodbanks and animal shelters. For Mrs Jeys, encouraging students to get involved with acts of kindness is fundamental to the school value of compassion which states, "Pupils are encouraged to contribute to their community, locally and globally."

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE COMPASSION THAT OUR STUDENTS SHOW TO OTHERS. AS A SCHOOL, WE ARE VERY GOOD AT RAISING MONEY, BUT WE ALSO HAVE MANY STUDENTS WHO FUNDRAISE OUTSIDE SCHOOL.**



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

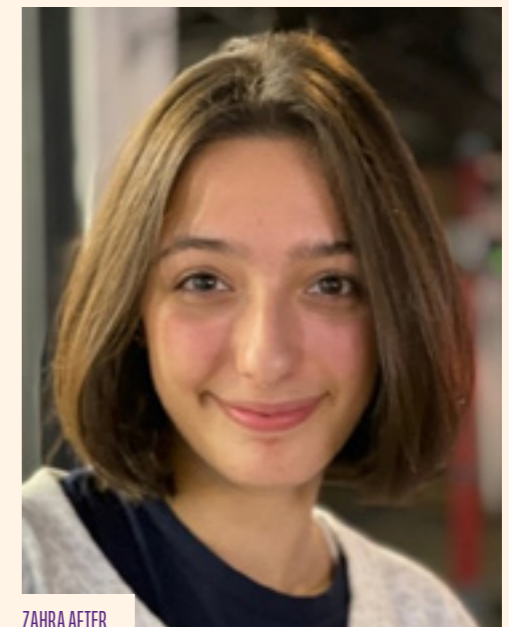
This is true of Zahra in Year 9. In the Autumn, she donated her hair and raised £360 for The Little Princess Trust to make a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to cancer or medical treatment. She was not alone in choosing this charity; Miss Murtagh, from the PE Department, also lopped off her flowing locks to help create a wig for a child.

Mrs Jeys said, "It is fantastic to see staff doing charitable work as it sets such a wonderful example to our whole community. Our 'Man High Bros' took part in Movember again this year and raised over £1,800, which is absolutely terrific! We have such inspiring staff at Manchester High who make brilliant role models."

With further easing of Covid restrictions, we hope to be able to do more fundraising events in school over the coming months – maybe we can reach that magic figure of £5,000. Now that would be something to smile about!



ZAHRA BEFORE



ZAHRA AFTER



# #Founders' Day Pledge



*S6 Pledge*  
TO SUPPORT LOCAL MANGUNIAN BUSINESSES



*J6 Pledge*  
SENDING CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO PEOPLE IN HOSPITAL



*9M Pledge*  
TO COLLECT ITEMS FOR A LOCAL FOOD BANK



*11G Pledge*  
TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD BANKS



*Golden Rule Society*

In keeping with the theme of community, our 148th birthday celebrations focused on the contribution Manchester High has made to its local community over the years.

Our archivists created a video highlighting early examples of charitable work using the iconic picture of the School Golden Rule Society on the steps of the School's second home in Dover Street. The girls can be seen carrying parcels of clothes they had made for local members of the community.

**THE GIRLS CAN BE SEEN CARRYING PARCELS OF CLOTHES THEY HAD MADE FOR LOCAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

In addition, "46 garments, dressed dolls and other toys were sent to the District Nurses' Home, Plymouth Grove, to be distributed among the sick children."

Two decades later, girls were still sewing for local hospitals, and in December 1928, "a large parcel of woollies and bibs" was taken to the Manchester Babies' Hospital, ensuring that every baby wore a new bib made by a Manchester High pupil at its Christmas party.

Inspired by these acts of compassion, and in keeping with the values of the School today, it was decided that every form group would create their own Founders' Day Pledge this year. These ranged from promises to send cards of encouragement to patients in hospital, donating food to local foodbanks and pledging to shop at small, local businesses.

**DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD.**

– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Even back in 1888, before this photograph was taken, the School Governors agreed that girls and staff could hold sewing meetings to make clothes and toys for local people in need, many of which were given to Ancoats Hospital, the Royal Eye Hospital and the Withington Workhouse. A further article in the School Magazine in 1907 reported girls making 26 plum puddings in the cookery class for the Eye Hospital.

Small acts that make a difference – indeed in the words of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Hopefully, the pledges made on 19th January 2022 will have made a difference, and students from Manchester High will continue to make an impact on the world around them.

# NEWS FROM THE MHSG Archive

Mrs Gwen Hobson and Mrs Pam Roberts have had a fascinating time in the School Archive over the last few months. Here is what they have been up to...

Firstly, we must say a big thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Archive – original art works, photographs, sports equipment, reminiscences and even whole collections of exercise books, reports and examination papers. These donations enrich our Archive and give an enormously valuable insight into all aspects of life at Manchester High and the history of girls' education.

We know that academic researchers are impressed by the range of primary material in our collection, and they keep coming back for more! Currently, we are working with a PhD student from Paris who is investigating education in the inter-war years, and we have been able to supply her with an abundance of information for her thesis. So, your donations help us to prepare the collection for future generations.

## THE GIRLS' WORK WAS SO DARING THAT IT EVEN FEATURED IN THE DAILY MAIL.

Helping researchers benefits the Archive too, because we often stumble across interesting stories and make surprising connections. Recently, while investigating Art at Manchester High in the 1920s and 1930s, we came across a collection of articles about controversial surrealist works by MHSG girls shown in the 1936 School Art Exhibition. Some of the work also appeared at a London exhibition of public school art.



↑ ELISE LEMPFERT'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION IN 1881



ARCHIVISTS, MRS PAM ROBERTS & MRS GWEN HOBSON



← THE STAFF AT MHSG IN 1878

## THESE DONATIONS ENRICH OUR ARCHIVE AND GIVE AN ENORMOUSLY VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AT MANCHESTER HIGH AND THE HISTORY OF GIRLS' EDUCATION.

The girls' work was so daring that it even featured in the *Daily Mail*. The Head Mistress, Dr Clarke, was not altogether impressed, however, and was keen to point out that the art teaching at Manchester High did not always have surrealist tendencies! Another rewarding part of our work is helping people to research their family history. This too can lead to some wonderful discoveries.

We were recently visited by a Danish family, the Hausers, eager for information about their great-grandmother, Elise Lempfert, a pupil at MHSG in the 1880s.

She later became a piano student of Clara Schumann and, a true Manchester High girl, in 1898 she became the co-founder of the Kvinderådet (The Women's Council in Denmark) which still campaigns today for the rights of women.

We were intrigued to discover from her application form that her referee for entry to the School was Philippine Kyllmann who taught French in the Preparatory Department. Mrs Kyllman is famous for her contribution to the campaign for votes for women and was one of the signatories of the 1866 Women's Suffrage petition.

If anyone could give us more information about art teaching in the late 30s and 40s, please get in touch with us, particularly if you remember looking at art works loaned to School by the Manchester Art Gallery Rutherford Collection.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the Archive, please contact us on [archives@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:archives@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## For Alumnae and Friends

If the ongoing global pandemic has taught us anything, it is our ability to connect with members of our community virtually, and this is something that we are continuing to do. We have offered and continue to offer a full calendar of events that will be face-to-face, virtual and, in some cases, a hybrid of both! We cannot wait to 'see' you all in what promises to be an exciting remainder of the 2021/22 academic year!



### Back to School: Art Class

**Date:** Tuesday 26th April 2022

**Time:** 6:00pm to 8:30pm

**Format:** In Person

**Location:** Manchester High School for Girls

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

**Price:** £25 including art materials, tuition, cocktails & canapés

Ever wished you could go back to school and enjoy certain subjects or classes again? Now is your chance! Join us for an Art class with a difference as 'Cocktails 'n' Canvas' host a guided painting session with plenty of breaks for cocktails and canapés!

26  
APR

### London Supper Club

**Date:** Thursday 12th May 2022

**Time:** 7:00pm to 10:30pm

**Format:** In Person

**Location:** Swan at The Globe

**Address:** 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London, SE1 9DT

**Price:** £76.50 including a welcome drink, three-course meal and half a bottle of wine per person

We are thrilled to be staging our flagship alumnae networking dinner in the Balcony Room of the Swan at The Globe. With beautiful views towards St Paul's Cathedral, the evening promises to be a show-stopper event with great food and great company.



21  
MAY



### Back in Time Walking Tour

**Date:** Saturday 21st May 2022

**Time:** 11:00am to 2:00pm

**Format:** In Person

**Location:** Manchester High School for Girls

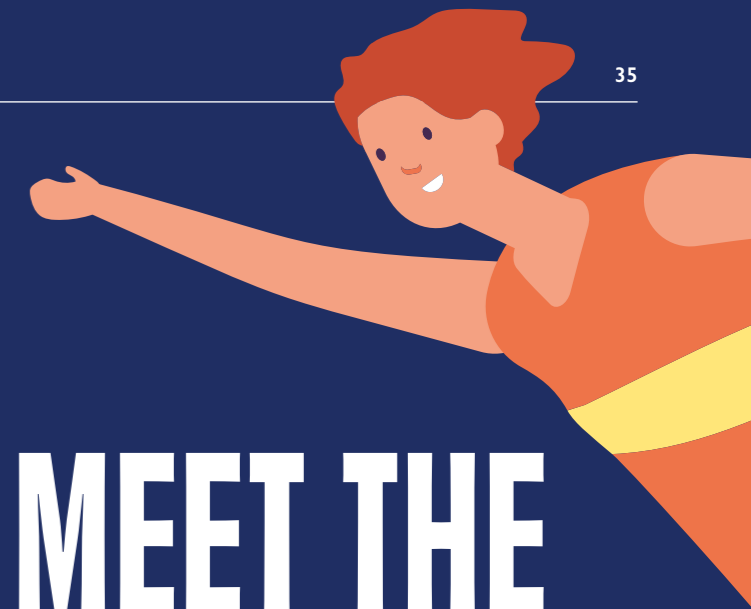
**Address:** Grangethorpe Road, M14 6HS

**Price:** £10 including a branded coffee cup, refreshments & tour

Join our School Archivists and MHSG stalwarts, Mrs Gwen Hobson and Mrs Pam Roberts, as they lead us on an historical tour around MHSG. 'Back in Time' is a nostalgic trip down memory lane that provides fascinating insights into the history of MHSG, its pioneering curriculum and some of the leading figures associated with the School. Grab some refreshments, explore the School and put your questions to the experts!

To book your place at any of these events  
or for more information, visit [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



# MEET THE STAFF

**Mrs Sarah Newman**

Director of Sport

**Mrs Laura McDonagh**

PE Teacher/Teacher in Charge of Prep Dept PE

**Miss Misha Murtagh**

PE Teacher

**Mrs Melanie Pickup**

PE Teacher

**Miss Nicola Reddin**

PE Teacher / Head of House

**Miss Danielle Robinson**

PE Teacher

**Mrs Sarah Rowley**

PE Teacher / Head of Year 7

**Mrs Michelle Sanderson**

Swimming Teacher

**Miss Isobel Howe**

Water Polo & Swimming Teacher

Ranging from hockey to artistic swimming and rugby to rock climbing, students have a wide choice of activities to choose from that cater for different levels and interests.

Indeed, for Director of Sport, Sarah Newman, the aim of the Department is to give every child an opportunity to develop their interest and skills and find a sport that suits them. *"It is about giving every individual the chance to try something they might enjoy,"* she said.

WHILST WE ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE COMPETING AT AN ELITE LEVEL, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO FIND A PLACE FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY SPORT AT A LESS COMPETITIVE LEVEL, TO MAKE THEM FEEL PART OF THE PE COMMUNITY.

Sport, like music and drama, often provides students with a sense of belonging – a community within MHSB where like-minded people enjoy the same activity. Mrs Newman points out that *"one pupil may excel at cross-country, and another may thrive at gymnastics, but ultimately, it is the sense of being part of a team which is the greatest advantage and helps build character and resilience."*



CLIMBING WALL →

# Spotlight ON SPORT

**With 26 different sports on offer at Manchester High School for Girls, it is no wonder that the Sports Department is a constant hive of activity!**

IT IS ABOUT GIVING EVERY INDIVIDUAL THE CHANCE TO TRY SOMETHING THEY MIGHT ENJOY.

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of sports. For Mrs Newman, this is key to building passion and enthusiasm. "Many other schools encourage pupils to excel in one discipline, but at MHSG, we feel that it is more beneficial for them to play as much sport as they want!"

She continued, "this is partly due to the excellent team in the PE Department. I have an incredibly dynamic and dedicated team who all have different areas of expertise which means we can offer more choice and a higher level of coaching. We are able to facilitate students in moving to elite level and enjoy helping them achieve their goals."



U14 HOCKEY TEAM CAME 5TH IN THE NATIONAL FINALS

WE ARE A PIONEERING SCHOOL AND THEREFORE PROUD THAT WE OFFER SOMETHING DIFFERENT. WE ARE THE ONLY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN THE AREA THAT OFFERS DANCE AT GCSE AND THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF THE SPORTS LEADERS COURSE IN WHICH OUR YEAR 10 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE.

The Department is always keen for students to compete, whether that be a friendly with Manchester Grammar, the Independent Schools Cup or a competition run by Manchester Schools. "Competition is so beneficial. It increases self-esteem and can be incredibly rewarding!" argues the Director of Sport. "Over the years, Manchester High students have enjoyed success in regional finals of England Hockey and England Netball competitions, and for the first time, our U14 Hockey Team reached the National Finals in Nottingham and finished fifth!"

She concluded "It is an exciting time to be involved in sport at MHSG. With a real growth in women's sport at professional levels, there are so many opportunities for those wishing to take their passion to the next level and, for those who just want to have fun, we can also guarantee plenty of that!"



FOOTBALL SKILLS

Some of the sports on offer at Manchester High are not readily available at other schools – rock climbing and handball are less obvious sporting activities, but both have inspired students over the years. In fact, two former students are now playing for the GB Handball team which just shows how participation in a school sport can take you in unexpected directions!

# ALUMNNAE SPORTING SUCCESS STORIES



*Grace Grimshaw*  
England Fencing

*Ella Walker & Sadie Quinn*  
GB Handball

*Rosie Huck*  
GB Water Polo

*Lottie Kielty*  
England Hockey



*Anya Haji-Michael*  
Sailor at national level

*Annabel Carthy*  
Equestrian

*Brearnna Close*  
Swimmer

*Holly Staff*  
Tennis player training in the US



*Kirsten McAslan*  
Represented Scotland in Athletics

*Naomi Bennett*  
England Hockey



PROMISING DANCER, JESS

## ONES TO WATCH IN THE FUTURE

**Sasha McTiffin**  
Manchester United Women's Team

**Ella Hampson**  
National League Hockey

**Victoria McDowall & Alexandra McDowall**  
Equestrian

**Anna Kamaly-Asl**  
Ski-ing

**Evie Walker**  
Artistic Swimming

**Isabella Taylor-Stokes**  
Golf

**Lola Ellis**  
Cycling

**Jess Baylis**  
Ballroom and Latin Dancing

ALUMNAE INTERVIEW

# Hilary Briggs

CLASS OF '80

As we move out of the pandemic and look to the future, we talk with Hilary Briggs, Class of '80, about her days at MHSG, her journey to representing Team GB in the Triathlon and her goals and motivations as she trains for the European and World Triathlon Championships.

**What was your experience of MHSG and how do you feel it has helped shape the person you are today?**

I loved the high-achieving culture at MHSG. Studying science subjects (Physics, Maths & Chemistry A-levels) was normal, so it was a huge shock when I arrived at university with fewer than 10% of the engineering intake female. I also loved my time at MHSG for the music, sport and Duke of Edinburgh Award, all of which helped to make me a more rounded person.

Whilst at school, I was living in Warrington and travelling in every day on the train (through the 3-day week strikes and other disruptions), and this developed my resilience and resourcefulness! In particular, I've really appreciated learning how to learn, as that's helped me adapt to new areas of work.

**I'VE ALWAYS SOUGHT OUT CHALLENGES IN NON-WORK SETTINGS AND LEARNED THE POWER OF TRANSFERRING EXPERIENCES FROM DIFFERENT AREAS OF MY LIFE.**

**Tell us about your journey from MHSG to qualifying for the Team GB Age Group Triathlon Team for the 2022 European and World Championships.**

I have always liked to be fit, but only for fun. For years I enjoyed long distance walking and cycling holidays and it was during one of these trips that I made some great friends – together we decided to complete the Pennine Way (268 miles) in ten days! I then went on to walk 200 miles over eight days in Wales for the Air Ambulance. I really loved developing the training regimes that were necessary to complete the walks and, of course, the exercise itself.

As part of my training, I got into swimming and taught myself to do front crawl. It was only when I saw someone going much faster than me with much less effort that I realised my technique could be improved! I got some



lessons and found I was doing pretty much everything wrong! It was one of those moments when you realise that there is real scope for improvement.

It was around this time that I decided Triathlons sounded like an amazing challenge. I was already cycling to work in Cambridge and clocking up 35km a day, so I just needed to restart running, which had been put on hold years before due to a minor knee twinge.

After a couple of Sprint events, I was all set to do some Standard Distance events, but a self-inflicted fall off my bike ruptured my Achilles, which was already weak from a tennis injury decades earlier. Frustratingly, I ended up having the tendon replaced and was unable to cycle or run for 15 months. According to the consultant, he had never seen an Achilles in such bad shape “in a living person” – quite an achievement I suppose, but not one I would have wished for!

**ENGINE LIKE A FERRARI, BUT CHASSIS MORE SUITED TO A GO-KART!**



→ HEVER PODIUM

In September 2018, I did my first Standard Distance Triathlon. My goals were simple: I wanted to finish it, not come last and not damage my leg! It was so much fun and it was all the momentum I needed. The following year, I surprised myself by coming first in my age group in two regional events. However, I was struggling with my other leg which had been overcompensating for my previous injury and I realised it was time to get a personal trainer who had the expertise to train me properly. He summed me up with the following phrase: "Engine like a Ferrari, but chassis more suited to a go-kart!" More scope for improvement!

**SEEK AND TREASURE DIVERSE EXPERIENCES; EVEN APPARENTLY BAD ONES OFFER LEARNING AND GROWTH! NO EXPERIENCE IS WASTED.**

So, I started a new strength and conditioning regime and set to work at the gym, which was all going well until Covid arrived and gyms were shut. I was able to improvise at home, creating a rudimentary home gym with water bottles for weights. I also ended up cycling out to Heathrow and doing circuits around the airport, as well as running to Piccadilly Circus to avoid the crowded parks.



← HEVER CASTLE 2021

In October 2020, I began working with a cycling coach before adding a specialist running coach to my training regime in April 2021. I was eager to compete again, and in the summer of 2021, I won the bronze medal in the British Championships and finished 2nd in another qualifying event for Team GB. I had improved my time by around 13% compared to 2019 and also qualified for the Euro and World Championships in Poland and Abu Dhabi this year where I am hoping for podium finishes.



→ SOUTHPORT 2021

**What have been your key life learning points?**

I suppose it really boils down to breaking what seems like a crazy challenge into something that feels manageable and then getting better at it. I had learned some of this on the walking trips and also playing cello, but my triathlon journey has really brought this home: if you focus on something, you will improve.

**HE HAD NEVER SEEN AN ACHILLES IN SUCH BAD SHAPE "IN A LIVING PERSON" – QUITE AN ACHIEVEMENT I SUPPOSE, BUT NOT ONE I WOULD HAVE WISHED FOR!**

Seek out specialists who can teach their expertise (and not all can!) if you don't have the know-how yourself. Most importantly, listen with an open mind, do what they say and have the discipline to stick at it. I also think that you have to care about whatever you are doing: during my rehab, my initial goal was just to be able to walk again, but I always knew my bigger goal was to do a triathlon and that really helped to motivate me.

Being curious also helps! I want to see how good I can get and have grasped the power of feedback: perhaps it's from my engineering background, but I love gadgets to help drive my improvement. The data doesn't lie!

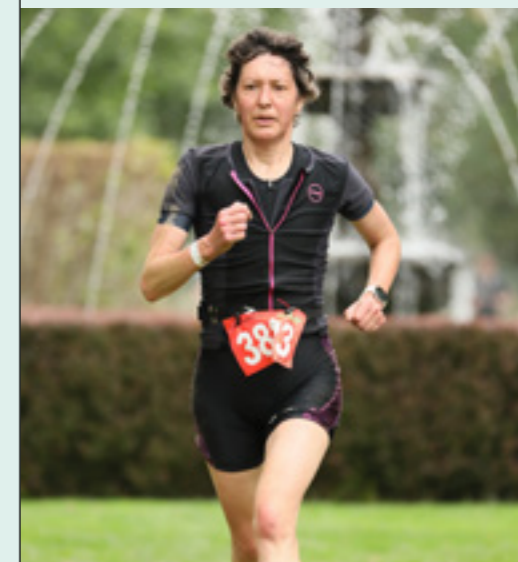
Finally, do not underestimate the importance of random connections - you never know where things might lead: part of my interest in triathlons came from helping someone do a speech 10 years earlier!

**You have talked about resilience and looking after mental health as important aspects in life. Tell our readers more about these areas and what they mean to you.**

At times I've had to handle a lot of pressure – especially in my early career in production management and logistics within the auto industry. I had to deal with issues such as feeling overwhelmed, angry bosses shouting abuse (although this wasn't just at me), major quality issues and even a factory burning down.

Throughout that period, I developed coping skills including exercise – T'ai Chi, playing the cello, using humour, having a positive outlook and most importantly, keeping a sense of perspective. I also learned to listen to my body: for instance I got backache in my late 20s and realised my body was telling me I was pushing too hard. After that, I used the sign of a twinge in my back to rebalance until I learned better ways of working! I also improved my work skills by training in topics such as NLP, coaching and facilitation.

In parallel, I've always sought out challenges in non-work settings and learned the power of transferring experiences from different areas of my life. Early on in a high-profile role as Logistics Director at Rover Large Cars, I felt really lost and was struggling to work out a plan. The feeling reminded me of a time when I'd been lost on an orienteering event a few years before — I was able to draw on the insight I had gained on that occasion to come up with directions for the next three years — all in 30 minutes!



← HEVER CASTLE 2021

**Finally, what piece of advice would you give our MHSG pupils today as a member of the Class of '80?**

Seek and treasure diverse experiences; even apparently bad ones offer learning and growth! No experience is wasted.

# Empower Another Ivy

## Support The MHSB Bursary Fund

We believe all of Manchester's bright girls should have the opportunity to become an Ivy and join the MHSB sisterhood of bold, brilliant women. As more families face financial difficulty, the Bursary Fund is more crucial than ever.

Our Bursary Fund honours the intentions of MHSB's founders — to enrol girls with true potential, regardless of their financial means — but it is also a key factor in preserving the social diversity we see throughout the School, something that enriches our entire community.



Every year we are faced with more applications for bursary places than we can offer. Manchester High is not an elitist school and, by donating a small amount each month to the Bursary Fund, you can help us ensure that we fulfil our vision of supporting any young girl who would benefit from a MHSB education.



**£5.99 a month**  
will buy a bursary girl's first blazer



**£7.99 a month**  
will pay for a residential drama trip



**£10.99 a month**  
will cover a year of musical instrument hire



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

Everyone who signs up will receive an exclusive ivy leaf pin badge.

### *In their own words...*

"I remember my mum opening the letter from Man 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 MHSB was with a 100% bursary. I realised, even then, how much Man 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 Man 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 Man High. That is one thing the Bursary Fund allows, for girls to come and join this amazing place, regardless of their financial background.

**WITHOUT MAN 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 Man 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**



**Pass this note  
on to your  
Man High friends!**



## A continuing relationship with Manchester High School for Girls



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) laws introduced in 2018 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.

If you are a member of our alumnae or wider School community and received this issue of *High Flyer*, be it by post or by 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 many Ivies as possible.

When GDPR came into force in May 2018, we sadly lost contact with a number of alumnae and members of the wider School community who never provided us with their communication consent preferences. If you think some of your Man High friends have not updated their details with us, then please pass this message on to them.

Your friends can update their communication preferences now, and at any time, by visiting: [www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/keepintouch](http://www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/keepintouch)

Manchester High School for Girls  
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