

High Flyer



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One Day I Will • The Voice of the Students
International Women's Day... plus much more*

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High School
for Girls

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Welcome

When we entered lockdown for the first time back in March 2020, no one could have foreseen that the following spring we would still be feeling the impact of COVID-19.

The last year has been like no other we have experienced in school and I am so proud of the way that our community has remained positive and connected throughout.

This edition of *High Flyer* certainly reflects how we have managed to adapt and make sure that our students continue to be challenged and inspired by their learning. You can discover how practical subjects like Music and Drama have found ways to engage students online and what makes our Art Department such an inspirational setting in school.

We also celebrate the continuing successes of our students who are embracing our ethos of "One Day I Will" as they strive to achieve their potential, not just academically, but in a variety of fields from Artistic Swimming and Cycling to Japanese and Philosophy.

Of course, it is our amazing alumnae who embolden our current students to aim high and we talk to some more of those women who have gone on, not just to break, but to shatter some of the glass ceilings in their chosen fields. Alongside a poignant letter from social-good communications specialist, Harsha Sharma, about resilience and creating a better version of yourself, we also hear from 2017 Woman of the Year, Miss Naomi Davis, about her experience as Surgeon Commander on the night of the Manchester Arena Terrorist Attack.

Whilst we cannot escape the difficulties we have all faced, I do hope that reading *High Flyer* will give you a sense of optimism for the future as we highlight the strong females who make Manchester High School for Girls so special.

Mrs Helen Jeys, Head Mistress



Virtual Events

Round-up

This year we sadly had to cancel a full calendar of exciting alumnae and friends events, which would usually bring us all together in school, as well as in Manchester and London.

Not being able to connect face to face, goes against the grain at Manchester High School for Girls. In keeping with our radical roots, however, we simply forged on with virtual alternatives in a year like no other.

Christmas Concert and St Ann's Carols

17th December 2020

Music is an integral part of our Christmas celebrations and we were thankful we could share our annual Carol Service with members of the School community. 16 students from the Sixth Form performed traditional carols and readings in the splendour of St Ann's Church in central Manchester which many of you enjoyed from the comfort of your own home! We were also able to share a little joy with the Music Department's Christmas Concert which was beamed to every classroom as well as worldwide to our alumnae. Thank goodness for YouTube!

Founders' Day Celebrations

19th January 2021

Over the years, Founders' Day has been celebrated in many ways, but this was the first time it had been marked remotely with a virtual assembly. Our fabulous Archivists put together a video celebrating the day that our pioneering school first opened its doors on 19th January 1874. It served as a reminder to us all that, in the face of adversity, Manchester High can survive – a much needed reminder when we were in the midst of yet another lockdown.



Founders' Day, 1947



Anushka Asthana

Founders' Lecture

8th February 2021

Continuing with the pioneering spirit of our alumnae, we went on to enjoy our first ever virtual Founders' Lecture in February. Anushka Asthana (Class of 1998), Editor-at-Large at *The Guardian*, spoke to an audience of almost 200 people about her memories of Manchester High. As well as reflecting on her career to date, the challenges she has faced and what it meant to be an MHSG pupil, she also answered questions from the virtual audience.

Hosted by Head Mistress Mrs Helen Jeys, Anushka delivered an inspiring lecture from her London home to an audience of pupils, alumnae and the wider community, including students from local schools interested in journalism.

In Conversation with Katie Leviten

22nd February 2021

Not living with regret, not being closed to job titles, and ensuring a work-life balance were some of the key highlights of our virtual 'In Conversation' with Katie Leviten, VC Partner at JamJar investments (Class of 2006) on Monday 22nd February.

In an interview conducted by fellow alumna and journalist, Amber Haque (Class of 2010), the venture capitalist was welcomed by Mrs Jeys, and candidly spoke to an audience of over 100 people about life after Manchester High.



Katie Leviten

'Insight into...' talks throughout the academic year

Since the launch of our 'Insight Into' series of twilight talks in 2016, MHSG pupils and their parents have been lucky enough to listen to, and be inspired by, a range of alumnae who have returned to school to share their story. The talks reflect the diverse range of professions that our students choose as a career and this year we have been delighted to virtually welcome alumnae from the fields of Medicine, Law, the Performing Arts, and the Charity sector.

If you were not able to make it to any of our virtual events, feel free to enjoy the recordings at your leisure by visiting www.youtube.com/user/ManchesterHigh



Olivia Bromley Class of 2008

Leah Bolchover Class of 2017

Writing Your Story

"There's nothing more I love than connecting with people and experiences I can learn from."

Harsha Sharma (Class of 2005) is a social-good communications specialist and believes the events of 2020 are something we can all take, learn from and use to write our next chapter in 2021.

Harsha is currently Head of Communications at United for Global Mental Health – a global NGO advocating for greater investment and access to mental health care for all. Prior to this, Harsha led corporate communications at UNICEF. This included multimillion pound corporate and philanthropic partners including L'Oreal, Disney and Manchester United.

She has also worked in communications roles at high profile organisations including Comic Relief, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and the Varkey Foundation – founders of the \$1M Global Teacher Prize.

Harsha's adventures have taken her from working with Presidents and Prime Ministers to global emergency humanitarian efforts. She is driven by telling stories and forming partnerships with incredible individuals, organisations and campaigns impacting society, and she thinks this is something we can all be doing.

In an open letter to *High Flyer*, she reflects on what she has learned about herself in the past year and how we can all use positivity to create new stories going forward.



"It can be tricky to find a silver lining in everything that's happened over the last year. We have experienced personal and professional upheaval that has affected us in a variety of ways – and perhaps in some ways that we are yet to even realise.

But as with all struggles, there is always something we can learn. A better or new way to do things. A more connected way. The silver lining. If we look at 2020 as a dress rehearsal, what does that mean for 2021? How will things change?

As a communications professional, I think about my story for the future. If the last year has shown us anything, it has been the power of connection – between people and communities, and the resilience of a vision for the future. These are the blocks to build good storytelling.

If your 2020 was a movie, I would love to know what kind of movie it would be. Perhaps a story of origin or rebirth – or overcoming the monster. The character in a story is central to how people engage with it. Who has been the protagonist at the centre of it?

These are just a few of the questions that I have been asking myself.

Now, we can go one-step further and ask ourselves what kind of story will our 2021 be? What are the big storylines that take people on the journey? Who are the main characters and how will they lead people through the ups and downs of what's ahead?

Make it all the things your 2020 movie should have been, but better.

The year ahead is an opportunity for us all to rewrite our stories. Create. Adapt. Believe.

As Maya Angelou once said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story in you". I truly believe storytelling is one of the most powerful ways to impact our world through ideas. And the world so desperately needs positive and bold ideas. The world needs your ideas. So, start with a blank page and go from there.

Good luck, I look forward to seeing your stories in action!"

In the spirit of sharing, here are the key lessons I will be taking from 2020 to rewrite my 2021:

- 1) The importance of flexibility
- 2) The art of gratitude
- 3) There is strength in vulnerability
- 4) The power of a support network

“All the World’s a Stage” even your living room!

At this time of year, we would normally be reporting on the whole school production, which is a creative collaboration between the Music and Drama Departments, but alas, this has not yet taken place.

However, plans are afoot to bring *Sweeney Todd* to the stage, if at all possible, in the summer term – the demon barber may yet have the opportunity to sharpen the tools of his trade! In the meantime, we caught up with the Music and Drama Departments to see how they have managed to deliver and engage students in two very practical subjects during lockdown.

Music

During lockdown, Years 7 and 8 have explored the music of the Baroque and Classical eras. Delivered virtually, these topics could be quite dry, but not in the creative hands of our students! Responses have included radio-style podcasts, produced collaboratively in small groups using the software Sound Trap – compositions in the style of various composers – and most excitingly, students have been playing lots of music! Instruments have been dusted off or retrieved from the attic, and everyone has had a chance to play.

“

Whilst making music remotely doesn't seem the most natural thing to do, students at MHSG have embraced the challenge and the results have been fantastic!

Director of Music, Mr Aidan Bradley

”



Orchestra Rehearsal

Year 7 student, Cora said, “It has been really nice to be able to spend time away from our screens, developing our instrumental skills, and I can't wait to get back to school to present my work”.

In Year 9, students have been encouraged to spend time practising their instruments, as well as composing music in new styles. Remote learning has lent itself well to composition because students have more time to explore their ideas without distraction. Some of this work will even be included in the Music Department's upcoming concerts.

According to Mr Bradley, it is not just curriculum music that has flourished. “Our tremendous team of instrumental teachers has continued to teach remotely, and our students have made terrific progress, achieving fantastic results in the new remote-style ABRSM examinations, as well as providing items for our regular series of online Twilight Concerts. Ensembles have continued too, with Orchestra and Choir making a start on some ambitious repertoire to be performed in the summer term.”

Reflecting on MHSG's music-making this term, Mr Bradley concluded, “I'm so proud of the way our musicians have embraced new ways of working and continued to keep music-making during this difficult period. Rehearsing groups online has been a bit surreal, but we'll certainly be in a good place when we eventually get to play live again.”



Maysa Year 9

Drama

For the Drama Department, lockdown has provided lots of opportunities to utilise the expertise of thespians who are not currently working. It has meant Zoom workshops with *Line of Duty* star, Ali Natkiel, on 'acting for film'; audition tips from Musical Theatre performer, Ellena Vincent, who is a current member of the West End *Hamilton* cast and workshops with Splendid Productions and The Paper Birds.

Performances have also continued, albeit virtually. Our extra-curricular drama students presented *Seawall* by Simon Stephens online to parents, friends and staff, and Year 10 drama students streamed a nativity play and two student-written pieces about Rudolph and some naughty elves to a local nursery in December. There is also much to look forward to with Year 12 rehearsals under way for a forthcoming play, preparations for the online regional heats of the ESU Shakespeare Competition and LAMDA exams later in the year.

Head of Drama, Mrs Jill Haves, believes the experience has been a positive one for students, “Cameras have remained on during our Teams lessons and all year groups have continued to perform. We've even got in touch with our inner diva doing *Beyoncé*logues – where the students take a song and turn it into a monologue or duologue.”

There is a slight tinge of sadness for the things that should have happened, “The whole school production has been delayed, but will still hopefully go ahead, and whilst virtual performances have been a life-saver, we have missed out on a lot of theatre in the past 12 months. We went into Tier 4 just one week before we had booked out the whole of Hope Mill to see *Rent*.”



Sixth Form Paper Bird Workshop



Jill Hayes
Head of Drama

So what is it about a school production that makes Mrs Hayes so wistful? She reflects on the pure joy of putting on a show...

"Whenever we put on a school production I always smile to myself, thinking of all the benefits that students get from the experience that have nothing to do with their acting skills. One of the most heart-warming sights is watching friendships form across year groups: seeing Year 12 students teaching a dance routine or working on comic timing with students from Years 8 and 9 is a lovely thing. As the weeks roll on, I observe the warmth in their interactions and enjoy the jokes they share. Months after the show has finished, they still chat on the corridor and enjoy reminiscing about the time they spent together as a micro-community.

I love the in-jokes. I always have done. I still laugh out loud when I remember being stuck inside an outdoor shower prop with one of our Year 13 students when we were

putting on 'South Pacific'. We had been onstage to move the shower during a scene transition and then suddenly the next scene started and we were stuck there like something from Morecambe and Wise. Tears were streaming down our faces as we tried desperately not to move. Drama teachers all over the country will have numerous similar stories.

The teamwork, cooperation and communication skills (which come naturally in such circumstances) are so valuable and highly sought after by many employers – not to mention life partners!

Inevitably, performing raises self-confidence and esteem. Students find their own voice as well as that of their character. Stories for the stage are typically full of diverse characters and we all have something to learn about culture and diversity. I only have to think back to a student receiving a standing ovation (before the end of the show!) for her rendition of 'I Know Where I've Been' in *Hairspray*, to feel: a) extremely emotional and b) safe in the knowledge that, right there, was a boost for her esteem.

I am reminded, year after year, that being part of a rehearsing ensemble makes for a well-organised student and one who can juggle time and responsibilities without dropping the metaphorical balls! I am not exaggerating when I say that the Man High students who audition for our productions also navigate driving lessons, shows outside of school, jobs, family dates, other clubs and societies, as well as the commitments to their academic life. Do they produce a first-rate show when the curtain rises? You bet they do. As the saying goes, if you want something doing, ask a busy person!

I couldn't be more proud of our actors, musicians and dancers when they take to the stage, knowing that their hard work and commitment to creating a high quality show has paid off. But I am also very aware that the shared experience of the last few months will stand them in much greater stead for the rest of their lives, long after the stage make-up has been wiped away.



Year 10 Drama Christmas Plays



Whole School Production of Sister Act

RAG TAG

Hi, we are Rag Tag, a MHSG Young Enterprise team.
We are so happy to be able to showcase our company to you and share our ideas and passion.

Who is Rag Tag?

Rag Tag is a team of 12, and 12 very different girls at that. Because of this we wanted to create a brand that catered for everyone regardless of their background (or Pinterest board) and alas! Rag Tag was created.

What do we do?

We have a variety of jewellery products that are hand designed, created and packaged by us. We have created five different designs, named after members of our team, that come in both necklace and bracelet form. Wearing a Rag Tag piece makes you part of a community not just a consumer. Our products suit all and that's why we believe Rag Tag is perfect for you!

How do I find out more?

All our designs can be viewed on Instagram: ragtagbeads where you can also order our limited stock.

Competition Time!

Rag Tag is also having a design competition where you can design your own jewellery item. The best design will win the WHOLE RAGTAG COLLECTION. For more information, email: crossal15@manchesterhigh.net

RAG TAG

Ivy & Bramble

Plant your own happiness

Hi, we are Ivy & Bramble, MHSG's Young Enterprise team! We are so excited to have this space to showcase our company to you and share our aspirations.

As a team of 16, we are never short of views, but one thing we all agree on is that change must happen for our world to survive in the way we know it; and so, from this mutual belief Ivy & Bramble was born.

We have designed a product that encompasses and acts on this belief... a succulent plant in a beautiful, sturdy pot, made of coffee grounds and bamboo – completely compostable and recyclable, coming in colours green, pink and slate grey. The pack itself comes packaged in a cute, recyclable box and filled with our unique information cards containing all the information you need in order to grow and take care of your succulent.

We hope this has caught your attention and you're ready to support us by ordering your own I&B Succulent! If so, visit our website www.ivyandbramble.com and pre-order your stunning plant pack now. We're rooting for you!



ivy & bramble

There is nothing quite like the smell of paint, the pencils in pots, the piles of sketchbooks and the atmosphere of creativity that radiates from every corner of the Art Department.

It is a space where students have the freedom to express their ideas and thoughts and work creatively. Few subjects allow such self-expression and demand a personal response. It is no wonder that for many it is a space where confidence is built and passions are put into practice.

Head of Art, Mrs Chambers, believes that art enriches the School curriculum and is an important subject not just as a creative outlet, but also for the way it fosters independent thinking.

In fact, the ethos of the Department is very much about allowing students to clarify their own opinions by exposing them to a variety of art forms from around the world, both historical and contemporary. Art and Design Teacher, Mr Vance echoes this sentiment, "At MHSG, all styles and art forms are equally valid and students are introduced to a wide range of traditional and modern media that gives them an appreciation of the work and allows them to interpret the world around us."

Students are taught skills within each discipline, so that they have the knowledge and understanding to choose the best materials, style and size to realise their intentions. This knowledge allows them to take 'risks' by experimenting with alternative solutions and ideas.

Wherever possible, the Department organises trips to local galleries where the students are able to experience and appreciate different art forms. For GCSE and A-level art students, this normally means visits to galleries in London, across Europe and even New York!

“

At all key stages, we encourage students to think beyond the obvious and develop analytical skills through observation, group discussion, written reasoned responses and individual presentations.

Mrs Chambers

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Meet the Staff



Spotlight on Art

Within the School timetable, they are given the opportunity to draw from direct observation in and around the site and on day trips further afield. As Mr Flanagan points out, "There are also plenty of extra-curricular classes from weekly life drawing classes for sixth formers, workshops for KS3 students and an Art Award scheme for those wishing to further develop their creative skills."

“

Art is everything and everything is Art!

Mrs Chambers

”

Exhibitions and competitions also play a huge part in the Art Department calendar. Students have their work entered into external competitions such as the Living Edge Schools' Exhibition at The Lowry Arts Centre and the Royal Academy Young Artists' Show. This year, Anusha from the Class of 2020, has submitted one of her A-level final pieces of oil on canvas into the competition and we are currently receiving entries from students across school.



Our students also like to talk about art. Each year, sixth formers from across the country compete at the ARTiculation Prize – a nationally acclaimed annual event designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of art. This year the North West Regional Heat, organised by The Roche Court Educational Trust, was hosted online by the Whitworth Art Gallery and Junior Sixth student, Josephine, represented MHSG. Her virtual presentation on Goya's black paintings received some



brilliant feedback from adjudicator, Dr Skrebowski, a lecturer in Contemporary Art at the University of Manchester. He described it as a "very thoughtful and considered presentation and personal engagement. A sustained historical and psychological analysis."

Manchester High's answer to ARTiculation is IVYticulture which began five years ago. The internal competition evolved from a student suggestion and gives pupils across school a platform to talk about art. Thankfully it was one of the few events that took place in 2020 and it was lovely to welcome back former pupil, Alice Fryman, who was the brains behind the name and logo.

Mrs Scott laments, "The pandemic has, of course, put paid to many of the extra-curricular activities that we can offer, but the recent lockdowns have in no way stilted the creative ideas of the students. They have continued to explore different ways of recording ideas and have learned that the outcomes are influenced by the materials available to them at home. It has been exciting to see the fun they have had producing imaginative and skilful work."

Art will always be an outlet for releasing emotions and has been a source of pleasure to so many during the last 12 months.



Annual and Decades Reunion

Saturday 25th September 2021

If you left Manchester High in a year that ends with a '0' or a '1' then we are hoping to see you soon!

Following a hiatus due to COVID-19, we are hoping to host our biggest ever Annual and Decades Reunion on Saturday 25th September 2021.

We will welcome the following classes back to Manchester High School for Girls to celebrate their respective decade reunions:

CLASS OF 1960 & 61	(60 years)
CLASS OF 1970 & 71	(50 years)
CLASS OF 1980 & 81	(40 years)
CLASS OF 1990 & 91	(30 years)
CLASS OF 2000 & 01	(20 years)
CLASS OF 2010 & 11	(10 years)

This event is the perfect opportunity to visit Grangethorpe Road, catch up with old friends and see how the School has changed since you said goodbye.

If you would like to help co-ordinate your class and encourage friends to attend on the day, please get in touch with Alumnae and Development Manager, Mrs Lex Robinson, using the contact details below.

While there will always be a number of reunion year groups at the lunch, there are also many former pupils who choose to attend on their own or with just a few friends from across the ages. Please do not feel that you have to be part of a specific group to join in with the fun. Everyone is welcome and this is always a warm and friendly event!

Ticket Price

Tickets cost £30 per person and include a welcome drink and a two-course lunch with wine.

Please note that this event is subject to change due to COVID-19. Please take this into account before making travel and accommodation arrangements.

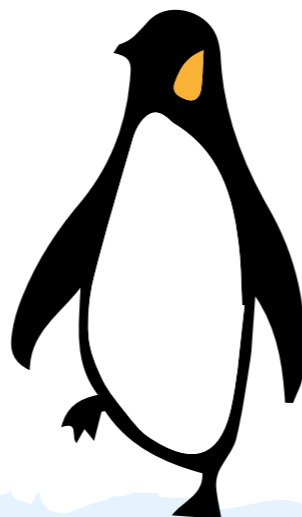
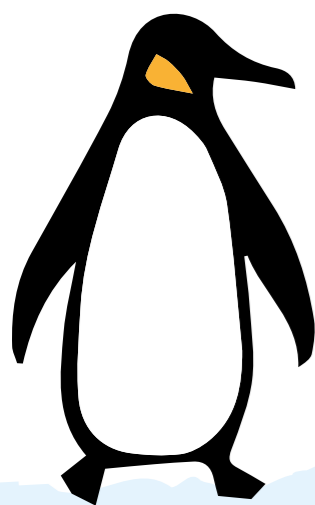
To book your place visit:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/MHSG

If you have any questions please contact Alumnae and Development Manager, Mrs Lex Robinson: development@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk or 0161 224 0447.

FLAGGING UP THE IMPORTANCE OF

Antarctica



In December 2020, Manchester High School for Girls made its mark at the South Pole, thanks to Iza in Year 8!

For the past five years, schools have been asked to design a flag which they believe symbolises this continent as part of the Antarctica Day Flags Initiative to commemorate Antarctica Day. Iza was one of only 122 children from 13 countries whose winning design was chosen to make the journey to the southernmost continent.



Antarctica Day celebrates the Antarctic Treaty which was signed on 1st December 1959 by 12 nations. It declared that Antarctica would be off limits to military activity and would instead be a place for peace and scientific discoveries. Six decades later, the Antarctic Treaty is a rare example of international cooperation and now includes 54 countries.

Organised by the UK Polar Network, the outreach flags project aims to spread the word about this worldwide collaboration and to inspire future generations by pairing winning flags with researchers and station staff that are heading down to Antarctica for the Austral Summer (November-January).

Chief Engineer, Geraldine Wythe, from the British Antarctic Survey was tasked with transporting Iza's flag to King Edward Point in South Georgia for Antarctica Day. Iza's winning design, which incorporated penguins on the continent alongside the flags of the original 12 nations who signed the treaty, was snapped in front of some majestic penguins!

Head of Geography, Mrs Daly, was very excited at the prospect of a Manchester High flag in the South Pole! "All our Year 8 geography students had the opportunity to design a flag but Iza's design perfectly encapsulated the idea of collaboration and we were delighted it was chosen." She continued, "We hope by learning about the unique environment of Antarctica, we may inspire the next generation of polar researchers!"

Fabulous Fundraisers



Sixth Formers Enjoying a Zumba Session

Each year fundraising forms an integral part of the School calendar and students are strongly encouraged to take some social responsibility by getting involved with charity, voluntary and community work. This supports our pioneering vision to "be outward-looking and forward-thinking" by teaching students to become responsible members of the community.

Thousands of pounds are normally raised throughout school with each year group choosing its own charity at the beginning of the autumn term.

Mrs Chisnall organises charitable activity within school and she acknowledges that this year has been particularly difficult, "We would normally have charity sales and events most weeks, but that has not been possible with all the social distancing measures and, of course, lockdown." She continued, "Thankfully, being in school in the autumn term meant that we could at least do something during the festive season."



Indeed December always sees the biggest push on charitable efforts with the donation of goods for charities that have all been chosen by the students themselves or a member of staff. This year, students and their parents generously donated goods to five local charities, supporting everything from vulnerable families and adults to, of course, our four-legged friends! In addition, festive jumpers were worn to raise money for Save the Children and Sixth Form students took part in a Zumba session during their lunch break raising nearly £400 for Prevent Breast Cancer.

Of course, fundraising comes in many different forms and for seven members of staff, this took the form of a

moustache in November. For four weeks, the *Mo Bros* (as they liked to refer to themselves) lovingly cultivated some mo-vellous facial hair raising more than £1,600 for men's health charities.

Led by our ICT Development Director, Mr Haves, the *Magnificent Seven* sported a variety of moustaches, from the 1980s footballer look (Mr McDaid) to Victorian weight lifter (Mr Goulding) and The Tiger King himself (Mr Eaton). For Mr Kingsley, it took a little more time for the facial hair to establish itself and, even by day 30, it never quite happened for him! However, Mr Norris, Mr Irwin and Mr Haves, had no such trouble and were soon sprouting some impressive moustaches!

'Moustached at Man High' became the most talked about event in November with staff receiving weekly mo-mails with updates on the progress of the challenge! The underlying message was far more serious though. Testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in young men; 1 in 8 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime; and sadly, men account for 75% of all suicides in the UK.¹

Our *Moustached Maestros* initially aimed to raise £500 for the Movember Foundation - one of the world's largest funders of research and support of organisations working in these fields - however, they smashed their target within a week! Thankfully the facial hair has now gone but their efforts will be remembered by staff and students alike! Mrs Jeys said, "It is so important for the students to see our staff raising money and being such positive role models."



As a school community, we can become responsible global citizens who have a positive impact on the world.

Head Mistress, Mrs Jeys



¹ <https://uk.movember.com/>



ONE DAY I WILL

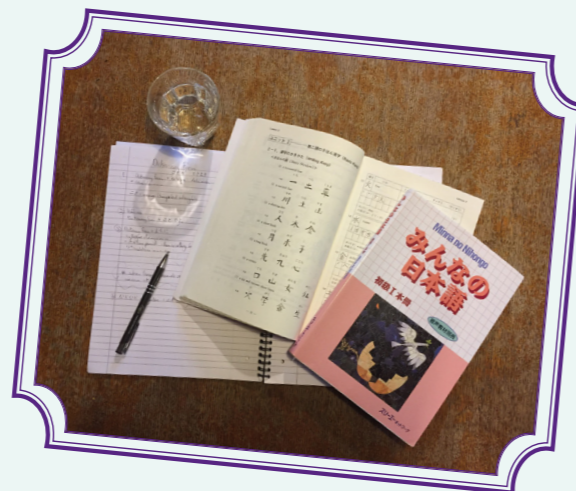
Ellie, Senior Sixth

Senior Sixth student, Ellie, decided to use her spare time constructively during the first lockdown back in March of last year and in just eight months, she achieved an A* in GCSE Japanese!

Her fascination with Japanese language and culture began at the age of 13 when she briefly picked up the language, but time constraints at this point meant she did not pursue it. Fast forward to 2020, when we suddenly had more time on our hands, Ellie decided that it was the right moment to continue her love affair with the language.

Other than one online lesson a week, Ellie learned through self-study from a textbook and an online vocabulary list. As well as a desire to improve linguistic skills, she was also motivated by the fact it would give her an advantage on her UCAS applications when applying to study languages at university. Like other astute linguists, she recognises that in an increasingly interconnected world, proficiency in other languages is becoming more of an advantage.

For now, Ellie is concentrating on her A-levels but she still continues to maintain a grasp on the language by watching Japanese dramas and listening to pop music from the country.



Evie, Year 11

Year 11 pupil, Evie, is making a splash in the world of Artistic Swimming and is now one of the top performing competitors in her age group having won her first national title in Figures at the age of 12.



In 2019 Evie was selected for the England Youth Squad for 13-15 year olds, travelling to Slovakia in August of that year to compete in the first FINA Youth World Championships. On her return, she trialled for the GB Training Squad and became the only swimmer to be simultaneously selected for both the England Youth Squad and the GB Training Squad.

In December, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) held its first ever virtual challenge competition. Evie was chosen to represent GB in the 13-15 years female solo category and was placed 7th out of 25 nations in a pioneering competition that premiered on YouTube in late December.

The Artistic Swimming Virtual Challenge consisted of a 45 seconds dry land routine filmed using an Instagram water effect app. It was the latest, and one of the most interesting, challenges that Evie has been involved in since she started Artistic Swimming (formerly known as synchronised swimming) at the age of 7.

In more normal times, she has a rigorous training programme spending every other weekend, and school holidays, in Bristol or Aldershot training for up to 8 hours a day. In March 2020, her hard work and dedication to her sport paid off as she became double National Youth Champion, with golds in the Figures and the Solo event. Fingers crossed she will have the chance to compete in the water in 2021.

Emily, Year 11

For a budding artist, selling your first piece of work at the age of just 15 years suggests that a promising career may be on the horizon. Year 11 student, Emily, sold an acrylic on canvas that was created as a "personal response to the current social climate to demonstrate how we have all had to adjust to fit with new COVID-19 regulations."

"The painting depicts misplaced facial features that show how a person can change their personality to fit their environment and social context. Strings have been used to show the connections to other people and things, but some of these are purposefully broken to reflect the meaningful connections that have been lost."

Selling the piece was not something Emily ever envisaged and she was delighted when the buyer approached her.

Art provided a sanctuary for Emily during lockdown, allowing her more time to enjoy learning about her favourite artistic movements of classicism and expressionism, whilst providing an outlet to explore her own feelings.

Although she has never entered art competitions, the purchase of her piece has given her the confidence to start planning an entry for the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show. She hopes to continue with art at A-Level and already has her heart set on Art School. Her future certainly looks bright and we look forward to seeing more of her work.



Lola, Year 10

Year 10 pupil, Lola, has had her sights set on the Olympics since she started cycling at the age of 6 and she is now one step closer to realising her dream, having been asked to 'guest' with British Cycling's GB Squad.

In normal times, the cycle-obsessed teenager competes in track, road and occasionally cyclo-cross, whilst riding her mountain bike just for fun, but having been spotted by British Cycling pre-Covid, she has now been given the opportunity to join GB as one of only five 'guests'. This means access to apprentice camps (when they are allowed to happen again), support with training from British Cycling coaches and the opportunity to move onto the full apprenticeship programme if she performs as she hopes.

GB Apprentice is the earliest GB British Cycling programme and covers the last year of youth riding (15-16 years). From here, cyclists may be asked to join the GB Junior Programme and ultimately the Podium Programme, where athletes such as Laura Trott and Jason Kenny trained.

Lola's love of cycling began when she lived in Guernsey as a young child. She became Channel Islands Champion at the age of 8. Since then, she has gone on to win numerous

competitions including Northwest Circuit Champion in 2019 and most recently she became Manchester Track League Women's Champion. Perhaps one of her proudest moments so far was taking third place on the podium at the Youth Tour of Scotland in 2019 – a major national event where she was one of the youngest competitors.

Sadly, aside from the Manchester Track League (winter event), no races happened in 2020 due to the pandemic. For now, 'guesting' with GB is enough for Lola, but she hopes to become a full apprentice and ultimately reach her Olympic goal.



Olivia, Junior Sixth



Junior Sixth student, Olivia, is one of a small number of students who has been chosen to participate in the Yale Young Global Scholars program this summer to study Literature, Philosophy and Culture.

Over 7,000 applicants from more than 145 countries applied for the prestigious camp at one of America's top universities. She had hoped to attend the campus in person but, due to the current pandemic, the two week course is now going to be virtual. However, this is still a great opportunity for Olivia who was hailed as "an exceptional applicant" by the selection panel.

The course will be presented through a combination of lectures, discussion groups and research, and will also include information on university admissions, careers and general academic content. Olivia hopes the experience will be an advantage when applying to universities in the autumn where she aims to study English Literature with French.

Continuing with the global-theme, she hasn't ruled out studying for her degree in Paris or New York and eventually hopes to work at the United Nations after travelling and teaching abroad.

The Voice of the Students

The Sixth Form-produced magazine, *Onward*, has provided our students with a voice for many years but this year our new editors, Olivia and Raveena, decided to give it a new platform that would keep the School community connected in between publications. They decided to move into the realm of podcasts!

Olivia was keen to explain the thought process behind the decision. "In a year where technology has become our primary, and at times only, form of socialising, we decided to launch our very own student-led podcast: *Onward On Air*." Raveena added,



Editors, Olivia and Raveena

work with sporting commitments. They also chatted about the health benefits of playing sport, the importance of developing friendships outside of school and their hopes and aspirations for the future.

English Teacher, Mrs Ousey, who oversees *Onward*, believes that *Onward On Air* "takes an honest and refreshing approach to current affairs and issues that affect the School community." She continued, "The sixth formers have taken on some really interesting topics but what is equally impressive, is the way that the camaraderie of the students comes through. They make some pretty intense conversations fun and inclusive."

Olivia and Raveena hoped to release a podcast fortnightly but, as with so many things in the past 12 months or so, the pandemic has made this more challenging. However, in typical MHSG-style, they showed resilience and ingenuity, managing to remotely pull together a podcast in February with some top tips from the School community for coping with lockdown, keeping in touch with friends and reducing screen time.

Further podcasts are now being planned which will be available on the usual streaming platforms (including Spotify, Google Casts and Breaker). Just search *Onward On Air* for a flavour of Manchester High.



“
The content of the podcasts
reflects stories that are featured
in the newspaper alongside more
community-focused topics such as
our Winter Celebrations episode.
”

The editors have worked hard to bring together important issues within the School community, launching their first podcast in November where they talked to two students, Hannah and Tianna, from Junior Sixth about the Black Lives Matter movement. The students reflected on their personal experiences of being Black in Britain, tackling stereotypes and the importance of educating people in order to create an equal society.

Their second podcast saw two more sixth formers, Ella and Josie, discussing the pressures of playing top level sport and the importance of being organised when balancing school

Love of Learning

LOVE OF LANGUAGE FOR THIS BUDDING MEDIC

There was a lot to celebrate at Manchester High when Class of 2020 student, and proud Bursary recipient, Noor Al-Saffar gained her place to study Medicine at the University of Manchester last summer.



Noor Al-Saffar

Having achieved four A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and German at MHSG, Noor could not let her love of languages go, and has now taken her success a step further, gaining a place on the coveted MBChB Medicine with European Studies course. Not only will she be studying medicine full time, but she will also be developing this same knowledge in her chosen language – German – alongside her medical degree.

"I loved learning German at Manchester High, and Mr O'Brien (Head of Languages) actually told me about this course, as no other medical school does it!"

Only being able to apply for this aspect of her degree in the first semester at University, Noor sat a diagnostic essay exam before completing an interview entirely in her chosen language, "The whole interview was in German. I felt a bit rusty at the beginning but then got in the flow!"

Taking the 6-year option, during years 1 to 4, Noor will develop her knowledge and enhance her skills in German by attending additional weekly classes in the evenings. In year 5, if an adequate level of language proficiency is attained, Noor will undertake a compulsory four-month placement at one of UoM's partner universities in Europe.

Whilst Medicine at the University of Manchester sees over 400 students in the cohort each year, only five of those gain entry onto the Medicine with European studies German variation, and two of these are native speakers!

"I couldn't thank the Language Department at MHSG enough for their support over the years, and to continue to study and become more proficient in German is just so exciting. Thank you so much for helping me get to this point."

Mr O'Brien puts Noor's success down to her abilities and drive. "At MHSG we are always keen to support our students and help them to find the courses that are right for them. We have extremely talented linguists in our school and we are always telling them that studying languages is the key to opening many doors. Noor is living proof and I am certain her experience will encourage others!"

SIXTH FORM SUCCESSES

Current sixth formers are also celebrating as offers are coming in from universities across the country. As Head of Sixth Form, Sarah Norton, acknowledges, "It has been a challenging year for students applying to Higher Education. With institutions hosting most events remotely, there has been little opportunity to visit universities in person and, with the challenges posed by the current pandemic, it has been an unsettling time.

However, in typical Manchester High style, our students have demonstrated their characteristic determination and not only achieved offers from some of the top universities in the country, but some have even been awarded highly coveted scholarships in a variety of subjects."



Beatrice

She continued, "One of the most exciting things about mentoring students in Sixth Form, is guiding them with their career choices. Our students are not just choosing traditionally academic subjects at university, they are choosing subjects that inspire them. I truly believe this is due to our integrated approach to education at Manchester High."

Opportunities for our students to broaden their skills beyond the curriculum are offered right through from Prep and this idea of a rounded education is something that Head Mistress, Helen Jeys, is very passionate about. "In my view, every child needs this kind of rounded education to be academically successful and – most importantly – happy. I have always found that a child's happiness and academic success are inextricably linked; you can't have one without the other!"

Sixth formers Natasha and Beatrice are typical of the different choices that our students are making. Natasha has just been awarded a scholarship in vocal studies at the Royal College of Music in London whilst Beatrice has been selected for one of the President's Scholarships for Academic Excellence and Potential at Imperial College London.

Both scholarships provide them with great opportunities for the future. Natasha hopes she will follow in the footsteps of many of the world's leading musicians whilst Beatrice will be joining an illustrious alumnae of Mathematicians.

Mrs Jeys believes it is also our pioneering alumnae who embolden current pupils to strive for attainment and have the self-belief that they can achieve. "Knowing that they attend the School that educated the Pankhurst sisters makes the pupils ambitious; glass ceilings are there to be broken!"

We wish all our Senior Sixth students every success in the future as they continue their academic journey and look forward to seeing exactly which ceilings they are going to break!



Natasha

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

It seemed poignant that we welcomed our pupils back to school after the third lockdown on International Women's Day – a day that celebrates the achievements of women and highlights the gender inequalities that are sadly still so evident across the world.

The #ChoosetoChallenge theme could almost have been written for Manchester High as it sits perfectly with our own values that encourage pupils to strive to achieve in any area they want to, regardless of perceived ideas and barriers.

“

From challenge comes change and we can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality.

Mrs Jeys

”

In a virtual assembly to mark the event, Mrs Jeys focused on the need to educate and for our pupils to be ambitious in their aims so that female equality can be a realistic goal for the future.

For the Head Mistress, this should start with equal access to education across the world. "It is hard to believe that only 39% of countries have equal proportions of the sexes enrolled in secondary education and that, of the 774,000,000 illiterate adults in the world, two thirds of them are women. If we could achieve universal education for students and boys, it could be possible to lift more than 420,000,000 people out of poverty across the world."



Yoonsun, Meera, Lolu and Finn raise their hands in support of IWD 2021

She also highlighted the gender pay gap, which pupils in school debated during Diversity Day in December. For so many of our pupils, this is a hot topic and something that sixth formers also discussed in a webinar hosted by the London Institute of Banking and Finance and Nationwide Building Society earlier in the year. Gender inequality is a cross-industry problem but in a virtual event, sixth formers explored the impact on women in banking and finance and the need for further parity in the workplace.

Whilst there is still a long way to go, the International Women's Day assembly celebrated some of the amazing women who are already making a difference in the world of politics, from Sara Kuugongelwa who has been Prime Minister of Namibia since 2015 and whose fight against corruption has led to her country having its first budget surplus in its history, to Jacinda Ardern.

New Zealand's Prime Minister is only the second woman to give birth whilst in office and her no nonsense approach

to COVID-19, which immediately shut down the country and isolated all cases of the virus, meant that her country was one of the very first to reopen safely. Even in such a position of power though, she still admits to a lack of confidence on occasions,

"One of the criticisms I've faced over the years is that I'm not aggressive enough or assertive enough, or maybe somehow, because I'm empathetic, it means I'm weak. I totally rebel against that."

“

I refuse to believe that you cannot be both compassionate and strong.

Jacinda Ardern

”

Mrs Jeys said, "It is sad to think that women like Jacinda Ardern can find herself receiving potentially biased judgements on the basis that she is a

woman." This is also true of the Finnish Prime Minister who experienced challenges to her femininity when she recently made headlines for wearing a 'revealing' outfit on the front of *Trendi* magazine. Mrs Jeys continued, "At a time when Sanna Marin was launching an ambitious equality programme whilst dealing with a pandemic, it is so wrong that the focus shifted from these major accomplishments to a discussion on dress code for women."



Thankfully, our pupils are always made to feel they can do anything and many of our alumnae have taken this pioneering spirit with them into their careers and have accomplished great things.

Head Mistress



In fact, the Finnish government is an excellent example of female empowerment. It is headed by a coalition government made up of five women who aim to make their country carbon neutral by 2035 and want to improve gender equality and the position of racial minorities in Finland.

"It is so inspiring to see women in leadership but shocking to think that



women serve as Heads of State or government in only 22 countries. There are 119 countries who have never had a female leader."²

Indeed, she referenced recent virtual events with inspiring alumnae such as Anushka Asthana who believes that MHSG provided her with the strength of character needed to achieve in journalism; and Katie Leviten, who acknowledged that not being put off by gender barriers was crucial to her success in becoming the youngest Venture Capital partner in Europe.

In a week where #IWD2021 was trending, Mrs Jeys told current students to take inspiration from our alumnae and use the same strength and foresight to know they can achieve whatever they want and **#ChoosetoChallenge**.



¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/images/2011/girls-factsheet-en.pdf>

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>



Miss Mary Moon

1932 - 2020

It is with sorrow that we mourn the passing of Miss Mary Moon, Head Mistress of Manchester High School for Girls from September 1983 to August 1994.

Miss Moon had a BA in English and a Master of Education degree from the University of Manchester and, before coming to MHSG, was Head Mistress of Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham.

She successfully steered the School through considerable changes in the world of education when GCSE's replaced O-level and new A-level schemes were introduced.

Under her leadership, the Reception area was completely redeveloped, new science and language laboratories were built, Star Block became the new Sixth Form centre and WI became the first computer room.

Miss Moon will be remembered not only for her scholarship, but also for her warmth, her sense of humour and her willingness to join in school activities. She retained an active interest in MHSG after her retirement and will be sorely missed.

Here are some words from the MHSG Community...

"She will indeed be greatly missed. In addition to all she did for the School, Mary was always very supportive of the Old Girls' Federation, and I always enjoyed meeting her at Manchester Society meetings and other OGF events – she was very welcoming."

Helen Ireland, Class of 1966

"She was a committed and very enthusiastic Head Mistress who led the School successfully encompassing national changes in Education and improving the School's facilities. She had a lovely laugh and always made me feel welcome, updating me on all aspects of the life of the School."

Christine Walker, Class of 1963
and Former Chair of Governors



DEBATING THE *Humans* in Humanity



In March, Manchester High School for Girls hosted its annual Model United Nations Conference with 180 delegates taking part from 22 schools across the country. The virtual event debated the theme of "Humanity" through nine different committees and councils, all Chaired by pupils from Year 11 and Junior Sixth.

Now in its seventh year, MUN High 2021 is a simulation of the real United Nations which gives students the opportunity to debate global issues as delegates from UN member states. This year, the debating took place over Zoom, beginning with an opening ceremony that introduced the students on the Organising Committee through

a parody of the infamous Handforth Council Meeting and ending with a live awards ceremony. Mrs Lucy Lomas, who oversees the event at MHSG, was delighted by the success and said:

"The students on the Organising Committee were amazing; unflappable and professional at all times. Ria, especially, rose to the challenge as Secretary General."

They were thrilled to have former pupil, Majida Rasul, a current staff member of the United Nations, deliver the Keynote Speech this year. Speaking in her personal capacity, Majida talked about her experience of working for humanitarian, human rights and peace and security organisations across the world. Her roles have taken her from tents in refugee camps to palaces, and put her "in a 17-vehicle motorcade that shut down an entire capital city as well as a rickshaw that broke down in the mud!"



Ria as Secretary General



Human Rights Committee



Majida Rasul

In an inspirational speech that was extremely well received by delegates and advisors, she talked about the extremes of her career that have put her around negotiating tables with politicians as well as sitting "under the shade of a tree discussing community matters with displaced people."

She poignantly reminded delegates of the importance of humanitarian and peace and security work, "It's shown me the worst of humanity through war, abuses and violations and it's also shown me the best of humanity through people's resilience and kindness to one another."

For the Class of 2006 alumna, lessons have been learned along the way, "Training and knowledge," she said, "can mean nothing without understanding – without understanding it can be too easy to lose the humanity in our work."

“
*Always remember the humans
in humanity.*

Majida Rasul

She concluded by reminding delegates of three fundamentals of building and maintaining understanding that is essential in keeping humanity at the centre of our efforts: always listen – it takes humility and wisdom to imagine another perspective or equally valid view; question – not only your opponents but yourself; and "Zoom Out" – consider how you will tell your story in years to come and how you will judge yourself."

Such wise words will be hard to follow next year but the hope is that MUN High 2022 will be an in-person event once again where students will have the opportunity to debate more important topics.



Miss
Naomi Davis
 Class of 1983

As we approach the fourth anniversary of the Manchester Arena Terrorist attack, which took place on 22nd May 2017, we sat down to talk to alumna Miss Naomi Davis (Class of 1983), Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon at the RMCH (Royal Manchester Children's Hospital). We talked about her journey since leaving MHSg and her experience as Surgeon Commander on that tragic night in Manchester.

What was your experience at Manchester High like and how do you feel it helped to shape the person you are today?

My mother took me to have a look around the School before the entrance exam, and it was full of confident, happy groups of students and I wanted to be part of that. I also completely fell in love with the parquet floors!

As an experience, it was just as it should have been – educational and fun, and I had lovely friends. There was an understanding that we could be anything we wanted, and that we were supported by a school that would help us achieve our goals. We were all appreciated for who we were, and what we were going to be and that continues to sustain me, even now.



Naomi in School

After MHSg, you went to The University of Nottingham to study Medicine – tell us more about that.

I went to the University of Nottingham, mostly for the intercalated and integrated course – not for the floors this time – and because it was a campus university that felt safe. We accessed clinical work much earlier than at the more established medical schools and we all achieved the extra B.Med.Sci. that stood us in good stead for job applications.

They had a newer approach to training; I remember walking around in the main entrance of the medical school wearing glasses smeared with Vaseline, rubber gloves on, ear plugs in, and marbles in our shoes, to work out what it would feel like being old. Particularly pertinent now with feet that ache after hours of standing in the operating theatre and steamed up glasses from wearing a mask.

I was recently talking to one of my MHSg Project Pankhurst mentees about the importance of gaining personal life experience as a start to being able to empathise with the life experience of patients. As students in Nottingham, we were taken to the coal face of a local pit so that we could begin to understand a little of what it was like to be working there.

Outside of the work, I had some great times flying with the University Air Squadron – perhaps those stories are for another day...

“

We are Davis', we don't give up.

”

You are a renowned Consultant Surgeon in Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at RMCH; tell us a bit about your journey.

How I chose medicine was rather simplistic; I was good at Science, I enjoyed practising First Aid with the Guides and I can remember the moment when I was about 12, coming out of my Biology class, and it suddenly dawned on me – I want to be a doctor.

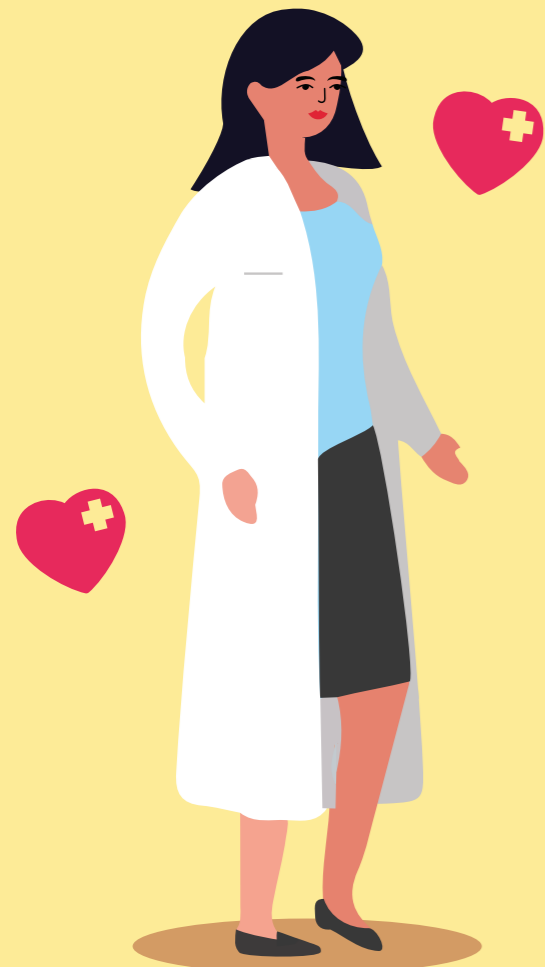
Many people over the years would repeatedly tell me how hard it was going to be, but as my father used to say, “We are Davis', we don't give up.”

One of my main specialities is treating children with clubfoot. Early on in my consultant post, I wanted to bring a proven non-surgical method of treatment from the United States and a consultant colleague of mine said, “You can have all our patients on our surgical waiting list, and when you fail, we'll take them back.” Perhaps he knew how much that would spur me on – they never did get those patients back.



The main facets of my career can be split into thirds – setting up the clubfoot practice, starting the Major Trauma Service for children and latterly it is about developing children's rehabilitation services, which has tended to be a bit of a last thought for the Trauma Service. Some of my colleagues might say, "I've fixed their bones, job done." We would then need to add something like, "Actually, that child got that injury when crossing the road and can no longer leave their house to go to school because they are so scared of that road." That is where the rehabilitation team take over – to support both physical and mental recovery.

On a very basic level, I chose children's medicine, because I don't think it's fair for kids to suffer. They should have the support to do everything to their best ability and I will do whatever I can do to facilitate that. I went into orthopaedics because it is very logical and I am essentially someone who has always wanted to do something with my hands. I have always been that person who has a craft project on the go, even when sick in bed! I sew, I knit, I (try to) play piano, and I make children's feet point in the right direction using my hands. I also think of myself as a planner – I like to look ahead and have a number of contingency plans to manage the unexpected.



What would you tell young people considering a career in Medicine?

In medicine, there is a place for any personality; from replacing hips in octogenarians to brain surgery on babies, understanding complex biochemistry to supporting a good death. With any of these roles, there is some level of involvement with a patient and their family. You are giving something of yourself every time you are in that encounter and that has a cost to you as a clinician as well as the joy of delivering good care.

There are some important conversations to have with young people thinking of medicine; it is more nuanced than 'it's hard'. The stresses are high and students deserve the tools to manage their stress much earlier than our generation ever got them. The rewards are also enormous and it's an unusual day that you can't see some good you have done. Being part of the NHS, part of people's lives at some of their most challenging times, is a privilege.



You have to come into this career with an instinctive need to do it; with a passion.



Four years ago, in May 2017, the Manchester Arena was attacked in a terrorist bombing, an event that shook the city, and the world. As a Major Trauma Centre, were you prepared for such an attack?

After the Paris terrorist attacks of 2015, the Major Trauma Centre and Network Leads from across the country were told to create regional plans so that we were prepared should a similar attack happen here. In March 2017, six weeks before the Manchester Arena bombing, we carried out a practice run called *Operation Socrates*, which tested our systems and taught us a huge amount.

Most importantly, I learned about good triaging: that the first patients coming in to seek medical attention may be those who can walk or are fit enough to be put in a car and be driven by family, not necessarily those who need the most urgent care.



Manchester after the attack

So, during the practice, I filled up our available theatres with some of these lesser injured patients. Then the children with time-dependent head injuries came in and, in the trial run, I was running out of space. How wonderful that I was able to learn this in an entirely safe environment during a practice. On the night of the attack itself I remember directing some patients with fairly serious limb injuries onto the ward with my heart in my mouth. Sure enough, the children with head injuries then started to come in. They got their surgery first while the others, who were being safely cared for, received their surgery later. I'm so thankful that we got *Operation Socrates* in six weeks before.



Naomi with a patient

That night you were not on call, but you went into the hospital and took on the role of Surgeon Commander. Can you tell us about your experience that night and in the days and weeks that followed?

The night of the attack, I was struggling to get to sleep (I should have been on an early train the next morning) when the WhatsApp notification came in from our on-call colleagues, and then the BBC news notifications. I knew that, as *Operation Socrates* had only just happened, all the learning had not yet been shared and some of it was still just in the heads of those of us who had participated.

The drive in that night gave me some thinking time, going through some of the plans we had made. I walked into the Paediatric Emergency Department (PED) and the first person I met was our PED lead, who had been part of the *Operation Socrates* team. We just looked at each other and knew what we needed to do.

I took on the Surgeon Commander role at this point, largely in PED and liaising with the Theatres and Paediatric Intensive Care Unit directly above us. As the victims rolled in through the night, teams were gathered to manage their care. We had huge numbers of staff; clinical, management, porters, cleaners, all completely focused on helping in any way they could.

They were operating all night and through into the next evening. A colleague drove me home around 5pm and I remember the weather being beautiful. We literally came out blinking into the sunlight to realise we were part of this international story. It was extraordinary. We were

getting messages from friends and colleagues across the country and the world offering help. The support and the food donations were immense and so helpful because no one had time to think about where their next meal was coming from!

The patients in our department that night were young people, who were horribly injured and their individual stories of survival and recovery are inspiring. Their terrifying, life-changing, experience has taken them to a different place and it's been amazing to see them grow and develop through that. They have, in turn, helped to inform our services and move them forward.



Alongside your colleagues, you received a Woman of the Year Award, which was presented to you by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall in recognition of your response to the Manchester Arena attack. How did that feel?

That was extraordinary and lovely. I received a message from the Chair of the Trust asking me to go to the prize giving in London, but I had no real appreciation that we were going to do anything other than sit in the back of the room. They had picked eight of us from across Manchester who had been involved on the front line of the incident to win 'Women of the Year' as a group. There was a lot of media interest at the time and some of it was intrusive for the families involved.

There are still important lessons to be learned and there was a long recovery, not just for the victims but for the staff as well. It is still emotional to go through those events and it may be like that for a long time yet.

After the Paris attacks, Pierre Carli spoke of the resilience of the health services being our way to combat terrorism. That we can deliver care to the best of our ability, that we can support recovery and guide our patients back to their new best, that we move on, learn, develop and out of evil, find all the good. That is our fight and the staff of the NHS do it brilliantly.

**What is important to you away from your work?
What do you do to relax?**

I love knitting and trying to play the piano, being in the garden, pottering in the house, riding my bicycle. My world is precious to me, and I feel very blessed with my husband, my close family, and my friends. I'm very lucky! One day soon we may get to eat together in a restaurant again...

“

*I am so proud to be a
Manchester High girl.*

”

Who are the inspirational figures in your life?

I think those who generally inspire are those with whom we have a two-way relationship. I feel this way as a mentor and teacher now, when a pupil excites you to be interested in them, you end up with a great partnership. I still remember those teachers in school who took a real interest and I've had teachers throughout my career (and some detractors as well!) whose words still sound in my ear.

We are all the product of so many encounters and I've been lucky enough to work with gifted surgeons, inspirational patients, dedicated colleagues and have the most supportive and loving family.

What are your ambitions for the future?

With work, I want to ensure that the things I have started will carry on without me. The clubfoot, major trauma and rehabilitation services all need to continue to care for children. That for me is all about team building. I want someone to want my job when I retire. Not to do it exactly as I do, but to enjoy it to the point that they want to achieve and bring their own flavour to it.

One more passion, arguably appearing too late, is to work for greater equality in the profession. I used to think that striving to be very good at my job would be enough to ensure that women were regarded as equals in the workplace. I'm sorry that this is not enough, that there still needs to be a major culture shift and there is still much work to be done. I would like to retire well and I would quite like to sight-read better at the piano!

I am so proud to be a Manchester High girl and that you are still developing such high quality people. It is just lovely to see! Everyone at school should be very proud. I feel like a small part of a huge institution that continues to deliver and it is a beautiful thing.



HOW TO

Update Your Details

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.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

We hope you enjoy receiving *High Flyer*; however, we want to make sure we know exactly how you prefer to be contacted. If you would like to change how you receive this or any of our other communications, you can update your communication preferences with the Manchester High School for Girls Development Team by visiting:

www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/keepintouch

PASS IT ON!

When GDPR came in to 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 consent preferences.

In your time at MHSG, whether that was as an alumna, a member of staff, or part of the wider community, we know you will have made lifelong friends that you still catch up with and chat to, whether you left school 5 years ago or 50! If you think that some of your Man High friends have not updated their details with us, then please pass this message onto them.

Manchester High School for Girls is nothing without its alumnae and the wider school community, and we would like to reconnect with as many lviies as possible.

GREENER WAYS TO ENJOY HIGH FLYER

We are very proud of our loyal readership, who regularly tell us how much they look forward to receiving *High Flyer*.

We are currently looking for ways to reduce the impact our magazine has on the environment and have introduced a paperless option that will give you an opportunity to help us in our efforts. We are not going to stop printing *High Flyer* altogether, but if you would prefer to receive your copy in a digital format, please visit: www.manchesterhigh.co.uk/EmailHighFlyer to complete a simple form and we will make sure the next edition of *High Flyer* lands swiftly in your inbox!

Please note that by completing the form, this is an additional communication preference to those that you may have already confirmed and will not affect you receiving other materials (i.e. invitations), from MHSG in the post.



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