



## HARROGATE COLLEGE UNION

The Alumni Association of Harrogate Ladies' College  
and Highfield Prep School

# THE CHRONICLE

2024



Principal Sylvia Brett, President of the HCU, attending the Choir Festival reunion

### ALICE GRAY (NÉE HOWARD)

(Lincoln East, 1976 -1983)

#### CHAIR OF THE HCU

I hope 2024 finds you all well. Thank you to the school, and particularly Mr Andrews, for hosting such an enjoyable and successful Choir Festival reunion. I am sure it brought back many happy memories of choir practice, chapel, and choir tours.

I would also like to thank Alumni Relations Officer, Sarah Mills, for producing the Chronicle.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025.

### SUSAN HUNDLEBY (NÉE DAVIES)

(Lancaster, 1972-1980)

#### SECRETARY OF THE HCU

Earlier this year Claire Irwin (née Blenkin) and I were honoured to have afternoon tea with Mrs Lawrance at her former home in Kirklington. Mrs Lawrance entrusted me with some of her treasured memories of the school. These items include a scroll painted by Phillipa Buckle (Lancaster, 1987-1994), a photograph album covering the school's centenary year (1993), a large card signed by every pupil at the time (dated around 1984) and

a silver salver presented to Mrs Lawrance by the parents on her retirement. Later I visited the school and passed these items into its care. I received a warm welcome and was delighted to meet with Sylvia Brett, Francine Holroyd, Sarah Bowman, Sarah Mills and others and to inspect the recently refurbished Swinton Theatre (Small Hall). It was a great pleasure to see the good work and wonderful progress that continues to be made at the school.

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[www.hlc.org.uk/alumni](http://www.hlc.org.uk/alumni)



Thank you to the following former pupils who have taken the time to be interviewed to raise the profile of our wonderful alumni community and to inspire our current pupils. The full interviews can be accessed on our website at: [www.hlc.org.uk/news/alumni-news](http://www.hlc.org.uk/news/alumni-news)

## FRANCES DURHAM

### CLARENCE AND YORK 1992-1995

Frances is a helicopter air ambulance pilot for Air Evac Lifeteam and lives near her family's farm in Russellville, Indiana, USA. She attended HLC while her family were stationed at Menwith Hill



Some of my most vivid memories of school are the class trips. We went to a medieval village where we played the roles of different villagers, like making candles and guarding the gate. Those trips made the history lessons come alive!

After graduating from Virginia Tech, I commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. At the Navy flight school in Pensacola, Florida, I learned to fly airplanes and helicopters, the latter becoming my passion. I deployed on destroyers and aircraft carriers around the world. One of my missions was anti-piracy in the Mediterranean Sea, where we worked to prevent ships from transporting illegal weapons between countries.



After 11 years, I finished my service. I spent one summer at the Grand Canyon in Arizona, flying tours. Then I returned to my roots and moved to Indiana to be close to family, where I started flying the air ambulance.

I love flying helicopter air ambulances. With a nurse and medic onboard, I pick up injured people from accidents and fly them to hospitals. We get to help people on their worst days, and I'm amazed by the care our nurses and medics give that keeps critically injured people alive.

I've found the most important thing about my workplace is the people that I work with, and here I get to work with people who care about their community and want to make a difference.

I've also become interested in the medical side and am currently attending an online programme studying applied neuroscience with King's College London.

The rigorous academic work at HLC grew my study skills, diligence and perseverance and they've all helped me get to where I am. The emphasis on service I learnt at school is a value I've carried throughout my career.



# ÀJOKÉ BÓDÚNDÉ

**FRANKLIN AND TOWER**  
2014-2016

Àjoké is currently in law school in Nigeria and balances this with a career in the creative arts.

“

HLC was an environment where I thrived both academically and through extra-curricular activities. Some of my fondest memories include being part of the school's production of Dido & Aeneas, the annual House Music competition, and Sixth Form Review.

I went on to study Law at Durham University. In my final year, I enjoyed Jurisprudence as a module, particularly Feminist Jurisprudence. This was one of the reasons I decided to pursue an MSc in Gender Studies at the London School of Economics. I then completed the Bar Practice Course and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2021 (Lincoln's Inn). I hope to get called to the Nigerian Bar in 2025.

I founded The Writers' Room Collective this year. It is an enterprise invested in creating and platforming stories across various mediums, fostering the works of other creators through community building and nurturing the minds of young people, with hopes of expanding their imagination of ways they can take up space in today's world. Submissions for our digital publication will open in 2025!



I also support the incredible work of The Caine Prize for African Writing, an annual literary Prize in its 25th year that has supported the works of emerging African writers and their entry into the world of mainstream publishing.

I am a judge for the Abebi Award in Afro-Nonfiction, a co-editor of Noisy Streetss Magazines' Love in Detty December Edition and a writer. My poetry has appeared in Aké Review (2017), Kalahari Review (2018), The White Review (2023), and Black Joy Unbound: An Anthology (2023). I have also been shortlisted for the Merky New Writers' Prize (2019) (founded by artist Stormzy and Penguin Random House) and The White Review Poet's Prize (2023).

In the future, I want to do what I do now but on a larger scale. I hope to practice law across multiple jurisdictions, and balance this with my work in the creative arts.

Being a boarder in an all-girls school far away from home instils a level of confidence, independence and responsibility in you and have been useful to my life and career. These are all things that were nurtured during my time at HLC. What a gift!

”

# NIKKI MIAO

**NIGHTINGALE**  
2013-2016

Nikki is an Investment Associate at a private equity firm specialising in mining and energy transition-related investments.

“

HLC provided a range of activities that helped me grow into a well-rounded individual while supporting my passions. My fondest memories include organising and rehearsing for House competition events-such as music, drama, and Sports Day-as well as gathering with friends in the basement of Clarence Boarding House after dinner!

After school, I studied Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford. During university, I attended a summer research programme at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing where I spent time studying Schwarzschild and Kerr geometries of Spacetime.

After I graduated at Oxford, I worked as an Investment Banker at BAML in London where I focused on Power & Utilities, Renewables, Oil & Gas and Mining sectors. I then joined Appian Capital Advisory 2 years ago. My current role is dynamic and involves the front-to-end of investments, from sourcing for investment opportunities, execution of transactions, financial modelling, legal and commercial



negotiations, commodity price and market research and forecasts, as well as portfolio management and exit strategies.

In addition to my professional career development for the future, I would like to finish a PADI scuba diving course! When I'm back home in Beijing for holidays, I attend friends' recording studios and work on songs that I've written. Last year I released a 3-song EP from those sessions.

HLC provided a supportive environment that helped me become a determined and passionate individual, enabling me to pursue what I do now.

”



**ALUMNI LACROSSE MATCH  
SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH**



It was a lovely morning for our alumni vs pupils' senior team lacrosse match. A huge thank you to all our former students who came to play and watch, along with our Head of Sport, Nikki Priestley, for organising such a fun game.

And the result ... it was certainly a close match, but the current pupils were just victorious in the end, with a score of 10-8! Principal Sylvia Brett presented the trophy to the winners on the pitch, alongside one of our former students Rosie Berkshire (née Crawford) (Lancaster, 1955-1962) who later went on to play lacrosse for Great Britain.

After the game, there were drinks and then a delicious players' lunch in the South Dining Room, giving our alumni a chance to catch up with their former classmates.



**CHOIR  
FESTIVAL  
ALUMNI  
REUNION**

**SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE**

It was such a pleasure to welcome nearly 100 of our former choir members back to school to sing with the current Chapel Choir. It was uplifting and very emotional to see so many of our incredible alumni united by the joy of singing. These alumni represented every decade all the way back to the 1940s and the strength of singing was incredible.



We would like to say a huge thank you to Director of Music, Kate Morgan and our former Director of Music, David Andrews for all their work in

making this happen and to everyone who joined us for this truly special event. It was wonderful that 14 Heads of Choir were able to join us!

Our alumni were able to catch up with former friends and classmates over lunch in the North Dining Room, and many spotted a few familiar faces in our Photo Archive Board!

Our L6 pupils were delighted to show many former students around school and to hear about their time at HLC.

We were joined at 2.30pm by another 100 alumni, family and friends to watch the fantastic afternoon performance, followed by drinks on the lawn in the sunshine!



A group of former choir members based in Hong Kong were unable to join us, so they therefore kindly gathered to record 2 pieces for David Andrews, to pay their own musical tribute to a man who inspired in them a lifelong love of music. Thank you to Laura Winwood (Lincoln West, 2000-2006) and Maria Mo (Lincoln West, 2001-2006) for organising this. They all signed a card, so that we were able to present that to David on the day.

**ALUMNI REUNION  
IN HONG KONG  
SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER**



Thank you to all those who joined Principal Sylvia Brett and Director of Admissions & Marketing Sarah Bowman for Afternoon Tea on Sunday 6th October 2024 at Le 188° Restaurant, Harbour Grand Hotel.

It was such a pleasure to welcome everyone, to hear about their time at HLC and learn about what they have achieved since leaving school. We hope they enjoyed spending time with their former classmates, along with alumni from other year groups.

We would again like to thank Laura Winwood and Maria Mo for all their help with organising this from Hong Kong.

**UPCOMING REUNIONS**

**RECENT LEAVERS' CELEBRATION FOR  
2024, 2023 AND 2022 LEAVERS**

**FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2025  
6.30PM - 8.30PM**

We are delighted to invite the 2024, 2023 and 2022 leavers and their parents to a 'Recent Leavers' Celebration' at school. This special drinks reception will be an opportunity for these alumni to catch up with each other and spend time with their former teachers.

**Alumni are also welcome to attend our 2025 school events, including Romeo & Juliet on 18th/20th March at 7pm, Speech Day on 24th May at 11am, the HLC Friends Bonfire Night and College Carol Service.**

**Please email [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk) to book.**

## NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNI

We asked our alumni community to provide their updates and received these wonderful and diverse responses, collated in order of when they left HLC:

### ANN KEATING (NÉE COOPER) (Armaclare, 1947-1952)

I am very sad to tell you that my husband, Robert Francis Keating, passed away on 31st May this year. He was 89 and in reasonable health, however he fell downstairs whilst bringing up the morning tea. I am trying to get to grips with everything at 90 this month which is quite a feat.

### GILLIAN HUGHES (NÉE SLOANE) (Armaclare, 1947-1952)

I met up with Pat Mallet (née Palmer) (Armaclare, 1945-1953) and hope she will visit me soon. Also met with my Sister Carolyn Hollis (née Sloan) (Oakdale and Armaclare) at our cousin's wedding in August. Now I'm a Great Aunt and step Great Granny to 3 little ones under 5 years. My social life is mainly Ringmer Village events and I'm a Mothers' Union member at St. Mary's Church.

### ANN BRUCE-LOW (NÉE WINESTONE) (Swinton, 1954-1958)



I did the Southampton Half Marathon on 7th April, which is my seventh in a row, and I received a trophy as I was first in my age group. This year I have trained really hard as my son, Stewart, had given me a spreadsheet to train with. Unfortunately, the day proved to be dreadfully gusty strong winds and at one point the wind caught me and I fell foul of it. I managed to pick myself up with the help of spectators, Stewart and some of the passing runners. Unfortunately, because I had a very slight cut on my forehead I had to wait for the ambulance. Once the medics had cleaned me up, they said I could carry on! Stewart and I finished but they insisted that I go to the first aid tent. The doctor there glued the cut on my forehead and put 3 small steri stitches on my arm.

### PAULA BOLTON (NÉE RINGER) (Oakdale and Lancaster, 1954-1961)

I am celebrating the 30th anniversary of my jewellery business [www.paulabolton.com](http://www.paulabolton.com).

We have been supplying museums and great houses with my designs for 3 decades!

### KARI BUTLER (NÉE MORRISON) (Balliol, 1956-1961)

I live in NE Hampshire, in a village equidistant to Farnham, Basingstoke and Reading. I retired from an Academic career in Higher Education, Art and Design 24 years ago. One son lives in Melbourne, Australia, the other in Hove, E. Sussex. I drive up to Yorkshire twice a year. My late sister Mary's family is in North Leeds, and until recently my late brother lived near Goole. I enjoy art, design, walking and travelling. I'm in touch with Susan (née Ashton) and Sonia (née Wolfson).



### JAKI MOORHOUSE (NÉE WHITEHEAD) (Oakdale and Lancaster, 1954-1964)

I had hoped to be at HLC for the choir (& sub choirs) reunion earlier in the year, sadly it clashed with my moving house here in France. I have visited Dot Wilson (Faulkner) & Penny Harris (Slater) this past year and met up with my sister-in-law Margie Pepper (Roberts) & Sue Wood (Irwin) but my year was taken up finding a new home and all that it entailed but now I am settled I would welcome old friends who are passing through the northern Dordogne.

### JILL KENYON (NÉE HARRISON) (Oakdale and Balliol, 1955-1964)



I still enjoy country club living in Naples, Florida (in spite of high insurance costs and hurricanes), playing tennis, Mah Jongg and bridge. I enjoy knitting and needlepoint, especially for my year-old grandson Jack, whose family I visit in New York City and Vermont. My husband, Peter Kenyon, died 24th June 2024.



**ROSEMARY ALEXANDER**

(Clarence, 1961-1968)

I put an ad in your old girl's magazine for my second home in West Wittering, Sussex and Penny Bartlett has been coming for 10 years, who was at HLC 10 years before me! Otherwise I met up with Fiona Macpherson 3 years ago after seeing her on Facebook and have seen her several times. She was 2 years below me but lived opposite me in East Yorkshire. I'm still working as a GP 2-3 days a week in North London at 73 years, not sure if I can work until 83 years like my mother, whose Housemistress at Westonbirt School was Miss Todd (!).

**KARIN KILBEY (NÉE DICKINSON)**

(Lincoln East, 1963-1970)



We celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary in September and returned to the Lakes for a long weekend in the hotel where we spent our honeymoon. On the way we called in at Harrogate and stayed at the Cairn so that after all those years at school looking at the back of the Cairn we could now look from the Cairn to the back of school. We also strolled round the school grounds and HLC looked better than ever!

**JEAN SUTHERLAND (NÉE LUSCOMBE)**

(Lincoln East, 1964-1970)

I have finally retired as a solicitor. I am the proud grandmother of Hollie (9), Torran (5) and Alexander (2).

**PHOEBE CAMPBELL (NÉE MELLAND)**

(Oakdale and Lancaster, 1966-1971)

In May 2024 I visited my sister, Julia A C Melland (Oakdale and Lancaster, 1966-1971) in Australia. I still keep in touch with Judy Brims (née Anderson), Sarah Holt, Helen Llewellyn (née Jones) and Fiona Hines (née Harvey) and have fond memories of seeing them all in 2018, the last time I was in the UK.

**SARAH BOYLE (NÉE ALLISON)**

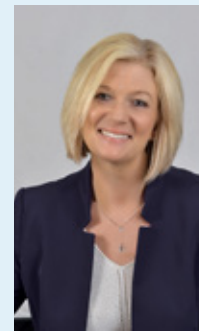
(Balliol, 1967-1974)

I now have 5 grandchildren; one of them is attending Highfield, the Prep School to HLC. She is loving it! Happy memories when I go back for Sports Day or just to collect her.

**FIONA ELLISON (NÉE MORRIS)**

(Armaclare, 1977-1982)

I finally retired from my role as a breast cancer nurse specialist in summer 2023, after 38 years in the NHS, only to return in my old job via the hospital bank 3 months later! However retirement means we have managed Bruges, Seville, Brixham, Ludlow, Suffolk, Singapore, Langkawi, Malvern, Chamonix and Geneva in the last 12 months! Two grandsons have been joined by 2 granddaughters and the next arrives in January 2025. The front door revolves with grandchildren and 'grand dogs'. It was lovely to catch up with Linda Cawthorne (York, 1977-1984) in Bakewell in autumn.

**HEATHER BELLIN (NÉE MYERS) (Armaclare, 1977-1985)**

I was very happy to return to the UK (Somerset) after 16 years of living & working in Switzerland. I now have 2 wonderful grandsons and have successfully set up my new business as an Independent Coach, Motivational Speaker & Trainer with the intention of helping as many individuals and organisations to become the happiest and most successful version of themselves. I'm loving sharing the journey of so many exceptional human beings. I was so sorry to have missed the Choir Reunion due to a very unpleasant virus and I hope there will be another one soon. This year I have seen Melanie Whiteside (Sugars), Kate Keddie (Garnett) Marianne Ringrose & Julia Sharp (Maclean) all who are very special to me.

**JEN TOWNSEND (NÉE DIXON)**

(Lincoln East, 1985-1992)

I am married to Mark and a Mum to 7-year-old twins. I live in North Cambridge. I have been working in the events and travel sector for about 20 years - 12 degrees ([www.12-degrees.co.uk](http://www.12-degrees.co.uk) is our new site) and [www.super-luxtravel.com](http://www.super-luxtravel.com).

**EVON CHUNG (NÉE DIXON)**

(Lincoln East, 1994-1998)

I was elected as Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute UK and Ireland. This is an international qualification, recognising my expertise as a Chartered Governance Professional (also known as Chartered Company Secretary) and in my contribution to the governance profession.





**SOPHIE DWERRYHOUSE**  
(Lincoln East, 1992-2000)

I had a very special day with family and friends receiving my Freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall (alumni Claire Davenport was with us). A few weeks after this I was made a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. I see Victoria Redshaw (née Anyan) and Amy Dobson at Livery events. Rachael Linsell (née Gowland) and I had a lovely day at Chester Races through her role at the European Breeders Fund. I am still riding lots and enjoying my role as a director of the Country Land and Business Association. I'm based in the Welsh borders/ Shropshire but travel to London a lot too.



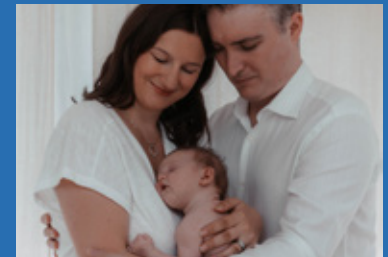
**HANNAH LOWTHER**  
(Lincoln West and Austen, 2003-2010)



After working at Wycombe Abbey for 9 years where the final 5 were as a Housemistress and Head of Co-curricular Activities and Trips, I decided to have a late gap year. I backpacked through Latin America for 4 months (an HLC joined me in Argentina), sailed to Antarctica for a kayak expedition and backpacked through South East Asia (meeting some HLC friends in Hong Kong) for another 4 months. Since May I have been working for SwimTrek, combining my love for travel and open water swimming. I take guests on scenic open water swimming holidays in locations around the world. So far, I've worked in Turkey, Greece and Montenegro with St Kitts and Nevis and Vietnam lined up. One gap year has turned into 2 - or more likely a career change!

**EMMA CODLING-WHITELEY**  
(NÉE WHITELEY)  
(Lincoln East and Austen, 2005-2010)

I would love to announce the birth of our daughter Elara May Codling, born 9th May 2024, weighing 8 lbs. I graduated HLC in 2010, and married my husband Thomas in 2022.



**GRACE TRACY**  
(NÉE CATON)  
(Franklin, 2011-2018)

This summer I got married and it was a lovely way to get some of my best friends from school back together. Please see the below photo with current head, Sylvia, and Head of Music, Kate Morgan. Now we're all based up and down the country; it was so special to get to see each other and celebrate the weekend together!



**HANNAH WHITELEY**  
(Austen, 2007-2014)

I represented Scotland at the Home international Lacrosse Tournament which took place in Cardiff in April, and we had 2 wins and a loss putting us second overall in the tournament. I was awarded the Player of the Tournament trophy. This award goes to one player and can be picked from any of the 4 teams playing. I've also been selected for the GB training squad, in the 4-year build up to the Olympics!



**Alumni from left to right are:**  
Allison Hennessy, Elle Kay-Coles (head of choir), Lucy Talbot (deputy head of choir), me, Grace Brett (head of choir) and Ellie Gould (head of choir)

## GRADUATIONS

**HLC would like to congratulate our 2021 Leavers who graduated from university this year:**

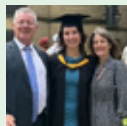
### FREYA HARTLEY



graduated this summer from Durham University with a 2:1 in BA Hons in Music.

She has had an amazing time immersing herself in all aspects of music, in particular musical direction. She directed many musicals and shows throughout her degree and accompanied many performances. She is now going on to specialise further and has been accepted into the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to study a postgraduate diploma in Musical Directing from September.

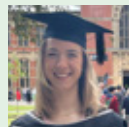
### HARRIET SWIFT



graduated July 2024 from the University of Manchester with First-Class in her Joint Honours Degree, LLB

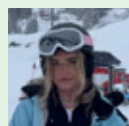
Law with Politics. She is pursuing a career as a solicitor, and she is currently undertaking LLM SQE1&2 at BPP University in Manchester on a Career Commitment Scholarship. This is a masters degree in legal practice, which prepares her to take the national solicitors' exams. The scholarship is awarded for strong academic capability, experience with volunteering and pro bono, dedication to progressing her legal career and strong leadership skills. Harriet represented the lacrosse First Team for UoM and is now playing for the senior women's team at Timperley.

### LUCY KENDRICK



graduated with a First Class Physics (with International Study) B.Sc. (Hons) this summer from The University of Birmingham, having taken a year abroad in Canada in the third year. Lucy has now started a career with Deloitte on a training contract in Jersey.

### LUCY THOMAS



attended Bristol University where she achieved a Bachelor of Laws degree with First Class Hons. She has gone on to secure a training contract with one of the world's leading law firms, Linklaters, and she will commence working with the firm in 2026 after she has completed a gap year, travelling in Australia and Asia.

### PANPAN (BOONRAKSA KEAWTHERN)



graduated from King's College London with a BSc in Economics and Management, achieving First Class Honours. After graduation, she was

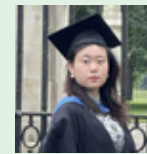
offered a place at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she is starting her MSc in Marketing. Studying at LSE had long been a dream of hers and she remembers discussing her aspiration to attend LSE in her economics classes!

### SHEENA JIBOWU



graduated this summer, from Kings College London, receiving a 2:1 degree in Music. She has enrolled at the same university to pursue a Masters programme in Political Economics of emerging economies.

### XINQI ZHANG

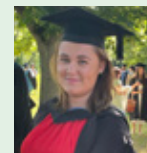


has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Leicester. Currently, she is pursuing her postgraduate studies in Educational Psychology at the University of Bristol.

**Congratulations to our 2020 and 2019 Leavers who have also graduated this year after either a longer course or gap year:**

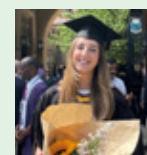
### 2020 LEAVERS:

#### ELIZABETH PEBERDY



was awarded her degree in Agricultural Business Management BSc (Hons) 2:1. She is now starting an MSc at Nottingham continuing the research she started in her degree.

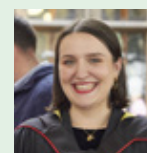
#### HOLLY ASHLEY



graduated from the University of Manchester with a first class degree in international management in July. In August she joined the graduate analyst programme

at the Bank of New York, which is a 2-year, rotational programme based in Manchester.

#### AUGUSTA TAMLIN

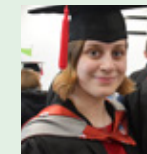


achieved a 2:1 in her undergraduate degree reading Geology and is now getting ready to apply to the Conservatoire for a masters in Vocal Performance with a focus on Opera and English Art Song.

### LIZZIE ROBINSON

completed her undergraduate degree (BSc Hons Psychology at Nottingham Trent University) and received a First. She is now undertaking a masters at Queen Mary University of London (MSc Psychology: Mental Health Sciences).

### ANNIE ROBINSON



graduated from her masters (MA Criminology) in December 2023. She received a distinction and was on the Deans list for her excellent work/grades.

She is now working on a masters in Applied Custodial Leadership (MSC) at Leeds Trinity while working full time as a prison officer with the Unlocked Graduate Programme.

### INDIA TAYLOR



took a gap year in 2020 and has graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Reading this summer. In September, India began a new role as an

Account Executive with Infinity Incorporated, joining its Uniform team. In this position, they collaborate closely with clients to manage quotes and coordinates with the artwork team to ensure top-quality uniforms for prominent clients, including the Trafford Centre.

### 2019 LEAVER:

#### EMMA STANLEY



graduated in September with first class honours from the University of York in BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing. The graduation ceremony is in January, and in the

meantime, she will be starting a job as an A&E nurse back home in the Isle of Man. The photo is of Emma on placement as a Student Nurse at Harrogate and District Hospital.



27 of our alumni community have visited College in the last year and enjoyed a tour around school to reminisce of their experiences here. These have included visitors from as far afield as America, Israel, France and Jersey.



1987

## LEAVERS VISIT SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome back 8 of our 1987 Leavers:-

Emma-Jane Benoit (née Yeardon); Rachel Norton; Katie Gunn (née Matthewman); Vicky Camber (née Smith); Lynne Harris (née Bell); Christine Dungait (née Herdman); Sarah Chambers; and Sally Webster.

They spent time looking around College, meeting our Principal Sylvia Brett, and enjoyed tea and cakes in the Library.



**KATHERINE SCIALABBA (NÉE TSANG)**  
(Balliol and York, 1990-1993)



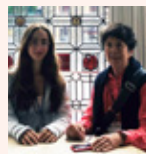
**VIRGINIA SMYTH (NÉE HASLAM)**  
(Lincoln East, 1974-1981)



**MIKI LAM**  
(Lancaster and Pankhurst, 2017-2022)  
**SHARON CHAN**  
(Clarence and Pankhurst, 2017-2021)



**CONSTANCE TOWLER**  
(Clarence and Tower, 2015-2017)



**MONIQUE HAR-AL (NÉE RAKUSEN)**  
(Lincoln East, 1955-1964)

Alumni are always welcome to visit College and we love the opportunity to show you around. Please email Sarah Mills at [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk) to arrange a convenient date.

## OAKDALE PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT HARROGATE COLLEGE

In the early days, a group of younger children was housed in Woodlands as part of the senior school, and in 1916 the Oakdale estate was acquired, and the preparatory department became a separate entity.

This beautiful house, set in 20 acres of ground, was designed as a miniature Haddon Hall. It was situated in Kent Road about half a mile from the senior school. Oakdale was presided over by Miss Jones's sister Lena, afterwards Lady Bell, and around 40 children transferred there. Massive Plane trees edged the drive and the girls had to run the circuit of the building every morning before breakfast unless it was raining!

Oakdale had its own teachers, and pupils were taught in the downstairs classrooms lined with oak panelling and slept upstairs in dormitories. It had its own activities and children were allowed to bring their own pets.

### A former pupil commented:

*"The environment of the school was absolutely delightful to a small child. The driveway swept from the gate to the steps of the house, and it was possible to ride a horse up to the dining room!"*

Lena remained in charge until 1935 when she retired at the same time as her sister. Miss Jacob came as headmistress in 1935. In the 4 years before the outbreak of the war some additions were made to the Oakdale premises. A large extension, consisting of a new gym, music rooms, dining room and bedrooms was built, and numbers went over 80.



Oakdale was not commandeered in the war. Miss Jacob visited Harrogate once a week as petrol was granted for essential journeys. During the handful of air-raids that Harrogate experienced, they huddled under blankets under the arches of the Great Hall, considered the safest place, to listen to the story of Pinocchio. Throughout the war years and afterwards, Oakdale was full and flourishing. Miss Todd was appointed Head Mistress at HC in 1952.

The pattern of education in the country was changing, and by the 1960s the increasing cost of upkeep made the financial aspect worrying. In 1968 the governors concluded that Oakdale should be closed, and children were transferred to a house in Clarence Drive. In 1970 it was sold to a businessman, but affairs went wrong for him, and he left the country, leaving it vulnerable to vandals. As a listed building it was referred to the Ministry of the Environment who sadly ruled in favour of demolition due to the state of dilapidation.

Source: Harrogate College, 1891-1973, Dorothy Hewlett

Please contact [Miss.Mills@hlc.org.uk](mailto:Miss.Mills@hlc.org.uk) if you attended Oakdale Prep school. We would love to compile all your memories of our former primary school.

# TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

**Harrogate Ladies' College:  
Culture, Sport and Recreation  
in the early school -  
By historian, Dr. Paul Jennings**

The ladies' college was founded in 1893 as an offshoot of the boys' school, Harrogate College, in Ripon Road. From the first it had its dedicated section in the School Magazine detailing the various cultural, sporting and recreational activities enjoyed by the girls. Then from 1905, by when the present school had opened, it had its own Magazine. This article looks at how it detailed some of those many activities in the late Victorian and Edwardian years.

A varied cultural life was important from the beginning. Older girls attended public lectures in the town, including those put on as part of the university extension movement, which sought to make the work of scholars more widely available. In 1906, for example, they were able to hear A. J. Grant of Leeds University, an authority on the French Revolution. The school had a Literary Society, which listened to extracts from the classics, like Chaucer and Shakespeare but also George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*. There was a Historical Society and a Dramatic Society. Girls were encouraged to learn musical instruments.

One of the best documented activities was the Debating Society. It started off with Hockey versus Cricket but included more serious issues like votes for women in 1909, a debate interrupted by two militant suffragettes, bearing a large 'Votes for Women' banner. The report gave them short shrift, however, saying 'their exhibition caused more amusement than consternation, and no one considering them worthy of being thrown out of the room, they retired with as much dignity as they could muster.' The vote was 19 to 14 in favour of women having the vote, a dramatic contrast to just two years earlier when a similar motion was heavily defeated. Several College girls were later involved in the movement.

Ella and Edie Westwood, were reported in 1913 as going off to a Suffragist Summer School, having taken part in the July procession, although it was noted that they were non-militant. A large majority defeated the motion that 'Girls have a better time than boys'. A. Bowden opposed, arguing that boys

had a large range of future occupations from which to choose, received better education, wore more convenient clothing, and while they could play all the girls' games, the reverse was not the case. And they were physically 'so much stronger'.

Perhaps one of the most ambitious cultural initiatives was the Branch School at St Germain-en-Laye, just outside Paris called *La Maison Blanche*, opened in 1907. Here older girls would speak only French, meet French girls, attend lectures at the Sorbonne and visit the city's art galleries and places of interest. Sadly, it had to close when the War came but a special French house was opened at the school to continue at least the French speaking, usually with teachers themselves French. In the dining hall also, French was spoken at two tables and German at a third. German teachers at the school were another loss occasioned by the War.





Sport for girls was at first not something that was felt to be properly ladylike, but this view was changing by the late-Victorian years, partly from the growing general feeling among women educationalists that girls should do just what the boys did.



Girls outside La Maison Blanche

Skipping was said at first to be favoured at playtime but the author of the Magazine piece looked forward to cricket, lacrosse and football coming soon. Football, however, was still a step too far at this time. Gym was permitted, in 'rational clothing'. But in 1898, two cricket elevens were formed, and the girls were looking forward to a match with the boys, although as the writer commented 'it is rather wounding to our pride to feel we have no chance of winning, unless the boys were severely handicapped, playing left hand and with broomsticks'. Eventually girls were taking part in a whole range of sports and also including hockey, athletics, swimming, tennis and riding. Competitive matches were played against teams from other girls' schools in Harrogate, like Dunorlan on Park Road, or from further afield like Bradford Girls' Grammar School. Although sport seems therefore to have been popular with the girls, it never became the obsession that it did in boys' schools, to the detriment there of more intellectual pursuits.

There was time allowed for private play and reading, but also lots of more organised recreation. There were many day trips to local places like the Dropping Well at Knaresborough or Almscliffe Crag. To Fountains Abbey eight girls cycled while the remainder went in a coach, horse-drawn still then. Or more ambitiously, a weekend at Scarborough in the summer of 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond

Jubilee. The girls were not, however, allowed to forget those less fortunate than themselves and charitable work in their spare time was stressed. An early entertainment in 1897 was one put on to raise money for the Indian Famine Fund, 'a charity to which all loyal British subjects must feel bound to contribute to the best of their ability'. The school later supported a day school at Jaffna in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). The poor and sick nearer home were also not forgotten. In 1897, the school's Helpful Work Association made dolls and scrapbooks which were entered into a competition and then distributed to poor sick children. The Magazine commented that Ethel Mills' Snow Queen, which won first prize, 'seemed more fit to be placed under a glass case than in the hot little hands of children in a hospital ward'. In 1911, several girls visited the recently opened Home for Crippled Children in Tewit Well Road and the children in turn came to a Christmas party at the College. Money raised was to help send Dr Barnardo's children to a new life in Canada.

Of course, we only know how these things were reported in the Magazine. Were there girls who did not like sport or relish a performance of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* in the original French? Did all embrace the charitable work with enthusiasm? What we can say is that there was an immense and varied amount of activities on offer for the school's pupils to enjoy.





# ALUMNI PREFECT

We would like to introduce our 2024-2025 Alumni Prefect, Eleanor Shenderey, who is studying History, Textiles, Religious Studies and English Literature at A Level, and is also a Textiles, Religious studies and English Literature, and is also a Textiles Scholar and a Wellness Champion.



Eleanor is our third pupil to be awarded this position. The role of the Alumni Prefect is to educate current pupils to the benefits of them joining our Alumni Association once they have completed their studies here. She is also looking forward to presenting to her classmates at the end of the school year to convey this message.

Eleanor's alumni specialist project for the year is to collate information on the history of the College uniforms.

Therefore, could you please email her at [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk) with photos, descriptions and dates of your uniform when you were here, including any choir, sports kit etc.

Eleanor has also worked closely with the Alumni Relations Officer in co-ordinating the annual Prefects' Takeover Week. Across one week in November, they took control of the Alumni Facebook Page and e-newsletters to document U6s first 2 months of the academic year. Within this, they asked our alumni how a current school day compared to their time here, to connect our pupils past and present.

Eleanor is also spending time in the Archives, to assist in cataloguing our memorabilia.

**Facebook group: Harrogate Ladies' College Alumnae**

# AWARDS

## NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2024

We would like to congratulate 2 of our alumni for receiving an OBE and an MBE in the New Year Honours List 2024.

**EMMA WALTERS (NÉE ROBERTSON)**  
(Lancaster, 1983-1990)  
**OBE**

This was for services to British Foreign Policy as Head of Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. People are made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire if they have carried out a major local role in any activity - including those whose work has made them known nationally.

**PAM WARD (NÉE COATES)**  
(Lancaster, 1948-1955)  
**MBE**

Pam is a dedicated volunteer and was awarded an MBE in recognition of her exceptional services to the community in Whipsnade. Alongside her extensive community work, Pam joined the National Trust advisory committee in 1983. Pam was instrumental in contributing to the National Trust's Whipsnade Tree Cathedral's restoration.



## THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP 10 SCHOOLS GUIDE



**Harrogate Ladies' College has once again been named in the top 10 Independent schools in the North.**

The 31st edition of The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide rates the UK's highest-achieving secondary schools, which are ranked by the first true set of post-pandemic examination results.

HLC produced strong results in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), as well as French and Textiles. The Sunday Times guide found conversations around mental health are now ingrained in the top schools with many offering mentoring systems, talks from motivational speakers and workshops offering study tips and techniques to help with anxiety.

# COLLEGE SPEECH DAY

College Speech Day has a new place in May in our school calendar and therefore we were delighted that all members of the U6 were able to be present along with more parents than we have had on previous occasions. The sports hall was transformed for a wonderful morning of celebrations.



## Exert from Principal Sylvia Brett's Speech:

*"The phrase 'Be who God made you to be' is often attributed to Catherine of Siena, a fearless advocate for justice. Catherine's advice reminds us that our identity is more important than our achievements. If we work on becoming who we are truly meant to be, we will be equipped to face any challenge life throws our way. Yet, being ourselves is one of the hardest tasks we face. Children and young people have a keen sense for inauthenticity; they know when adults are not being genuine. Building meaningful connections requires honesty.*

*We are all learning, and we need to create environments where people feel safe to be themselves. Our challenge is to:*

- Accept that life rarely goes according to plan.
- Focus on who we are, not just what we do.
- Be honest and authentic.
- Accept ourselves, flaws and all.
- Be willing to be seen by others.
- Embrace our uniqueness and reject the pressure to conform.
- Show others the same acceptance we seek for ourselves.

*In this room, I see 300 young people ready to rise to these challenges, and I am confident that none of you are tepid in your pursuit of becoming who you were made to be."*



We were delighted to welcome Father Gary from St Wilfrid's Church, our guest speaker.



He is a cherished friend of the school, serving as the Independent Listener for our boarding community and offering invaluable support to the local area. We are incredibly fortunate to have him as a neighbour. Thank you to Father Gary for the inspiring address, it was great to have you with us.



The event also included an address from Governor and alumna Dame Francine Holryod, a performance by the school's Chapel Choir, the HLC Dance Company, routines from the Buggy Malone drama production and a review of the school year by the Prefects.

## Exert from out-going Alumni Prefect Mia Edmundson's Speech



*"As Alumni Prefect, I have had the privilege of learning the stories of many former students. Each alumna had her unique journey through College, just like we do now. It's*

*clear that the school provided them with the foundation needed to succeed in the adult world.*

*What makes our alumni even more remarkable is not just their achievements, but the paths they took to reach them. Each generation has pushed boundaries, paving the way for the next to aim higher. If Isaac Newton felt he was "standing on the shoulders of giants," this rings even truer for us, the 21st-century women and girls of HLC.*

*I'm also reminded of John F. Kennedy's words: "The success of any school can be measured by the contribution its alumni make to international life." Our diverse backgrounds and experiences strengthen our collective impact."*

We introduced new prizes for the pupils this year which reflect the school values of 'Industria', 'Fide' and 'Pietate' - Congratulations to all our prize winners. This was then followed by drinks and canapes on the lawn in the sunshine!



We welcomed alumni Carole Batchelor (née Beaumont) and Helen Edgar (née Thompson) back to school for Speech Day. Should any former

pupils wish to attend next year's event, please email [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk)

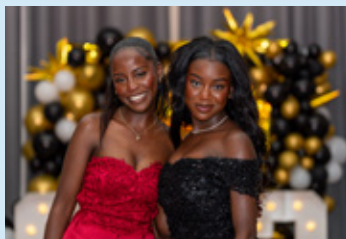




# SIXTH FORM BALL

The Sixth Form Ball traditionally marks the end of an era for our U6 pupils and, this year, a 'Night at The Movies' was held at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. The night was filled with glamour, music and incredible memories that will last a lifetime!

**We welcome the 2024 Leavers to our alumni community.**



## EXAM RESULTS

*"Our students' exceptional results this year are a testament not only to their hard work and determination but also to the unwavering dedication and support of our outstanding teachers".*

**Sylvia Brett**, Principal of Harrogate Ladies' College

### A LEVEL RESULTS

Creative Arts shone particularly bright, with 100% of A\*-B grades earned in Textiles and Art. Across the curriculum, the results were equally strong, with 88% of language students earning A\*-B grades, and 100% of English Literature and PE students achieving A\*-B grades.

Overall, 50% of grades were A\*-B, and almost 75% were A\*-C, with over a third of students going on to study STEM related subjects at university.



As well as prestigious Russell Group universities, students have also headed to a range of unique and

exciting university destinations. These include the University of the Highlands and Islands (HUI) for Marine Sciences, a prestigious culinary school in Switzerland, and a programme in Film Making where one student is setting the stage for a career in the TV and film industry.



Despite the turmoil of war in her home country, Ukrainian student Olena Oitsekh who came to the

UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, was also celebrating having achieved ABB in her A levels and has gone to the University of York to study Biochemistry.

### GCSE RESULTS

#### TOP MARKS IN SCIENCES, LANGUAGES AND ARTS



88% of all Physics grades were top 9-7 grades, 85% of pupils studying foreign languages obtained a 9-7 grade, while there were strong results across science and creative arts, with 72% of pupils achieving 9-7 grades in Biology, Chemistry and Textiles.

Among those pupils who shone across a broad range of subjects was Tilly Reid, daughter of alumna Catherine Reid (née Lavender) (Swinton, 1985-1992). Tilly achieved a clean sweep of 9-7 grades, including 9s in Spanish, French, Geography and English Literature.



*"My family has such a great connection to the school with Mum and my sibling both attending school here. It's great to*

*be following in their footsteps. I can't wait to come back to school to start Sixth Form in September".*

**Tilly**



## SPORTING EXCELLENCE

In College we have had a fantastic year of sport with many highlights, achievements and performances to be proud of.

In swimming, the U13 team won all of their swimming galas throughout the season, leaving them undefeated.

L5 and U4 travelled to Holland for their netball tour. The pupils received some excellent coaching and finished off their tour with a fabulous tournament. The senior netball team attended the North Yorkshire County Netball Tournament and were chosen by the umpires as the fair play award winners.

The senior lacrosse team had yet another strong season on the pitch with the highlight being the Scottish Schools Lacrosse Tournament, where the team came out of their group stage with 3 wins and a draw, leaving them top of their group. They went on to win the quarter final and semi-final and came away with a well-deserved second place. Also in

lacrosse, our student was successful in the U15 North of England Lacrosse Trials and went on to represent the North of England team in the super counties final.

The U14 rounders team were undefeated all summer and both the U14 and U13 teams came away as area champions in their tournaments.

The inter athletics team had an outstanding season, in the Track and Field Cup the team finished second overall on the day and qualified for the regional A finals for the third time in 3 years.



In the Harrogate and Craven Athletics 18 pupils from U3 to L5 qualified for the Harrogate and Craven Athletics Finals, including the entire U15 athletics team.

One of our pupils also broke the Harrogate and Craven shot-put record. Five students were also selected to attend the North Yorkshire Athletics Championships.

The Chapel Choir reached the national final of the Barnardo's School Choir of the Year competition for the first time since 2017, held in the fantastic acoustic of Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Chapel Choir also undertook their first overseas trip since 2019, with a highly successful tour of Normandy, where the highlight was singing to over 1,000 people on Palm Sunday, in the Basilica of St Therese in Lisieux.

All the L4s performed a Christmas concert to the residents of local nursing home Hampden House.

We also bid farewell to Christine Alp at the end of the year, after 40 years of dedicated music teaching at HLC, and welcome her to our alumni community.

## MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gallery Choir had the fabulous opportunity to sing with other schools in a concert in Ripon Cathedral, with the St Cecilia Orchestra.



We enjoyed a fabulous House Music competition, adjudicated by alumna, ex-Head Prefect and ex-Head of Choir, Grace Caton (Franklin, 2011-2018).



## DRAMATIC MOMENTS

A highlight was the Drama department's collaboration with the Music department, showcasing our U3 students' performance of Roald Dahl's "Three Little Pigs."

GCSE Drama and A-Level Theatre Studies students have enjoyed numerous live theatre excursions while dedicating themselves to crafting and performing their final examination pieces.

Introducing the U4 Performing Arts course has successfully laid the groundwork for the GCSE Drama course, engaging students in diverse performance styles and culminating in a spectacular showcase at the end of the summer term.

The annual House Drama competition remains a highlight, featuring the inaugural whole school event this year. Students created and executed the entire programme, presenting an eclectic array of drama and dance performances that showcased the remarkable talent at HLC.

The year culminated in our whole school production of "Bugsy Malone," an ambitious collaboration between the Music and Drama departments. Featuring talented performers from U3 to U6, the production showcased exceptional drama, dance, and music.

We also enjoyed the successful launch of our Dance Company, which continues to thrive.

## ENRICHMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



In College, this year's residential trips have offered enrichment to our

curriculum offer in a variety of ways. The Geography and Biology field trips have met essential criteria in the examined course in other subjects including PE, Art, Textiles, Drama, Music, Business, Psychology and Science trips have been offered to provide additional opportunities for meeting curriculum objectives.

Other regular trips have included the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, while the experience and confidence of our participants has risen so has the ambition and challenge of the planned routes that have been undertaken.

As usual, we have offered a variety of trips in the Summer Term focusing on enrichment. The Battlefields Trip allowed pupils in U4 and L5 to reflect on the First World War, and make this personal, by visiting the graves of family members of pupils on the trip, as well as visiting graves of members of the Chinese Labour Core. The Spanish trip was open to all pupils studying Spanish and gave participants the opportunity to practise their Spanish and take part in cultural Spanish activities such as flamenco dancing and enjoying tapas. The Bushcraft trip was offered to pupils in U3 and L4, giving them the chance to try numerous outside activities while enjoying some time away camping with their friends.

Various contrasting university visits were organised for pupils in L6 to give them important information and experiences in preparation for their upcoming applications.



# PHILANTHROPY

At HLC, we know the opportunities provided to everyone who sets foot through the door have been the foundation of their success.

Since 1893, we have had the pleasure of providing opportunities of growth, and our community is one that has philanthropy at the heart of its core principles. There is immense pride and an overwhelming sense of gratitude when contributions are made by alumni because we know the invaluable benefits these provide to our current cohort.

Our alumni community has a long tradition of philanthropy, and there are more ways than ever to ensure your contribution and passions align.

## BURSARIES

Our means-tested bursaries enable young people to receive life-changing support and the chance to fulfil their potential at HLC. We have seen a vast increase in bursary applications, and despite the cost-of-living crisis and the 20% increase of VAT on school fees, we remain fully committed to supporting young people that demonstrate potential to enrich the College community.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Our senior school scholarships encompass sport, performing arts and creative arts, and are awarded to a diverse range of pupils who embody a passion for learning and a love of life. Our 1893 Scholarship provides means-tested financial assistance to a local pupil that demonstrates exceptional academic ability, as well as the ability to make a difference to the fabric of HLC and its community.

## FACILITIES

We have regular refurbishment projects that enhance the experience for everyone at school. Last year, through the generosity of our alumni, we conducted a major upgrade on the Swinton Theatre (formerly the Small Hall), which has enabled our performing arts productions to increase the quality and quantity of their performances through the installation of new sound and lighting technology.

## LEGACIES

We are forever grateful for the benefactors that have left a legacy gift as part of their Will, as their continued generosity has enabled the next generation to experience the best that HLC has to offer. There are countless examples of our alumni making a real difference to the world during their lives, and a legacy donation to the school ensures that those differences continue for those following in your footsteps.

*Your passions are  
their passions.*

*Your experience is their  
fountain of knowledge.*

*Your contribution is their  
shot at something special.*

Please email [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk) if you wish to donate, discuss a donation or leave a legacy to the school.







# OBITUARIES

The deep sympathy of Harrogate Ladies' College is offered to the relatives and friends of the following:



**August 2021 Valerie Abercrombie (née Bamford)**

Balliol, 1936-1943. She was a wonderful wife, mother and friend, a primary school teacher all her working life, and an active member of the community in Kew, where she lived from 1962 until her death.

**January 2022 Valerie Hartley (née Sager)**

Oakdale and York, 1938-1949. Valerie made lifelong friends during her time at Harrogate, and particularly enjoyed her time at Swinton, where she remembered the beautiful grounds, the lake, and the sense of freedom she felt from being there. She returned several times over the years, and never forgot the time she spent at school there.



**September 2022 Jaqueline Victoria Smith (née Crawley)**

Lincoln West, 1950-1955. Flowers were the love of Vicky's life, and she was

honoured to have a new Clematis named after her by the award-winning Raymond Everson Clematis Company.

**September 2022 Susan Johnson**

Lancaster, 1951-1958.

**2023 Meriel Overton**

York, 1945-1951

**2023 Diana Harrow (née Gordon Russell)**

Lincoln, 1949-1954.

**2023 Denise Macvean (née Booth)**

Armaclare, 1958-1962.

**February 2023 Fay Schnaitl (née Collins)**

York, 1959-1965. Fay loved her school years and made some very special, lifelong friends. She used to fondly tell her daughters Michaela and Andrea of her times spent being the Lacrosse Captain and that she thoroughly enjoyed it.

**March 2023 Patricia Pitcher (née Rawson)**

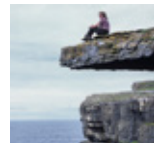
Lincoln, 1945-1949. Patricia was best friends with Daphne Trimble who passed in July 2023. They kept in touch throughout their lives and always spoke fondly of their time at the College.

**May 2023 Shirley Gray (née Parkinson)**

York, 1943-1950.

**June 2023 Valerie Wilkes (née Carpenter)**

York, 1945-1951.



**April 2023 Janet Waltham (née Syson)**

Oakdale and York, 1956-1961. Janet proved to be a gifted and brilliant writer, so for many years worked

as a features writer for the Nottingham Evening Post. Together with her second husband, Tony, she travelled the world from their home in Nottingham, freelance writing about her travels in off-beat places including Yemen, Syria, Kamchatka and North Korea. Janet trekked in the Himalayas and took buses and trains all over India, on many visits to what was her favourite country. Sadly she had to fight against cancer for many years, and finally lost the battle in 2023. She had been a wonderful wife for Tony and a marvellous mother to her 3 children and 2 stepchildren.



**June 2023 June Horsman**

Former French teacher at Harrogate College 1969 - 1986. June died peacefully in her sleep, after a long and happy life, with very fond memories of Harrogate and her teaching career.

**June 2023 Harriet Ruth Bremner (née Sawkill)**

Lancaster, 1949-1956. Widow of Robert and mother of Juliet Bremner (Lancaster, 1973-1981), Alison Robinson (née Bremner) (Clarence, 1976-1980), William and Harriet. Sister of the late Judith Wheway (Lancaster, 1948-1954) and aunt to Philippa Barton (née Sheppard) (Lancaster, 1971-1978). Ruth died at home in Crayke, North Yorkshire, surrounded by her family.

**September 2023 Fiona Helen Barnett (née McLaren)**

York, 1956-1963. Fiona sadly died after suffering for several years with Alzheimer's Disease. Her husband, C. A. Barnett, informed HLC that she always spoke with fondness of her time at school and the education she received here.

**September 2023 Linda McGregor**

Swinton, 1966-1970. Sister of Fiona Lodge (née McGregor) (Swinton, 1969-1972) and Barbara McGregor (Swinton, 1973-1976).

**October 2023 Christine Eberlin (née Trotman)**

Lincoln, 1942-1947.

**October 2023 Sarah Garrett (née Stanier)**

Lincoln, 1956-1963.

**February 2024 Janet Frazer**

Janet joined the HLC family in September 2005 as a Visiting Music Teacher and, over the years, taught the piano to a large number of children in Highfield and College.

**March 2024 Dorothy Kellock (née Lang)**

Lancaster, 1947-1952. Sister of Marjorie Blanche (née Lang). Aunt of Judy Unkles (née Blanche). Cousin of Anne Thomson (née Ferguson), Sheila Mitchell (née Forrest), Patricia McCulloch (née Fulton), Patricia Grieves (née Lang), and Judy Cordiner (née Lang). Daughter of the late Elma Lang (née Ferguson).



**April 2024 Janet Wallace (née Scott)**

Swinton, 1943-1951. Her daughter Dawn stated how privileged Janet felt to have been a pupil at Harrogate College, and how

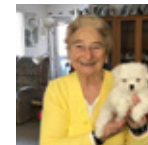
well it set her up for a working life in the nursing profession. She leaves 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-children.



**May 2024 Josephine Anne Bankes (née Kingswell)**

York, 1947-1955. Jofan followed her mother (Mary Kingswell née Auty) to HLC. She maintained

a strong connection with the school throughout her life, not only with her school friends and the Alumni Association, but also through her work as School Governor. (Jofan is pictured seated with Mary, Princess Royal.)



**June 2024 Estelle Matthews (née Prince)**

Lincoln, 1946-1949. Estelle had very fond memories of her time at HLC. She was devoted to community and

family. She is survived by 3 daughters, a son, 6 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren... and 2 small dogs that now live with Estelle's youngest daughter.

**June 2024 Gill Jackson**, A music teacher who worked at HLC until 2014.

**In memory of the husbands of the below alumni:**

**September 2023 Donald Kilgour Campbell**, husband of Phoebe E M Campbell (née Melland) (Oakdale and Lancaster, 1966-1971).

**May 2024 Robert Francis Keating**, husband of Ann Keating (née Cooper) (Armaclare, 1947-1952).

**June 2024 Ian Merrills Dearn**, husband of Jean Merrills Dearn (née Tredwell) (Balliol, 1947-1953). Father of Philip and Alan and Grandfather of Jacob and Edward.





A huge thank you goes to our donors, who have raised a fantastic £3,640 for the 1893 Scholarship during the last financial year. With Gift Aid, this has the potential to increase to £3,824. Our scholarships and bursaries really do change lives, and we're incredibly grateful for the generosity of our alumni who enable us to support these pupils.



We would like to thank all of our alumni who have volunteered their time to share their experiences with our current pupils. Many thanks to Lottie McGuinness (Highfield and Nightingale, 2009-2018) who visited school recently to be interviewed by one of our current students Evelyn undertaking an EPQ on the Paralympics. You will remember that we featured Lottie in our Alumni Profiles last year. Her aim at that time was to become a Paralympian, and since then we are delighted that she realised her dream by attending Paris 2024.

Thank you to those who have been involved in our Be Inspired programme, which is an invaluable part of our careers provision at HLC. Our aim is to educate and inspire, so that all pupils can explore different career paths and become the best possible version of themselves. This includes those that attended the Careers Fair in November, such as Alicia Carter (Franklin, 2005-2012) from CBRE who works in real estate. This is an opportunity for all College pupils, and parents, to speak to different organisations. Conversations will vary across each organisation and may include questions on the skills needed in the industry, work experience opportunities, jobs, apprenticeships, and graduate programmes.



Thank you to those alumni who attended the Inspirational Women Essay Writing competition on 15th May, to kindly read out finalists' entries to the group. This year Elle Armitage (née Kay Coles) (Pankhurst, 2011-2015) and Vicky Hughes (née Gradwell) (Lincoln East, 1989-1996) kindly undertook this role. The competition is open to pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5 and gives children from all schools the opportunity to write an essay about a female figure they have been inspired by.

## GET IN CONTACT

Please email us at [alumni@hlc.org.uk](mailto:alumni@hlc.org.uk) or call Sarah Mills on **01423 537029** for any of the following:

### VISITS AND TOURS

Alumni are always welcome to visit College and we love the opportunity to show you around. Please contact us in advance to arrange a suitable date.

### BE INVOLVED

If you wish to submit an Alumni Profile or be part of our Be Inspired programme.

### MAKE A DONATION

To make a gift, to leave a legacy or to find out more about donations to HLC, please contact us.

### ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Alumni Representatives are a network of volunteers from across the UK and internationally who provide support by organising local events and being a point of contact to those new to an area. Decade Reps encourage and support you in organising year-group reunions. Please let us know if you wish to be connected to your local representative or if you are interested in becoming one.

### DISCOUNT FOR ALUMNI

As a valued former pupil, you will automatically receive a 10% discount on current school fees for your children and grandchildren.



## HARROGATE COLLEGE UNION

Harrogate Ladies' College  
Clarence Drive  
HARROGATE  
North Yorkshire  
HG1 2QG

T: 01423 504543  
E: [HCU@hlc.org.uk](mailto:HCU@hlc.org.uk)  
[www.hlc.org.uk/alumni](http://www.hlc.org.uk/alumni)

