



ALUMNAE NEWS

May her friends still be many...



Row, Row, Row your Dragon Boat Tiffin Titans raise over £1,700 for the school

Every year, Kingston Rotary Club run a fantastic day of Dragon Boat racing on the River Thames, where teams of up to 16 paddlers race against each other and raise lots of money for charity through sponsorship.

This year, for the first time ever, Tiffin Girls' PSA joined forces with TOGA to form the **Tiffin Titans** team.

Our ambitious and competitive TOGs were: **Emma Plummer (1981-1988)** who has recently returned from Australia and who is a former TOGA committee member; **Caroline Portch (1986-1994)**; **Margi Moutou (1994-1996)**; **Chloe Davison (1998-2005)**; **Vedika Parulkar (2014-2021)**, now studying at Bath University; **Silka Bhattacharya (2014-2021)** studying at Warwick University and who will now be joining the rowing club for her final year as a result of her Dragon Boat experience.

"What a brilliant day it was for Tiffin Titans. I was very proud to be part of a dragon boat filled with 16 Tiffin girl mums, Old Girls and some like me who wore both hats! The boat was filled with lots of laughs, focus and determination - we dared to win! We didn't lift the trophy that day, but raised a brilliant £1,700. Next year we will come back wiser and stronger!" (Margi Moutou (nee Rajkumar).

TOGA generously subsidised the boat hire and a professional helm so all the money raised could go towards replacing the ancient AV equipment in the school hall. Well done to everyone who took part.



Vedika, Silka and Emma

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STAY CONNECTED

The summer term is always tinged with a bit of sadness as we say farewell to our outgoing Year 13 students, but also celebratory as we send them off after their time with the school to begin the next chapter in their lives. They have been through their exams and are ready to begin their young adult lives away from the school environment.

As I tell the girls - you might have left us now, but your footprints and handprints, whilst not visible, are still a part of the fabric and soul of this school and will remain forever so. And, as you go through life, your experiences, leadership qualities, networking and mentoring potential as role models, can all play a part in helping the next generation of Tiffin girls.

We wish 'Sapere Aude' to our newest leavers as they join TOGA, and to you all.

Ian Keary, Headteacher



Keeping in touch....

We hope the friendships and relationships built at Tiffin Girls', along with a sense of pride and belonging, will last a lifetime.

In the Autumn term, staff and students from the 'Class of '93' will come back to the school for a 30 year reunion. And next summer, on 15 June 2024, we look forward to welcoming you all to the TOGA Reunion. More details will follow, but save the date in your diary now!

Please do know that you are always welcome at our school events and that you can join our alumnae community website online alumnae.tiffingirls.org

Naia Edwards, Development Manager

Dates for your diary

14 Oct	Class of '93 Reunion
17 Oct	TiffinTalk: Investment Banking
22 Nov	Autumn Concert
29 Nov	TiffinTalk: (AI)
3 Dec	Christmas Fair
13 Dec	Carol Service
14 Dec	Key Stage 5 (A-Level) Celebration
15 June	TOGA Reunion

Year 13 Leavers



In May, Year 13 students' celebrated their last day at school before heading off to study leave. Students marked their last week with dress up days: 'pyjama day'; 'dress as first letter of your name' and a 'decades day'. We traditionally mark the day with a leavers' party with food, music, bouncy castle, form videos, speeches from the Headteacher and the Sixth Form Team, and an ice cream van.



SANDRA BUCHANAN - OBITUARY

In May, we were saddened to hear the news of the passing of Sandra Buchanan, Tiffin Girls' School Head Teacher, 1989 - 1994.

Here, Ruth Hayward, who wrote the *The History of The Tiffin Girls' School* and who was a teacher at the school during Sandra's time pays tribute.

Few Headteachers can have been as much loved as Mrs Buchanan and few can have known so many of their pupils personally. The affection and admiration were mutual. At Speech Day in 1993 Mrs Buchanan declared "Tiffin girls are very special. Not because of their academic ability but because of other qualities that are far more endearing. They are considerate, unassuming and very supportive of each other. They are conscientious, generous and very good company."

Mrs Buchanan's time as Head Teacher coincided with the introduction of national league tables based on public examination results. Unsurprisingly they shed light on the outstanding academic success of TTGS - no secret to generations of pupils and parents - and raised the profile of the school enormously. Around the same time there occurred a momentous change in the morale of pupils and their pride in themselves. This transformation in the self-confidence and aspirations of the girls was engineered in large part by Mrs Buchanan. She had a clear vision of how Tiffin students could be prepared for adult life.

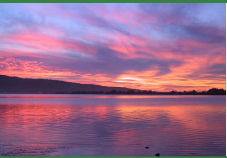


The seven years in secondary school should be spent "in a challenging, but supportive environment, and the girls should feel happy and fulfilled..... We do not focus exclusively on academic achievement. We place a high value on courtesy and consideration for others. We help the girls to develop self-discipline, a sense of self-worth, independence of thought and confidence in expressing themselves. We encourage participation in a wide range of activities outside the classroom, and we hope that every girl will enjoy the experience of being a member of our school community."

Like many able young women in the eighties and earlier, Tiffin girls had often been painfully shy and self-conscious about voicing an opinion in group situations. They tended to follow capably rather than to lead, afraid of seeming pushy. Mrs Buchanan had a strategy to remedy this. She made it her business to get to know as many pupils as possible, chatting to them over lunch where she listened to their current preoccupations and challenged them to defend their views. She made them laugh and showed how much she enjoyed their company. She also continued to teach, despite the onerous demands of headship.



A School Council was set up providing girls with opportunities to hold their own among representatives of all age groups. Public speaking competitions were held at junior and senior level; sixth-formers were able to take part in informal discussions and formal debates in mixed company - thanks to the General Studies programme, run jointly with the boys' school. Self-esteem and self-confidence grew immeasurably and a headline in the Evening Standard rightly fore-warned "Watch out for the Tiffin girl"!



SANDRA BUCHANAN (Cont.)

As an appropriate legacy of Mrs Buchanan's leadership, Tiffin alumnae are now to be found in top jobs in every walk of life. Many relish returning to school to inspire current pupils with first-hand accounts of their career paths. Mrs Buchanan had told her pupils they could achieve anything they wanted, and they believed her.

The most memorable moments from school days scarcely ever concern lessons or exams, and Tiffin girls of the early nineties may well look back on a variety of fundraising events which provided tremendous fun: pyjama days, comic relief days (with staff and pupils carrying on with normal lessons dressed as clowns or cartoon characters) and the never-to-be-forgotten Shakespeare-athon.

This was a sleepover at school with Shakespeare read aloud continuously for 24 hours. Only Mrs Buchanan could have persuaded dozens of girls and members of staff to go along with that idea! A less exhausting innovation was ABV day, when all normal activities ceased and the whole school took part in outings and excursions, some with educational purpose, but others unashamedly for fun.

A private viewing of Art works to be submitted for public exams brought a new level of sophistication to school life. Similarly, the first Leavers' Ball in 1990 enabled sixth formers to show off their poise and elegance in evening dress. Such events were perhaps to be expected under the "cool" head teacher who caused astonishment on her first day with her glamorous appearance, her stunning smile and her white sports car. Former pupils expressing their sadness at Mrs Buchanan's death have cited these memories, plus her kindness, approachability and sense of humour. At a TOGA event not long ago a group of alumnae proudly declaimed: "We are Buchanan girls!" Sandra would have loved to hear them.



Memories

To pay tribute to Sandra Buchanan, we had a memorial table in the school foyer and many former students sent us emails and posted their own memories on our social media channels.

This is sad news. I remember Mrs Buchanan as one of the first people who told us as a class of girls that we could achieve anything we wanted and made me believe that. (Even if sporting achievements at that time had to be made whilst wearing woollen netball skirts and grey sports knickers!) -

Lucy Rider



I'll never forget her crying on the stage when she announced that the school cat, Moggins, had been run over. May she rest in peace.

Frances Beckerleg

That's so sad. She was a great headmistress. She inspired you that women to go on to do anything. **Jenny Martin**

Firstly, we were all incredibly excited when she joined the school, not least due to her white sports car. Dr Nicolle had been our Head in Year 7, and we had all been quite scared of her. Mrs Buchanan seemed quite glamorous, but also friendly and approachable.

I remember her kindness. In Year 9 I had to start wearing a back brace to correct scoliosis. It was very bulky and uncomfortable and really limited my movement. When my dad wrote to her to explain and to ask for some adaptations, she called him straight away. She was really understanding and was very happy to make changes to my uniform and to various areas of the curriculum to support me. She also checked in with me at school. I really appreciated her kindness at what was a very tricky time for me."

Emma Kilburn, current Senior Deputy Head, The Tiffin Girls' School

Mrs Buchanan was a brilliant head - and so different from Dr Nicole who she succeeded.

I remember the white sports car too - it seemed so cool then! Also the 'clipping' of her heels and the billowing robes as she walked into assembly (pretty fast usually). She was approachable, warm and a great role model of a leader. I remember her very fondly. **Helen Russell**



STAFF AND GOVERNOR NEWS

Farewell to our leaving staff...

This year we are sad to say goodbye to some amazing staff. We thank them all for their dedication and commitment to the school, a collective service of 109 years.



Christine



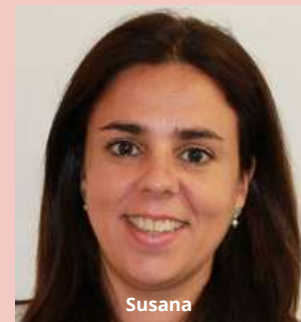
Ravina



Susan



Sandra



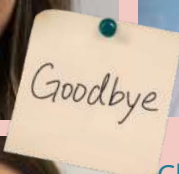
Susana



Sarah



Sophie



Christine Hocking, English (30 years); Susan Smith, Front Office Supervisor (24 years); Chris Cornwell, Science Technician (18 years); Sarah Finch, Assistant Head (10 years); Nathan Graff, English (8 years); Sandra Gray, Biology Technician (6 years); Susana Gonzalez, Joint Head of Chemistry (5 years); Sophie Etteh, French and Spanish (5 years); Ravina Purewal, Chemistry (2 years).

Chair of Governors, Sarah Beeching (1981-1988), embarks on one of the biggest adventures of her life

On 23 July Sarah will be climbing for 6 days up 1 day down, and a total of 5,895 metres to get to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. She is doing it to raise money for a new sensory room for Yorda Playhouse, a local charity.

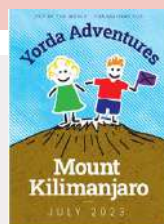
"I'm thrilled to be taking on this challenge in support of **Yorda Adventures**, a charity based just outside London that run play projects for children and young people with significant learning or complex disabilities," says Sarah though admits to being a little nervous.

"I once saw Kilimanjaro's beautiful snow capped peak from my airplane window and unless we were flying too low, the roof of Africa really is very high!"

She will be doing the climb with 8 friends and will also have spent the week before the climb in Nairobi attending a conference, so hopes to have acclimatised to the climate where it can reach minus 25 at night. The main thing though is the impact the money will have on the charity:

"The wonderful warm smiley welcome from the children when I went to visit on a sunny summer's day will keep me going as I climb through the clouds for 6-7 days. Alexander, my friend's lovely son greeted me with a double high five, perhaps not realising how much I needed his vote of confidence! He comes to the Playhouse after school and during the holidays, making new friends and enjoying the amazing environment. And this unique space will be even more incredible once the new sensory room has been completed.

If you are able to help and support the project, you can visit the fundraising page here: <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/Kilimanjaro-for-Yorda>





SCHOOL NEWS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD FOR FORMER STUDENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (DofE), dedicated to the personal development of young people, is very popular at the school with 281 students participating across the Bronze, Silver and Gold award levels this year.

In June, our DofE co-ordinator Mr Green, accompanied 7 former Tiffin Girls' students to Buckingham Palace, to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh award from the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

By all accounts, they had a lovely time wandering around the gardens, and listening to talks from a variety of special guests, including John Culshaw and Ade Adepitan. We are very proud of the achievements of all of the students who achieved this award, and hope their successes will inspire many of our students to undertake the same challenge when they move into the sixth form.



COLOUR RUN



Proving fundraising can be fun, 122 students took part in the Colour Run at the school in June, in a joyous and vibrantly colourful event which raised over £350 for the PE department.

The front field was transformed into a kaleidoscope of colour as students embarked on their challenge to complete 10 laps while volunteers threw holi colour powder at them at each colour station. A grand finale saw the students gathered together to packets of colour powder into the air, created a breathtaking spectacle of swirling colours, and happy smiling faces.



Students here literally bend over backwards to fundraise. This year, as well as fundraising for the school, they have supported 19 other charities and raised an amazing total of £15,228.79

CORONATION

The Music department took thirty students to perform at a Thanksgiving Service for King Charles III at All Saints' Church, Kingston. In collaboration with choirs from the Church and from Tiffin School, the repertoire included coronation anthems Zadok the Priest (Handel) and I Was Glad (Parry).



If you would like to **join the wonderful chamber choir** in September, for parents, staff and TOGS, please send Naia an email: n.edwards@tiffingirls.org

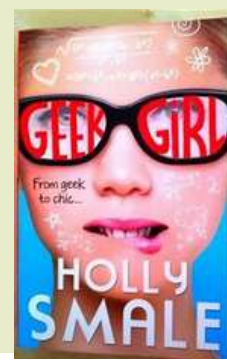
BOOK WEEK

The English department ran our first Tiffin Book Week with many activities including lunchtime readings and a book swap event in the main foyer.

Students from all across the school had an opportunity to deliver a small speech and recite an extract from the books that have not only made them laugh but have also been life-changing.

Most read books in the LRC

Adventure – Rick Riordan
Mystery – Karen M McManus
LGBTQ+ – Alice Oseman
Fantasy – Soman Chainani
Dystopian – Suzanne Collins
Humour – Holly Smale





SCHOOL NEWS

11 students were selected to be ball girls at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships this year. The new sports facilities have proved extremely advantageous in the training and selection process, for example the ability to practise long rolling in the new Sports Centre. A highlight of the ball girls' experience was a visit from Roger Federer and the Princess of Wales who attended one of the training sessions.

Our students were part of the team that put them through their paces and were featured in a news item which you can watch [here](#).



WIMBLEDON BALL GIRLS



MP VISIT

Local MP Sarah Olney came in to speak to students as part of her tour of local secondary schools. Her talk was very well attended, and students from Years 7 to 12 asked her some very probing questions, on topics as varied as how to prepare for debates, reading recommendations for those interested in politics, and how politicians manage situations in which their own beliefs do not match with the policy position of their political party.

Ms Olney told us something of her own experiences as an MP, and gave students an insight into the huge range of opportunities that exist for people who would like to pursue a career in which they might be able to effect societal or political change.



DRAGONS' DEN

We welcomed nine local primary schools who sent teams of Year 5 pupils to our annual Dragon's Den competition. Our Year 9 ambassadors guided them expertly throughout the day and encouraged them to produce Tiffin Girls' standard work! The children had an incredible time, attending various lessons from our specialist teachers in science, music, drama, business studies and D&T.



ALUMNAE NEWS

ALUMNAE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Zohra Nabi (2010-2017)

We were excited to welcome back another recent alumna, Zohra Nabi, who left the school in 2017. Zohra's first book, **The Kingdom Over The Sea**, has just been published, and she talked to students in Years 7, 8 and 9 about her journey from Tiffin Girls' to studying law to becoming a published fiction author.

She has a two-book deal with publishers Simon & Schuster Children's Books and **The Kingdom Over the Sea** is now on sale. It was Waterstone's Book of the Month in May.

Set in a lavish world of sorceresses, alchemists, jinn and flying carpets, this is an epic story of a girl raised in our world discovering her true magical identity and her place in a land where magic has been banned. The novel explores themes of identity, immigration and displacement, inspired by the experiences of Zohra's family in Kashmir.

Zohra studied law at Cambridge and Oxford universities before taking a creative writing course and embarking on this new venture.



Katie Lawrence (2017-2019)

We welcomed back alumna and nutritionist Katie Lawrence for a lunchtime talk on wellness, healthy eating and being kind to our bodies. She has studied for a degree in nutrition as well as many other things in the few years since she left the school, including recently creating her own podcast, 'Kindness Kit' on Spotify. Also 'Kindness_kit' on Instagram where you will find episodes on nutrition, yoga, singing "all sorts" with the focus on kindness.



You can read more about Katie's journey in creating her toolkit for kindness [here](#).



ALUMNAE NEWS

TiffinTalks and Profiles

Mental Health



This term our TiffinTalk focused on careers in Mental Health. We were very pleased to welcome online two alumnae to share their own experiences.

Catherine Richardson, who left the school in 2009, is now a clinical psychologist with her own practice in Spain: Madrid Mental Wellbeing. **Isobel Walker**, who left the school in 2017, is a junior doctor in Nottingham with a special interest in mental health in medicine, and medical education.

You can listen back to the TiffinTalk [here](#) and listen to previous TiffinTalks [here](#)

Coming Up... Investment Banking

Next term, we look forward to welcoming alumna **Asha Patel (nee Ladwa)** who is a sales trader in the equity markets at Instinet.

Asha was at Tiffin Girls from 1998-2005 and loved it. This was the reason she contacted us to see how she could be more involved with our alumnae and current students.



"It has been something I have wanted to do for many years - to be back in contact with the school which was so pivotal for me", she wrote. "I lost my mum when I was in year 7, and without the support of the school I do not know what path I would be on now."

The path she has been on since graduating is investment banking. You can read more about her journey in our profile piece [here](#).

Tiffin Girls Through Time



Each month our team of student archivists are refreshing the display of Tiffin Girls' memorabilia, photographs and memories in the school foyer.

The project is part of a much larger scheme to grow and ultimately digitise our archives for all to share both here at the school and from afar.

If you have any items you would like to see in or donate to our collection, or are interested in assisting with the funding of our archiving project please do get in touch.





CAN YOU HELP?

The Tiffin Girls' Alumnae Wall



Sponsor a tile for a lifetime link to the school.



Fazl-E Hasnain
Chair of Gvnrs.
2015 - 2022

Fazl-E Hasnain
Chair of Governors
2015 - 2022



We are delighted to launch the Alumnae Wall and invite all former students who have 'dared to be wise' to leave a lasting legacy of their time at the school.

The Alumnae Wall, in the main entrance to the new Tiffin Girls' Sports Centre, will feature a display of porcelain tiles beautifully engraved with the school logo, and a message of your choice. This could be the names of alumnae and the dates they attended The Tiffin Girls' School or in appreciation or memory of a teacher/friend/parent. It's up to you.

We suggest a minimum donation of £125 for 200mm x 200mm tile or £75 donation for a 100mm x 200mm tile.

Please scan the QR code above for further details and to order your tile. You can gift aid your donation upon placing your order.

If you have any questions please contact the Development Manager, Naia Edwards - n.edwards@tiffingirls.org

Naia Edwards
Development and Alumnae Manager
development@tiffingirls.org
020 8546 0773 x302

Spread the word

We'd love to build the community to be bigger and better. Please invite your friends and former school contacts to connect with by joining and sharing our alumnae website alumnae.tiffingirls.org

Volunteer

If you'd like to get involved. Be it a school networking event, a careers' talk, helping with the sports hall campaign, please do give us a shout if you would like to volunteer your time to be involved in enriching the school.

Donate

Donations are a valuable and vital form of support helping the school is able to fund the extra resources needed to widen opportunities and activities for all students, and plan for the future with confidence. You can make a donation [here](#)

From all at
The Tiffin Girls' School

We wish you a
wonderful
summer and
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

