



ALUMNAE NEWS

Winter 2023

May her friends still be many...



Class of '93 Reunion

October saw a very special reunion for former students who left the school 30 years ago. Over 100 students and 43 staff were invited to a day of celebration at the school.

[See more inside...](#)

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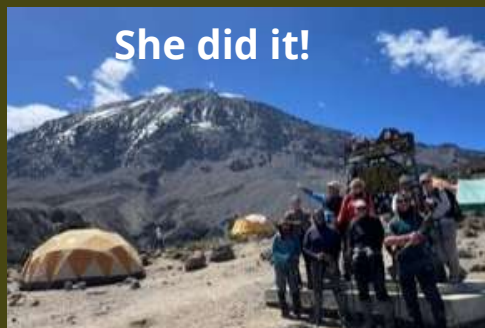
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She did it!



Sarah Beeching, the Tiffin Girls' School Chair of Governors, shares stunning views atop the 'roof of Africa' as she successfully climbs Mount Kilimanjaro for charity Yorda Adventures....

Remembering the Fire

Twenty years on Lyra da Cruz remembers one of the most dramatic events in the school's history....



Profiles



From motor sport engineering to silk screen printing, it is our pleasure to profile former students who share memories, their career and hobby highlights and advice for current students...



STAY CONNECTED

In September we launched a new vision: 'Our community is vibrant, curious, creative and inspires positive change. We dare to be wise.'

This encompasses what we believe is a strength of the school and what we wish to preserve. Furthermore, it has taken the school's motto, so important to us all, and turned it into an active statement - it has intent, certainty and empowers everyone. Our motto is part of an unbreakable chain of people going backward and forward in time in this school, so it was essential we recognised this in our vision.

Ian Keary, Headteacher

Keeping in touch....

A highlight of this term has definitely been the 30 year reunion in October for the class of 1993 and the teachers who taught them. It was a huge pleasure to welcome so many alumnae and to witness the strength of enduring friendships and bonds that have united them over the years. As our alumnae network grows, we look forward to many more such reunions and hope that we will see many of you at the **TOGA reunion on 15 June**.

This term we have also welcomed back alumnae to the school mentoring Year 12 students and others passing on their career experience through Tiffin Talks online. Next term, in March, we will be developing our career connections by holding our first **professional networking evening** for alumnae working in finance. Watch out for more details to follow. In these varied connections, we build a resilient network of mentors, colleagues, and lifelong friends – daring to be wise. We hope you will join us.

Naia Edwards, Development Manager

Dates for your diary



24-27 Jan Whole School Production:
Sweeney Todd

31 Jan Tiffin Talk - Computer Science:
Fiona Campbell, Software
Engineer at Google

9 Feb School Birthday

The school will celebrate being
144 years old.

Watch out for news of the celebrations
and opportunities to support the school

5 March Tiffin Talk: Motorsport
Engineering

13 March Professional Networking Event
15 June TOGA Reunion



LinkedIn:
[linkedin.com/groups/13711220](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13711220)



Facebook:
Tiffin Old Girls and Alumnae



Instagram:
TiffinGirlsAlums



Join our online community at alumnae.tiffingirls.org

Sign up to the Tiffin Girls Together website and join an amazing network of alumnae professionals. You can:

- Manage your contact details
- Search for personal and professional connections
- Offer to mentor and give university and careers advice
- Receive invitations for events and reunions
- Share news and build your own profile
- View photo galleries
- Connect to the digital archives





REUNIONS AND CELEBRATIONS



CLASS OF '93

A sunny Saturday in October saw former students and staff come together for a special 30-year reunion.

Together, they enjoyed afternoon tea, live music performances from current students and tours of the school. All who came said they were impressed by the new buildings and state-of-the-art facilities. There were photos, memorabilia, powerpoint presentations and the opportunity to sing the school song again.

Huge thanks go to Alison Morgan and Janice Kent (formerly Rees) who worked tirelessly to contact as many people as possible from the year group. There were over 100 former students invited to the reunion and Janice managed to contact 43 former teachers, of which 23 attended.

Janice says: "Thank you so much for attending and making the day so special. I hope it has rekindled friendships and we will meet again before too long."

Emma Kilburn, Senior Deputy Headteacher at the school and a 'Class of '93' alumna, gave a wonderful speech which gave a real sense of how special the school still is, as well as bringing back amusing memories of those school years (1986-1993).

Laughter accompanied her memories of 'the bun queue'; the move to the new building; Mrs Buchanan's sports car; the introduction of GCSEs; the roof blowing off the Geography block in the hurricane of 1987; the fire; the village of huts on the front field; the fundraising for, and the opening of, the Holdsworth wing; the school birthday and the insane competitiveness of the House system.

Emma highlighted that while the physical school has changed a lot, there are still core elements that have remained consistent over the years and that there is a clear continuum that runs from their time here to the present. She said:

"Tiffin girls are supportive of each other. They seize the opportunities offered to them with both hands. They are unashamedly academic and ambitious. There is a really strong sense of community and support within the school. You can see the strength of the friendships the students form. Many of them also have a perfectionist streak, worry too much, and are too prone to compare themselves to their peers. I am sure some, if not all of that, will sound familiar to many of you."



TOGA Reunion 2024

Saturday 15 June

2-5pm

Tickets £10

All welcome. Especially calling all year groups marking 10 year anniversaries next year. Bring your friends and celebrate together at the school.

To include tours of the old Tiffin Girls' School building next door.

[Sign up here](#)



REUNIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATION EVENINGS

We have a wonderful tradition of alumnae returning to the school to celebrate the academic successes of our students at the end of Year 11 and Year 13. Their presence, words and support at this pivotal time shows appreciation of what it means to be a Tiffin girl and continuity in our vision to inspire young women to dare to be wise.



Year 11 Celebration Evening - Melody Lam

We were joined for the Year 11 evening by Melody Lam (1989-1996), who has spent much of her career working as a management consultant, working with a vast array of businesses and corporations and travelling regularly to work in the US and Europe.

She talked to students and parents about her experiences studying Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London, as only one of eight female students on the course.

She reflected on the unconscious biases and, at times, outright discrimination that she had to face and overcome, not only at university but also in the workplace. She talked to students about the importance of representation, both at school and in later life quoting the American activist for civil rights, Marian Wright-Edelman, "You can't be what you can't see". While she is confident that society is taking positive steps forward, she also feels there is still a great deal to be done, and she hopes that our students can play an important role in that.

Melody told her audience that, while she left our school almost thirty years ago, she still considers herself a Tiffin girl. She reminded the students of all of the skills, knowledge, experiences and friendships they have acquired over the past five years, which will stand them in good stead for the next stages in their education and then working lives.

She also reflected on the importance of our school motto: *sapere aude* – dare to be wise. While this may mean that we dare to take on challenges, and to be curious and creative, she also emphasised that it can embody the courage to make the choices that are right for us at a particular time in our lives. For Melody, this has recently meant daring to take a step back from her corporate career and to explore other opportunities, such as working as a governor with local schools. Melody's speech was inspiring and also entertaining, and clearly resonated with our students.



REUNIONS AND CELEBRATIONS



Year 13 Leavers' Celebration Evening - Annabel Gillard



Annabel Gillard (left) with The Tiffin Girls' School Chair of Governors, Sarah Beeching

Alumna Annabel Gillard (1986-1993) joined us as our guest speaker at the Year 13 Leavers' Celebration Evening. After a career in investment management, Annabel is investigating the place of ethical values and organisational culture in an AI-driven future workplace, and its impact on the changing nature of work and society. She is also a trustee of the Support Tiffin Girls' School Company (STGSC).

Before congratulating the Year 13 leavers and presenting them with their A-Level certificates and prizes, she talked to them about her journey from her time at Tiffin Girls' to where she is today.

She gave motivational advice about the impact of enduring friendship such that she discovered at the school; 'making friends with change' and why the 'finding out' should be our lives' work especially in a world where change is accelerated though technology.

She also encouraged the former students to 'sit with discomfort' as this is a necessary precursor for growth and for the development of strength, resilience and learning. She concluded with the challenge to all former students to 'practice courage'. By practising and growing courage 'like a muscle' and by facing your fears, your world and your possibilities get bigger.

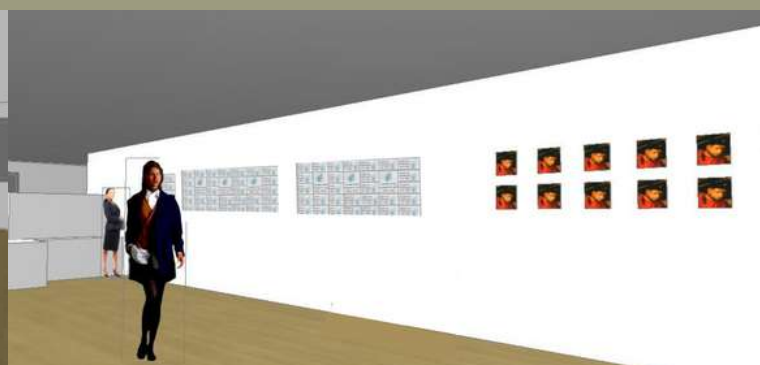
Tiffin Tiles

Sponsor a tile to support Tiffin girls of the future and leave your mark at the school

From the moment you joined The Tiffin Girls' School, you became part of a special community that lasts a lifetime. By making a donation for an inscribed and personalised Tiffin Tile you leave your mark at the school and a lasting legacy to inspire and support Tiffin Girls of the future.

A suggested donation of £125 for a porcelain tile of 200 x 200mm, or £75 for a 100 x 200 mm tile, will go to the Support Tiffin Girls' School Company, an independent registered charity (number 10699969), helping to ensure the school can continue to deliver a broad and outstanding education.

Find out more and book your tile: alumnae.tiffingirls.org/pages/alumnae-wall





ALUMNAE NEWS



Tiffin Talks and Profiles

We are committed to growing a supportive careers and mentoring network and a vibrant professional networking group for our students and alumnae that will be useful and relevant at any stage of their careers.

Can you help? We are looking for alumnae who can offer work experience and mentoring across all sectors, who can host professional networking events or give talks and presentations. We are also looking for medical students and junior doctors to speak at our Medics Conference on 14 March. If you can help please contact alumnae@tiffingirls.org

Investment Banking

Our TiffinTalk on 17 October focussed on careers in investment banking. Former students shared their experiences on their journey into the industry and their experiences so far.

- **Asha Patel** - Sales trader in equity markets at Instinet, part of Nomura Group
- **Abbie Nag** and **Millan Gill** - Both work at Evercore, a boutique Mergers and Acquisitions advisory firm
- **Janani Sunit** - Currently leading teams in the technology division of Global Markets
- **Caroline Hanly-Greene** - Works for Arcus Infrastructure Partners LLP, an infrastructure private equity fund



Caroline Hanly-Greene



Abbie Nag



Asha Patel

We will hold our first **Professional Networking Event** for alumnae in the financial sector in March. The event will take place on Wednesday 13 March 2024. More details to follow.

Journalism

Our TiffinTalk on 13 November focussed on careers in journalism. We were joined by three inspiring women:

- **Abbie Llewelyn** - Reporter at the House of Lords for PA Media. Has worked in several national newsrooms including The Daily Express
- **Charlie Gowans-Eglinton** - Freelance journalist, who has previously worked as acting fashion editor at The Times and senior fashion editor at The Daily Telegraph, and for Style, Grazia and Elle magazines. She is also co-founder of the Wingwoman podcast
- **Sue Douglas** - Began her career as a medical journalist, before writing for The Daily Mail and News of the World, and going on to be assistant editor of The Daily Mail, deputy editor of The Sunday Times and editor of The Sunday Express



Abbie Llewelyn



Charlie Gowans-Eglinton



Sue Douglas

All of our Tiffin Talks, including previous talks on careers in mental health, the diplomatic and civil service, healthcare and science, medicine and on women in tech, can be found [here](#)



ALUMNAE NEWS



Tiffin Talks and Profiles

SPOTLIGHT: SARAH BEECHING (1981-1988) on climbing a mountain, the Africa Climate Summit and being Chair of The Tiffin Girls' School Board of Governors

"If you want something done, ask a busy person," goes the maxim. Which may be one of the reasons why Sarah Beeching was asked to be Chair of Governors of The Tiffin Girls' School. By anyone's standards, Sarah is a busy person.

In September, Sarah led the Africa Climate Summit for the President of Kenya, with 10,000 delegates including 20 Heads of African States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the European Commission, the summit saw 26 billion US dollars pledged for climate investments across the continent.



This came after she had spent a week climbing 5,895 metres to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro earlier in the summer, smashing her target to raise money for a sensory room for Yorda Adventures, a local charity.

Sarah runs her own consultancy company, Oshun Partnership, which she founded in 2011 to focus on bringing diplomacy to international development. Since then, she has led many international policy negotiations including delivering campaigns for the Global Partnership for Education, rabies elimination, sanitation and water for all, the Commonwealth Malaria Summit in London, and leading the G8 Nutrition for Growth Summit. She is a member of the Fellowship council (Advisory Board) for the Royal Society of Arts, an active campaigner on local and global issues and has lived and worked in over 70 countries. And is a mother of two! A typical Tiffin Girl!

Despite her busy schedule, Sarah gave up some time to be interviewed to talk about life at Tiffin Girls', her career, and being Chair of Governors.

Read the full interview [here](#)





ALUMNAE NEWS



Tiffin Talks and Profiles

SPOTLIGHT: NIDA ANIS (2016-2021)

Earlier this term we put a 'shout out' on Instagram asking for alumnae to tell their stories.

We were delighted to be contacted by 19 year-old Nida Anis who was a student at Tiffin Girls' from 2016-2021. She tells us how, in the years since she left school, her life has changed completely thanks to an introduction to motor racing by a fellow Tiffin Girls' student.

"I am now a Junior Motorsport Engineer and Media Manager for motor racing teams. I work trackside in Formula 4, Formula Regional, and Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia, travelling the world and engineering race cars at the same time. I've often found myself to be one of the only women doing what I do, let alone one of the only students! I am currently on my gap year ahead of studying Motorsport Engineering (BEng) at Oxford Brookes University, one of the industry's most prestigious and competitive programmes for up-and-coming race engineers, having recently received an unconditional offer to study there."

Read the full article [here](#)





ALUMNAE NEWS



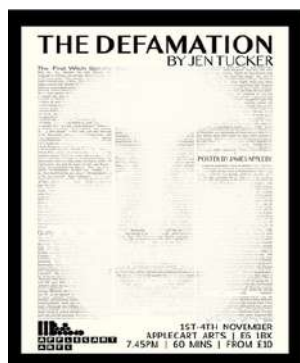
Tiffin Talks and Profiles

JEN TUCKER (2013-2020)

Jenny left Tiffin Girls' in 2020 after studying Music, History and English at A-Level. Earlier this year, she graduated from the University of Nottingham with a BA (Hons) in English and has recently set up a theatre company called 'Itchy Feet Theatre'.

Her debut production 'The Defamation', inspired by the Amber Heard-Johnny Depp trial, showcased at Applecart Arts in London last month.

Jenny's love of drama was nurtured at The Tiffin Girls' School where she immersed herself in school theatre and musical productions, ran a script writing club for Year 7 and loved all of the arts activities on offer here.



CATHERINE SEDGWICK (1989-1996)

Catherine Sedgwick is an alumna who, upon leaving in 1996 went on to study medicine and is currently working as an Endocrinology Registrar at Kingston Hospital. In her spare time she does silk screen printing and recently contacted us with exciting news she was rightly proud to share.

In November, she had a piece of artwork selected for the 2023 ING Discerning Eye Exhibition at Mall Galleries, London. Although the exhibition is now finished, it can be viewed online until 31 December 2023.

The exhibition was curated by a star-studded panel and Catherine's work was selected by Eliza Gluckman, Director, Government Art Collection. The other 2023 selectors were: Tony Adams (Former footballer and Collector), Chris Levine (Artist), Peju Oshin (Critic, Curator, Writer and Lecturer), Ian "H" Watkins (Singer and Collector), Julian Wild (Artist and Lecturer).

Out of 6,500 entries, 628 artworks by 387 creatives were shortlisted for this prestigious show. The ING Discerning Eye showcases talent in a wide range of media – painting, drawing, sculpture, print, photography, video, textile, ceramic and more. It is the 25th year of the charity's partnership with the bank.



Find out more:
Catherine Sedgwick (@catherine_sedgwick_art)
[Instagram photos and videos](#)



ING Discerning Eye Exhibition
(@ingdiscerningeye)
[Instagram photos and videos](#)





MEMORIES

THE FIRE OF 2003 - As remembered by Lyra da Cruz

The most dramatic event in the history of The Tiffin Girls' School occurred on the evening of 15 December 2003 when a major fire swept through the roof and second floor of the main teaching block.

Lyra da Cruz (1990-2012) was a physics teacher and Assistant Head at the school at the time. Lyra had previously worked at Haberdashers and at Croydon High School. She loved the "warmth of Tiffin Girls' and the relationships between the staff and students."

She recalls that night in December and how with true to The Tiffin Girls' School character, the school community came together to ensure that the education of the girls barely missed a beat.

"It was December 15 and we were all at a carol concert in Kingston when we heard the news. The fire alarm went off at 8.41pm and the signal went straight to the fire brigade. We rushed to school and just stood watching the school being consumed. There were curtains crashing down and windows exploding. 23 fire engines attended the scene. Earlier that day Bettina Hunter, teacher, had reported that the lights had gone out in her classroom and as we later found out the fire was an electrical fault in the roof above that room 14. Chris Norcott, the librarian, saved the rest of the school from burning down. She was known for religiously locking the library and it was this action that stopped the fire from spreading. Not one of the books was scorched. Every fire brigade manual now includes the story and shows a picture of Chris' door!"

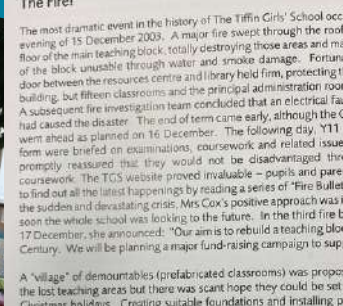
"After the fire, all of the staff worked incredibly hard. Pauline Cox, Headteacher at the time, used to sleep with a notepad by her bed. We were determined to get the girls back in to school as soon as possible. Ahead of its time, there were learning platforms on IT and temporary accommodation, or 'the Tiffin village' as it came to be known, of 20 classrooms craned in. Neighbours complained about the noise of the generators and the need for a 5am start for the cleaners. The dining hall and gymnasiums were also used as classrooms. There was a full day of education for all the students within six weeks."

In the months following the fire, the 'Fire Appeal' was established. It encapsulated the Tiffin Girls' spirit of determination and resilience. Students undertook charity challenges, there were craft fairs and dinners, an auction of promises, a lecture from David Attenborough, 'An Evening with...' which included supporters such as Jaqueline Wilson, Rory Bremner, Simon Hoggart and Lynne Truss, Sir Matthew Pinsent and Lawrence Dellaglio to name just a few.

The Holdsworth Wing, replacing the fire damaged section of the school was opened by Sandra Holdsworth, the retiring chair of governors.



Lyra on a recent visit to the school. With Sue Urquhart.





MEMORIES



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 displayed or donate to our collection, or are interested in assisting with the funding of our archiving project please do get in touch: alumnae@tiffingirls.org



Reunion pics and archive information

To view the Class of '93 reunion and other photo albums, please visit alumnae.tiffingirls.org



WE SAY GOODBYE..

PAT COTTLE (1946-1951)

We heard the news of the passing of Pat Cottle from her son back in October. He said: "um was always very proud that she passed the 11+ and went to Tiffin Girls'. The value she placed on her academic achievement influenced the way she brought up her family and the opportunities that gave us."





SCHOOL NEWS



Tiffin Girls' From the Air

Has the school changed since you were a student here?

We had these amazing drone shots of the school taken earlier this term. It shows the school site in full including, in the background, the old Tiffin Girls' School, now The Kingston Academy. We're sure for many of you, you'll see some interesting additions and significant changes since your time here.



Year 7

Our crafty Year 7s were out in force at the recent PSA Christmas Fair. Showcasing their talents and community spirit, each form group had come together to create bracelets, colourful paper birds, Christmas decorations and much more. They then eagerly pitched their items market-style at the fair.

Our TOGA representatives were also out in force selling our merchandise such as bags, baubles, keyrings and hoodies.



Debating success

Well done to our three teams who took part in the debating competition at Eton this term. Two of our teams made it to the finals, and Jess and Ishani were the overall winners.

They were also placed as first and fifth speakers overall. All six students debated brilliantly!





CAN YOU HELP?



A message from the alumnae team....

THE SUPPORT TIFFIN GIRLS' SCHOOL COMPANY

Making a difference

Donations are a vital and valued form of funding for the school.

The Support Tiffin Girls' School Company (STGSC) is an independent registered charity (number 1069969) which was set up in 1998 to raise funds to improve and expand educational facilities and opportunities at the school, and support the health and welfare of the students, so they may fully realise their potential.

In an increasingly challenging economic environment, support is needed more than ever before.

[Click here](#) to see the difference donations make to the school.

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support. You really are making a difference.

You can see how to join our community of donors below.



GIVE ONLINE

Donate via PayPal or credit/debit card
[Here](#)



SET UP A REGULAR DONATION

Download our donation form
[Here](#)



GIFT AID IT
[Gift Aid form Here](#)



CONTACT US

For an informal chat on ways to give
[Here](#)

BUY A HOODIE

We are currently in the process of ordering more TOGA hoodies for our alumnae.

The hoodies are available in all sizes, cost £25 and come with or without the strapline: 'We dared to be wise' on the back.

Please express your interest, using this simple form, [here](#).



Naia Edwards
Development and Alumnae Manager
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Season's Greetings to you all



Our talented Year 7s ran the craft market at this year's PSA Christmas fair.

See you in 2024!