



ALUMNAE NEWS

Spring 2024



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Celebrating 144 Years

The School marked its 144th birthday in February with the traditional festivities including the cake competition, dance-offs, quizzes, and a resounding rendition of the school song. We celebrated all that is amazing about Tiffin Girls' reflecting on the 144 years of the school's existence and how we all contribute to making this a wonderful community.



£8,000 raised for School Birthday was the icing on the cake

This year, we revived the tradition of launching a School Birthday appeal and asked for a Birthday donation to support the refurbishment of the two first floor PE changing rooms. We are so grateful to all those who donated helping us to raise £8,000. The project aims to provide new showering facilities with lockable cubicles and double the amount of toilet facilities which will ensure the health, wellbeing and comfort of all the students. You can still donate [here](#)



Watch the video

Throughout the week of the School Birthday, staff and students came together to promote all things 144: a 144 keepy-up challenge, a 144 second student dance, rowing 144 miles. Each department pitched birthday content and our talented students created a video on why 'This is not just school, this is The Tiffin Girls' School!'



We are raising funds to facilitate the renewal of the first floor changing rooms with new showering facilities and lockable cubicles, enabling greater participation in sport



STAY CONNECTED

We have so enjoyed meeting all the alumnae who have helped the students last term whether online with the TiffinTalks or in person at the school with Higher Education talks for Year 12 students and the Medics Conference organised by our Deputy Head Girls. It was also a great pleasure to meet alumnae at our finance professionals event and watch how, through networking, you can continue to support each other.

We hope you will want to stay connected to the school and to each other and be part of our growing community of amazing Tiffin Old Girls. You can sign up digitally to the Tiffin Girls' Together website and connect with each other that way as well as volunteer to mentor and give university and careers' advice. We also look forward to seeing those of you who can make it in person to the TOGA reunion at the school in June.

Naia Edwards, Development and Alumnae Manager

Join the Tiffin Old Girls and Alumnae

Community

Register with the *Tiffin Girls' Together* community website and find and network with friends and colleagues in a dedicated and trusted alumnae space



- Search for personal and professional connections
- Sign up to give and receive university, mentoring and career advice
- Enjoy access to a wide range of opportunities including reunions, event invitations, alumnae news and profile features
 - Share your news and build your own profile
 - Safe and private space for interactions

community.tiffingirls.org



LinkedIn:
linkedin.com/groups/13711220



Facebook:
Tiffin Old Girls and Alumnae



Instagram:
TiffinGirlsAlums

CAREERS AND NETWORKING

Tiffin Talks

We are 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? Our TiffinTalk on 16 May will focus on sustainability and climate change. If you work in this field we would love to hear from you. Please contact alumnae@tiffingirls.org. Additionally, 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. Please sign up at community.tiffingirls.org

In March our TiffinTalk was on **careers in engineering**. We were delighted to welcome three former students who are at different stages of their career in a range of engineering disciplines.

Githana Gnanavel (Class of 2014) studied **chemical engineering** at Birmingham University and has worked as a process engineer at both Mondelez Bournville and Procter and Gamble. She is currently a management consultant at Credera. She talked about how the opportunity to take part in placements at GSK and at the University of Oxford while still a student at the school ignited her passion for engineering and how her first job was engineering chocolate bars for Cadburys!

Kobi Hariram (Class of 2019) studied **mechanical engineering** at Loughborough University and now works for Transport for London as a senior maintenance support technician on the Elizabeth Line. Kobi talked about using your network to seek advice and contacts in order to further your ambitions.

Nida Anis (Left Tiffin Girls' in 2021) is a junior **motorsport engineer** and media manager for motor racing teams, working trackside in Formula 4, Formula Regional and Lamborghini Super Trofeo Asia.

You can access the recording and some of the speakers' slides [here](#)



Watch back



CAREERS AND NETWORKING

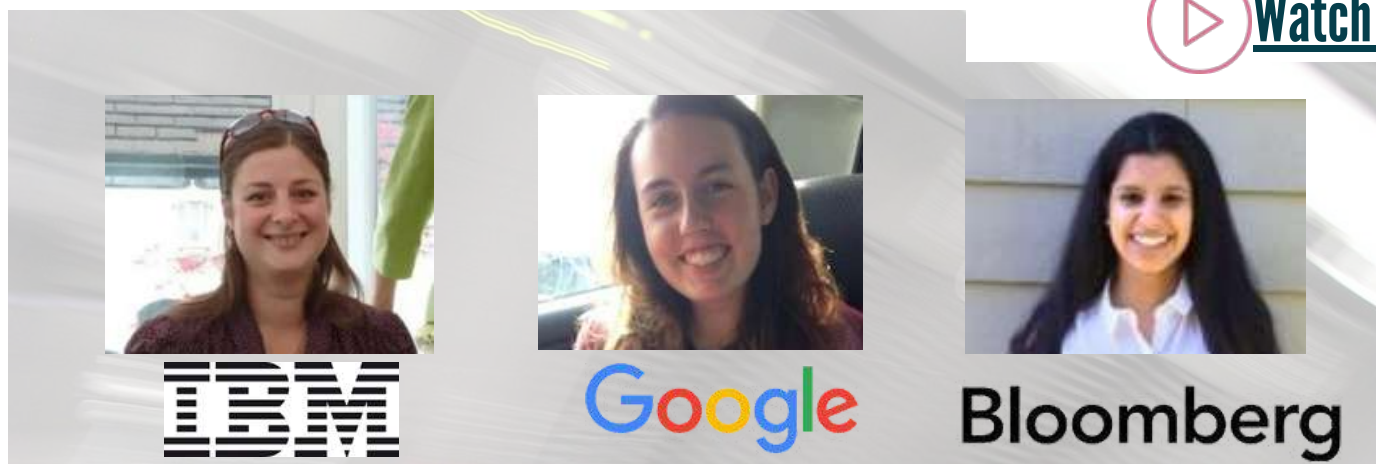
Tiffin Talks

In January the talk was on **careers in computing**. The former students who kindly gave their time to speak to our current students were:

- **Helen Stanton (Class of 2001)**, research scientist in the Technology Experience team at IBM
- **Fiona Campbell (Class of 2015)**, software engineer at Google
- **Alisha Dadar (Class of 2019)**, data management professional at Bloomberg



Watch back



Professional Networking

'By fostering connections within our alumnae community, we empower women to break barriers, share experiences, and support each other's professional growth.'

It was wonderful to meet our alumnae working in the finance industry at our first professional networking event.

Led by Asha Patel, sales trader at Instinet, the group discussed the challenges and opportunities for women working in finance today and the importance of support and mentorship. They talked about their school experiences which shaped their career choices and shared memories of their time at Tiffin Girls'.

We are extremely grateful to Tiffin Girls' parents, Colin Tan and Sarah Lau, for hosting the event at the Irwin Mitchell offices in the City.



We are looking to develop our professional networking events. Please get in touch if you would be interested in getting involved and would either like to attend on in your professional field or would like to host one.
alumnae@tiffingirls.org

SCHOOL NEWS

The winner of the Schools Geology Challenge 2024 is.....

The Tiffin Girls' School!

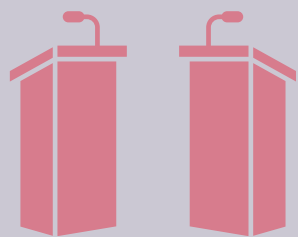


Run by the Geological Society, our team made it to the final of the national Geology Challenge showcasing their interest in geology and their teamwork skills by completing a problem-solving task based on real world issues.

Praising their achievement, the Geological Society congratulated them on their impressive display of knowledge, teamwork and innovation.



Debating success highlights



Leila in Year 11 and Jess in Year 13 took part in the finals of the Cambridge Schools Debating competition, which was held in the Cambridge University Union. While they were narrowly pipped at the post in the final, they ended the competition ranked as the third and fourth best speakers, an amazing achievement in a competition that featured schools from all over the world and primarily from the independent sector.

Jess has been selected for the England debating team and in the European championships in Prague was ranked the second best speaker in Europe.

Sweeney Todd

In January, our school's exceptional performers, musicians, crew, and technical team, alongside the creative genius of our set, lighting, and sound designers, brought the chilling tale of Sweeney Todd to life, showcasing the amazing talent within our school community.



Eco Conference



16 local primary schools attended our second Primary Eco Conference. The pupils completed a 'Plastics Challenge' repurposing plastic into items such as pen holders and bird feeders.

Angela Munden from Greenpeace talked about how we can help our oceans and speakers from Volunteers for Futures led a workshop on the threats facing wildlife. Our students gave presentations on new eco technology, climate justice and sustainable glitter.

SCHOOL NEWS



Fashion Show 2024



Coordinator of the DIVA show,
Kathy Kilpatrick

The PSA and Art Department orchestrated a truly fabulous 'DIVA' Fashion Show with Year 9. Students sashayed down the catwalk in style, wearing original fashion pieces created by the students including the incredible *natural forms* pieces modelled by sixth form students.



Rag Week

Our World Cultural Day talent show, staff University Challenge, Let's Dance competition, staff versus students benchball competition, bead and badge sale and a Year 7 movie night were among the highly supported events taking place this RAG Week in aid of our United World Schools partner Chewaa School in Nepal.

More than £5,500 was raised during this fantastic, student-led, week-long event.



These entries by Alexis, Gwyneth and Hita scooped the top three prizes in the sixth form category of our science photography competition for their composition and observation.



PEOPLE Ella Jarvis (2013-2018)

At the age of just 22, Ella Jarvis is excited to be producing her first play *Artificially Yours*, at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith, London from Tuesday 9 April – Sunday 21 April starring Leslie Ash (Men Behaving Badly, Quadrophenia).

Written by her friend and Tiffin boy alumnus, Aaron Thakar, the play is described as “a gripping, dark-comedy that explores the hilarious and disturbing consequences of our society’s increasing trust in Artificial Intelligence.”



Ella, who will also be performing in the play, has been involved in acting since the age of 8. She won a drama scholarship to Surbiton High School at 11 but turned it down when she was offered a place at Tiffin Girls’. “I loved the drama department and I was also interested in the academic side so it was an obvious choice for me”.

While at school, Ella threw herself into the drama productions. *Alice in Wonderland* was a particular highlight. “Chloe Hunkin was Alice and I played the Duchess, Mock turtle and auntie. Miss Smith was directing it and it was brilliant.”

It was while she was at Tiffin Girls’ that Ella met Aaron Thakar. “He played Romeo in a joint Tiffin Girls’ and Tiffin Boys’ production of *Romeo and Juliet* and we just became great friends.” Ella left Tiffin Girls’ after GCSEs to study A-Level drama at another school, but she still came back to see the school production of *Chicago* and support her friend and now playwright, Jen Tucker, who is also stage managing *Artificially Yours*.

Ella went straight into the acting industry after A-Levels and she has been very busy ever since. She has worked for casting directors, talent agents, undertook a course at Oxford School of Drama, set up a showreel company, *Parkhouse Showreels*, written film and TV scripts. She has also appeared in several films including *A gift from Bob* in 2020, *The Kindred* in 2021 and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* released in 2022 with Robert Lindsay as Oberon, Tyger Drew-Honey as Demetrius and Black Panther’s Florence Kasumba as Hippolyta.

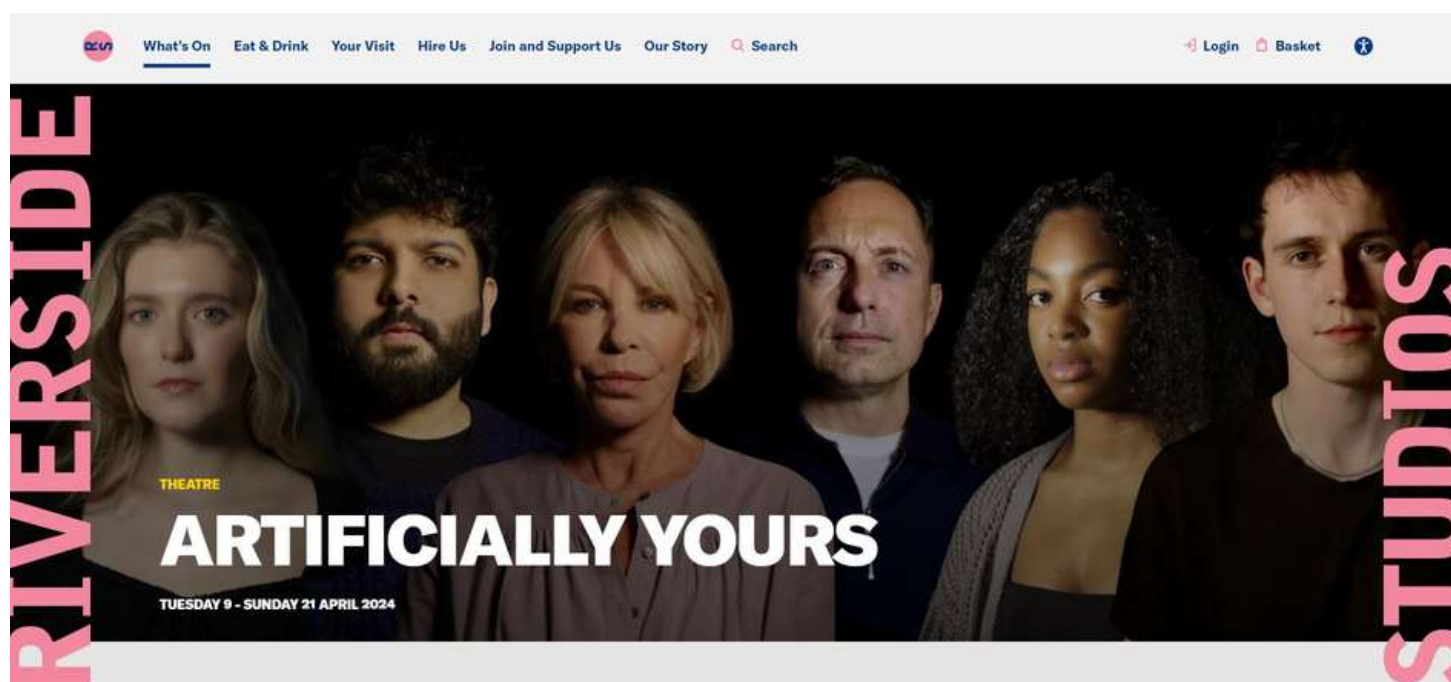


PEOPLE

 Ella Jarvis (2013-2018)

Now, for the first time, she is producing a play which she also script edited. "As soon as Aaron first mentioned the concept for this play I was in love," says Ella. "It's brilliantly written, so clever and funny." With her encouragement, Aaron developed the idea from a few scenes to a whole play which is already attracting a lot of interest thanks to the topical subject matter and the starry cast.

Ella says: "We hope that the journey of *Artificially Yours* isn't finished yet; we would love to try and take the play somewhere else, perhaps on tour or to another venue. Aaron and I are also starting development for a new play, keep an eye out for that one! On a more personal note, I am aiming to film my directorial screen debut in the next couple of years and am writing that now."



Advice for Tiffin girls: "Take risks and bet on yourself; even if the experience doesn't turn out the way you would've liked it to, the lessons you learn will be invaluable."

Tiffin Girls' alumnae are invited to attend at a special discount price of £15 per person by quoting the code, SCHOOL15 when booking online or over the phone with Riverside Studios. All the information can be found [here](#)

PEOPLE

Professor Christine Lee

We were delighted that Professor Christine Lee (1954-1961) came to speak at the Medics conference organised by the Deputy Head Girls for students from local schools.

Her speech to the delegates was a highlight of the day.

Here she talks a bit about her life and fascinating career as a haematologist.



"I'd wanted to do medicine right from the time I came to The Tiffin Girls' School. This was partly thanks to our family GP who was somebody called Dr Swann (the father of Donald Swann, one half of comedy and musical duo Flanders & Swann). He had escaped at the end of the Russian revolution from St Petersburg and had to semi retrain at St Mary's and after working in the East End eventually he came to Richmond.

"He was a very good doctor and I respected him. Then I was good at biology and sciences and maths at school so, you know, it was a no brainer really. I can remember being taught about the formation of a blood clot in biology in the 2nd form and being so interested I went to the Richmond library to read more about it in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

"Some things that stand out about Tiffin Girls': There was a wonderful classics mistress called Miss Wallis who taught us English as well. She was our form mistress in the fourth form and she was amazing. And we had a wonderful history mistress called Mrs Berryman who was very, very left wing and that was good. We had penfriends for French and we did a French exchange. I went to Lille and became very good friends with my pen friend. I am still in touch with her daughter.

"I enjoyed sport and was in the hockey team. I loved it but had to give it up in the sixth form. I was doing four A-Levels and it was just too much. I was tired. Our headteacher, Miss Orford, was not impressed and thought I was letting the school down. I later discovered I was very anaemic which explained why I was so tired and another reason why I find haematology so interesting.

"I was Head Girl, but in those days far fewer girls stayed on in the sixth form or went to university. There were three sixth forms: six arts, six general and six science. Six science was very small, I think there were about eight people in it. The idea was that you became a nurse, a secretary or a teacher.

"I left Tiffin Girls' in 1961 and went to Somerville College in Oxford in October 1962 initially to read biochemistry but I changed subjects to medicine at the end of the first year. Before that, I had a friend at the Royal Postgraduate Hammersmith Hospital and so I wrote to them and asked them for a job and went to work in the haematology lab there for 8 months. It was fantastic training and I earned £10 a week!"

PEOPLE

Professor Christine Lee

"In 1969, I qualified from Oxford Medical School at the old Radcliffe Infirmary (where she was awarded First Class Honours and was the first female scholar of the Oxford University Medical School).

"My first house job was at the Hammersmith doing renal medicine which was interesting and then I went on to do a number of different medical jobs in London as well as training as a GP for a year at an estate in Wembley.

"I think there was definitely sexism in medicine at that time. For example, I had thought at one stage that I might want to be a surgeon but there was only one female surgeon working in the Radcliffe Infirmary and I was told it was no job for a woman. When I was a medical student, people would assume I was a nurse and the sister-in-charge of the wards would make your life very difficult. On the other hand, because there were so few women in medicine, it was easier to shine because you stood out.

"I met my husband at the Brompton Hospital and we had two children. I was lucky that there was a scheme which would allow part-time working. My professional life culminated as a consultant haematologist and director of the Royal Free Haemophilia Centre from 1987-2005. Although I was an NHS clinician providing a clinical service I was involved in clinical research and directed 18 postgraduate doctors for MD and PhD degrees. I retired as a consultant haematologist in 2005 and although I continued academically I retired from medicine completely in 2013. I founded the peer review journal Haemophilia, now in the 30th year of publication.

"My areas of expertise were in transfusion transmitted disease, particularly HIV and HCV, and women with inherited bleeding disorders. During the last five years I have responded to criticism from the infected blood inquiry and I was interrogated by a QC in October 2020. The Infected Blood Inquiry's final report will be published on 20 May 2024.

"I found great inspiration at the medics conference hosted by Tiffin girls, listening to fellow alumnae share their career journeys. The outlook for medicine is promising, especially with the potential of Artificial Intelligence to enhance disease detection and aid in finding cures."

"To current students at Tiffin Girls', my advice is simple: Keep pushing forward and never lose hope!"



Christine in form 1B at The Tiffin Girls' School in 1955. She is pictured on the left in the second row (with a camera over shoulder).

ALUMNAE SUPPORT AT SCHOOL

Neurodiversity Week 2024

During the school's Neurodiversity Week 2024, we were honoured to be joined by former students Tracey Gaggiotti, co-founder and director of [Express CIC](#) which supports autistic children, young people and their families and Catherine Richardson, private psychologist and counsellor for children and teens. Both gave interesting and useful insights of their experiences and their journeys. A recording of the talk can be watched back [here](#).



Catherine Richardson

The Medics Conference 2024



Organised by our community Deputy Head Girls, Piriyankaa and Izzy, we hosted students from eight nearby secondary schools at our second Medics Conference.

Attendees received a package of materials to aid them in preparing for a medical school application. They also had the opportunity to listen to various speakers, including current students and alumnae.

The panel consisted of two students from Imperial College, Zahra and Rasha, a general practitioner, a consultant paediatrician, and Professor Christine Lee (see our profile piece in this issue) who shared her insights on practical medicine and research. Additionally, Monica, a former Deputy Head Girl who arranged the conference last year, spoke about her current studies in medicine at Oxford University.

Career and higher education talks

During this term, former students returned to the school to address Year 12 students:

- Dr. Sahana Gnanasampanthan shared her journey from medical school to working as a junior doctor.
- Kasia Proctor, who graduated from The Tiffin Girls' School in 2018, pursued Economics at Durham University. She is currently employed at PwC through the Graduate Business Programme. Kasia has gained experience in various teams within the company, including Audit, Consulting, Deals, and Tax. She now focuses on the Sustainability team, assisting companies in enhancing their environmental and social responsibilities. Her responsibilities involve crafting ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) strategies, aiding companies in achieving net zero, and advising on nature conservation.

REUNIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

TOGA REUNION

2014

1984

1994

2004

1974

1964

All welcome. We are especially calling all year groups marking decade anniversaries this year. Bring your friends and celebrate together at the school.

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

Saturday 15 June, 2-5pm
Tickets £10

Includes delicious tea, cake, sandwiches

Sign up [here](#)

Dates for your diary

15 May	TiffinTalk: Sustainability and climate change
15 June	TOGA Reunion
10 July	Graduation celebration for class of 2021
5 July	PSA Cricket match
21 July	Dragon Boat Race



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 approximately £30) and come with, or without, the strapline: 'We dared to be wise' on the back.

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



Tiffin Girls Reunite



Four former Tiffin girls - Linda, Sheelagh, Gillian and Sue (1969-1977) - met up in the Kent and Surrey area in August 2023 for a mini-reunion and a wonderful weekend of catching up and reminiscing about their time at the school. They spent the Saturday at the Watts Gallery in Guildford with Sue hosting a meal in her garden room. They then went to Chiddingstone Castle in Kent on the Sunday for a concert in the grounds featuring the songs of Stevie Wonder.

Read more about what Linda, Sheelagh, Gillian and Sue got up to after their time at The Tiffin Girls' School [here](#)

ALUMNAE INSPIRATION GALLERY

Building legacies, empowering futures

Profiles

We are planning to design an alumnae wall in the school with an exhibition of profiles of former students and their careers to inspire our current students. "If they can see it, they can be it" - by reading about the many and varied accomplishments and careers of our alumnae, and seeing that people who were once students just like them at their school, we hope they will believe they can do it too.

We want to show as many varied careers as possible. If you would be willing to feature in a profile yourself or would like to nominate a Tiffin Old Girl friend, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us on alumnae@tiffingirls.org or use the form on our community site [here](#)



Zohra Nabi - Author
Zohra Nabi grew up inventing stories for her two younger sisters. She lives in London, browsing bookshops and writing magical adventures. The Kingdom over the Sea, published by Simon & Schuster is her first book.



Adriana Brownlee - Explorer
Second youngest person to reach summit of Everest. On a mission to break the world record to become the youngest person to climb the 28 highest peaks in the world - by the time she is 23.



Sophie Bray - Hockey Olympic Gold Medalist
International hockey player who received over 130 caps for Great Britain and England. An Olympic Gold medalist (Rio 2016) and European Gold medalist and Commonwealth Games Silver & Bronze medalist.



Sophy Ridge - Broadcast Journalist
Sophy is a television news presenter. She currently works for Sky News and has presented *Sophy Ridge on Sunday* since 2017. In 2022, she launched *The Take with Sophy Ridge*.

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





CAN YOU HELP?

Naia Edwards
Development and Alumnae Manager
development@tiffingirls.org
020 8546 0773 x 302

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](#)

Join the Tiffin Old Girls and Alumnae Committee

We are looking for more alumnae from all year groups to join our wonderful committee and help create mutually beneficial relationships and lifelong connections between The Tiffin Girls' School and its alumnae and students.

- Contribute to the alumnae events programme including reunions and networking opportunities
- Develop initiatives to support professional growth, careers and mentorship
- Direct and approve the use of TOGA funds to support the alumnae network and the school
- Encourage alumnae contributions to school projects and fundraising activities
- Act as ambassadors, promoting the achievements and successes of alumnae.

Meetings are mostly held remotely approximately three times a year.

Read the Terms of Reference [here](#)

To find out more and to join, email alumnae@tiffingirls.org

