Winter 2025

ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

May her friends still be many



We were delighted, at the end of November, to welcome back to the school one of our alumnae — and former Head Girl — Zohra Nabi. Now an acclaimed children's author, Zohra has published three novels: The Kingdom Over the Sea, The City Beyond the Stars, and most recently her atmospheric period crime mystery, Deep Dark.

During her visit, Zohra spoke to Year 7 about the power of stories and the role literature plays in shaping how we see the world. She also shared insights into her own journey to becoming an author, inspiring our students with her passion, perseverance, and creativity. It was a joy to celebrate her success and to welcome her back into our school community.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Mr Keary leaving
- Alumnae support Careers Fair
- School News
- Alumnae News
- Support Us

STAY CONNECTED

Departure of Mr Keary

Some of you may be aware that Ian Keary has decided that he will be stepping down as Headteacher at the end of this academic year.
He has led the school for ten years, and has had a hugely positive impact in his decade of leadership. Beyond many tangible successes, such as guiding the school through the COVID-19 period, overseeing the completion of the Sports Centre and Rivermead Wing and leading the school through Ofsted in 2021, his most important legacy is the implementation of the school's values of Community, Love of Learning and Character, which are at the heart of everything we do.
Ian's warmth, vision and unwavering commitment to the school have inspired staff and students alike, and he will be deeply missed. As a community, we are immensely grateful for everything he has given to the school - and will continue to give until the end of the summer term. Thank you Mr Keary!
The advert for Mr Keary's successor has been published across various recruitment channels including The Tiffin Girls' School website here: https://www.tiffingirls.org/about-us/working-here/current-vacancies/.



From the Development Office

A huge thanks to all our alumnae who have returned to school to offer your time, enthusiasm and support. Whether speaking to students about your careers at the Careers fair, inspiring them with advice and insights at Celebration evenings, or sharing your love of reading through book talks, your contributions have been truly invaluable. We are immensely grateful for the continued support you give to the school and hope you will all continue to stay in touch in the years ahead. Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

Coming Up

FOR YOUR DIARY

28, 29, 30, 31 January -	**Whole School production - Daisy pulls it off**
29 January	**TiffinTalk: Finance**
13 February	**146th School Birthday and Giving Day**
10 March	**TiffinTalk: Law**
12 March	**Medics Conference**
25 March	**Spring Concert**
13 May	**TiffinTalk: Management consultancy**
13 June	**TOGA REUNION**
24 June	**Tiffin Talk:tbc**



ALUMNAE NEWS AND EVENTS

TOGA REUNION
Saturday June 13 2025, 2-5pm

Everyone welcome!

Tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake
Tours of the school
TTGS merchandise
Singing the school song

Register interest here: https://forms.gle/Lo9Lxr3rw9fMZTr9A

Ticket price: £15 (available to buy in the new year)











17th reunion for friends from class of 1977

Thank you to Sarah Onions who sent these photos of a recent reunion in Dorset with Tiffin Girls' school friends. The class of 1977 group includes Sharon Stebbing, Sinead Partridge, Barbara Owsianka. Sara (Farazmand)Frazer-Mann,Dr Helen Baylis, and Abigail (Turner) Wallace.

The friends have met every year since their 50th birthdays, making this their 17th reunion! They usually choose a central location in Britain so everyone can attend, with one member travelling from North Wales.It is wonderful to see such enduring friendships continuing so many years after leaving school.

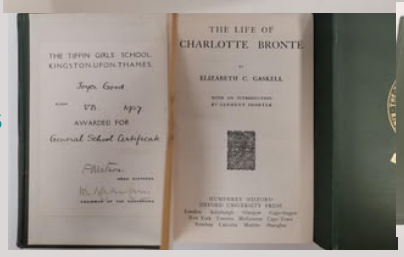
The School archive

Our school archive is cared for by Ms Buzogany, who runs the LRC, along with her dedicated team of student archivists. While some items have been collected by the school, many have been generously donated by former students.

Recently, we were contacted by the great-niece of Joyce Good, who attended the school in the 1920s. While sorting through her great aunt's belongings, she discovered three prize books awarded to Joyce in her fifth year (now Year 11) on completing the General School Certificate. The books — two by Charlotte Brontë and a copy of The Iliad — are leather-bound, embossed with the school's original crest, and signed by the then headteacher, Ms Watson, after whom a school house is now named.

It was a pleasure to learn more about Joyce's life. Born in 1910, she later worked as a PA at ICI and was remembered by her family as a kind and generous woman who loved her garden.







ALUMNAE PROFILE

Annabel Gillard



Annabel Gillard was a student at Tiffin Girls' from 1986 to 1993. After a degree in History at York University, she spent many years working in investment. A few years ago, she left her role at M&G Investments to pursue her continually developing interests in areas such as AI, ethics, and the ways in which behavioural science can effectively be employed within business and large organisations. She completed a Masters in Philosophy and AI at Northeastern University in London, before studying for an MSc in Behavioural Science at LSE. She is now working across a number of areas, including as a strategic advisor on AI Ethics, and is a co-founder of LSE FORGOOD, an initiative that aims to work with organisations that are interested in the ethical application of behavioural science to influence responsibly and build trust.

Recently, her work gave her the opportunity to travel to Seoul to take part in an international AI futures forum. At the event, hosted by a university and the British Embassy, leaders from business, academia and civil society discussed the pressing questions that accompany Korea's ambitions in this area, such as how to develop human skills and train students for the new world of work, and how to build trust to accelerate ethical adoption of AI. She was impressed by the country's ambitions for AI; the country is aiming for rapid AI innovation, without compromising on quality and safety, and returned home enthused by the prospects for future collaboration between South Korea and the UK. Annabel has also recently been nominated as a fellow of CFA UK, an organisation that represents over 12,000 investment professionals. The school has been very grateful to Annabel for her recent contributions to the school community: she has recently completed six years as a trustee of the Support Tiffin Girls' School Company, the charity that oversees and allocates funds donated to the school.

Anna Jenkins (1983-1990) inspires at Celebration Evening



The KS4 Celebration Evening took place in November to recognise the hard work and achievements of our Year 12 students following their GCSE examinations. We were delighted to welcome alumna Anna Jenkins (1983–1990) as our guest speaker.

Anna is the founder of We Are Fit Attitude, a successful women's health and fitness community based in Tooting and online. She spoke engagingly about her varied career journey — from education, through the corporate world, to following her passion for fitness and wellbeing — and shared reflections on her time at the school.

Anna encouraged students to focus on their strengths, reminding them that purpose matters more than perfection, and cautioned against unhelpful comparisons in a social media-driven world. Her thoughtful and inspiring message was warmly received, and it was a pleasure to welcome her back to school.

CAREERS AND MENTORING

Alumnae help to make Careers Fair great success!



Our second Careers Fair took place on 6 November, with a fantastic attendance from students in Years 10 to 13 and their parents. As last year, the support from alumnae, who generously gave up their time to represent their professions, share their career journeys, and provide valuable insights into their fields, was fantastic, offering students invaluable insight into an impressive breadth of career pathways.

Alumnae represented sectors including healthcare, engineering, publishing, academia and consulting. Perhaps not surprisingly, healthcare careers were particularly well represented, with alumnae working across radiotherapy, oncology, obstetrics and paediatrics.

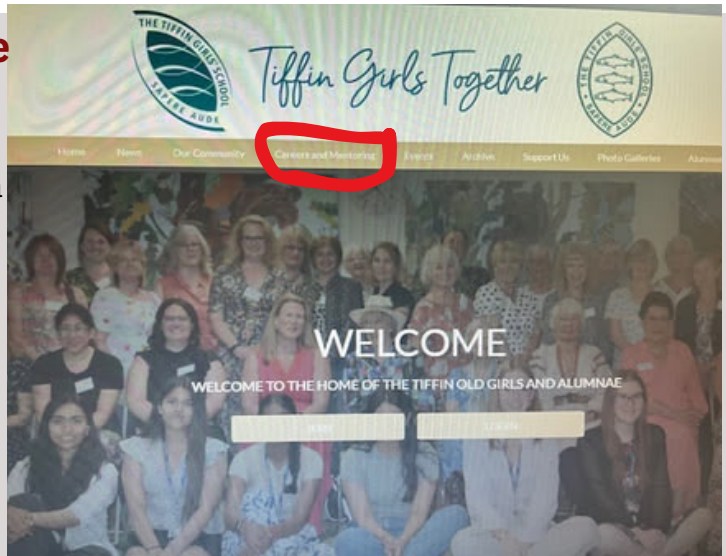
- Jessica Bate shared her experiences as a Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Southampton Children's Hospital
- Georgina Eliot-Gould spoke to students about her non-traditional route into medicine and her current role as a Senior Registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology.
- Alumnae from St Bartholomew's Hospital and UCLH outlined a range of roles within radiotherapy and proton beam therapy, highlighting careers that combine patient care with cutting-edge technology and science.
- Lucy Adams from Jaguar Land Rover gave an engaging talk on engineering degree apprenticeships.
- Katelyn Bastian at Penguin Random House, offered insight into careers in publishing.
- Sophie Blackburn, now a Lecturer in Human Geography, could speak to students about her academic journey and research focused on climate change, development and disaster risk.

We are extremely grateful to all the alumnae who gave their time so generously. Their honesty, enthusiasm and willingness to share their experiences made the Careers Fair both inspiring and informative for our students.

Sign up to being a mentor or finding one on the alumnae website

If you would be happy to share your career experience, provide university advice, give interview tips or to act as a mentor in any way to our students as well as fellow alumnae please do sign up to the alumnae community website, Tiffin Girls Together, where you can volunteer to help on the Careers and Mentoring page.

Work experience placements for 15-18 year old students are also much needed for those who do not have family networks to help. If you can offer a placement, please let us know via email (alumnae@tiffingirls.org).



SCHOOL NEWS

Belonging



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) remains a key focus within the school. A student and staff working group have explored ways to strengthen our shared sense of belonging and encourage wider participation in whole school events. Open Mic Nights have been revived at lunchtimes, providing a relaxed space for students to perform and support one another. Performances have ranged from Nirvana and Fleetwood Mac to a Bohemian Rhapsody–Billy Joel mash-up. Meanwhile, our Community Deputy Head Girls have organised option fairs for Year 9 and Year 11, enabling younger students to speak directly with older peers about their subject choices.

Our Charity Deputy Head Girls also introduced a new fundraising highlight: a staff versus students University Challenge—won, unsurprisingly, by the students!

Looking ahead, we plan to launch new Google Classrooms to help students connect with others who share common interests or heritage, creating further opportunities to collaborate and contribute to the school's rich programme of cultural events.

U16 indoor hockey squad sixth in the country



The U16 indoor hockey squad travelled to National Finals on 12 December, competing amongst the top eight schools in the country.

They travelled up to Derby and gave their all to finish sixth in the country! Tiffin Girls' has a proud tradition of success in playing hockey which looks set to continue. We couldn't be more proud of their performances, including a win against last year's champions.

Eco Week



Our annual Eco Week brought the whole school community together to celebrate and deepen our commitment to sustainability. The week featured a rich programme of activities including woodland scavenger hunts, nature documentaries, a bird feeder workshop, an environmental art competition, and a whole-school assembly organised by our newly appointed eco reps. Practical action underpinned the week, with expanded vegetarian menus, a popular clothes swap shop, crisp packet recycling, and ongoing litter picks, all reflecting our well-established Climate Action Plan, now in its third year. Eco Week perfectly captured how students and staff work together to effect meaningful environmental change, a commitment we look forward to continuing with our annual eco conference for local primary schools in the spring.

SCHOOL NEWS

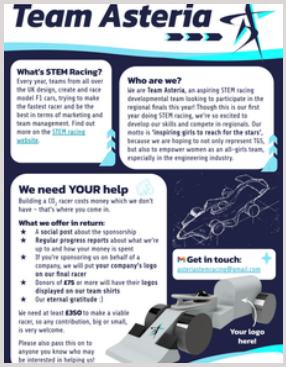
STEM Racing Competition

STEM Racing challenges students to design, build and race a miniature Formula 1 car, while developing valuable skills in engineering, project management, fundraising and presentation. Through the competition, we aim to champion young women in STEM, inspire future engineers and demonstrate that women belong in these spaces.
Two Year 12 teams at Tiffin Girls' are keen for your support!

Valkyrie Racing
We would be very grateful for your support, which will help us access the technology, materials and resources needed to build a competitive car. Sponsors will receive regular updates throughout the project.



Team Asteria
Unlike the professional team, none of us have done this competition before, but we're going to do everything we can to do well, despite being rookies. Please contact us at asteriastemracing@gmail.com if you're interested in helping us, or if you have any questions at all!



Pink Week

This year's Pink Week combined creativity, community spirit and fundraising to raise awareness of breast cancer. Each year group decorated a foyer mannequin with embroidered pink flowers as part of a striking collaborative art installation, while the Year 11 student leaders organised a lively programme of events including a staff pink parade, a hotly contested Teachers' Just Dance (won by the Maths department), a photobooth, games, sales, a disco and a non-uniform day.



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2026 from all at The Tiffin Girls' School

Join the community - community.tiffingirls.org



The Year 7 Christmas Art installation in the foyer