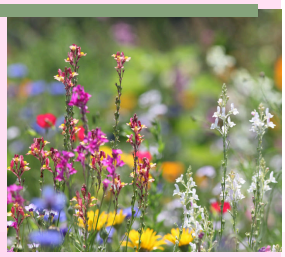
# ALUMNAE NEWS

*May her friends still be many*



Summer 2026







## The School Says Farewell to Mr Keary

After ten years of dedicated service as Headteacher at The Tiffin Girls' School, we said farewell to Mr Keary at the end of term. There were a number of separate events and opportunities to thank him over the last few weeks of term from the students, governors, staff and parents including a student led assembly celebrating Mr Keary's time at Tiffin with each year group discussing their memories of Mr Keary and presenting him with a card. The Head Girl Team also prepared a photobook with photos and messages from each form which they gave to Mr Keary in the last week of term.
Here are just some of the words from Mr Keary's leaving speech to the students, shared with parents too:

"One of my absolute favourite quotes is by Maya Angelou: 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'. I have tried to lead this school with that in mind, focusing on basic human qualities that can easily be taken for granted, but anyone can utilise them: kindness, caring, listening, helping, manners, being respectful, acting with integrity, and just having fun.

As the 12th Headteacher of this school, I have been one small cog in a magnificent history. My role has been to act as a steward for Tiffin Girls', upholding the values of an institution that has thrived for 146 years. As I depart and Ms Kilburn takes over, you have the opportunity to write the next chapter together. The school will endure, and it will get even better. You all have a role in making this the best school possible. Look out for one another, lift each other up, and show the world what Tiffin girls can do.
I leave you with one key thing to ponder. It is simply this: Action, action, action. Don't just let life happen to you. Take control. The day you decide that you are in charge of your own path, opportunity will appear all around you. Grab life by the reins. Not only will you amaze yourselves, but you will amaze the world.

Your Tiffin Girls' teal jumper and your badge represent the 146 year history of the school, and every student that has preceded you. They are symbols of thinking of others (Community), showing curiosity (Love of Learning), pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone (Character) and ultimately, 'daring to be wise'. Never forget what that stands for.



Serving this community for the last decade has been the privilege of my career. I leave knowing that the school is in great hands, and I wish you and your families a wonderful summer and the very best for the future."



# ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT



## Christine Gibbons (Class of 1975) AWARDED MBE

We were delighted to hear that Christine Gibbons was awarded an MBE in The King's Birthday Honours for services to community sport and fitness.

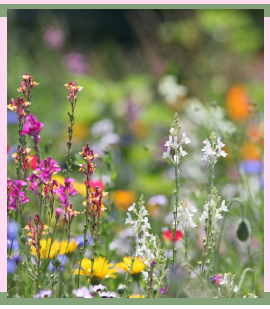
Christine is a pharmacy graduate of the University of Bath and had a distinguished career spanning hospital pharmacy, including serving as Chief Pharmacist at a London Teaching Hospital and senior hospital management as both a CEO and Director. She holds three Masters degrees and brings extensive experience from across the charity sector.

The award has been recognised for her exceptional contribution to community sport, fitness, and reducing inequalities in physical activity. Christine has dedicated many years to championing inclusive, accessible opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to be active. Her leadership and advocacy span a remarkable range of charities and organisations working to remove barriers to participation. These include Everybody Health & Leisure, Cycling UK, Access Sport, The SU, University of Bath, parkrun, and Active Sussex.

Across these roles, Christine has consistently championed the belief that movement should be a right, not a privilege, and that communities thrive when everyone can access the physical, social, and mental health benefits of being active. Her work has supported thousands of people to find welcoming, inclusive spaces to move more, connect, and build confidence.

And it’s not just meetings. Christine has personally taken part in more than 690 parkruns and volunteered 199 times in 163 different locations in 13 different countries. Her Parkrun work and her distinguished career as a chief pharmacist are parts of her lifetime commitment to community service. She has also served as a director of organisations such as the Sussex Community Foundation and Cycling UK.

Christine has been a great supporter of The Tiffin Girls’ School and earlier this year give a Tiffin Talk about her career in pharmacy. We warmly congratulate her on an honour well deserved.



# ALUMNAE EVENT NEWS

Together

## Alumni Networking Drinks



### Tiffin alumni 2009-2019 Build New Professional Network

More than 50 young alumni from The Tiffin Girls' School and Tiffin School came together on 2 July for the first joint professional networking evening, held at The Carpenter's Arms in Fitzrovia.

Designed for alumni from the Classes of 2009–2019, the event brought together former students now established in a wide range of careers, including finance, law, the Civil Service, management consultancy, technology, start-ups and innovation. The aim was simple: to strengthen connections between the two schools' alumni communities as they build their careers across London and beyond.

The evening attracted an impressive mix of professionals who were far enough into their careers to be able to offer advice, introductions and encouragement to others. Whether attendees were considering a career change, looking to recruit, seeking new opportunities or simply keen to reconnect with familiar faces, the event provided the perfect setting. The lively atmosphere of the busy Fitzrovia venue sparked countless conversations, with new connections being made throughout the evening.

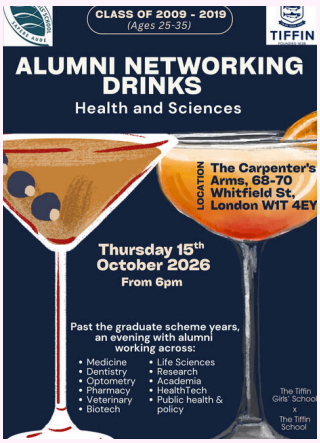
The event was a tremendous success and marks the beginning of an exciting new programme of professional networking opportunities. A huge thank you goes to Anjilika Bhandari (Class of 2016), whose energy, enthusiasm and determination turned the idea into reality.

The next events are already in the diary, with networking evenings planned for the creative industries on 17 September, health and sciences on 15 October, and a further finance networking event on 21 January 2027.

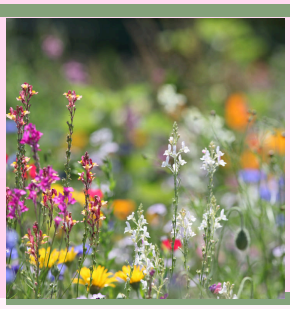
**Sept event Luma Link (Thurs 17th Sept) - creative industries and sports:**
**https://luma.com/ydru0bgh**
**Oct event Luma link (Thurs 15th Oct) - health and sciences industries:**
**https://luma.com/a48wp7l7**

Together, these events are helping to build an even stronger professional community, creating opportunities for Tiffin alumni to support one another, share expertise and open doors for the next generation.





# ALUMNAE NEWS

Summer 2026

Together

## TOGA REUNION - 3 October, 2-5pm. You are invited!



The Tiffin Old Girls' Association (TOGA) Reunion returns to The Tiffin Girls' School on Saturday 3 October 2026, and all former students are warmly invited to come back and reconnect with friends old and new.

Held every two years, the TOGA Reunion is one of the highlights of the alumnae calendar. Whether you left the school recently or many decades ago, it is a wonderful opportunity to revisit familiar corridors, reminisce about school days and see how the school has evolved.

Guests can look forward to one of the reunion's best-loved traditions – delicious homemade cakes and tea – as well as guided tours of the school led by current Sixth Form students, live music from talented Tiffin musicians, the chance to browse Tiffin merchandise, and, of course, the traditional singing of the school song.

**This year's reunion promises to be particularly special as it will be the first opportunity for many alumnae to meet Emma Kilburn (Class of 1993), who becomes Headteacher in September. Emma is the school's first ever alumna Headteacher, creating a defining moment in the history of Tiffin Girls', and she is looking forward to welcoming former students back.**

If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary of leaving Tiffin Girls' – 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986 or 1976 – this is the perfect occasion to gather with your year group, share memories, celebrate everything that has happened since your school days and perhaps even recreate an old class photograph!

Whether you're returning for nostalgia, friendship or simply to see what's changed, we hope you'll join us for what promises to be a memorable afternoon celebrating the lifelong Tiffin community.

**Tickets are £15 and can be booked here:**
**https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toga-reunion-tickets-1994828661225?aff=oddtdtcreator**

## With much sadness

We were very sad to learn of the death of Iris James, (class of 1946) on Easter Monday this year. She came to several of our recent TOGA reunions. It was an absolute joy to meet her and to hear her happy recollections of life at The Tiffin Girls' School. Whilst her memory was fading at the last reunion in 2024, she remembered every word of the school song which she sang with conviction. Iris was a great supporter of the school and wrote several letters detailing her time at Tiffin Girls' and exclaiming "I've had a wonderful life." There isn't much more one could wish for.





Summer 2026

# SCHOOL NEWS

## It all adds up -54 years of combined service to the maths department!



At the end of the academic year we said goodbye to a number of much-valued members of staff who have each made an enormous contribution to life at The Tiffin Girls' School. Among those leaving were Sara Fooks, Head of Maths, after 17 years, and Sara Krishna, who retires after an extraordinary 37 years in the Maths Department.
Our Sixth Form students spoke to Sara Krishna and Sara Fooks about their time at Tiffin, what they will miss most and what lies ahead.

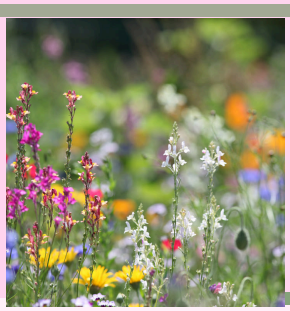
### Sara Krishna

After nearly four decades at Tiffin, Sara Krishna is looking forward to a retirement filled with learning, culture and travel. She plans to study the history of opera, philosophy and other humanities, visit art exhibitions and theatres, and travel to destinations including Bilbao, Seville, Granada, Verona and Milan. She is also hoping to explore the British Museum one room at a time, while making sure she is never away from her beloved cat, Lady Gaga, for too long.
Reflecting on her years at Tiffin, Sara said there was so much she would miss: "The curiosity of the Year 7s, the intellectual engagement of the Year 12s, the creativity shown in the Year 9 Fashion Show, the Year 7 and Year 8 Christmas film evenings, the Creative Days, school trips..." Above all, she said, "Top of the list, I shall miss the camaraderie of the Maths Department, many of whom have been good friends over the years." She concluded by wishing the school every success under the leadership of the new Headteacher, Ms Kilburn.

### Sara Fooks

who joined Tiffin in 2009, reflected on how much the school has changed over the past 17 years, from classes of 120 students and exercise books to today's larger year groups, Chromebooks and online learning platforms. Looking ahead, she is excited to enjoy more freedom, travel, exercise and time with family and friends.
Asked what she will miss most, Sara's answer centred on the people. "The interactions with Tiffin girls, especially with my sixth form classes and form. Thank you for the K-drama recommendations and our random chats!" She added that she would also miss "the camaraderie in the Maths Department and in the staff room" before joking, "Chatting feels like a bit of a theme..."
As a passionate mathematician, she couldn't resist adding, "I'll miss maths – it's the best subject!" She also reflected on one of the unexpected joys of her time at Tiffin: "I've loved joining in with things outside of my comfort zone – singing and dancing – and realising you don't need to be good at something to find it fun."

Of course, there is still one member of the Maths Department who has been there longer than anyone else....



# SCHOOL NEWS

Summer 2026

## National Champions

Congratulations to our outstanding Under 16 hockey squad, who were crowned National Tier 3 Champions at the England Hockey School Vase Finals at the Nottingham Hockey Centre earlier this year.

After a superb run to the final, the team faced a thrilling match against Tonbridge Grammar School. With the scores level, the title was decided by a penalty shoot-out, followed by a dramatic sudden-death shoot-out, where Tiffin held their nerve to secure the championship.

It is a fantastic achievement for a hugely talented group of players, carrying on the tradition of hockey excellence at the school.







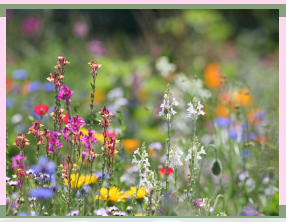
## Were you a Wimbledon Ball Girl?

For more than a decade, Tiffin Girls have been part of one of Wimbledon's most cherished traditions. Since 2012, students from the school have been selected to serve as Wimbledon Ball Girls, joining a programme that dates back to 1977, with Ball Girls first appearing on Centre Court in 1985.

The selection process is famously demanding. Around 1,400 students from partner schools apply each year, with only around 280 Ball Boys and Girls ultimately chosen. Successful applicants complete months of intensive training in ball rolling, ball feeding, court movement and fitness, alongside speed and written tests that assess both their skills and knowledge of the role.

This year, current student, Vivienne, achieved the remarkable distinction of completing her fourth consecutive Wimbledon Championships as a Ball Girl. She earned a place on the prestigious show courts, including Centre Court and No. 1 Court, working alongside some of the world's greatest tennis players. The role demands exceptional discipline, concentration and resilience. As Vivienne explains: "We're working at Wimbledon from 10am - 10pm, so not only are you incredibly tired physically from your 1 hour shifts, you're also drained mentally. Every hour that you go on court, you're completely attentive for that 1 hour. Your concentration can't stray for even a second. Our role is to serve the players. The better we are, the less you notice us." Among her many highlights have been ball-girling for legends including Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic. However, she says the greatest rewards have been the confidence, self-belief and lifelong friendships she has gained, as well as the teamwork, composure under pressure and attention to detail that will benefit her far beyond Wimbledon.

If you were a Wimbledon Ball Girl during your time at school, do get in touch and share your stories and photographs – we'd be delighted to feature some of your memories in a future edition of the newsletter.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The TiffinTalk Programme

One of the greatest strengths of the Tiffin Girls' community is the willingness of our alumnae to give back by sharing their experience, advice and encouragement with current students. Our online TiffinTalks have continued to provide invaluable insights into a wide range of careers, helping students to explore different professions and better understand the many routes available to them after school.



In January, our TiffinTalk focused on careers in **accounting and tax,**featuring **Jane Gill, Head of Tax Strategy at GSK, Nicola Arnold (Class of 1987), Chief Financial Officer at Jisc, and Amy Rubens (Class of 2020),** who shared her experience of entering the profession through an apprenticeship at PwC. Together, they demonstrated the wide range of opportunities available within the sector.

**In** March, **Christine Gibbons MBE (Class of 1975)** gave a fascinating insight into careers in **pharmacy**, drawing on her extensive experience as a pharmacist, NHS executive and, more recently, a graduate in Global Public Health.

Our May TiffinTalk focused on **management consulting, with Ziqi Yan**, formerly of McKinsey, and **Alice Grant (Class of 2005)**, founder of Lightspeed Consulting Inc. They shared their different career journeys and offered practical advice on breaking into this competitive profession.

The final talk of the year, in June, featured **Violet Marcel (Class of 2007)**, Senior Associate in the Tax team at Clifford Chance, who spoke about her experiences working as a solicitor following a law degree and time spent in a state legislature in the United States.

A huge thank you to all our alumnae who have given their time so generously.
If you would be interested in speaking at a future TiffinTalk or sharing your career insights with students in any field, we would love to hear from you: **n.edwards@tiffingirls.org.**



## Careers Fair 2026

We will be holding our next Careers Fair on Thursday 5 November from 6pm – 8pm. We've received fantastic support for this from our community of alumnae, parents and carers in the past, and if any of you are interested in representing their industry or company at this year's event, **please contact Careers Lead, Karin Austin: K.austin@tiffingirls.org.** We already have a range of companies and universities signed up to attend, including Jaguar Land Rover, Imperial, City St. George's, SOAS, Munich Re, NHS and BAe Systems.

## Medics Conference 2026

Our deputy Head Girls for community, Meghna and Amaly, hosted a very successful Medics'conference in March. The conference had a range of guest speakers, including dermatologists, oncologists, and former Tiffin Girls Myesha, a first-year Medical Student and Dr Caroline Knight, a Consultant Obstetrician at St Thomas' Hospital. The students also took part in a diagnosis game and had helpful talks on aspects of the Medicine application process, such as interviews, the UCAT, super curricular activities and a talk from Mowon, last year's Head Girl, on applying for medicine at Oxbridge.





# CONNECT

## Join the community...

It has been wonderful to meet the alumnae who have come back to the school and we are so grateful to them all for the support they give the school. From reunions to online career talks for students and their parents, to in person conferences for local schools, the school is a much richer place because of our alumnae community.

### The Alumnae Committee

We are looking for more alumnae across all year groups to join our committee. Help shape events, support professional growth, and direct TOGA fund allocations.

Meetings are held online several times a year - please do consider volunteering!

Let us know: alumnae@tiffingirls.org

### Connect with the Tiffin Old Girls and Alumnae community

**community.tiffingirls.org**

Join The Tiffin Girls' Together community to:

- Connect with friends and colleagues
- Offer or receive mentoring and career advice
- Access reunions, events, and alumnae news
- Share updates and build your profile
- Browse photo galleries

# SUPPORT

### Tiffin Tiles

***A memorable way to support the school***

Leave a lasting mark at Tiffin Girls' with a beautifully engraved tile. Choose your own name, celebrate a group of friends, or honour a teacher or loved one. Two sizes available.

Scan the QR code or visit community.tiffingirls.org to order.




### TOGA Merchandise

We are currently ordering new stock across our merchandise range. Please contact: alumnae@tiffingirls.org to express your interest or place an order.

Christmas will be here before you know it!





# SUPPORT

## Thank You for Supporting the Boiler Appeal

A huge thank you to all our alumnae who supported our Boiler Appeal. Thanks to your incredible generosity, together with gifts from parents, staff and friends of the school, we raised more than £52,000 towards the school's contribution to its new heating system.

This was a fantastic result and has made a real difference. The new system has ensured the school has reliable heating once again and, as an added benefit, also provides cooling in the gyms and school hall – something that has been especially appreciated during this summer's warm weather.

Your support helps ensure that current and future Tiffin students can learn, perform and thrive in a comfortable environment all year round. Thank you for helping make this important project a success.

## Donate

*"Being a Tiffin girl is everything. The opportunities, experiences and facilities we enjoy here encourage us to step outside of our comfort zones and explore our passions. We grow and learn in a way that will enable us to make positive change in the future."*

***Charline and Mitra, Year 10***

The Support Tiffin Girls' School Company (STGSC) is an independent registered charity (number1069996) which was set up in 1998 in order to raise funds for the school to improve and expand educational facilities and opportunities, and support the health and welfare of the students, so they may fully realise their potential. Additionally it supplements the educational provision and facilities for sport, art, music, IT and DT.

The school's motto is 'Our community is vibrant, curious, creative and inspires positive change. We dare to be wise'. We cannot deliver on that vision alone - we need your help to make the difference.

**Give online**



**Set up a regular donation**



**Gift Aid It**



**Leave a legacy**



Please visit community.tiffingirls.org/supportus to find out more and to make a donation. If you would like to discuss a gift or discuss ways you can give to the school, please contact the school.

