

# THE HEADINGTONIAN

| 2019 |



CELEBRATING  
OUR YEAR OF  
LANGUAGES



**FLYING THE FLAG**



**BEYOND HEADINGTON**



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## DEAR HEADINGTONIANS...



**W**elcome to this year's Headingtonian, the magazine for our alumnae network.

This has been an exciting year for us as we have been celebrating the Year of Languages at Headington. At a time when the UK is making major decisions about the nation's footprint, we continue to applaud our diverse culture at Headington and our ever-increasing global reach. It's rewarding to see just how many of our alumnae are using languages learnt in our classrooms in their world of work, and

we are extremely proud of the many Headingtonians who are making such a positive impact across the world in so many different ways.

We know that by the time students leave Headington, they have made some of the most important friendships of their lives. To help members of the Headington community stay in contact with each other and the School, we are delighted to have recently launched Headington Connect, the official online networking platform for the Headington School community. It allows Headingtonians, Sixth Form students, current and former parents to engage with one another and develop career mentoring, work experience and business networking opportunities with people who share a common bond – Headington School.

We are very excited about this new development for Headington and I encourage you to join the platform ([www.headingtonconnect.org](http://www.headingtonconnect.org)), whether that's to make professional connections or re-connect with old classmates, and just like Kate Seaton, you may even find yourself living next door to a Headingtonian when you move to a new city! (see page 30).

We hope that you will enjoy reading the articles and updates in this year's magazine. Whether you left Headington last summer, five, or fifty years ago, we look forward to welcoming you back, for Headingtons' Day or when you are next in Oxford.

**CAROLINE JORDAN**  
Headmistress



**I**t has been a busy year at Headington, full of events and opportunities designed to strengthen, support and shape the unique relationship we all have with Headington. I hope that you have had the chance to sample some, allowing you to reconnect with familiar and new faces, and like me, enjoyed those you have attended.

The Headington community is incredibly supportive and we are keen to promote a lifelong connection with the School. At the Careers Fair

in March, it was particularly gratifying to welcome back so many Headingtonians who volunteered their time – alongside parents and other friends of Headington – to come back to talk with students as they start making their choices about 'what next?' for life beyond the School gates. It is wonderful to have so many people in the Headington community engaged in shaping the lives of the next generation and we are keen to foster this culture of giving back.

In this edition of the Headingtonian magazine, I particularly enjoyed reading the interview with Amber Sconce, who was awarded a boarding bursary to study A levels at Headington (see page 46). It's reading stories like this that made me reflect on just how much a Headington education gave me, and I know many of us feel the same.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this year's magazine, which commemorates the Year of Languages theme currently being celebrated across the School and showcases the many talents of our Headingtonians.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to Headingtonians' Day on Saturday 15th June where we will be saying some special goodbyes to some extremely valued and long-serving members of staff and wishing them well for their retirement. And if you are not able to make Headingtonians' Day this year, I hope to meet you at one of our events over the next year!

**JANE WOODCOCK (1975)**  
Chairman of the Headingtonians

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF  
**HEADINGTON CONNECT**



### WHY JOIN HEADINGTON CONNECT?

- Reconnect with old friends from Headington
- Search for Headingtonians who are in the same part of the world as you
- Find a member of the Headington Community to offer you advice on your next move and how to progress in your chosen career
- Make new professional connections with a common bond
- Share your career expertise and knowledge by becoming a Mentor
- Quick and easy to join – Sync with your LinkedIn profile



Share an update or photo...

Anyone with a connection to the School is welcomed as part of the Headington Association. Our community goes far beyond the School walls, extending to all our Headingtonians, current and former parents and other friends of the School.

Headington has a dedicated Development team, who play an important role in bringing the School's wider community together and promoting a life-long connection with Headington.

We have recently launched **Headington Connect**, an online platform which allows the Headington community to engage with one another and develop career mentoring, work experience and business networking opportunities, as well as having access to social opportunities. Headington is very fortunate in having such a diverse range of professionals amongst our community, and our activities are designed to strengthen, support and shape the unique relationship we all have with Headington.

Thinking about the next step into the world of work, either landing your first job or looking for a career change can feel like a daunting prospect but with Headington Connect you can reach out to people who have already said they are willing to help and are keen to support Headingtonians.

If you would like to be a mentor and want to share your expertise and guide fellow Headingtonians or current Sixth Form students, you may have just the information to help them take their next step.

We recognise that you may well change your job, career or location many times, therefore Headington Connect allows you to find connections within the Headington community wherever you are.

Headington Connect is a platform for you to take advantage of – source career advice, find a mentor, reconnect with a lost friend or even arrange your own event with other Headingtonians close to you.

You can sign up in less than two minutes by syncing your LinkedIn or Facebook profile, or sign up with your email address. Join today at [www.headingtonconnect.org](http://www.headingtonconnect.org)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Development Office at [headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org).

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### HEADINGTON CONNECT GRANT

The Headington Connect Grant is now open to applications to support and help the future development of Headingtonians.

Find out more on page 18!



Sign up with Facebook



Sign up with LinkedIn



Sign up with Email

**JOIN TODAY**

[headingtonconnect.org](http://headingtonconnect.org)

# THE HEADINGTONIANS' YEAR

## HONG KONG RECEPTION

Our Hong Kong community is a very special part of Headington School and we are extremely proud of our long and successful relationship with Hong Kong. In September 2018, Caroline Jordan hosted an event at the Hong Kong Football Club to bring together our parents, Headingtonians and other friends and supporters of the school, providing the opportunity to share recent news and upcoming development plans. Ada Lee (Headingtonian, 1997) and Winston Lai (Parent) also made presentations to Dr Jennette Jefferies, First Deputy Head, who is retiring this summer after 34 years at Headington, thanking her for her continued support to Hong Kong.



## RDFZ: MARTIN AND MORAG TAYLOR

Our much beloved art teachers, Martin and Morag Taylor, who retired last summer, joined James Stephenson, Head of IB, on a trip to Beijing to The RDFZ Chaoyang Branch School, sister school of Headington this year. While there, they participated in several GCSE and A/AS Level lessons and presented a lecture to students who were interested in applying to study art and design in the UK. They also had the opportunity to join the whole school trip to walk on the Great Wall of China and it was a brilliant way to start their retirement.



## REMEMBRANCE CONCERT

In November we held a concert for Remembrance-tide, including choral music from Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* and Faure's *Requiem* as well as orchestral music by Butterworth and Elgar. Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir performed, together with a staff and parents' choir formed especially for the occasion. Over 130 members of the Headington community attended the concert to mark the important occasion.



## SENIOR SCHOOL LUNCH

This year we held our first Senior School 'Lunch', where over 100 parents and members of the Headington community attended to experience school lunch, learn more about the general day-to-day life at Headington, and to make connections with familiar and new faces.



## CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

We enjoyed the return of our popular Christmas Wreath Making Workshop, hosted by Lucy Bartlett from Petite Fleur Oxford, with mulled wine and mince pies flowing all round. We were delighted to welcome Headingtonians, parents and staff to a wonderfully creative afternoon which helped everyone get into the festive spirit.





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## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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The annual Carol Service was held once again at the prestigious Christ Church Cathedral in the centre of Oxford. Hundreds of members of the wider Headington community came together to celebrate the end of term and the festive period with carols led by the Chamber Choir and readings from students.



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## THE JANET YOUNG MEMORIAL LECTURE

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This year the Janet Young Memorial Lecture was given by Consultant Neurosurgeon Jayaratnam Jayamohan. Jay was involved in making the BBC series *Children's Craniofacial Surgery* and *Brain Doctors*, and is a Headington parent. He discussed the pros and cons of being a surgeon, shared stories about his care of children and young people with neurosurgical conditions and highlighted the important things to consider when applying for medicine in a humbling and eye-opening lecture entitled, 'How I learned to stop worrying and love neurosurgery'. The theatre was full of members of the wider Headington community as well as students interested in pursuing a career in medicine.



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## CAREERS FAIR

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Our biannual Careers Fair was a great success and a special thanks goes to all those parents and Headingtonians who volunteered their time talking with both students and recent Headingtonians looking for careers advice. We are fortunate to have such a wide and impressive range of careers represented amongst our community, especially former students who make great role models for our pupils. The evening was made even more special as we also launched our new online networking platform, Headington Connect which gives our Sixth Form the opportunity to connect with the professionals around them, and an understanding of the importance of networking and making professional connections.



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## BENEFACTORS' EVENING

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We are extremely grateful to all those in our community who contribute their time, expertise or make a financial donation, and this evening was an opportunity for us to thank people who have contributed to Headington's success by supporting the school. We were delighted to host the evening in our newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre. As well as hearing from the Head Girls, guests were treated to delicious refreshments from our superb catering team, and enjoyed musical entertainment from Sixth Formers Emily Morgan, Katya Davission, Jemima Cairns and Headingtonian and staff member Vicky Huggett (2014).



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## PEGGY DUNN SOCIETY LUNCH

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During the Spring Term we held our third Peggy Dunn Society lunch. The society is named after former Headmistress, Peggy Dunn who left a substantial bequest to the School when she died in 2012. The lunch allowed us to thank members of the Society for their commitment and loyalty to Headington, ensuring that we can continue to enable talented girls from modest backgrounds to enjoy the benefits of an excellent education, and also ensure that the School remains competitive in terms of its facilities. Guests were joined by Headmistress Caroline Jordan, Head Girl Emily Morgan and Head of Day Katya Davission for a wonderful lunch. If you are interested in learning more about the Peggy Dunn Society, please contact Helen Batchelor at [hbatchelor@headington.org](mailto:hbatchelor@headington.org).



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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To sign up for an upcoming event, please contact the Development Office

([headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org) or 01865 759101).

- Sunday 12th May: **Town and Gown Run** (Oxford University Parks)
- Saturday 15th June: **Headingtonians' Day** (Headington School)
- Sunday 16th June: **Tennis Tournament** (Headington School)
- Saturday 6th July: **Foundation Day** (Headington School)

Headingtonians' Day in 2020 will take place on Saturday 13th June.

If you are in Oxford and would like to visit us, please do get in touch. We would love to welcome you back to school to reminisce and take a look at the new facilities.

*We hope that you can join us for this year's Headingtonians' Day on Saturday 15th June 2019. A great annual, informal get-together for Headingtonians of all ages. It is the perfect opportunity to get all your old school friends together, have a snoop around the school, see what's changed and what's stayed the same as you share memories over a glass of wine or two!*



# HEADINGTONIANS' DAY 2019

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2019**



Helen Phadnis (née Birch, 1998),  
Kathryn Hughes (née Stewart, 1998)



L-R Kate Higgins (née Scott, 1988), Nicky Jones (née Davies, 1988),  
Kiki Glen (1990, Headingtonians' Committee member)

## TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

- 11.30am **Headingtonians' Committee AGM**
- 12.00pm **Welcome Drinks**
- 1.00pm **Lunch (including leaving staff presentations)**
- 3.00pm **Afternoon tea for family and friends**

Leavers from 2008 celebrate their 10 year reunion 2018





## LEAVING STAFF

Headingtonians' Day is a chance to celebrate the contributions of leaving members of staff who will be retiring. This year, we will be saying goodbye to several much loved, long-term members of staff;

<b>Carolyn Al-Sabouni</b>	Head of Science, 27 years
<b>Helen Brooks</b>	Biology, 25 years
<b>Maureen Cooper</b>	Head of Piano, 26 years
<b>Dr Jennette Jefferies</b>	First Deputy Head, 34 years
<b>Sally Wilkinson</b>	History, 24 years
<b>Lynn Winkworth</b>	Chartered Librarian, 18 years

We hope you can be with us to celebrate and wish them all the best for their retirement.



Anna Hutchison, Jennette Jefferies, Carole Knight



## SPECIAL REUNIONS

We would love to see as many Headingtonians as possible back at the School for this year's Headingtonians' Day, but especially hope that those celebrating important anniversary years can be there (2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969 and 1959 year groups).

## TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On Sunday 16th June we will also be arranging a Headington tennis tournament, open to all in the Headington community. If you are visiting Oxford for the weekend, why not get a group together, enjoy a casual game of tennis and join us for a BBQ afterwards.

## SIGN UP NOW!

To sign up for **Headingtonians' Day** and/or the **Tennis Tournament**, please visit [www.headington.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.headington.eventbrite.co.uk) or contact the Development Office ([headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org) or **+44 (0)1865 759101**).

# DEAL OR NO DEAL

## THE IMPORTANCE OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

JONATHAN MARSHALL

HEAD OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Headington School's Head Girl, *Emily Morgan* interviewed *Jonathan Marshall*, Head of Modern Foreign Languages. As an A Level Languages student she speaks with Jonathan about the importance of languages in today's world and he gives his advice as she takes her next steps into further education, studying languages.

*"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."*

NELSON MANDELA

### Tell us more about the Nelson Mandela quote?

I chose this quote as I feel it sums up the importance of languages in the world and more specifically learning languages. Learning languages is not just about learning the vocabulary or the grammar; when you make the effort to learn someone's mother tongue with other people from around the world you are establishing a rapport with that person which is very different than if you were speaking your own native language. I feel that at times we underestimate this aspect of learning languages and that in speaking someone else's language you are not only recognising their point of view and understanding their culture, but also meeting them on the same terms and at the same level. Just like the day Nelson Mandela was released,

he stayed an extra hour to have lunch with his captors as a symbolic gesture. By Nelson Mandela learning his captors' mother tongue he engaged with his enemies and in doing so, showed that in order to have a more equal world, this is what matters. At Headington, we want to encourage a worldly outlook, but even more importantly, we want our students to leave with a willingness to learn other languages and take opportunities that arise. No matter where your career takes you or what sort of life you lead, you will definitely need to establish rapport with other people from other backgrounds.

### What made you first interested in learning languages?

So there were two main things for me; firstly I had really inspiring teachers at School, the lessons were really interactive and particularly in the Sixth Form I really enjoyed the small, in depth discussions. Secondly, at the age of thirteen I had a German penpal, who I am still in touch with and meet up with each year. I was able to visit my penpal in Germany and was instantly intrigued by the country and the culture.

### How many languages do you speak?

I speak English, German and French and a tiny bit of Mandarin. Mandarin is my long term challenge!

### Since joining us in 2016, tell us about some of your highlights so far?

There have been so many and too many to mention! Having the opportunity to go on our exchange trips is always a highlight as well as special events. Last year for example, the language and science department combined and we designed an international space hotel with L5. It was really fun seeing it all come together. I have particularly enjoyed working with the language ambassadors which has really taken off - they put together a magazine called *Paroli* which is a great focus and project for students to work on outside of the classroom. As a teacher, it has also been great to see the pupils from last year's U6, who I taught, go on to study languages at University and beyond.



### What has been happening at Headington for the Year of Languages?

We have been doing loads - more special events, we have held immersion days, and hosted guests from local schools and had a number of days with them, including a superb German film day. We have had masterclasses in multilingual



translation and have enjoyed talks by diplomat Sir Christopher Hum, and sports journalist Chris Dennis. Both were great as they provided a real insight into how languages are applicable in the real world. As well as events we have had a number of trips, including a trip to Berlin with Abingdon Boys and a number of exchanges including Barcelona, Montpellier, Aachen and Paris. As a linguist, I believe exchanges have such a big impact. Scientific studies even indicate that a week on an exchange is equal to three months worth of language lessons, when it comes to speaking the lingo.

**Why do you think it's important to learn languages?**

There are a number of reasons, but coming back to Mandela, if you are able to speak another language you are not only able to build rapport more easily but it allows you to fully immerse yourself in that culture and see unique insights into a country that you would not otherwise experience. As well as learning how to speak a language, linguists develop other skills without even really realising it! They are often highly analytical, open minded and

resilient, which are all traits employers are actively looking for, especially in today's society. Learning one language can also be a catalyst for learning others. You may be required to quickly pick up another language for work and it can be a lot easier if you already have a foundation in languages. It has been brilliant to hear from all our Headingtonians in the 'Going places with Languages' article as some have done exactly that!

**Thinking about today's society, what are your thoughts on whether Brexit will affect second language demand?**

When it happens, the demand for a second language is likely to increase. It will mean that all of a sudden we need to strike up relationships with new trading partners around the world, without our European neighbours being at our side to do the talking for us. We now need to be able to speak up, learn these languages and strike up those trade deals for ourselves. The demand for specialist linguists is going to go up as it will be needed at upper levels in diplomacy, business and security services due to our more distant relationship with the European Union. Many

emerging economies do not speak English and we can no longer be reliant on our 'neighbours'. If you can speak someone else's language you are immediately meeting them on their terms, immediately striking up that rapport which means they are more likely to listen to you and you are ultimately more likely to secure the business deal, or trade agreement!

**As a student going to study languages at University, what advice would you give me?**

I would suggest taking every chance to listen, watch and fully immerse yourself in a language. Take every opportunity to visit the county, and in particular on your year abroad at University I would get involved in something where you are able to meet a range of different people from different backgrounds, for example a language assistant in a school abroad or an internship in a foreign embassy. Whatever you end up doing on your year abroad, make sure you enjoy it and travel light (I didn't!); it makes life easier. Finally, if you happen to get the chance to learn another language, take the opportunity as you never know where it will take you.

# OUR YEAR OF LANGUAGES



## TAKING LANGUAGES TO OUTER SPACE

Year of Languages was kicked off with a collaborative venture between the Science and Languages departments with pupils working in teams to design the systems for a luxury space hotel. Once created, pupils then approached international companies selling spaceship materials to find out the cost of the key components. They rose to the challenge of using their language skills to barter over the price, before filming a TV advert in French, Spanish or German to attract guests from around the world.



## A TASTE OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

A taste of something different for our students this year at the Languages Day Fair. They took part in a variety of activities from sampling a range of food items from different European countries and playing pétanque on the lawn to practising their papyrus writing at the Latin stall. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time sampling European culture, with the various food tasting stalls being a particular hit!



## LANGUAGES = PASSPORT TO JOURNALISM

Want to become a journalist? - learn languages! We welcomed Chris Dennis, freelance sports broadcast journalist who reports regularly in English, French, Spanish and Mandarin for the BBC, Eurosport and other world-renowned broadcasters to Headington. He gave us a fascinating insight into how languages give you the edge in the world of journalism. Pupils then tried their hand at creating a voice-over for an interview Chris recorded with Rafael Nadal.



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## ON EXCHANGE IN BARCELONA

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A spot of sun in Spain this year on the 5th Form exchange to Barcelona! During their full immersion experience, the students stayed with their exchange partners' families, experiencing real daily life in Spain while improving their Spanish skills. They had the opportunity to learn about Spanish culture by visiting El Pueblo Español, the Gothic Quarter and the cathedral, and the numerous buildings by the famous modernist architect Antoni Gaudi, including the unfinished church of Sagrada Familia. Naturally there was also some time for shopping at Las Arenas, a modern shopping centre built into a former bull-fighting arena.

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## CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS FRENCH

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A day starting with pastries is always a good day, which is exactly how our French IB and A Level students began their visit to Alliance Française in Oxford. The day was followed by a workshop on French cinema which allowed students to improve their knowledge of the "septième art". After lunch at Pierre Victoire, the afternoon was spent in the Ashmolean Museum getting a private tour of some unusual French items.



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## LANGUAGES FOR LIFE WITH SIR CHRISTOPHER HUM

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To help us understand how languages can enrich our lives, we welcomed Sir Christopher Hum, former British ambassador and diplomat, to Headington. He spoke to our Sixth Formers and L5 and, having been posted to Beijing, Paris, Brussels and the United Nations, Sir Christopher was able to open the students' eyes to the wealth of opportunities languages can bring in a world of rapid social, political and economic change. He shared anecdotes about his life as an ambassador and diplomat, the advantages of speaking to someone in their own language and some thoughts about the most beautiful languages, before answering questions on everything from the South China Seas to how best to deal with language barriers.

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## FROM CHECKPOINT CHARLIE TO CHRISTMAS MARKETS

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On a trip to Berlin with Abingdon School, a group of U4 and L6 enjoyed the sights, sounds, history and culture of the German capital. The chilly weather added to the festive feel of the trip, during which they combined a number of visits to historical and cultural sites around the city including the GDR Museum, Checkpoint Charlie, the iconic Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial, the Olympic Stadium and many other fascinating locations. The Sixth formers went to the theatre and explored Berlin's underground Unterwelten, a subterranean museum exploring the city's underground history. And of course all pupils also enjoyed spending time in Berlin's world-famous Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets) to do some last minute Christmas shopping and sample some traditional German festive delights such as kinderpunsch and stollen. Students got their steps in, as they walked over 30 miles during the trip and are now experts in using the U-Bahn!



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## GERMAN FILM DAY

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Do you know how to watch a film properly? This year our U4 Germanists learned how! Headington was delighted to host a German Film Day with visitors from Abingdon School, John Mason School and Cheney. We welcomed Karolina Watroba from the University of Oxford to deliver an inspiring programme of talks and interactive activities based on a number of areas of German cinema and the students were taught the correct way to watch a film! The day was a huge success, enabling the pupils to engage in an influential aspect of German artistic culture.

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## ACTING OUT WITH LANGUAGES

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Students clamoured to get on stage to get involved in dramatic productions with the Onatti Theatre Company this year. In a French play, 'La salles des énigmes' and a Spanish play, 'El Viajo Saloon', the two actors spoke entirely in French and Spanish, encouraging the students to join them on stage. This was the perfect opportunity for the students to practise their spoken languages and step outside of their comfort zones!





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## GETTING LOST IN TRANSLATION

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Our Language Ambassadors and pupils from John Mason and Cheney Schools enjoyed a taste of life as professional interpreters and translators. Christopher MacLehose, the acclaimed champion of translated fiction regaled pupils with tales of the publishing world. Having brought works translated from over 34 different languages to an English-speaking audience - including Stieg Larson's 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' - he was the perfect introduction to the ensuing masterclasses. Pupils tried their hand at translating humour, simultaneous translation in the style of a United Nations interpreter and comic strip translation. Watch this space for future Headingtonian translators.



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## VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

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Our Modern Languages and Music departments joined forces for The 'Love' Cabaret. The main hall was transformed into a true café-concert style, creating an intimate and cosy cabaret and the audience was blown away by the amazing singing acts on offer that evening. The audience was treated to impressive performances in a variety of languages from a number of students and members of the Modern Languages Department. It is not an easy task to sing live in a foreign language but all performances were outstanding.



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## INTERNATIONAL WEEK

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Did you know there are 51 different languages, other than English, which are spoken fluently by Headington students? This was just one of the daily quiz questions around school during International Week. This year's International Week was made extra special in line with the Year of Languages. Events included an assembly celebrating the ways pupils immerse themselves in languages from our French homestay in Montpellier to our U4 Berlin trip in conjunction with Abingdon School, interspersed with soloists singing in French and Italian and a performance by the German Band. We hosted a Sixth Form debate on the economic relationship between the UK and Spain in a post-Brexit world, a Spanish dancing taster session and the much anticipated International Evening. The week culminated with a lunchtime fair which featured singing in foreign languages by boarders and day girls, a Chinese tea tasting and activities in Arabic, Italian, German and French.



# HEADINGTON CONNECT GRANT

*Even after leaving Headington, we encourage you to have a life-long connection with the School. As a Headingtonian, our aim is to continue to support and help your future development through career mentoring, work experience and business networking opportunities available through Headington Connect. To celebrate the launch of Headington Connect, the Development Office has launched the Headington Connect Grant.*

## Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

Headingtonians who are still in full-time higher education, or who have recently graduated.

## What is on offer?

An opportunity to apply for a grant (up to £200) towards expeditions, charitable work or medical electives. The grant is not intended to support higher education courses, second degrees, etc. Any award granted is for

the personal use of Headingtonians, rather than for the general use of organisations.

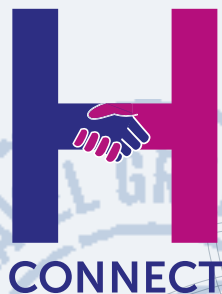
## How to apply?

Please join Headington Connect ([www.headingtonconnect.org](http://www.headingtonconnect.org)) and complete the Headington Grant application form by 31st May 2019. Applications will be reviewed by the Development team and the School Development Committee and the successful applicants will be announced on Headington Connect by July 2019.

## What happens next?

All grant recipients will be asked to write a report of approximately 300-500 words on their project/experience for the School to use in the Headingtonian Magazine and on social media, and accept an invitation to speak at School (at a convenient time, of course). Your travel expenses for the latter will be refunded.

**If you have any queries, please contact Alice McLinden on 01865 759101 or [headingtonians@headington.org](mailto:headingtonians@headington.org)**



# MAKING ADVENTURE A LIFESTYLE

HARRIET PIKE

(NÉE FICKLING) 2001

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*Is having a baby the end of sustaining an adventurous lifestyle or is motherhood the greatest adventure? We spoke with inspiring Headingtonian Harriet Pike, mother to Fitz (aged 20 months) and who is expecting her second baby in April 2019. Harriet is an explorer of great mountain ranges, born cyclist and member of the Adventure Syndicate, and explains how she is balancing motherhood with adventure.*

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***“People all have an opinion on how you should be raising your baby and handling these opinions is probably the biggest challenge.”***

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### **What is your biggest achievement?**

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My husband Neil and I have been on all our adventures together, but by far our biggest achievement was cycling to and climbing 9 x 6,400m peaks back to back in the Puna de Atacama on a trip we nicknamed Puna 9. This area is virtually uninhabited with very little water and so we had to carry eight days of food at a time and often the only safe source of water was the snow

we found at the top of the peaks. At the start, we were not at all sure that it would be possible to cycle the route we had planned (using Google Earth), let alone climb the peaks.

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### **What is your definition of adventure?**

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I think everyone’s idea of adventure is different based on their own experience, and evolves with our own life experiences. In essence, I think an adventure is any experience that puts us out of





our comfort zone and challenges us and when you can't know what the outcome will be. At first, undertaking a four day trek may seem an adventure, then a 14 day trek, and then trekking the length of Nepal. Looking back, that four day trek is not an adventure anymore but a holiday!

For my toddler, Fitz, everything seems an adventure, from trying new foods to stroking a dog; I enjoy watching his battles and achievements. I now work for an adventure travel company, and understanding what each customer's definition of adventure is, is what can make or break their trip.

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### **Tell us about your work at Swoop Patagonia?**

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When I wanted to 'settle down', I joined Swoop Patagonia, a small company that specialises in Patagonian Adventures. Swoop serves anyone who wants to go to Patagonia whether they want luxury, wilderness adventures or help with self guided treks. Most travel companies work with one operator in each country, but what is really fun and what I love about Swoop is that we work with hundreds of different guides, hotels and experts throughout the region. I started out planning and selling people's trips, but now using

my Patagonia knowledge, I also lead strategy projects to make the company become more efficient so we can arrange more awesome adventures and with a higher level of service.

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### **You now have Fitz tagging along on your adventures: how do you combine Mum life with adventure life?**

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Day to day, I have found my running buggy and Fitz's bike seat invaluable for allowing me my freedom to get outdoors, keeping fit whilst bringing Fitz along with me. I can't wait for Fitz to start cycling too so we can go mountain biking together. He has also camped his whole life so it is quite normal for him now, and I hope that when he learns to speak he will tell me he enjoys it!

It is important to me that Fitz is part of my adventures and I don't separate motherhood from adventures. When Fitz was three months old we trekked the GR11 trekking route in the Pyrenees. I found that Fitz would spot swaying grasses, a scuttling squirrel or a strange cloud. I really appreciated having to go slowly instead of losing sight of things because I had a physical challenge to achieve. It allows me to see everything through his eyes and it feels like witnessing things for the first time. I had become a bit blasé about the

incredible places that I was travelling to, and missed those "wow I've never seen anything like this" moments. I can now get these moments vicariously through Fitz.

When we trekked in Morocco a couple of months ago we also found that having Fitz with us opened doors and broke the ice with local people, which gave us a very different experience to the one we would have had on our own. More recently, when trekking in the highlands, Neil, Fitz and I were filmed and interviewed as part of a film called 'Adventures in Motherland' which is being created by Katrína Brown, who is documenting the extent to which motherhood is a trade-off with adventure. She is a super hardcore mountain biker and has involved some really cool adventure chicas who, like me, are part of an organisation called the Adventure Syndicate. I cannot wait to see the final film!

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### **Tell us more about The Adventure Syndicate?**

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The Adventure Syndicate is an organisation that I have been involved with that aims to inspire, encourage and enable more people, especially women and girls, to get out on their bikes and challenge themselves. We aim to inspire people through our adventures, we run training camps in which people encourage one another, and we enable them to get out there by running bikepacking courses. They are currently running bikepacking courses for a number of teenage girls in the highlands and watching them stepping out of their comfort zone, facing up to a challenge and then being super psyched once they've achieved something is simply awesome.

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### What has been your biggest challenge?

Everything is just harder when you are a Mum, everything takes longer and you are always sleep deprived. It is often a challenge and I must admit there are some days we don't get out of the house. I've had to sacrifice

some of my own goals for the time being (for example I am not as involved in the Adventure Syndicate as I would like).

People all have an opinion on how you should be raising your baby and handling these opinions is probably the biggest challenge. Before I had Fitz and I went on a trek, people would either 'get it' or they would think you are really hardcore (which I'm not) and respect you for that. Now with Fitz coming on adventures with me, the people who don't "get it" ask me if I should be doing that with a young child. I noticed this first in pregnancy, I cycled up until four days before Fitz was born. I felt fine, I had assessed the risks, and just cycled off-road. I'd done research and it appeared to have more benefits than risks and yet I was questioned or told I shouldn't cycle. I need to strike a balance between taking Fitz on adventures, whilst ensuring his safety and making sure I am not being irresponsible. I am sure there are occasions, like last weekend, when I slithered down a very steep, muddy hill, seven months pregnant with my toddler on my back, when I think I am doing the right thing and others would disagree.

One of the biggest challenges I've faced with adventuring, is adjusting to normal life after the adventure. Having spent years travelling, with

everyday being very different, it was hard to come home and adjust to a 9 to 6 office job, but in the end I craved a home and community. It can get tiresome explaining who you are everyday!

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### What's the next adventure?

I am expecting a baby in April so that in itself is an adventure, but in terms of outdoor adventures, our next trip will probably be to Peru in August. We wrote a hiking and biking guidebook to the Cordillera Blanca and Huayhuash 5 years ago, and we would like to go back and share those mountains with our two babies whilst updating the guidebook. I am also hoping to get my fitness back as quickly as possible and enter some adventure races.

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### What advice would you give to someone looking for adventure, but isn't sure where to start?

1, It doesn't cost a fortune to challenge yourself and get out of your comfort zone, so just do it and then build up to bigger, longer and more challenging adventures.

2, Get the best waterproofs and footwear, and you can do almost anything!

[www.swoop-patagonia.com](http://www.swoop-patagonia.com)

# HOST MY HOUSE

INTERVIEW WITH  
**EMMA SHIPPERLEY**

2011

*It's 10 years since Airbnb was founded, but the global sharing economy has continued to grow and evolve. Emma Shipperley (2011) talks about how she took the leap into setting up her business **Host My House** in this growing industry.*

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**Tell us about your business and your decision to start?**

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I've always wanted to start my own business, but I was never sure what my niche would be. I've come to realise that rather than frantically searching for that 'million dollar' idea, these opportunities tend to creep up on you.

After University I wasn't certain what I wanted my next step to be, so I took a job as a Personal Assistant at a management consultancy, Connecting to Excellence, over the summer to give me time to figure out my 'life plan'. Part of this role was to manage the rental of a studio flat in North Oxford. I revamped the property, took new photographs and listed it on sites including Airbnb. It was a huge success with its income doubling in the first year and tripling in the second. I decided that this was something that I could do well, I really enjoyed and I wanted to pursue.

While working for Connecting to Excellence, I was lucky enough to receive executive coaching from Liz Pike, a BBC news journalist. Among other things, we spoke about the success of the studio flat and in one of our sessions she handed me a newspaper clipping about a duo that had set up an Airbnb management company in London. I recognised an opportunity in Oxford and began to put some plans together. Liz's support and belief in me gave me the confidence to take this from just an idea to reality, so in 2017 I founded **Host My House** – Oxford's Airbnb management specialists.

**Host My House** creates a hassle and stress free experience for clients looking to maximise their earnings through holiday letting.

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**How big is the Airbnb market in Oxford?**

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Recent statistics indicate that there are more than 5 million Airbnb listings in over 81,000 cities worldwide, with more than 2 million guests staying in an Airbnb every night. This clearly shows high demand so with the right approach and location, success is inevitable. Oxford is a tourism hotspot and sees over 7 million visitors per year. The popularity of Airbnb as a platform, plus the worldwide attraction of Oxford as a



tourist, business and education destination, paired with high quality properties being presented and managed well, can only lead to great results.

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**What advice would you give to those looking to use Airbnb for their home?**

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A successful Airbnb listing can earn between 50-100% more income than a long term rental so





it is definitely worth looking into. Taking the plunge into holiday letting can be daunting, especially if you don't have the right support in place first. You need to respond to all enquiries within 24 hours and ensure your property is cleaned to a 5\* standard. Professional photography is a must in order to present your property in its very best light and ensure bookings come flooding in. Each day can hold a different challenge, so you need to be resilient!

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**What has been your experience of setting up your own business?**

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I have definitely learnt to expect the unexpected, think on my feet and problem solve effectively. I now know the value of having a strong list of reliable contacts who I can turn to in a time of crisis.

Understanding what your clients want – and are willing to pay for – is critical. As a small local business, being able to offer a hands-on, friendly and professional service where we go 'above and beyond' is really important to our clients and guests.

I think it's a common misconception that business is 'cut throat' – I agree that on occasions being firm is important, but developing trust and building relationships is the key to success. People buy into you as a person before they buy into your idea.

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**What advice would you give to other entrepreneurs who are looking to set up their own business?**

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Take the leap! It will be challenging and you will make mistakes, but the lessons you learn and the people you meet make it worth it. Trying to plan everything before you start is impossible. Have a vision of where you want to go and then learn along the way.

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**[www.hostmyhouse.co.uk](http://www.hostmyhouse.co.uk)  
[emma@hostmyhouse.co.uk](mailto:emma@hostmyhouse.co.uk)**

# BEHIND THE MIXER

## WITH INDI BRODLEY

INTERVIEW WITH  
**INDI BRODLEY**

2013

*After leaving Headington in 2013, Indi Brodley graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in Audio Production. She has since worked at The National Theatre, engineered for Youth (Paul McCartney, The Verve) and Andrew Levy (The Brand New Heavies), worked with Sofar Sounds and has now started up her own recording studio, The Barn Studio. Indi speaks with fellow Headingtonian and Development Assistant, Vicky Huggett (2014) and shares her advice on making connections, saying 'yes' and making the most of every opportunity.*

**A career in music production might not be the most obvious choice for most people.**

**What made you choose Music Tech?**

I don't know what drew me to Music Tech. I think it was the thought of learning the production behind songs. I have been musical my whole life and music was always in my family. I started playing the cello aged six and later picking up the flute and piano. I've always loved theatre as well – I always wanted to be involved in shows whether it was on stage or in the show band – and if I did Music Tech it would lead me towards doing more production. At school I spent as much time in the studio as I possibly could, so much so, I got given a set of keys and was in there at 7.30am every morning! From there I got involved in doing the microphones for the musicals. *Sweet Charity* in 2011 was my first experience of being part of the show, working for the production and not in the show band; I loved it. I then volunteered to do all the mixes for *House Dance*. I made all the tracks for the eight houses; I took Mr Humphries' job! I think it's safe to say it wasn't until I started Music Tech A Level that I realised how much I wanted to pursue it.



**Between 'House Dance' at Headington and starting up your own home studio, what have you been up to?**

I went to University to do a two year degree in Audio Production. I was working at the same time, at the Oxford Playhouse, Sofar Sounds and am-dram musicals, gaining more experience in both music production and the theatre. I worked for about two years as a Music Producer in a studio in Oxford and also partnered with Red Letter Days offering recording studio experiences. After leaving University I went freelance and, during this time, my name was

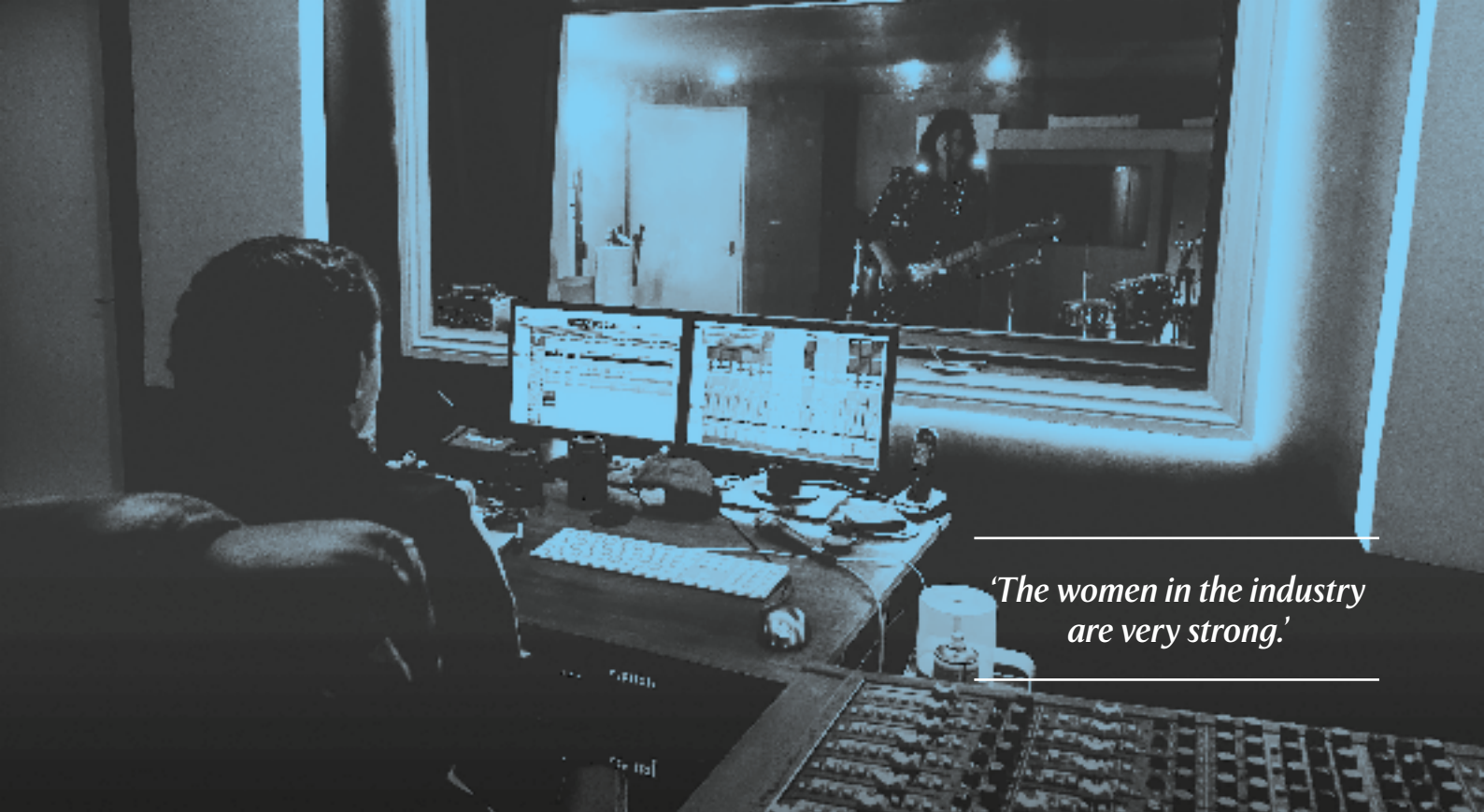
recommended to The National Theatre in London, after working on my first show in the West End; *'Brief Encounter'*. I've done some amazing shows there including *Translations* with Colin Morgan from *Merlin* and some of the cast of *Game of Thrones* and *Pericles* which had a cast of 220 and 80 radio mics!

I've done lots of work with many different people, even a photographer and as a studio assistant for an article in *Music Tech Magazine*. All of this work has led me to where I am now.

**Tell us more about The Barn Studio.**

I set up my own studio in 2017 and it's opened up so many more opportunities and allowed me to make my time my own. I've actually worked with several Headingtonians, recording songs together and I'm currently working with a lot of budding singer-songwriters. My job is actually quite fun! I get to work with all sorts of people from all different backgrounds and abilities. 80% of my job is being a people person and working with the specific needs and demands of the individual. It's very rewarding because you are making peoples' dreams come true. Making other people happy makes me happy.





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*'The women in the industry are very strong.'*

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**How do you think your time at Headington has helped shape your career?**

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Headington is the kind of place that cares about their students; they look after you and want you to succeed. I wouldn't change my education at Headington for the world. The teaching was amazing and everyone I worked with in the Music Department was there to help me when I needed them. That grounding put me well ahead of everyone else on my University course.

When I was at School, I was involved in sports, music, drama, had a music scholarship, I was the Music Prefect and so on – the opportunities I had were endless and made me an 'all-round person' which I think has enabled me to work so well in the people-centred industry of Music Production and theatre. The fact that I still come back must say something about the School! In 2017 and 2019 I took part in the Careers Fair; I loved seeing the faces of parents when they realised that music technology is an actual career and the girls lit up when I told them what I do and they thought 'can I actually do that?'

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**There is a lot of stigma about women in the music production industry in the media. Is this something you have experienced?**

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It is often thought of as a male dominated industry which, yes it is, but I have never had any problems getting jobs or felt a lack of encouragement because I'm a female.

The women in the industry are very strong. They know what they want and are very skilled. If you're good at your job you're good at your job – why does it matter if you're a girl or a boy? If you want the job, work hard and you will get it. I can't remember a time where I ever thought I couldn't work in the industry because of being a female. Granted, it is difficult to get into the music industry but females are making it. There are lots of women working in theatre and lots of men working in music production but there is no set path for men and women in the work I do.

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**What advice would you give to young women seeking a career in this industry?**

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My advice would be to make connections and never turn down an opportunity to learn something new. If you want to work in the

industry, work in the industry. There is nothing stopping you. It's about believing in yourself and getting the necessary skills to do the job you want to do. And just say 'yes' to every opportunity. Since leaving Headington, I have never once had to apply for a job; I've always found someone to mentor me, to teach me new skills, wherever I go and it's through these people that I find work. I have just done a show at Oxford Drama School where I've never worked before but it was John Welton (Theatre Manager) here at Headington who recommended me for the job. Just get to know people.

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**What's next?**

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Doing more of what I love! Setting up the studio was a way for me to do all of these things without having to choose just one. I don't think you need to choose. Someone asked me yesterday will I decide to work in theatre or will I focus on music? Honestly, I don't know what I want to do but I don't think I have to. I'm making a living out of both industries right now which means I'm meeting more people, making more connections and doing more of what I love.

[www.indibproductions.com](http://www.indibproductions.com)  
[@indibproductions](https://www.instagram.com/indibproductions)

# LANGUAGES DON'T NEED TO BE VISUAL

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**ALICE LEBEL**

(NÉE JORDAN) 1990

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*Alice's path in life has not been easy as she was born visually impaired. During a recent visit back to Headington from France, where Alice has settled, Alice McLinden (Development Manager) caught up with her and learnt all about how languages and technology have impacted her life.*

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### **Tell us about what you have been up to since leaving Headington and how languages have played a part in your life?**

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When I left Headington I took a year out to be an au pair in the French part of Switzerland. Whilst I was there I attended evening school, and feel that is where my French really gained momentum – there is a big difference between learning a language in the classroom and being immersed in a country, not least that your accent improves dramatically!

I then went on to study French and Sociology at Nottingham Trent University and spent my third year as an English assistant in Semur en Auxois, which is a very pretty walled town in Burgundy. This experience was very character building as it was my first time working with children! I did however, meet my now husband who was a French Erasmus student.

Since University we have been a bit yoyo-ish, moving back and forth between England and France. I had a few small jobs, but eventually when living in England, I started working for IBM as a Business Analyst for twelve years – six in England and six in France. At IBM I worked on some great projects including Year 2000 and the Euro Conversion Project. After leaving IBM I qualified as a Tefal teacher and have spent the last six years teaching in a private business school in France.

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### **How has your disability impacted your life?**

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My greatest obstacle is my eyesight, as I have quite severe visual problems. However, thanks to my Mum and my family, I was brought up to be very independent, so I can do pretty much everything apart from being able to drive, but what you don't do, you don't miss!

When I joined IBM I actually lied about my disability. I am sorry to say this but 20 years ago I had to play things down, and having a 'partial disability' is very difficult for people to understand. Once I started, it quickly transpired that I was partially sighted. IBM were brilliant and so accommodating. One of the advantages of working at IBM was that they had their own internal software, so they were able to provide



specialist programmes to help me see the screen better by enlarging the text. As technology improved, I moved over to using a product called *ZoomText* for many years.

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### **What effect have changes in technology had on you?**

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Over the last 25 years, the advances in technology have had a massively positive impact on my visual impairment – in all aspects of my life. When I was at school, the text on a maths paper was simply just enlarged for me. Since then, technology has moved on enormously, and I am now completely reliant on it to support my disability and I use it to a great advantage.

I have *Windows 10*, and it is incredible that all the features I used to require specialist software for are now built in. I also have an iPad which I love, as I can zoom in and out easily; my phone has inverted colours and I listen to audiobooks all the time. It is fantastic how software and technology has developed for the better and gone in completely the right direction for me.

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### **What has been your biggest challenge in overcoming your visual impairment?**

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Both my mother and working for IBM played a big role in building my confidence. Confidence is hard anyway, but with a disability as well it can be knocked easily. Over the years, I have had to deal with constant battling but when you have obstacles in your way, you either don't deal with

them or just get on with them, and I have always just got on with them.

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### **What have been the main differences between working in England vs France?**

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The French/English thing is funny; we are very close neighbours in Europe but obviously each country has its differences. The workplace in France traditionally has a more formal structure, however this is definitely changing. Traditionally in French you would say 'vous' or 'tu', 'vous' is supposed to be more respectful and 'tu' is more friendly, but the use of this is really declining. From day one working at IBM I did not 'vous' anybody – whether I knew them or not – it was always tu! I 'vous, vous' my parents- in-law and they have told me many times to 'tu, tu' them. A lot of the global companies are very international now so they adopt a more relaxed language.

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### **How have you found raising bilingual children?**

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I have three boys, aged 17, 14 and 7 who are all bilingual, and they have also learned Spanish and German at school. My husband is French, so for the boys to learn both languages was always important to me and a benefit for them. When living in France we always maintained the English, as it is an important business language. Two of them went to a completely bilingual school and the other just had a bilingual class. However, due to the influence of the internet, they all speak English to each other as they all watch YouTube videos in English!

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### **What advice would you give to Headington pupils or Headingtonians looking for a career using languages?**

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You have to have the motivation for languages - I find you either like them or you don't as you really have to be willing to make a fool out of yourself and not worry about making mistakes. If you have the opportunity to learn a language, take it, as I do feel it gives you more open-mindedness about the world. I hope I can be an example to those interested in languages about how they can be utilised in many different ways, especially in the modern world.

# KAYAKING THE CONTINENT MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

INTERVIEW WITH  
**ANNA BLACKWELL**

2011

*In April 2018, fellow alumna Kate Culverwell (2016) and I set out on our five-month Kayaking the Continent expedition. This journey saw us paddle a distance of over 4,000km in a tandem kayak, through eleven countries and five capital cities across Europe. Through our adventure, we have so far raised over £57,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Action in memory of Kate's dad, David.*

**A**fter originally meeting online via an expedition teammate finding website, Kate and I had only six months to prepare for our departure. We had an almost overwhelming amount to get done in that time, from sourcing funding and sponsorship, planning the route and associated logistics, and copious hours of training (both on and off the water). Possibly most important, however, was getting to know and fully trust each other ahead of spending five months in a kayak with just the two of us for company.

Thankfully, we were met with an incredible amount of support and our list of seemingly impossible tasks was complete by April: we were ready to go. On a remarkably warm and sunny Spring day, Kate and I paddled away from Westminster Bridge, London, leaving behind a

small crowd of cheering family and friends who had gathered to wave us off.

From London, we followed the Thames out to the Kent Coast where we faced a week of paddling against strong winds, big waves and poor visibility. Eventually reaching Folkestone, we took a break for a few days while we waited for the winds to die down before our five and a half hour paddle across the English Channel.

Through Northern France and Belgium, we were forced to stay mainly on industrial canals. We quickly grew accustomed to kayaking alongside heavily-laden shipping barges that were a vast 80-100m in length. In time, we even got used to the dead fish and rats floating past, and the uninspiring surroundings of often dilapidated factories and unending shipping yards.



It was with relief that we left these waterways behind as we made our way towards Strasbourg. Though we were still on canals, we were now meandering our way through beautiful rural landscapes and quaint French villages and towns. Instead of cargo barges, our company on the water was predominantly holidaymakers on yachts and narrowboats.

People were often bemused by our mode of transport and the little tents we slept in each night, and we found ourselves frequently invited onto boats for drinks, dinners, showers, lunches, or having drinks and snacks passed down to us. This hospitality often extended to include donations towards our charity fundraising.

By early July we had reached our fourth country: Germany. As we joined the Rhine, our initial excitement at being on a fast-flowing river quickly turned to apprehension as we tackled rapids, whirlpools and a constant onslaught of shipping barges. The speed of the river did have one key advantage in that our progress picked up immensely. Before we knew it we were hurtling towards the Danube, our final river of the expedition and the one we would follow for the remaining 2,000km and seven countries.

In our minds, this final stretch on the Danube would be easy, straight-forward paddling. Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that this would not be the case. After an incredibly dry, hot spring and summer, the water levels of the Danube were at record lows in places and the river was flowing worryingly slowly.



We realised we were therefore running out of time to reach the Black Sea in time for Kate to start University. Rather than give up or panic, we jumped into action. Our alarms went off at 5am every morning, meaning we were able to watch the sunrise from our tents as we ate breakfast. We kayaked for 10-12 hours during the day until the setting sun signalled time to stop to set up camp for the night.

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***'...we were not ready to finish. We had fallen so deeply in love with our new life and existence that the thought of leaving it to return to 'normality' was heartbreaking.'***

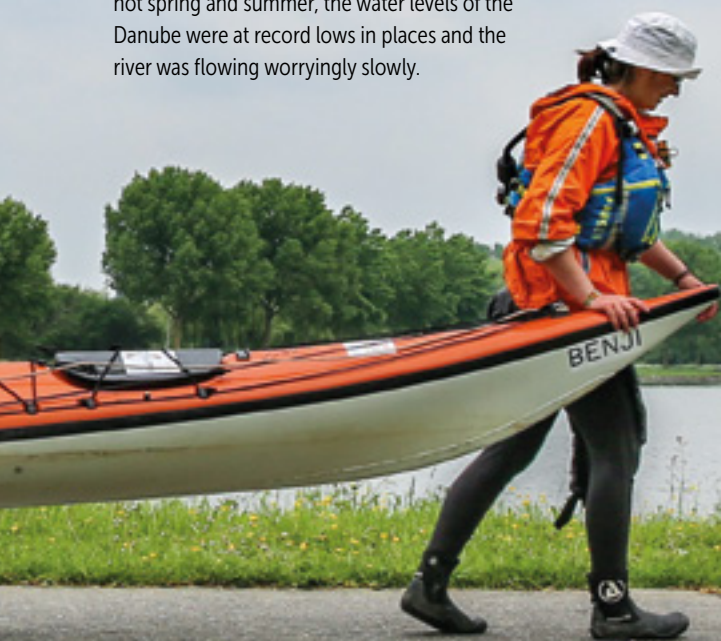
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This new intense routine quickly rectified the situation. Covering up to 75km daily, our milestones were flying past. In the space of just over two weeks, we paddled through five countries and four capital cities. The reward of our progress combined with the beauty and stillness of the early mornings meant that it was not long before this became one of our favourite sections of the expedition.

As we reached the Black Sea in Romania, 150 days after leaving London, we were not ready to finish. We had fallen so deeply in love with our new life and existence that the thought of leaving it to return to "normality" was, frankly, heartbreaking. It wasn't just the beauty of the river and surrounding landscape that was hard to leave, nor the simplicity of a life with such clear purpose. By far the aspect of the whole journey that would be missed the greatest was the people we had met along the way, and the phenomenal amount of generosity and hospitality they had shown to us.

There have been so many people who not only made this expedition possible, but also made it an absolute joy to complete. Without a doubt however, it was the bond that Kate and I forged that meant that no matter where we were or what was happening, we were able to laugh and truly appreciate the fantastic memories we were creating for ourselves.

[www.kayakingthecontinent.com](http://www.kayakingthecontinent.com)



# GOING PLACES WITH LANGUAGES

*Languages can open up many opportunities and take you to some incredible places. Read about how some of our Headingtonians around the world have used languages to get them to where they are today.*

## CLAIRE LOCHER

*née Payne (1978)*

I was born to British parents, in Vienna, and started my life tri-lingual as I learnt French and German from an early age. Due to our family holiday home in Spain, I also speak Spanish. I am fortunate to have enjoyed more than 25 years in Financial Services working for prestigious firms such as Barclays, JP Morgan and Pictet in London, Hamburg, Paris and Geneva, building businesses in capital markets and asset management. Following the financial crisis and the advice of one of my mentors, I became a Partner at Heidrick & Struggles (a large Headhunting company) and in 2012, set up my own recruitment company. Speaking multiple languages has been at the heart of understanding my clients and respecting the culture of other individuals.

## JOYCE LEE (1988)

I learnt English and Chinese in Hong Kong. When I was in Grade 7, I started learning French. I took Chinese and French as part of my O Levels at Headington and English Literature as one of my A Levels. I took German in University in Canada and graduated with a degree in English Literature. As a lawyer, speaking some Chinese and German to

clients often opens up the conversation. I read tax interpretations in French as it is one of the official languages in Canada. I have also taught myself Mandarin as it is becoming more widely spoken. I am grateful for the opportunities I have in learning various languages.

## LIZZY MADDISON (1989)

I have lived a parallel life, being British but growing up in France. I spoke Franglais at home with my British parents and French outside of the family circle. I now have friends from all over the world: Singapore, Nigeria, Hong Kong, Malaysia, to name but a few. Looking back, I see it as a strength growing up with two languages – it has made me the person I am today. It has influenced every part of my life whether it be my studies, my choice of a workplace or friends and my personal life. It may even, long term, reduce the onset of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia according to recent scientific studies on the brain. I now live in Paris with my French husband and two Franco-British kids. I work in an international environment where speaking two languages or more is the norm – sharing with so many cultures is truly a privilege – much like it was with all my wonderful friends at Headington.

## ZOE GELIS

*née Barry-Hughes (1991)*

I studied French with Miss Hughes (now Mrs White, I believe) and Spanish with Mrs Earle to A level (and S level). Feels like a very long time ago now! That said, I am often asked how I arrived at my current place in life; what was the starting point? It was definitely Headington and my conscious awareness that being

able to speak more than one language would be a liberating and empowering thing. Following a BSc in Psychology, a PGCE and 15 years teaching Modern Languages, I became a psychologist in Paris with a private practice offering bilingual services. While there, I also worked with a clinical team in The American Hospital. I have now moved back to the UK, living in Exeter, Devon, teaching therapeutic counselling at the college and continue in private practice and consultation at the hospital.

## KATE SEATON

*née Borrowdale (1995)*

I developed an interest in the French language while at Headington and from holidays spent camping in France with my family. Although I wasn't a true linguist(!), I went on to study French at AS level in addition to 3 other A Levels in English, History and Politics. After leaving Headington, I knew I wanted to keep my French going so I selected a degree course in Politics with European Studies at Durham which I thought would provide me with the best of both worlds – it also offered a third year in Aix-en-Provence studying Science Politiques as part of an Erasmus Exchange. I thought that the combination of French and Politics might open doors to a career in the European Commission! During the holidays, I used to work in Fontainebleau as an au pair – I also had a brief spell working for Club Med in Marbella, both of which were amazing experiences. Although I am now an aviation lawyer working in Singapore, I still use my French. We have a client in Singapore who is French, and I am also handling (from Singapore) a claim in the French courts for a Vietnamese client.





I have found the ability to converse in another language an invaluable skill. In a world where the common language is increasingly English, speaking other languages requires perseverance but if you can get there, it will help you to stand out from the crowd, and be remembered. An English associate in our office speaks Mandarin and is able to understand all the gossip being spoken by our Singaporean support staff! Joking aside, I fully endorse The Year of Languages - I passionately believe that languages are a wonderful skill to have and can open many doors. In Singapore, two of our neighbours are French families so you never know when you might have the opportunity to use your language; our other neighbour is a Headingtonian, Jules Hawes, whose sister Katie was also at Headington! It is indeed a small world.

**SAMANTHA OAKLEY (2005)**

Since spending a ski season in Verbier, Switzerland 10 years ago, French has become a key part of my life. Moving to France in 2013, it was extremely helpful to have a vague base of the language which helped me through my first year there. I am now much more confident in the language and speak almost fluently. I am still living in France and now teach yoga mainly in French to the locals - this can cause some laughter and confusion but it makes you realise how many more connections you can make when you have at least one other language in your life!

**CLAIRE EWBank (2010)**

Hello from Hamburg-Wilhelmsburg, Germany! I have been living here for three years now and love this multi-cultural part of town where you rarely hear English, or even German! Turks, Germans, Afghans, Arabs, Kurds, Americans and many other nationalities come together here and it is an exciting place to live and work: the world is literally on my doorstep. I am a kids and youth worker for a German church and work a lot with refugee families. Learning languages has made my world so much richer - I can only encourage you to choose one and see where it will take you, how you will be challenged and who you will meet!

**ANNABEL ROWNTREE (2010)**

I only became seriously interested in Modern Languages in the Sixth Form, when I realised they were about so much more than endless verb conjugations. When I worked out a Languages degree could mean studying literature, history and politics, I knew it was right for me! In the L6 I read the play *Life is a Dream* by Pedro Calderón de la Barca (often referred to as "Spain's Hamlet"), and from that point on I was hooked! I've never wanted to stop reading and studying Spanish drama since. After undergraduate and Masters degrees, I am now completing my PhD at Oxford University, where I lecture on Spanish literature. I am a fierce proponent of languages: they have allowed me to make a career out of something I love, and to pass on my passion to undergraduates at a time when understanding between cultures has never been so important.

**ARABELLA ADAMS (2012)**

After leaving Headington in 2012, I studied French and beginner's Russian at University. Since then, I have used my foreign language skills in a wide variety of situations - from working in Russia on my year abroad, to my first graduate internship with the United Nations in Geneva (they only accepted me because I had studied languages!), to a recent holiday in Uzbekistan, where having some knowledge of Russian was very useful. I am now training as a barrister - something I was able to move into without much difficulty, as doing languages kept so many doors open to me while giving me life experience and transferable skills.

**HELEN ROOT (2013)**

At University, I studied a different set of languages: C++, Python, Swift, to name a few. From the last 6 years of programming, I realised that these skills afford me a similar kind of freedom that I gain from knowing French and Russian. I've been able to work on projects in the areas of environment, psychology, sport, and more. I've learned that software development doesn't have to be a discipline in itself, but a tool that you can use to shape many other disciplines, just like foreign languages. I hope that

anyone who is curious about coding will give it a go, especially if you already enjoy languages and linguistics!

**ANNIE SHIPTON (2013)**

I'm currently living and working in Paris, and languages are a big part of my life. I studied English, French and Italian literature for the first two years at Edinburgh University and then focused on French for the final two years. I always wanted to do something creative and use my languages, now I'm working for an international film festival as the assistant coordinator for the *Marché du Film - Festival de Cannes*! 2019 will be my 3rd year working for Cannes Film Festival (my 1st year was as an intern on my year abroad after 1 semester at the Sorbonne). It's an amazing and lively environment with loads of exciting projects and of course great films and the red carpet. We work with people from all over the world and I work in an entirely French speaking office, so languages are essential, I also now have Spanish lessons with a French teacher every week at work!

**ANGEL JIN (2014)**

I come from a bilingual household (speaking Mandarin and English) and studied French and German when I was at Headington. I always enjoyed languages at School, from a cultural as well as an academic perspective - for example, in French GCSE we spent a lot of time watching French films and eating French sweets! I chose to read German at Oxford University, and also started learning Russian. I really value the opportunities that a Modern Languages degree has given me: I spent a year living in a small town in Russia and a summer in Berlin working with refugee kids. Reading languages at University has definitely helped me broaden my horizons and given me a lot of exciting experiences to draw upon when deciding what I want to do next.

# CITY SWAP



*Have you ever considered working abroad? Headingtonians Emma Phipkin and Kimberly Tong, 2012 leavers have crossed career paths with Emma moving from London to Hong Kong and Kimberly moving from Hong Kong to London. We interviewed them both to find out how they have found the transition and the comparisons between these two global cities.*

## EMMA PHIPKIN, 2012



Emma Phipkin, playing Netball for her team in Hong Kong, Kowloon

### How did your career develop after University?

In my second year of University, I completed an internship with BlackRock and subsequently went on to join their graduate program. After a year, I joined the Aladdin for Wealth team. I am responsible for selling, implementing and supporting technology created by BlackRock for wealth management clients.

### Your decision to move to Hong Kong...how did that come about?

I had the opportunity to visit Singapore for work and I really enjoyed the culture and dynamic of the teams there. I mentioned to my boss that I would be

interested in roles abroad and, a couple of months later, I was approached about a role in Hong Kong.

### What's been the biggest challenge in your transition to Hong Kong?

Moving to the other side of the world has made me appreciate the importance of a support network. Friendships made over years and having your family just a short trip away is definitely something I miss.

I also found it challenging adapting to a new culture. Although it is very exciting to be part of something totally different, it can be frustrating not being able to communicate due to the language barrier.

I have found the time difference a big challenge. I am part of a global team which often involves late night calls to ensure we are connected with teams in London and New York.

### What 3 things do you enjoy most about living in Hong Kong?

- Meeting new people from all over the world – everyone is so open and welcoming.
- Trail running – I have always really enjoyed sports, something I honed when I was a member of the rowing team at Headington, and I really love the ease and variety of trail runs you can do in HK. I find it a great escape from the high-rise intensity of the city.

- Travel – there are so many awesome places to visit such as Vietnam, Korea and China which are only a couple of hours away and local airlines are very affordable for weekend trips.

### What do you miss most about the UK?

The food! As much as I love dim sum, I'm yet to find a good Sunday roast or Apple Crumble out here...

### How does your work life balance compare between London and Hong Kong?

For me, it has improved from London. I have joined a netball team who I play for twice a week. There are quite a few late-night calls and as a consequence we are given flexibility with our working hours. It is very normal to take a longer lunch break to catch up with friends/colleagues, get in a workout or just run errands.

### How did you go about finding a place to live in Hong Kong?

Initially, I stayed in an Airbnb for 6 weeks to give me time to explore different areas and to also find a flat mate due to the cost of corporate housing. A friend from work connected me with an agent who helped me find my apartment. It's a 10-minute walk to work, 2-minute walk to lots of cafes and restaurants and a 10-minute jog to my favourite running route.

### What's the cost of living like?

Housing is much more expensive than London for very small apartments and food is very expensive. There is minimal difference between eating out and cooking at home. That said, transport is incredibly efficient and cheap, and the tax rate is much lower than that of London, which helps.

### How do you feel living and working in Hong Kong will impact your career?

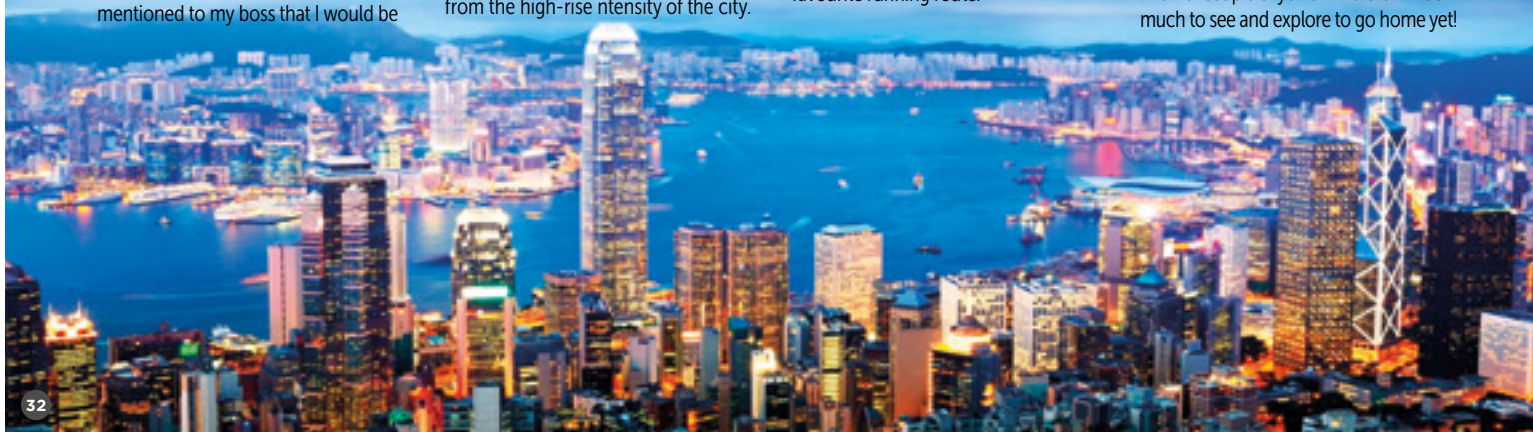
I think it will help my career due to both the increased exposure you get from working in a new team in a new location as well as the opportunities that present themselves when working in a smaller team.

### What advice would you give fellow Headingtonians considering moving to Hong Kong?

It has been a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, experience an entirely different culture and explore a new home. I have been able to try new sports such as Dragon Boat which is very popular in HK. And despite not having a natural talent for languages, I have taken up Mandarin lessons as half of my team speaks it and I thought, why not?

### What's next?

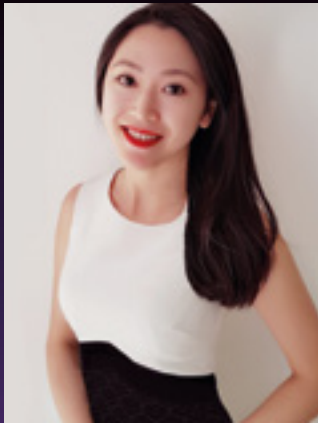
I'm hoping to stay in Hong Kong for another couple of years – there is far too much to see and explore to go home yet!







**KIMBERLY TONG, 2012**



**How did your career develop after University?**

I began my career on the two-year analyst program at Goldman Sachs International in London. While I enjoyed working in a fast-paced investment-banking environment, I was able to leverage my global network and experience into a career which suits me best: executive search within Financial Services.

**Your decision to move to London... How did that come about?**

I received a graduate return offer after completing a 10-week summer internship in my penultimate year at University, which I promptly accepted for a hassle-free final year!

**What's been the biggest challenge in your transition to London?**

Being tempted to spend at a premium on everything including gyms, restaurants etc... (also tax is almost triple that of HK). You learn to live simply while maintaining your standards to live well in London.

**What 3 things do you enjoy most about living in London?**

- The social acceptance for quirkiness/ being different (no-one bats an eyelid...which is more than I can say for HK!).
- Living in a diverse city with top-notch restaurants and cultural scene.
- Best time zone for a global market role (accessibility to APAC and US time zones).

**What do you miss most about being in Hong Kong?**

- The close proximity to everything (that includes everybody knowing each other!)
- The energy/buzz that motivates you to get up in the morning to reach your goals and the hunger that keeps you up at night to continue striving.
- Family, amazing food, friends (not necessarily in that order).

**How does work life balance compare between Hong Kong and London?**

Not much difference apart from more accommodating work-life balance in the UK (such as more holidays!), but

definitely better time zone in London when looking at APAC markets!

**How did you go about finding a place to live in London?**

Finding the area I like living in (West London) before going on sparreroom.com to find the best deals. I prefer going direct through private landlords than through an agent.

**What's the cost of living like?**

High as in any major city in the world! So do save up and make more!

**What have you learnt most about yourself during this transition?**

You are always more resourceful than you think. Life deals you unexpected cards sometimes, but it's how you deal with them that makes the difference. Also, if a move isn't working out, be prepared to move on and don't look back.

**What has surprised you the most?**

That I have been living abroad (in the UK) for close to a decade now and so many of my good Headington friends are now working in London too!

**How do you feel living and working in London will impact your career?**

Working in London allowed me to kickstart a global career, where I am fortunate enough to have access to EMEA (Europe, Middle East & Africa), APAC and US markets and cultivate a global network.

**What advice would you give fellow Headingtonians considering moving to/working in London?**

- a) Secure a London job before moving over and, if possible, request a relocation fee to help settle into a new city.

If you are not a British national, most of the big corporates can sponsor Tier 2 working visas but it will be a highly competitive process.  
 b) If you are already working at an international firm with a London office, ask to transfer internally as that may be the easiest option (for visas as well).  
 c) If you require a visa but option a and b are not possible for you, look to study for a Masters etc in London, as it will provide more time to job search, acclimatise and decide whether you want to stay here after all.

**What advice would you give fellow Headingtonians considering relocating abroad with their career?**

- Consult others in your desired career path who are currently working or have worked abroad.
- Be prepared for a bit of a culture shock. Different countries and companies have different norms and unspoken rules.
- Choose an employer who will be considerate of your geographical preferences.
- Save up for a rainy day, because you never know when it'll come in handy!

**What's next?**

Staying true to my entrepreneurial self and moving back to Asia to be closer to family and markets in a few years' time. And to achieve my dreams of running my own investment portfolio while having the flexibility to do yoga/ swim twice a day and generally live life on my own terms.



# SCIENCE, SAUDI AND SCOTLAND

ON THE ROAD WITH  
**CAROLINE RHODES**

(NÉE PIM) 1978

*Caroline Rhodes (Pim, 1978) read Arabic as a mature student at Oxford, aged 31, having done sciences at A level. During her career, Caroline has travelled and worked abroad, including spending time with the World Service Arabic TV at the BBC. Caroline shares her memories of Headington, reflects on how languages have played an important part in her life, and the importance of having the confidence to leap into the unknown.*

**What do you remember most about being a pupil at Headington in the Seventies?**

I am the eldest of five girls and I also have a younger brother. All six of us were at Headington at the same time, back when the junior School took boys, which in itself must be a School record! I remember so much about being at school – I had a fantastic time. I started in 'old' Hillstow (now Celia Marsh) in 1971 and we moved into 'new' Hillstow in the Summer Term of 1972. We all had to make curtains for the new boarding house, although I managed to get out of it by saying that I wasn't very good at sewing! The Heads of Dorm were pretty scary and we were pretty naughty...I have vivid memories of the tricks we played on the Matrons (definitely not to be repeated here, but it was enormous fun)! The great thing about boarding was that as well as having good friends in your particular year, you made friends across the years; some of the friends I made during that time are still some of my closest friends today.

**How did you move from Sciences to Arabic?**

I come from a family of Medics, so I did Sciences at A level, but was quite good at French and Latin, so probably should have chosen Languages in the first place. I applied to Med School but didn't get the grades. I was intent on having a year travelling, but before embarking on my gap year my parents insisted that I had a University course to come back to. I remember going through the UCCA handbook and picking five Universities and five courses,



which is how I ended up at York doing Politics and Economics. I realised it wasn't right for me and left after a year.

I didn't know where to go next and good careers advice wasn't readily available in those days. Returning to Oxford, I worked in Blackwell's Bookshop which I loved, and found myself working alongside many other like-minded people who had left University early. Through a chance conversation, I jumped at the opportunity to work at TWA (Trans World Airlines) in the Sales department in London, which allowed me to pursue my love of travelling with subsidised flights. Through another fortuitous conversation with a Headingtonian and contemporary from Hillstow, Helen Cochrane, I moved to Saudi to work for Saudia Airlines, which resulted in my being able to explore the Middle East a little. We lived in a compound with 50 different nationalities and sharing a variety of flats with at

least 10 non-European girls gave me an insight into lots of different cultures. Again, through Helen, I ended up working for a private airline for a couple of years based in Paris, and spent a lot of time in Spain and Geneva. Along the way, I picked up some basic Arabic and started taking lessons in Spanish, French and Arabic.

**What made you go back to University as a mature student?**

Having had a lot of fun, sun and a very good income for two years, I realised that I should start to take my career more seriously. On one of our visits to Geneva, I attended a lecture on 'Post Cold War Institutions in Europe' where I met a Swiss student about to go to Oxford for his D.Phil. He suggested that I should apply to Oxford University to read Arabic. I dismissed the idea thinking that I didn't have a chance. He said "You won't know unless you try".

Harris Manchester College (the University's college for mature students) invited me for interview on the Friday and I was asked to do the Oxbridge Exam on the Monday, which sent me into a complete panic! I hadn't written an essay in years. Somehow, I was offered a place by the College providing I passed an interview with Mr. Jones at the Oriental Institute. He said, "Unlike the King of (censored country) I don't like gambling but I am prepared to offer you a place. If I feel that you are not up to it at any stage I will ask you to leave".

Finding myself at Oxford at the age of 31 reading Arabic came about through an off the cuff conversation; the major learning for me was asking myself "What are you afraid of?", recognising that if you never try, you'll never know. If I hadn't taken that risk – and been prepared to fail – I wouldn't have had access to a world-class education. That decision probably changed my life in terms of my confidence, meeting people and opening more doors. The most important thing it taught me was the importance of not being afraid to have a go.

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***So, was it worth it?***

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Yes, definitely. After graduating from Oxford in 1995, I worked for the World Service Arabic TV at the BBC, where I was involved with organising and cataloguing films and scripts. Unfortunately the service was closed down abruptly due to our transmitting of a programme that had not been previously vetted by the owners of the satellite. I remember the day very well as I was running the London Marathon on behalf of the St. John Ambulance and was worried how I was going to get the money from all my sponsors in the department!

My former colleagues at the BBC invited me to join them in the start-up of the Arabic satellite channel Al Jazeera in 1996, in Doha, Qatar after which I returned to the UK to work for the European Business News (part of the Wall Street Journal), which merged with CNBC in 1999. I ran the library there, liaising with the journalists, cameramen and programme editors as well as researching our guests and news stories. It was a great insight into the world of business and I still keep on top of the financial news today.

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***What are you up to now?***

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20 years on, my life is in Scotland. After getting married in 1999, I moved North a year later and my husband and I had a fascinating challenge renovating an historic property in the Scottish countryside, while we also built up a property portfolio in Aberdeen which I manage. I am heavily involved with the local community in rural Aberdeenshire. I still look at my Arabic books, and am intending to travel more from 2020. I love all aspects of travelling, especially meeting people from other cultures. Even if I am not familiar with a language I try to communicate and connect. My languages have given me loads of varied opportunities.

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***Looking back on your career, is there any advice you would give to your younger self?***

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I have a son who is in his last year at Radley, studying French and Spanish at A level and he wants to use his languages. A few years ago, I encouraged him to go to travelling by himself, so that he had to immerse himself in the language. I knew he would learn much more from going by himself and just having to get on with it. He came back with so much more confidence.

Although Headington taught me to be independent, growing up I was quite shy. I would probably tell myself to be more confident, and to not be afraid. I've had a lot of fun through my languages and being able to speak another language also gives you confidence in many other aspects of your life.

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***'I've had a lot of fun through my languages and being able to speak another language also gives you confidence in many other aspects of your life'***

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# TAKING ON THE WORLD ONE PAIR OF PANTS AT A TIME

INTERVIEW WITH  
**SARAH JORDAN**

1994

*Up until 2016, Sarah Jordan had a career firmly set within the digital and technology industries. This was until a trip to Uganda changed her life more than she could imagine. Sarah now runs two businesses; Y.O.U underwear, a social business and BOLD, a positive change agency. Current Headington student and member of Headington School Fem Soc, Maddie Clark-Jones interviews Sarah and shares her own thoughts and learnings on the challenges faced by women today.*

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## Have you always had an entrepreneurial spirit?

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Not really, it's something that happened by accident! I've always had the attitude that if you want to do something, just get on with it, but I never specifically set out to set up a business or become an entrepreneur.

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## What inspired you to set up Y.O.U?

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In 2016, I volunteered in local communities as part of the Uganda marathon programme, supporting women's community groups who were starting small businesses to generate their own income. One group were making reusable sanitary towels and nappies for community use and to sell more widely. However, many of the women didn't have any underwear to put the sanitary towels in. This caused obvious health and hygiene issues, as well as making them vulnerable to attacks and violence. It also had a huge impact on their education and employment, as girls could miss up to 12 weeks of school or work every year because they couldn't attend during their periods, simply because they didn't have any underwear. I was so angry that over the next year I looked into making underwear to help address the issue.

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## What difference is Y.O.U making?

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We use 100% organic cotton having learnt about the pollution and harmful effects caused by conventional cotton farming, and we work with one of India's most sustainable manufacturers to ensure everything is Fairtrade and GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) certified. I discovered that the problem of a lack of underwear wasn't unique to Uganda, but actually impacted millions of women and girls around the world. We therefore set up the business with a 'buy one give one' model, where we donate a pair of underwear for every pair purchased and we have established an amazing partnership with the charity Smalls for All to do this. We have recently secured matched funding from a local business meaning that we are able to donate two pairs for every pair bought in 2019, which is fantastic!





Y.O.U is a small but growing social business – we completed a successful crowdfunding campaign last year, and our underwear is shipped to over 15 countries around the world, which is great. Most importantly however, is our impact. We donated over 1,000 pairs of underwear to Smalls for All last year, as well as collecting over 100 bras for them, which means we're already changing hundreds of lives and making a real difference.

### What are your thoughts on body positivity in the media?

When doing my market research, I discovered that four in five women have low self-esteem, with nearly 90% opting out of social interaction, physical activities and often even leaving the house as a result. We know that self-harm, body shaming and mental health issues are at an all-time high and body confidence has reached a critical level, so it's definitely something that I think we need to address.

**Maddie's thoughts:** *Y.O.U uses 'real models' who are not airbrushed to promote a variety of body types, of both men and women. As well as acknowledging the pressure to look a certain way, we need to combat some of the negativity women face around their bodies. Y.O.U is helping to achieve this by adding empowering messages into the inside of the underwear, such as 'Y.O.U make a difference.'*

### How do you feel women in positions of power and privilege can influence others?

I believe a key role for women, particularly those in positions of influence, is to support and champion each other. We need more positive role models to inspire and encourage girls and young women in whatever they want to do. Authenticity, empowering others and making a difference are some of my core values, and I think as women, we have a responsibility to help others who aren't as fortunate as ourselves. Whether that's through

small local actions, or the work of more visible female leaders and celebrities, we can and should all play a part.

**Maddie:** *There has always been a shortage of women in positions of power. As women, it is our responsibility to support and celebrate each other. Organisations like the 30% Club run a number of specific and targeted initiatives to broaden the pipeline of women at all levels of organisations, with the aim of improving gender diversity and accelerating the pace of change. [www.30percentclub.org](http://www.30percentclub.org)*

### What's next for Y.O.U?

We have so much planned! 2019 sees the release of our new range and I'm currently working on some exciting new styles and designs, as well as continuing our commitment to not using single-use plastic and minimising waste. I am also looking at how we can use technology to improve our website and connections with our customers, to improve elements such as fitting, customer service and storytelling. We have a target of 23,000 pairs of underwear donated by 2023, which would change thousands of lives.

**Maddie:** *We can learn a lot from Sarah's business mindset; to put aside our business goals of maximized profit and strive for more altruistic goals whereby we aim to make a difference and help people, to make a profit while being mindful of working conditions, fair wages, and protected workers.*

*The most important thing is to stick to your goals. For Y.O.U this is to donate underwear to those who don't have access to it, to fight back against the torrent of negative body imagery in the media, and to create a sustainable, environmental business that produces clothing, without buying into the problematic areas of the fashion industry.*

### What inspired you to set up BOLD and how does it help women?

I've always had 'to do' lists and that, along with a desire to support other women, inspired me to set up BOLD – the Positive Change Agency – for women who want to make a change in their lives but don't know where to start. Something amazing happens when you get a group of women together in a room. BOLD is about unlocking that potential and giving women the confidence to achieve their goals.

**Maddie:** *Sarah has noted a lack of confidence in women to achieve their goals and women can sometimes be concerned about coming across as overselling themselves, and as a consequence, can*

*self-deprecate. It's important to believe in yourself and have faith in your abilities; putting yourself forward doesn't mean you have to be unpleasant.*

### Balance is difficult to come by these days. How do you maintain your work life balance?

If I'm honest, I really struggle with this one. Working for yourself brings ultimate freedom at one level – I can choose how, when and where I work – but you also never switch off. There's always a huge amount to do. We talk a lot about balance, self care, and the importance of work 'working' for you in BOLD, so I do have to make a conscious effort to listen to my own advice. I try to have a work day routine that factors in time for exercise and doing things I enjoy, as well as the inevitable long hours. Remembering to focus on the small things and the importance of friends, family, fun and enjoying what you're doing is key.

### What advice would you give for young women who would like to run a start-up company?

If it's something you want to do, go for it! There's nothing like the freedom, flexibility and motivation of working for yourself, having an impact and being in control – both of your own successes and mistakes. And because you work on all areas of the business, the learning is huge. But entrepreneurship definitely comes with a health warning too, especially for women, who have a tendency to work hard and juggle lots of things at once. I have never worked as hard as I do now, nor enjoyed it as much, but it's definitely not easy. I think that success in business is as much down to tenacity, resilience, hard work - and a bit of luck and good timing - as much as it is a good idea. So if you want to do it, work hard and go for it! Find, follow and ask advice from entrepreneurs and women you admire. Most will be flattered and love to help.

[www.youunderwear.com](http://www.youunderwear.com) @youunderwearUK  
[www.becomebolder.com](http://www.becomebolder.com) @becomebolder



Maddie Clark-Jones with Sarah Jordan

# NAVIGATING THE MINEFIELD OF ETHICAL VOLUNTEERING ABROAD

FRANCESCA TROTMAN

2011

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*Choosing a summer volunteering position, a gap year placement or an internship abroad can be really difficult: Where should you go? What should you do? Is what you're doing really making a difference?*

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**W**hen I was 21 I founded a marine conservation NGO in Mozambique called Love The Oceans (lovethеоceans.org) (LTO). Our mission is to establish a marine protected area in our region in Africa. The only way we can make this happen financially is through training and using volunteers with our organisation. This is volunteering in the modern sense – a working holiday where the participant pays to participate but gets training, lodge and dives in return. Sure, we also apply for scientific grants, do annual fundraisers and raise money online for our projects, but that just simply isn't enough to keep the organisation running. We're a small, young start up with only a few core members of staff – we only have three permanent ones – and the amount of research and community outreach we need to do in order to achieve our mission is physically impossible for



three staff members; we need more people to help out, hence the volunteering.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with paying to volunteer abroad. For many micro, grassroots organisations it can be an important part of the annual budget, and seriously aid the organisation's mission. However, there are always those that ruin it for the rest of us. Unfortunately, volunteering

abroad is really difficult to regulate, since these organisations, although often with their HQ in the UK (like us), operate in a huge range of countries.

Given that the volunteering industry has only really 'boomed' in the last 10 years, the regulatory world is still playing catch up. In 2007 the British Standards Institute (BSI) made new health and safety rules for ventures abroad (BS8848). These guidelines were introduced due to an accident abroad that happened to some UK children, and the UK realised there needed to be more quality control when taking people abroad to a foreign country. BS8848 is now widely accepted throughout the UK as a sign of HSE best practice for UK organisations. This is great, however that's only the health and safety part of it.

The other part of volunteering abroad, which is even harder to regulate, is ethics. It's a complete minefield. When I think back to leaving School and look at all my friends who took gap years abroad and heard stories and saw all their pictures, we didn't bat an eyelid. After all, if an



organisation that has been around 20+ years is telling you you're doing good, who are you to question them? This all only really came to light for me when I decided to write LTO's ethical standards. I started to research the 'do's' and 'don'ts' of volunteering and came across a completely new (for me) angle to the industry.

There are a few sections of ethical volunteering to consider: 1) Financial Transparency; 2) Animal Interactions; 3) Human Interactions, and I'm going to briefly run you through each of these and how you can tell a good egg from a bad egg.

## FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

There are well-established organisations which sell expensive trips to low income countries, some of which for example may use 'host' (local) families for board and may only pay them a fraction of the cost. It is certainly worth doing some research and don't be afraid to ask the companies where the costs are going to assure yourself that the money is spent wisely. Just because the organisation is either long standing or well-known does not necessarily mean they are operating best practices. The thing about the volunteering industry is that, because it's so new, it's still *evolving* and people are learning new best practices every day. Sometimes the smaller, newer organisations are better at adapting because they have smaller governing bodies and it's easier to make changes quickly.

## ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

Another section of ethical volunteering is the animal interaction you may experience on your trip. This is often an amazing opportunity but I would recommend researching how the animals have been raised and if they are living in the wild. Some organisations may claim that you can interact with them because they're being 'rehabilitated', however

animals cannot come into contact with humans when they're being rehabilitated because they can't be accustomed to humans or they'll most certainly be poached and/or human dependent.

If you have seen the documentary 'Blackfish' you may have an awareness about mammals in captivity who suffer torture and may be drugged to either de-stress them or to allow for human contact. Interestingly none of the cruelty often seen is actually *illegal* in the host country which is why it's so difficult to regulate. Basically, if the animal is a 'wild' animal, you shouldn't be interacting with it in captivity. There are a few legitimate rehabilitation centres for animals around the world. Unfortunately, Thailand and Africa are some of the worst culprits for unethical animal interactions so make sure if you're interacting with animals in the wild, you're doing it in the right way. Riding elephants and playing with captive dolphins is an absolute no.



Check out the Volunteers in Africa Beware Facebook page for a list of 'The Good, The Bad & The Ugly' places to volunteer in Africa, rated on ethics. We're a partner of the World Cetacean Alliance which has blanket rules for interacting with marine mammals.

## HUMAN INTERACTIONS

I must admit, I know less about this area than the others, since we work less with humans. However, I know there's been some research into how damaging long-term volunteering placements with vulnerable children can be. These placements rotate volunteers every few months and the kids can often get attached, the volunteers then leave and the process then repeats itself, leaving these kids with serious attachment anxiety. At LTO our volunteers only teach the Schools for 5 days each which prevents any attachment issues arising. Working with the local community is crucially

important to the success of any project that wants long-term change. However, it's important that interactions are managed responsibly. There needs to be a balance; the point of the volunteer position should be to benefit the project, not just you, so your interaction with the community should be treated as such.

Another aspect to think about is how you're helping. For instance, rather than building more classrooms when they may not necessarily be needed, perhaps the money would be better invested in the local community? At LTO we choose to fundraise, and then employ a local building team to do the construction work: alleviating poverty and creating employment as well as the classrooms which have been specifically requested by our village elders. We also source our building materials locally therefore injecting further money into the local community.



Volunteering abroad can be hugely beneficial to both the project and the volunteer but when it comes to choosing a project this is just the tip of the iceberg. I urge you to really do your research and dig, dig, dig through pages of Google for information. Check public forums for reviews and don't just trust their website – some of these unethical guys have amazing websites that convince you they're ethical. It's scary out there. We have an ethical volunteering guide on our website and we explain more about each of these angles in depth. We also have an information sheet on the 'do's' and 'don'ts' of volunteering abroad which I'm happy to email out on request.

[Francesca@lovethetheoceans.org](mailto:Francesca@lovethetheoceans.org)  
[lovethetheoceans.org](http://lovethetheoceans.org)

# A WINDOW INTO SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

HANNAH FORD

2014

## How did you get into Speech and Language Therapy?

While at Headington, I had the next three years of my life completely planned out and organised. However, since leaving School I haven't done one thing that was originally on the '3-year plan'! Having considered numerous degrees, both vocational and non-vocational, along with visiting a number of Universities I am now in my third year of four, studying Speech and Language Therapy at City University of London.

My post-school experience involved having two years out, in which I did a lot of working and travelling as well as originally doing a term of Geography at Exeter University. I made the decision to withdraw from the course when I realised that, personally, I needed a much more vocational degree which would provide me with a specialism. After leaving Exeter, I knew that I wanted a role in healthcare and working with people, as well as a degree that would challenge me academically. When my nephew was diagnosed with a cleft palate I was introduced to the world of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT).

## What does Speech and Language Therapy cover?

As it says on the tin, 'speech' and 'language' are the main components of this therapy. However, due to our knowledge about the vocal tract structures and related anatomy, Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) are not pigeon holed into just 'speech' and 'language'. We have an input in many other areas of healthcare ranging from post-stroke recovery, to swallowing impairment in new-borns. The work we do in terms of language often focuses around two main client groups; school age children and older adults with acquired impairments (e.g. stroke/dementia). Speech work covers a range of clients from those who stammer to people with unclear/dysarthric speech. Another large portion of SLT work focuses on people's ability/inability to swallow; also known as Dysphagia. In my experience on placements, I have treated a wide variety of patients ranging from premature babies right up to elderly patients who have lost their ability to swallow through stroke.



## What do you enjoy most about SLT?

I love Speech and Language Therapy as it incorporates so many different skills and allows me to meet a huge range of people from many different backgrounds. SLT is such a wide-ranging profession and I'm excited to graduate and begin to decide in which area I would like to specialise. I love working as part of a bigger team with other professions such as Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists to provide the best outcome for a client and see them progress.

## What skills are needed?

I think patience is the most important skill for being an SLT. Patience is integral to allowing you to see the full potential of a client and therefore plan the most effective therapy. Being organised is also key (I am still working on this one!), along with huge amounts of energy and the ability to think on your feet. SLT is a rewarding,

challenging (both academically and personally) vocation that enables people to live their lives to the highest potential regardless of their impairment. At the end of the day communication is a cornerstone of life.

## What's next for you?

I still have a year to go on my course at City before I graduate in 2020. After that I will be job hunting in London and deciding my speciality as I go. First jobs in SLT tend to be relatively broad and so it will be a few years before I really have to make any huge decisions, however I am very excited to start working and putting theory into practice.

## What advice would you give to students who are interested in SLT?

I would say the best place to start is to talk to a practicing SLT and gain a real insight into how the job works. Have a look round some Universities and attend their open days as this will guide you in what the course will involve. It takes a fair amount of commitment, lots of placements and lectures 9-5 most days, however it's so worthwhile and I would really recommend it!



# ROWING: IS THE HYPE WORTH IT?

## HEADINGTON SCHOOL OXFORD BOAT CLUB

*In September 2005, an article was published in the Daily Telegraph about the Headington School rowing eight and how the discipline demanded by competitive rowing has a positive effect on their academic studies. 14 years on, we caught up with them to find out what they are doing now and if rowing at Headington has had a positive impact on their chosen career path.*

**RYAN DEMAINE,**  
Head Coach HSOBC



We first spoke with Ryan to get his reflections on the HSOBC first eight squad from 2005.

I'm often asked about the impact of rowing on a rower's future, but I can honestly say that it wasn't the actual rowing that made these students who they are today. I believe, in a large part, that these athletes were attracted to rowing because it offered something they craved. Apart from the physical characteristics of what makes a good rower, the mental characteristics the sport demands are far more important.

I could look back at each of these rowers when they were at school and say that they showed great perseverance, the right balance of optimism/realism, and above all, they were (and still are!) stubborn people who never give up. This powerful combination is why they often achieved more than we as coaches, teachers or parents could ever have imagined for them. They frequently exceeded our expectations, and



It's relentless and difficult in what is a ferocious and graceful environment. The rowers' level of commitment means that the foundations of resilience, team work, grit and determination flourish within the programme, and it's often possible to observe these characteristics from the early days of when pupils start rowing. The sport simply allows such qualities to flourish, and as such, future challenges become

I believe that Headington School Oxford Boat Club provided the environment for this to happen.

These women had the ability to dream big, and believe that if they invested the time, energy and commitment to the group, they would be successful. They also knew what to do when they failed; it's one thing saying you simply need to get back up when you fall, but it's another thing to actually do it. In this sport, you can't hide from failure and as such, you have to adapt and learn from the experience to be successful.

Rowing requires us to go out in the worst weather, the toughest conditions, and train for hours on end; blisters and sweat are a currency in this sport.

that bit easier, failures become opportunities and your team becomes your family. As long as they can visualise success, be optimistic whilst realistic, and surround themselves with like-minded people, success is inevitable.

The overwhelming point for me is that these young women were not just rowers. They were well respected by teachers because they were organised, focused and driven. They were loved by their friends because even in the toughest of times, they were unquestionably reliable and trustworthy. We as a club simply provided the environment, the culture, and the ethos in which they could succeed. That is what HSOBC is all about.

**ALISON HUNTER PEASE 2005: COX**

I can't remember how old I was when I started rowing but I definitely remember my first session at Hinksey in Oxford. It seemed like a great way to spend a few hours of the weekend; messing about on a lake with your friends on a sunny Saturday morning. Obviously, it wasn't always as carefree as that first session, with long winter mornings on a chilly river and training sessions after school in a tiny hut behind the sports hall. However, it was something I hugely enjoyed. I got to hang out with some of my best friends, meet people in different year

groups and it gave me a great sense of achievement as we competed, and won, in races all over the country. One of the most important lessons I took from rowing was the value of teamwork, how to work together through thick and thin, and support each other as we worked towards a common goal. I now work as Head of Consumer Communications at Nelsons (a healthcare company based in London) and this skill has been hugely valuable when working with my colleagues across the world.

**LOUISE CONNELL 2006: STROKE**

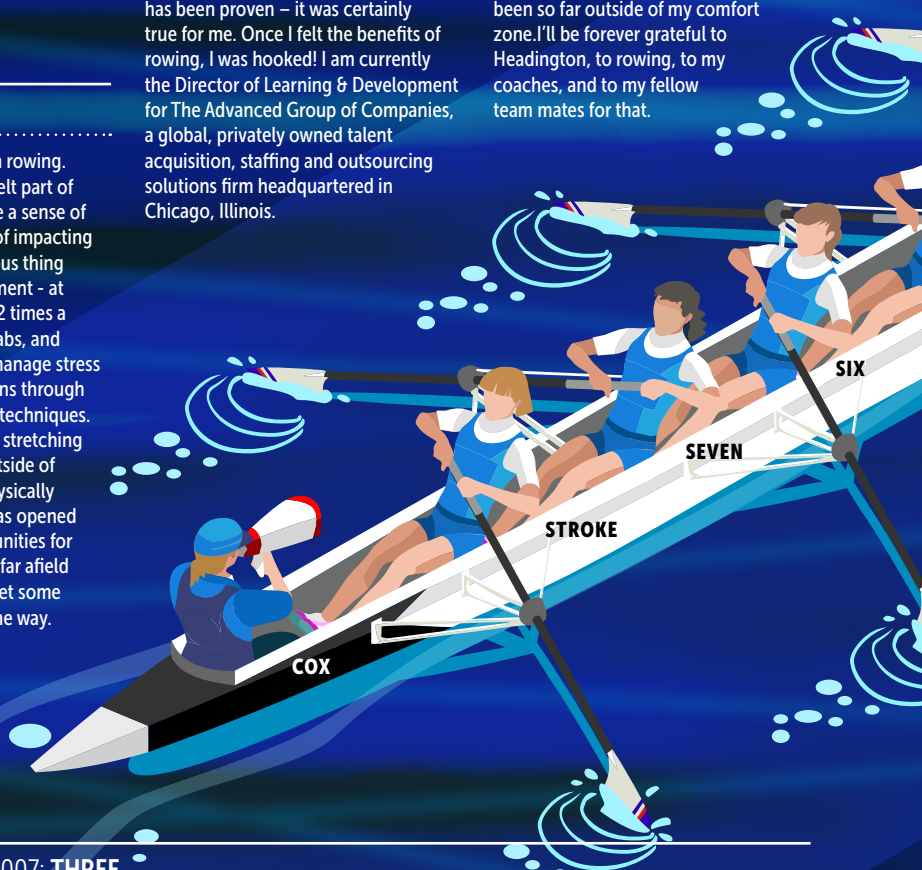
I was not particularly into sport when I was younger but decided to give rowing a go. We started out rowing in singles on Hinksey lake and after a winter of falling in and being dive bombed by nesting birds, I had my first indoor rowing race and was completely and utterly hooked. It turns out I enjoy competition; I loved the adrenaline rush, and pushing myself to do better and go faster just to see how far I could go. After leaving Headington, I read natural sciences at St John's College, Cambridge before heading to Imperial College London to do a PhD in materials science. I rowed throughout; with my college, in the Cambridge Blue Boat, and for Imperial. I now work as an R&D manager for Unilever leading the development of technologies that go into laundry and fabric care products. For me, I met most of my best friends

and my other half through rowing. It's the first place I really felt part of something, and it gave me a sense of self confidence. In terms of impacting my career, the most obvious thing I learnt was time management - at University I was training 12 times a week on top of lectures, labs, and tutorials. I learnt how to manage stress and high pressure situations through visualisation and calming techniques. For me, rowing was about stretching boundaries, taking me outside of my comfort zone both physically and mentally. The sport has opened up some amazing opportunities for me, racing in locations as far afield as Shanghai, and I have met some incredible people along the way.

**DEBS MILHAUPT (née Shlugman) 2006: TWO**

I can't remember why I started rowing - my Mum probably signed me up! However I can remember why I kept going...because I definitely felt like giving up at times! It added a few hours to the school day, meant early morning practice on the weekends, and all while keeping my grades up and homework in on time. But, I quickly made very close friends, started getting physically fit, and noticed my grades going up and up - not down! I'm no scientist but I'm pretty sure the link between sports and academic performance has been proven - it was certainly true for me. Once I felt the benefits of rowing, I was hooked! I am currently the Director of Learning & Development for The Advanced Group of Companies, a global, privately owned talent acquisition, staffing and outsourcing solutions firm headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

I truly believe rowing played a huge part in where I am today. The list of benefits is long - time management skills, focus, team work, self-confidence and more. It taught me that you can achieve incredible things if you put your mind to it and work hard, even if the odds seem against you. I wasn't the tallest or the biggest, and getting into the First VIII took more determination, strength and belief than I knew I had in me. That achievement has given me the self-confidence to take risks, opportunities, and roles that have been so far outside of my comfort zone. I'll be forever grateful to Headington, to rowing, to my coaches, and to my fellow team mates for that.

**CHLOE SWORDS 2007: THREE**

I left Headington in 2007 to study medicine at Cambridge. Over a decade later, I am no longer rowing but I use many of the same values in my day-to-day work that rowing instilled in me from such a young age. I initially chose to try out rowing at Headington because I'd watched the Boat Races on television but also because I hadn't enjoyed netball or hockey! I have a lot

to be thankful from that period of my life. I find that my ability now to apply myself to a future goal with grit and determination is something that was developed at School. Being able to breakdown a long term goal into the necessary steps was something that I learnt from the dedicated training we undertook as a crew at School. I went on to row for the Lightweight Women's

8 at Cambridge, winning at the boat race, which is a particularly fond memory I have of my time there - fond but it definitely did not come without hard work. These days I am still based in Cambridge and am working as an ENT surgical registrar. Whilst I am no longer rowing, working in theatre means that I am still an early riser!

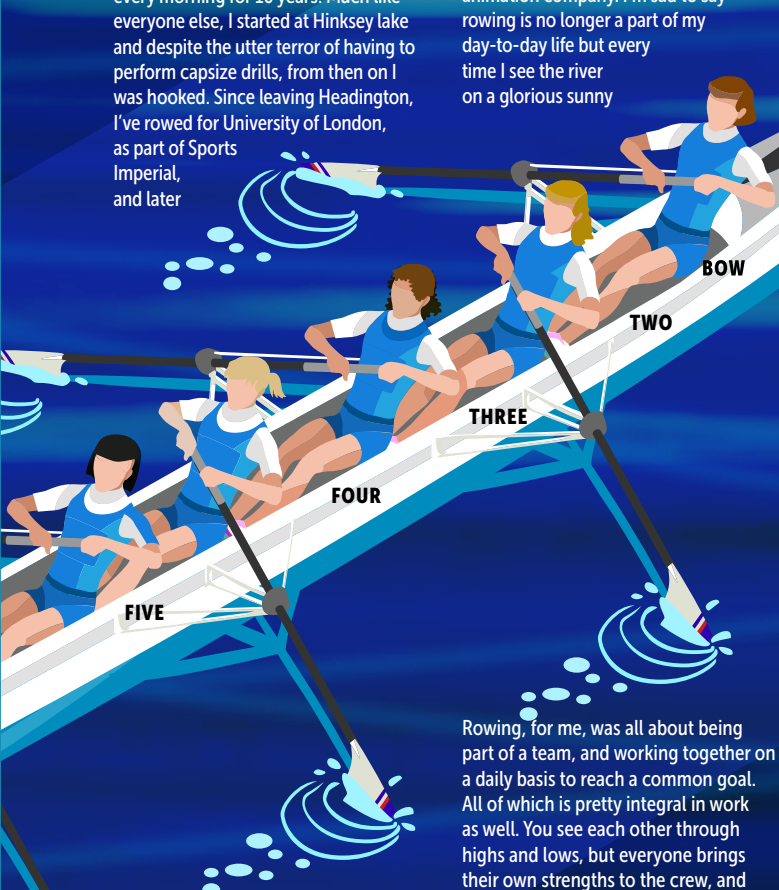
**CHARLOTTE (CHAZZ) DYSON** (née Moultrie) 2006: **FOUR**

When I was 14, I stopped figure skating and was looking for something new to try. Lots of people in my year rowed and I wanted to see what it was like. After all, I was used to training at 6am every morning for 10 years! Much like everyone else, I started at Hinksey lake and despite the utter terror of having to perform capsizing drills, from then on I was hooked. Since leaving Headington, I've rowed for University of London, as part of Sports Imperial, and later

on at Reading Rowing Club. I'm currently an animator and designer, working in Marketing at an corporate elearning company in Shoreditch, London and am hoping to one day start my own animation company. I'm sad to say rowing is no longer a part of my day-to-day life but every time I see the river on a glorious sunny

morning, I'm instantly pulled back to that wonderful feeling of being in a boat. One of my best memories of rowing was in the eight one Saturday morning, and our coach Ryan was teaching us about 'free speed'. By this point, our eight was really starting to gel so it wasn't long until we understood what to do. The moment it clicked, I remember looking over to the bank and just felt our boat simply fly away. It was a beautiful moment, and I'll never forget it.

For me, rowing gave me so much, and I strongly urge others to try it as it made me who I am today. It taught me a lot about adapting to different scenarios, being a good sportswoman, as well as juggling it with my School work. That balance between school and rowing helped with my concentration, my determination, and dealing with setbacks. I grew to love being part of a team, working really hard to achieve your goals, the sheer elation when you won or got a PB, as well as the proper lows when you lost or didn't quite make your target. I am forever grateful for the sport, our coaches, and what Headington School Boat Club gave me in my life today! Long live HSOBC - you guys are awesome.



**RACHAEL SBIHI** (née Jefferies) 2005: **FIVE**

Rowing started for me, as it has for so many Headingtonians, on a freezing cold Hinksey lake, coached by the lovely (and immensely patient) John Broadhurst. After leaving School in 2005 I studied my BA at Cambridge University, followed by an MSc in Sports Science at Brunel University. I rowed throughout, earning my Cambridge blue in 2007, and then training out of Leander club in Henley for a couple of years. I first competed for GB at the age of 14 and was fortunate enough to travel the world and compete internationally throughout both School and University. I now work as a Director at a medical education agency, and oversee a team in Chiswick. It's really fast paced but I love it.

Rowing, for me, was all about being part of a team, and working together on a daily basis to reach a common goal. All of which is pretty integral in work as well. You see each other through highs and lows, but everyone brings their own strengths to the crew, and you trust each other implicitly. I've met some of my closest friends through rowing, in fact two of my bridesmaids were crew mates from my 2006 and 2007 World Champ boats. I even ended up marrying a rower - he's onto his third Olympic cycle so I figured he does enough for us both now.

So needless to say I owe a huge amount to the team and coaches at Headington! I agree with my sister though, the new facilities are insane! Let me know if you ever need a sub!

**ALEX RICHARDSON** 2006: **SIX**

I started rowing when I was 12 at Hinksey rowing lake, having watched my older sister messing about on the water; quite frequently capsizing. To me it looked like enormous fun. Quite honestly it must have been the subconscious rebellious almost-teenager in me wanting to resign my parents to half a decade of eye wateringly early Saturday and Sunday morning starts. I now work as a doctor, specialising in Geriatrics and General Adult Medicine in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich. I live in Peckham Rye in South East London, where I spend my free time (when not racing around the hospital) catching up with

friends from Headington and University, running and occasionally attempting amateur boxing training.

Rowing has given me the ability to understand how important (and fun) it is to work as a team. Hours spent in freezing minibuses between river sessions, and glorious moments shared when winning races after months of training, have remained with me in both my professional and personal life. It has taught me the ability to laugh even when I'm tired and stressed, and to essentially "dig deep", as our outstandingly committed coaches used to say. I will, however, never eat Malt Loaf again.

**CHARLOTTE JEFFERIES** 2006: **SEVEN**

I started rowing when I was 10 on Hinksey Lake in Oxford - my sister Rachael had taken it up so thought I would give it a try. I capsized as soon as I got in the boat, which was quite amusing, but obviously enjoyed it as rowing became a huge part of my School life at Headington. After leaving School, I studied my BA and MPhil at Downing College Cambridge, focused on Biological Sciences. After which I became a Strategy Consultant, studied my MBA at London Business

School and then moved into luxury retail at Selfridges. I am now Director of Strategy and Marketing at a Spirits and Champagne startup which is really good fun.

For me, rowing taught me to be resilient and dedicated, two things which have really helped me achieve my goals academically and professionally. I will always think fondly of the time spent with the team - though wish I had come through a few years later as the training facilities are so swanky now!

**SARAH MURPHY** 2005: **BOW**

Sarah is currently cycling around the world for a year as part of her honeymoon/cyclemoon. It seems she still has the physical determination and endurance as she did when she was Rowing! We caught up with her

sister Cath Murphy (2003) to find out more about what Sarah has been up to since leaving Headington. Sarah went on to study at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. She stayed in London for her foundation

years before moving to Canberra and now works at The Canberra Hospital as an ED registrar. Sarah continued to row following School and competed in EUSA a couple of times and was a GB racer at the British biathlon in 2013.

# FROM RED CARPETS TO ROUNDTABLES:

## THE LIFE OF AN ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

CYDNEY YEATES

2013

*From darting off to television and film premieres on a Wednesday evening, to meeting talent at top secret hotel locations for interviews on a Thursday before breakfast, no typical day is the same in the world of entertainment reporting.*

In most national newsrooms, journalists work shifts – it's almost unheard of working 9am-5pm Monday to Friday because the news doesn't stop. Cars can be sent as early as 5am to pick us up and take us to the office for a 6am start and some working days continue right up until midnight. In my two years in the business, I've worked two Christmas Days, Boxing Day and Easter, countless weekends and bank holidays, but that's just the way it is.

During a day shift, I'll be assigned television to watch and this can be anything from a new Netflix series to the ever problematic *Loose Women*. While I'll be on the hunt for new lines, there's also room to publish reviews and explainers too. On Tuesdays our editor hosts our weekly exclusives meeting where we run through all the content that we have in the pipeline, such as one-on-one

phone interviews with celebs that we've organised with PRs, roundtable conferences, screeners, celebrity parties and launches, red carpets, award ceremonies and everything in-between. We get to chat with a real breadth of personalities, for example in the past few weeks alone, I've had the pleasure of interviewing Spice Girl Geri Horner, Sex Education's Ncuti Gatwa and Kim Kardashian's bestie Jonathan Cheban.

On a typical evening shift, I get to tune into everything from hard-hitting documentaries to those all-important episodes of *The Chase*. At the same time, I'll scour social media for the latest stories – which can be anything from Kanye West going on *another* Twitter rant, to *Game of Thrones* dropping their new trailer and *Love Island*'s Megan Barton-Hanson announcing her split from Wes Nelson on Instagram. This time of the year it's awards season so we're all hot on our toes with the latest news from the Grammys, Academy Awards, the Brits and the BAFTAs. Summer is particularly great too because of *Love Island* and I get to eat, live and breathe the show with access to spoilers ahead of transmission interview access.

While television and celebrities make up the majority of my day-to-day routine, there's plenty of opportunity to branch out and explore music and theatre too. Got your eye on a festival line-up? Not a problem. More often than not we're able to get press tickets to gigs and various events to review too with room for plus ones. Press trips are also on the cards, allowing us to travel to some phenomenal destinations in exchange for a longform write-up. It's non-stop, but I wouldn't change it for anything else.



# BRIDGING THE GAP:

## AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR ALUMNAE PREFECT

### HANI MEARS

U6 STUDENT

#### Tell us a bit about your background?

Now that's a long story! I was born and raised in Malaysia until 2004. I then moved to the Netherlands and lived there for eight years, before moving to Oxford in 2012, to attend Headington. At present, I am in my U6 year (the last stop before Uni) and my last year of the International Baccalaureate (IB), studying Higher Level Biology, Chemistry and German, along with Standard Level Maths, English and History.

#### What made you choose to study IB?

Well, I was pretty indecisive when choosing A-level subjects, but the IB lets you take a broader range of them. I also love the CAS (Creative, Action, Service) aspect of the programme, which requires you to embark on new adventures outside the classroom, like indoor skydiving and even a trip to Botswana! I knew that such an all-rounded course would not just make my Sixth Form years fun, but would also sufficiently prepare me for University.

#### What extra-curricular activities have you been involved in at Headington?

I've always been fond of sports, which is why I've competed with the School's hockey and tennis teams. Other than this, I've enjoyed being part of the Combined Cadet Force for the last five years – the contingent is practically my second family.

#### What is your best memory from your time at Headington?

Hands down, the Christmas lunches. I would always pull Christmas crackers with my friends, before digging into some great food. We'd always get a little hyper after the chocolate yule log for dessert too.

#### Looking back to when you started at Headington, what advice would you give yourself?

Learn the School floorplan off by heart! The number

*'I like to see this role as a bridge between the current students and alumnae. Its primary focus is on keeping my U6 year involved in the school community after they leave.'*



of times I've been late to lessons because I got lost in the corridor, even as a Sixth Former, is shocking.

#### What are you hoping to do once you leave Headington?

Now that's a tricky question. After this year, I hope to go to university for a Biomedical Science course and perhaps work for the WHO later on. However, there's a part of me that would be interested in joining the Intelligence Corps, but I'll see where life takes me.

#### Tell us about why you applied to be the Alumnae Prefect?

Moving countries has shown me how important it is to keep in contact with people. The end of one's time at Headington should not be the end of one's friendships, with the people who made their time at School special. I applied for this role because I want to support those connections, both between Headingtonians and with the School itself. Even though this prefect position is relatively new, I hope that my input has helped to rekindle old friendships.

#### What is involved in your role as the Headington Alumnae Prefect?

I like to see this role as a bridge between the current students and alumnae. Its primary focus is on keeping my U6 year involved in the school community after they leave. I work closely with the Development Office to give any new ideas as to how we can achieve this, such as new ideas for Headingtonians' Day.

#### What help might you look for from the wider Headington community as you transition to the 'world of work'?

It would be great if we had more networking opportunities with alumnae. A main struggle for my year was finding work experience, so help with that would make all the difference. Alternatively, I think a lot of us overlook how our daily life changes once we leave Headington. Perhaps it would be good for recent leavers to connect with senior alumnae, to provide advice about what to expect.

#### Imagine it's 2029 and you're coming back to Headington for your ten-year reunion... Where would you make a beeline for?

I would probably go and check if my hiding spot still existed. As U3s, my friends and I would sit on the balcony behind the stage in the main hall, to eat sweets after school. I'd be interested to see if it's still there ten years on and whether any new U3s would have claimed it as their own!

#### What would you hope has changed?

I would love to see if the Food and Nutrition block gets a revamp. A lot of us, who did Food Technology GCSE, have fond memories of that place (including a fair few oven mishaps!), and it would be great to see the kitchens get a bit of a Masterchef-esque makeover.

# 'IT'S THE BEST OPPORTUNITY I'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN'

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AMBER SCNCE

2018

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*Amber Sconce was awarded a fully funded boarding bursary to study A levels in the Sixth Form at Headington. Amber left Headington in 2018 and is now studying Physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University. Amber talks with Helen Batchelor (1978) about how being given this opportunity changed her life.*

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## Tell us a bit about your background

I'm from Cheshire, and attended High School in Chester from the age of 11 to 16. When I was in Year 9, the School began running a Bursary programme scheme with the Hope Opportunity Trust to give hardworking students the opportunity to study A levels in private boarding schools. I remember hearing about Year 11's who had been granted bursaries; I thought it was so cool and I wanted that to be me! I worked towards that right up until Year 11, then I went through some testing and interviews, which flagged that I was a student looking for an opportunity, and that's when Headington came forward and offered to give me an interview. I remember getting the phone call to say I'd been accepted at Headington and I was beyond happy... I had worked so hard for this opportunity.

## How did you feel about starting at Headington?

When I first came to visit Headington I was shocked and amazed at the sheer size of the School and facilities. It was so different from what I was used to – my old School had around 300 students, and to move to a School with over 1000 girls was just crazy to me. I was a little nervous; this was like entering a whole different world compared with where I'd come from. I was so excited to start; it was the only summer I wanted to go quicker, so that I could begin my journey at Headington.

I specifically remember moving into the Boarding House. That was really different for me but I was excited as it was a new opportunity; I thought of it as living with my friends. I was absolutely amazed by all the sports facilities at the School. I remember when my parents came round on a visit they thought it was incredible as well... I just couldn't believe that girls had the opportunity to do yoga in the evenings and things like that!

## What opportunities has being at Headington given you?

I was given the chance to be Head of House. If you'd asked me two years ago, I wouldn't have even known what a Head of House was, never mind actually being one. I absolutely loved the role, especially being able to put my ideas forward and also to be a communication link between staff and the students.

Another aspect was my EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). I don't think I would have ever decided to write an essay off my own back before coming to Headington. My EPQ was about how psychopaths have enhanced abilities to be successful. I remember going to a lecture when I first started at Headington which I found so interesting that I was inspired to write my EPQ on this topic. That was such a great opportunity; I was nervous about presenting my essay on the presentation evening but it went so well; Mrs Jordan also came to hear my presentation which meant a lot.

I have made some absolutely amazing friends; I've got friends for life. I keep in contact with the girls that I lived with, especially Kate, my best friend.

## What are you doing now?

I'm studying Physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University. I'm loving my course – it's challenging, but I am really enjoying it. I'm looking forward to going on placements next year. I've just finished a Final Assessment for our group project and managed to achieve a First, so that was very rewarding.

Much to my Mum's dismay, moving to University I wasn't homesick at all. It was just so smooth for me as I'd already been away from home for two years. Having the experience of living with other people, knowing their boundaries and how to act in a shared environment was so much easier for me compared

with other people who had obviously never been away from home. Headington is probably one of the most diverse environments I've ever been in – I'd met so many girls from different cultures and backgrounds – so at Uni, being able to adapt and relate to other people was relatively easy.

## What do you want to do in the future?

In the short term, I'm planning to complete a sports massage qualification, because as part of my course we have to do CPD (Continued Professional Development), so I'm hoping to become a qualified sports massage therapist this year. Longer term, I'd like to do a Masters course in Physiotherapy Manipulation and then go on to work in the NHS, maybe doing neurological physiotherapy, helping people with neurological disorders. Recently we've learnt about Guillain Barre Syndrome, which is when people lose the sensory information through their whole body. It's probably one of the most rewarding aspects of physiotherapy as you can change people's lives through rehabilitation and helping to make them fully functional again.

## Looking back, what impact has being at Headington had on you?

I can honestly say that being at Headington has totally re-directed my life. If I hadn't come to Headington, I probably wouldn't have done my A levels or gone to University. It's allowed me to grow as a person so much and opened up so many opportunities for me – it's been amazing. It's honestly the best thing I've ever done.

For anyone else who is offered the chance of having a Headington education I'd say be brave, grab the opportunity and don't waste it. I'd tell my younger self – or another bursary student – to challenge yourself and take every opportunity you can. All I can say is a massive thank you to everyone who made this possible for me. It's the best opportunity I've ever been given.

*'I can honestly say that being at Headington has totally re-directed my life'.*

# OPEN THE DOOR TO HEADINGTON

## BY DONATING TO OUR BURSARY FUND

**Headington is a special place, and many generations of Headingtonians have passed through its gates, benefitting from inspirational teaching and having made friends for life.**

Bursaries have always played an important part in the School's commitment to providing an excellent education for as many promising pupils as our resources will allow. Headington is only able to extend this opportunity with the generous support of you, the family of Headington.

Our aspiration is for any girl with the ability to win a place at Headington to be able to do so, regardless of their financial situation. Help us to open the door to more pupils like Amber, so that talented children from all backgrounds can continue to benefit from the same education at Headington that you received.

A gift from you, no matter what size, can help to change the course of an individual's life. At present, for every Amber that we can offer the opportunity of a Headington education, we disappoint another three. We would be delighted if you would consider supporting us and giving to the Bursary Fund in whatever way you can.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Giving on a regular basis is an affordable way of donating to Headington's Bursary Fund. Regular gifts quickly add up, and your contribution will join those of others to fund a bursary place.

To fund a bursary place at Headington, this is the equivalent to receiving:

- £10** per month, from **120 people**
- £25** per month, from **48 people**
- £50** per month, from **24 people**

Alternatively, we always welcome single donations and all gifts will be gratefully received into the Bursary Fund.

If you make a regular donation or a one-off gift, provided you are a UK tax payer, you can help Headington further by gift-aiding your donation, which allows us to claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate, at no additional cost to you.

If you know someone who would be interested in applying for a bursary at Headington, you can find more information on our school website or email [admissions@headington.org](mailto:admissions@headington.org)

Thank you, from the Headington bursary pupils of the future, for making a difference. Together we can educate the next generation.

**To discuss how you can support Headington's Bursary Fund, please call the Development Team (Helen Batchelor, Alice McLinden or Vicky Huggett) on +44 (0)1865 759101 or email [development@headington.org](mailto:development@headington.org).**

# LETTER TO MY PAST SELF

Annie McGrath (2008), actor,  
writer and comedian pictures  
the advice she would give to her  
younger self...



Hi Annie,

Your skin looks incredible! Enjoy that while it lasts. Can I suggest you stop straightening your hair every day for school though – literally no one cares if it's straight or curly, and you're doing some long-term damage to those sweet locks, as well as it being a huge waste of time. Also, eyeliner without mascara isn't doing you wonders, and again, pointless.

Make the most of the Art block and the other incredible facilities you have access to at Headington; it is a huge privilege. In the real world, you'll have to pay for your own paints and you won't have whatever you want whenever you want it. Weird, eh? Don't leave your A-Level paintings at School (unfortunately I know it's too late for that) as there will be a time where people are actually paying real money for your art. Who knew?!

Appreciate your parents being supportive of your creative endeavours and ignore the people who make out that Art and Drama aren't real subjects – in the future you will manage to carve a career out of both! It really doesn't matter that you're terrible at Chemistry. Well done for putting some effort into that though, even if it's only because you fancy the teacher (who shall remain nameless).

Don't cry when you get an A (not an A\*) in GCSE drama, because that would be an embarrassing thing to do and a more embarrassing thing to

admit to having done. One day you'll be in a short film which is BAFTA nominated so then you can tell the examiner who marked you down to (these two words have been edited out). Because he will definitely be reading this issue of the Headingtonian and mentioning it will really prove to him that you're over it. For balance, you could also drop in that you've been in an advert for peanuts – it's not all glamour!

Good luck with netball. Weirdly you'll still be playing when you're 29 and there's no shame in that! Also, you'll still be playing with your friend Sophie so that's nice to know. In fact, you're in touch with all of your friends from School, which means you've chosen well – congratulations! Speaking of friends, remember to take more photos of you with Emma Watson. I know she's famous now, but Jesus Christ she's really famous in the future.

I'm not really sure how to sign-off as the whole experience of writing to myself feels fairly strange. You are technically now a writer though, so hopefully you'll be fine. Wait, which me am I talking to now? It's confusing isn't it?

Be kind to the teachers who have supported you. Look after yourself and the people around you. Wow – it's suddenly got quite sincere hasn't it?

**KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING  
AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE  
RISKS!**

Annie x



# LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF

*Katya Davisson, an Upper Sixth Student and Head of Day contemplates what she might say to her future self in years to come as she approaches the end of her time at Headington.*

Katya,

Whilst writing this letter my school years are drawing to a close, and I have had the greatest time. I am at the end, though it is also the beginning; like my career at Headington has been a warm up before the big performance in the real world. For the entirety of my school career I have yearned for the next step, whether that be the Senior School, Middle School or Sixth Form. Over the past few months, however, I have taken time to reflect on school life; the familiarity of each teacher's face, the geniality of every friend's voice, and even the trivial normality of break time, lunchtime and timetables. While my excitement for the future outweighs the occasional flicker of apprehension, the prospect of leaving the comforts of the familiar red brick exterior is somewhat daunting.

Future Me, I see your warm smile of gratitude for the people I surround myself with, the people who were planted into my life to help me become the person I need to be; the person that you are. I hope that you no longer feel guilty when you take a break from work to spend time with them, as well as new people that you have been privileged enough to meet along the way. Remember not to let past relationships hang precariously over your head; instead remind yourself that when one door is closed, another is opened.

Nelson Mandela dubbed education 'the most powerful weapon'. I hope these words have remained with you, and that you are not only guarding the vulnerable but are also teaching and arming the defenceless. Are you a teacher? An academic? A mum? There can never be too many questions, at least not for me. I hope the same still holds true for you, that you are inquisitive and eager to understand everything around you.

I hope you still enjoy music, even if it isn't your career path, and that you always find time to revel in the music that you love. I hope that you encourage your children to love music, and that you have put aside precious time to learn to play the organ.

I hope that you are proud of me for rolling up my sleeves and always pushing myself hard, and that you will always embrace the ambition and determination Headington so profoundly instilled in you. I hope that you have learned and that you teach your children it is alright to ask for help and alright to make mistakes. If we only remember one thing that Headington taught us, it is that resilience will always overcome adversity.

I can't wait to meet you.

*Katya*



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# FAMILY NEWS

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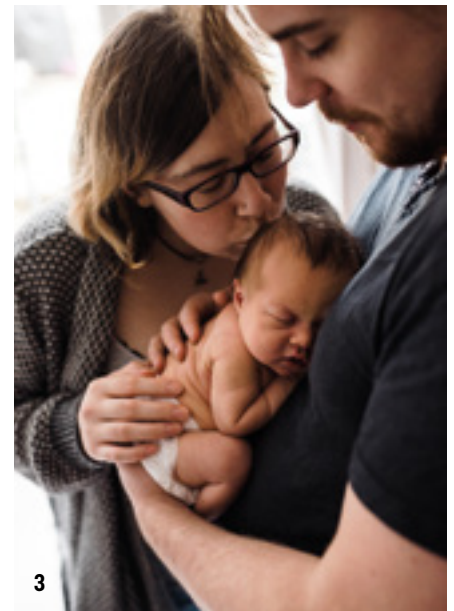
## BIRTHS

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**1. Janet Ip (1997):** Lucy was born October 28th 2018, on a bright Sunday morning after a good night's sleep. After her birth, family dynamics improved. All three kids (even the three year old!) are showing a greater sense of responsibility, taking care of themselves, helping each other, and contributing to household chores joyfully.

**2. Angel Ko (2003):** A good friend knows all your best stories. A best friend has lived them with you. I am honored to be able to witness the new chapter of your story. Wishing baby Natalie and baby Rosie a wonderful life filled with love, joy and good health!

**3. Miranda Latham-Jackson (2006):** My husband Cam and I were delighted to welcome our daughter Alexia Juliet Latham-Jackson to the world on Christmas Eve 2018.



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**4. Olivia Lee** (née Wainwright, 2009):

We announce the birth of our daughter Norah Yong Yi Lee on the 30th April 2018.

**5. Lucy Lindsay** (Walker, 1998):

Abigail Chloe Lindsay was born 1st October 2018; a sister for Jack.

**6. Phoebe McCarter** (2004):

My wife and I welcomed our son Lens into our family on 28th August 2017.

**7. Hannah Newell** (née Wadcock, 2005):

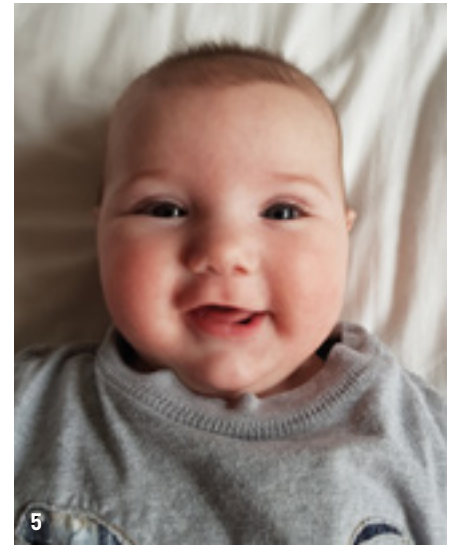
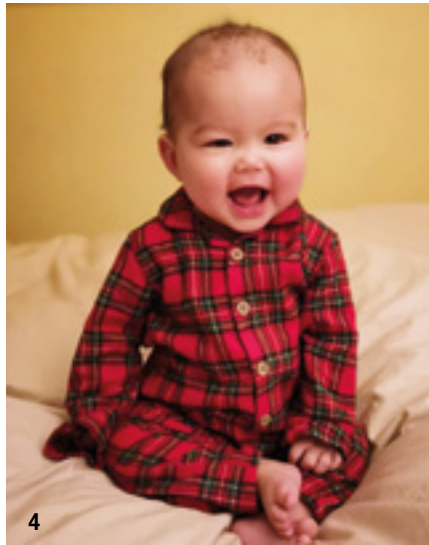
Our wonderful daughter Florence Elizabeth Newell was born in January 2018 and has provided happy chaos for Jason and I ever since!

**8 & 9. Lucy Tandon** (née Copp, 2007):

Shanx Tandon (Abingdon School leaver 2008) and I welcomed Phoebe Lyra Rose into the world on 12th November 2018, weighing 6lb 7oz.

**10. Suzy Tautz** (née Cornish, 1999):

Suzy and Chris announce the birth of their twins, Lilian and Ernest Tautz on 12th July 2018, siblings for older brother Isaac (aged 3) – 'they are a delightful handful!'



## MARRIAGES

**1 & 2. SARAH DYE** (née Ambrose, 2007) married Matthew Dye in September 2018. Four of her five bridesmaids were Headingtonians, including her sister Charlotte Ward (née Ambrose, 2005), as well as lots of the guests. *Image 1* Matthew Ambrose and Sarah Ambrose. *Image 2* left to right Charlie Ollivier (2005), Rachel Johnston (2007), Megan Hickman (née Anderson, 2007), Kathryn Fielding (2007), Sarah Peake (2007), Anna McGarel-Groves (2007), Rosie Garlick (née Godden, 2007), Sarah Dye, Matthew Dye, Jessica Wong (2005), Hermione Upton-Speed (2007), Imogen Wynell-Mayow (2007), Joey Fells (2007), Sarah Nooth-Cooper (née Speechly, 2007), Tabi Jackson-Gee (2005) and Claire Evans (née Fraser, 2005.)



**3 & 4. ROSALYN EDENBROW CARR**

(née Edenbrow, 2008)

married Harry Carr on 7th April 2018 at St James the Great Church, Radley, followed by a reception at Stonehill House, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. *Image 3* Rosalyn Edenbrow Carr and Harry Carr. *Image 4* from top left to bottom right (2008/2009): Sophie Wilson, Cheryl Ferguson (current staff), Shannon Mahanty, Niamh Watson, Rheanna Underwood, Roz Edenbrow Carr, Annie Mcgrath, Emily Manolopoulos, Rosie Wells, Jenny Castle-Miller, Eve Hemingway, Darla Eno, Katie Churchill, Caroline Winnington.



**5. SARAH GROVES** (2004)

finally celebrated her marriage to Matthew Demetriades with family and friends, including nine longstanding Headingtonians and sister Melissa Groves (2010), on 30th December 2017. *Image 5* back row, left to right Katie Ford (née Osborn Jones, 2004), Rebecca Morris (née Emberey, 2004), Sarah Salter (nee Badham-Thornhill, 2004), Sarah Groves, Laura Ryan (née Farrell, 2004), Emma Cahill (née Hands, 2004), Heather Petrie (née Trotman, 2004) and Emily Knight (née Davies, 2004). Front row left to right Alice Hands (2004) and Tessa Muir (2004).



**6. CATRIONA MORRIS**

(née Barlow, 2004)

'On 14th July 2017 I married my soulmate and best friend, Dr Ross Morris, in Glasgow University Chapel. Maid of honour duties were performed expertly by lifelong friend, and Headingtonian, Clare Stimpson (2004). *Image 6* left to right Clare Stimpson, Catriona Morris and Dr Ross Morris.

**7 & 8. SARAH NOOTH-COOPER**

(née Speechy, 2007)

married Thomas Nooth-Cooper, her 'childhood sweetheart from down the road, Magdalen College' on 26th May 2018 at Hamswell House, Bath, Somerset. *Image 7* Thomas Nooth-Cooper and Sarah Nooth-Cooper. *Image 8* left to right Imogen Wynell-Mayow (2007), Hermione Upton Speed (2007, Maid of Honour) Sarah Speechly, Jacqueline Burns (2005), Kathryn Fielding (2007), Rosie Godden (2007, pregnant) and Joey Fells (2007).



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**9. NATALIE PALIAN**

(née Delahunty, 2009)

married Kevin Palian on 27th March 2018 and was joined by fellow Headingtonians Catherine Garman (2009) and Catherine Wood (2009). *Image 9* left to right Catherine Garman, Natlaie Palian and Catherine Wood.

**10 & 11. SREYA RAO** (2005)

married Jack Brougham in July 2018 in a civil ceremony in Oxford. She was joined by fellow Headingtonians Sravya Rao (2005) and Supraja Russell (née Rao, 2000). *Image 10* Jack Brougham and Sreya Rao. *Image 11* back left Sravya Rao, back right Supraja Russell, front left to right Jack Brougham and Sreya Rao.





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**12. EMILY SHERWOOD**

(née Gordon, 2005)

married Peter Sherwood on 25th August 2018 in Lewknor, Oxfordshire. Emily was joined by fellow Headingtonians Davina Sherwood (2002), Lucy Gordon (2003) and Katherine Harris (2005). Emily said it was a 'beautiful day celebrating with family and friends and many Headingtonians in the Oxfordshire countryside.' *Image 12* left to right: Katherine Baxter (Harris), Amy Gordon, Lucy Gordon, Emily Gordon, Peter Sherwood, Davina Sherwood and Sabrina Sherwood.

**13. AGNES TSANG** (2001)

married Peter Lo, cousin of Mirian Lo (1999).

*Image 13* Agnes Tsang and Peter Lo.



13



# HEADINGTONIANS' NEWS AND CAREER UPDATES



Geoffrey, Anne and daughter Catherine in a carriage in a Copenhagen Park

## 1956

### Anne Elizabeth Mills (NÉE GRAY)

It is many years since I contributed to the magazine, but I always love reading it and seeing news of those I once knew, so this year, I thought I ought to contribute something! I am now in my 80th year and living with my husband Geoffrey, who retired from the Priesthood in 1979. We still live in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, and have a lovely home and garden - our first 'own home'!

We have three children, now adults, of course, Catherine is married to Colin and they live in Binfield, Berkshire. They have two daughters, Laura, 24 and Zoe soon to be 22 and in her final year at Birmingham University. Both girls have spent

many months travelling the world – gaining enormous experience, one way or another.

Julia our second born, lives with her partner Ray in Wakefield. Julia has two boys, Dominic and Rory – they are both studying music in London, following in the footsteps of their Mum. Dom plays Jazz violin and sings and Rory is a trombonist. They both belong to a group called Jam Experiment and have travelled widely both at home and abroad. They have a new CD out soon. Both boys also belong to various other groups, but especially Jonny Mansfield's Elftet. A band of 11 and they also travel widely - recently appearing at the Marsden Jazz Festival in North Yorkshire to great acclaim.

Our son Tim – last but by no means least, is 12 years younger than Cath. He is married to Leigh

(from Edinburgh) and they live in Copenhagen at the moment, having moved from Edinburgh 2 years ago. They are both very successful in their own right in the banking world, though at the moment Leigh is concentrating on going to Danish Classes and doing extremely well. They joined us all for Christmas this year which was wonderful.

Geoffrey still presides and preaches at Rotherham Minster when asked, and I am busy offering Spiritual Accompaniment, which I love. The garden is also a huge part of my life and photography too.

We are extremely blessed with a loving family and friends and I send my good wishes to anyone who might remember me!! In my work room I have a photograph taken in the Art Room, as it was then all those years ago, with our teacher, Miss Warren, and friends, Anne Hawkins, Mary Fryer and one other, whose name I am sorry I can't remember.

## 1957

### Patricia Pearson

I read Social Science at Trinity College, Dublin in Ireland and then went to Aberdeen to work as a Medical Social Worker.

Later I went to The Royal London Hospital to train as a nurse. I went to Perth in Australia to work as nurse in a boys school, and then on to New Zealand to work as a Medical Social Worker in Tauranga General Hospital in the North Island.

I returned to Southern Ireland and worked for a sign company, and then at St. Columbas College as a secretary for ten years.

## 1959

### Gillian Susan Watson (NÉE MITCHELL)

I retired from teaching catering at the local college and sitting on the bench about 20 years ago. Fortunately both my husband and I keep reasonably fit. We are very involved in local activities. For me it is water colour painting, table tennis, hand bells, WI and two book groups. Fundraising for the RNLI has also been important to me. We travel as much as possible, on guided archaeological tours and pottering round Europe in our camper. We have even had the van to Morocco as well! We have been very lucky. I would enjoy seeing anyone from our year at Headington if they are in the area. Please get in touch.

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## 1964

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### **Lesley Easterman**

(NÉE LEEK)

Having retired from working full time in the NHS just a few years ago, there is now more time for those activities I particularly enjoy. Circle dancing and bird watching, both locally and further afield; Egyptology as a volunteer at Bolton Museum (recently reopened to national acclaim) as well as Manchester University; local politics and the National Women's Register. I also make extended visits to my son on Vancouver Island.



Lesley Easterman

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## 1964

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### **Felicity Lötter**

(NÉE ARNOLD)

It has been some years since I last wrote. We have been living in a small town called Modimolle in Limpopo province for just over 8 years having re-located from Vereeniging shortly after I retired. We are approximately halfway between Pretoria and Polokwane just off the Main road (N1) to Zimbabwe.

Pieter and I are still travelling around Southern Africa although the more

difficult to reach areas are no longer on our itinerary. Last year we traded in our off-road trailer and tent plus our elderly caravan for a more modern and lighter weight caravan that we can handle and that does not require an army of assistants to manoeuvre! We normally spend at least 3 weeks each year in the Kruger National Park and at least another 3 to 4 weeks between other game reserves throughout the country. In between travelling we have recently spent a fair amount of time watching various unfolding political "thrillers" on CNN/BBC/Sky and various other channels.....between the US President/Brexit and our very own State Capture there has been enough to keep us occupied for quite a few weeks!

After a series of mishaps and operations, Pieter has ended upon crutches and may possibly "progress" to a walking frame or wheelchair within the next year or two. In my mind, I can hear the two grandsons plotting and planning on how to attach a 4 litre V8 engine to a wheelchair for him!

Our grandchildren – two in Port Elizabeth (14 and 13 years) and one in Johannesburg (14 years) are now in High School. Our granddaughter is turning out to be a true 'mermaid' – at the age of 13 she has represented her province at national level in Biathlon (junior) and Short course swimming. She has already been chosen for her school Water Polo A team and, as a sideline, participates in open water swimming competitions! She will be taking part in the South African National Swimming Championships in Durban in March. I can't help wondering what she would have

achieved if she had the 'facility' that we used at Headington in the 60's – open air; no filter; no heater... and quite often pea-green...and those strange changing rooms with canvas flaps that always flew up at the most inopportune moment! Our grandsons are into rugby, cricket, soccer and tennis – both of them representing their respective schools and clubs in their age group.

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## 1964

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### **Judy Stephenson**

(NÉE LESTER)

It's been all go in this family; over the past couple of years I have acquired two daughters in law, who are kind enough not to declare me the mother in law from hell. My husband lived to see both boys married before cancer released him from dementia. Now, brimming with excitement, I await the birth of my first grandchild, fully determined to interfere.

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## 1971

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### **Elizabeth Burnell**

Life in retirement has lead me to wonder when I ever had time to work! I am now volunteering each week at Nuffield Place - the home of William Morris, Lord Nuffield, the entrepreneur and founder of the Morris Motor Company at Cowley (most people will know his name from Nuffield College, Nuffield Health). It is an amazing place to work, mainly because he was such an inspirational man.

For a time I was also a Trustee Director for Oxfordshire Relate - helping them through a change programme which meant that they have now become part of the national Relate charity. I am on the look-out for new opportunities in the charity sector now.

I had a wonderful trip to Italy to an area called Sabina, just north of Rome, where I did a cookery



Elizabeth Burnell with dogs Muffin and Maya

course and I am currently planning a photography trip to Vietnam in September.

Most of my time however is spent with my dogs - I now have two, a 3 year old Maltese called Muffin, who was a rescue dog, and an 8 month old pup called Maya. They are an absolute joy - through them I have made lots of friends, visited lots of places, and kept fit!! Muffin and I did a 3 week trip up to the very tip of Scotland last year...magical! This year we plan to go to Wales.

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## 1971

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### **Bridget Trueman**

(NÉE THOMPSON)

Dear Headingtonians, I turned 65 this year, and thought I would ask where the members of my year group are, and what they are doing. I was one of five siblings who went from the junior school to either Headington senior school or the Dragon School in the case of my two brothers. You may have seen the photo of the five of us in the magazine of 2012, at my youngest sister's wedding.

I am finding unsurprisingly that I am very busy in my retirement! I am enjoying learning to paint in oils and acrylics as well as carrying on with watercolours. I have taken up dressmaking again, and enjoy designing garments with unusual materials.

I serve on several committees, e.g. Thame Twinning (French town), helping to disburse moneys to young people locally - for education after sixth form, raising money for the local comprehensive school, Headingtonians, etc.

I enjoy returning to Headington for various activities and, having received a scholarship myself, am very pleased to be able to support young women at Headington who otherwise could not attend. There is a very interesting letter from Amber in the current issue.

I am also the local parish church's SEN officer, which is - as time goes on - more important because of the increasing number of young people and adults with various challenges. The C of E is becoming more proactive in this area than in the past, and I attend an annual day conference at St Martin in the Fields most Octobers. The speakers are either dealing with challenges themselves, or involved in support within the church, supplying ideas on how one can improve this in a home parish. I am on the deanery synod and PCC, so this latter means I can suggest and discuss ideas directly.

I recently broke my leg, and am sadly experiencing a complication, so my activities in dance, Zumba, gym, swimming and cycling are somewhat curtailed. I can partially do them, but e.g. not currently dance for a full hour.

I also help family members of course, and help where asked in various capacities.

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## 1973

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### **Denise Lebon**

(NÉE PAYNE)

I retired two years ago and now enjoying life; travelling and a passionate scuba diver which takes us all around the world. I have been living in France for the last 40 years, married to a Frenchman (we celebrated 30 years of marriage

in Bora Bora last September) and a daughter of 28 who joined the police 10 years ago and is now in the crime department.

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## 1976

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### **Rosanne Lyden-Brown**

(NÉE ASHWORTH)



Rosanne Lyden-Brown

Having spent 30 years working in a wide range of roles at Marks & Spencer, travelling to over 20 countries and enjoying almost every moment I was planning to retire. I was then offered a great opportunity at DHL where I've been for the last 10. I've enjoyed all of those years and now, having just turned 60 (eek!!) have reduced to working 3 days a week.

On my second marriage - for 22 years and have a 21 year old daughter & five dogs! We live in a 600 year old thatch in a tiny north Bedfordshire village.

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## 1976

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### **Adjeley Abla Akwei**

Senior massage therapist, owner and director of RIMA TheraTouch (rimatheratouch.com), physiotherapy and massage clinic in Accra. 2019 is our 10th year!

Single mother to Sarah (22) and Ama Charlene (12) both adopted.

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## 1979

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### **Lizzie Thomas-Davies**

(NÉE PIM)

I belong to the International Spinal Cord Injury Nurse Society and the Spinal Advisory Working Group (SAWG). I am fortunate to be liaising with nurses around the world and visited Sydney in September and Berlin in October. I have also joined a Research and Innovation Group (RIG) for the multi-disciplinary team at the National Spinal Injuries Centre (NSIC) at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. On 24th January 2019, I am launching the NSIC Research Nurses Group.



Lizzie (left) and her sister Alexandra Walter (nee Pim, 1979) (right)

This year I have presented at a National and three International Conferences for the first time. I attended the International Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Nurse Conferences in Sydney and Berlin and The International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney in September. I was given two awards, which delighted me!! The first was the ISCoS Outstanding Early Career Scholar Award and the second, The Most Innovative

Presentation, in Berlin in October. This was my first academic work to be presented - even at my age. However, having completed my MSc 3 years ago, I wanted to share it. Through work this year, I have achieved a Quality Service Improvement and Redesign (QSIR) Practitioner Qualification and I am completing my EMCC Coaching Practitioner Qualification.

Hugh and I will have been married for thirty years in June. Our daughter Alexandra is expecting a baby in February and I will become a grandmother for the first time.

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## 1982

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### **Louise Newman**

(NÉE PORTER)

This past year I qualified for the Aquabike European Championships in my age category for GB. The venue was Ibiza on 27th October 2018. This was the first time that the European Championships have added in this event and I can see it becoming very popular. They also added the Aquathlons – swim and run,

this year. I was 8th in my age category which was very satisfying.

I have been doing triathlons for about five years after spending a lifetime running. Triathlons are a good all round exercise and as I have had two knee operations, I have finally accepted that I can't really do as much running in the future as I would like. No more marathons or road races due to wear and tear on the cartilage. With the Triathlon, I have had to learn front crawl and although I could swim, this has been a challenge for me. I have been very fortunate that the Cheltenham Triathlon club, which I belong to is very good at encouraging new members and has a very active training week all throughout the year. There is a coached swim session twice a week, a run session mid-week, spin one evening, and one club bike ride at the weekend so you can't help but keep fit! A great number of the members become coaches as a way of putting something back and it enables everyone to train all year. I have also just completed level 1 coaching course.



Louise Newman at the Aquabike European Championships

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## 1982

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### **Pippa Smart**

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Pippa Smart

I was recently elected President of the European Association of Science Editors and I am currently Editor in Chief of the academic journal. I continue to work in research publishing which I have found to be an exciting and rapidly changing environment.

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## 1982

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### **Kiron Rathnam**

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After leaving Headington, I discovered the beauty of the arts, particularly in literature, classical literature and history, which led to an exploration of my Catholic faith, where I found a home in Him and his teachings, solid,



Kiron Rathnam

coherent, and extensive, not popular or known by the populace, but makes the most sense. I have a BA and MA in English Literature from University of Dallas, with specialization courses in Rome. I am currently a tour guide in Rome – I've always been in the field of education including teaching. My mother sadly past away on 31st December, 2008. Like all mothers, she was the centre of our life. I am happily single.

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## 1985

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### **Jenny Pickford**

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After leaving Headington, Jenny studied Fine Arts in Belfast. She then went on to study blacksmithing at Hereford College, graduating in 2002. Recently, Jenny's work was exhibited at Waterperry Gardens (SuperNature III), giving her a chance to return to Oxford. She exhibits throughout the UK and Internationally and exports her work to clients across the Globe. Currently, she has public art in China, Australia and soon at the Cornell Botanic Gardens. [www.jennypickford.co.uk](http://www.jennypickford.co.uk)



Jenny Pickford

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## 1986

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### **Samantha Butler**

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I am now an Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles; my laboratory studies the development and regeneration of spinal circuitry and I was recently awarded the Eleanor I. Leslie Chair in Innovative Brain Research.

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## 1986

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### **Bernadette Lee**

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We made several trips to Oxford University over the last few years to visit our daughter. It was lovely driving past Headington each time and reminiscing. Natalie studied PPE at Queen's College and she graduated in July 2018.



Bernadette with family at daughter Natalie's graduation

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## 1987

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### **Mazlina Stiff**

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(NÉE NOOR)

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Head of Design Management, Vietnam for CFLD International. Since leaving the UK in 2010, I lived and worked in Malaysia for over 5 years and moved to Ho Chi Minh City in 2016.



Mazlina Stiff

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## 1991

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### **Anna Crompton**

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(NÉE STEVENSON)

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I launched an online shop ([www.64south.co.uk](http://www.64south.co.uk)) with a friend in 2015 called 64South. We sell gifts and lifestyle products ranging from hairbands to ladies' cashmere. I love the things we sell and love what I do! I'm married to Charlie and have 2 kids, Daisy, 11 and Sam, 9.



Anna Crompton with husband Charlie, son Sam (9), daughter Daisy (11), Anna

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## 1995

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### **Philippa Healey**

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(NÉE MADGE)

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Philippa Healey with her children

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I decided that my brain cells needed a bit of a work out so, remembering the joy and stimulation of studying History with Mrs Steinsberg and Politics with Mrs Ormston, I enrolled on to a Politics and History Masters Degree at King's College London. After two years of juggling children, a husband and a labrador with essays and a dissertation I graduated in January 2019 with a Merit. I'm now planning the next challenge!

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## 1996

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### **Elizabeth Tucker**

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HEADMISTRESS (1982-96)

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Mozambique first! 20 years after the accident and 10 years after Father Paul and I went out for the 10th anniversary, Bishop Dinis went back to Zove again. Bishop Carlos, who has succeeded him as Bishop, sent me news of the commemorations and of the kneeler I had made of Zove which we had given to a priest from Mozambique who visited us this year. I am thrilled it had been framed and is now on display in the Esperanca Berta Health Centre. My sister is making a replacement for our church, and I have just started on one of the Tree of Life which we also gave for the priest to take back with him.

Church continues to play a central part in my life. I simply love singing in the choir, and we took part in a special evening for the centenary of the end of WWI when we celebrated the theme of Peace. We also share in the Advent and Carol Services. I enjoy the lunch club, the book club, the prayer group and do readings and lead intercessions from time to time.

I continue giving eye-opener talks at the British Museum to worldwide audiences, which is now my form of 'overseas' travel. The British Museum gave a party for us volunteers to celebrate 25 years since the programme started and some of us who had been trained to do 'The Greeks' in 1997, the year after I retired, greatly enjoyed seeing each other. I also enjoy going to the Horatian Society dinners, and I go

to dinners with a small group of us who discuss a poem by Horace. I led the discussion at one of these this year...

Music is my other main interest. As well as singing in the church choir, I love playing the cello in the Enfield Chamber Orchestra, the piano with a violinist and duets with my sister when we are together.

I am greatly looking forward to the Headingtonians' Day on June 15th 2019.



Elizabeth Tucker at home with Caroline Jordan, March 2019

## 1998

### Dr. Siripattra Kusuwan Na Ranong

After leaving Headington School, I received all my degrees, including a PhD in Biochemistry, from University of Oxford. After a career as a management consultant, I now live in Phuket, Thailand, overseeing hotels and have recently established 'K Park Phuket' the first-of-its-kind community mall focusing on children learning and education in Phuket. I married Pawin Suthapong in 2013 and have a son, Paul who is now 3 years old. We visit Oxford regularly.



Siripattra with husband Pawin Suthapong and son Paul

## 2000

### Amelia Wright (NÉE HOLLAND)



Amelia Wright

I took my first rowing strokes at the Dragon aged 10, then years later, after a break from the sport, I tried on my friend Ali's lycra one evening in Hillstow and was re-inspired. I started to row again for Headington and have never looked back. Although I never achieved the incredible accolades that so many

Headington girls have achieved, rowing soon became more than just a hobby for me. I pursued my love of the sport through my career as a coach in Oxford, setting up a rowing clothing start-up business, and latterly as Director of Rowing for Hinksey Sculling School in Oxford from 2009-2017. I am a passionate believer that young people should be able to unlock their potential and reach their goals by building a 'toolkit' of essential life skills. I learnt through many years of experience that the most effective way of doing this is through engaging, fun, and challenging activities including sport, but especially through the unique challenge offered by rowing. In 2018, alongside my business partner Angus, I launched the Oxford Junior Rowing Course. These courses, available for all levels of experience from beginner up, are aimed at 9-16 year olds. They offer the opportunity to not only experience the unbridled joy that only messing about in boats can give you, but balances it with some invaluable sessions on everything

you need to build your toolkit. My latest venture, now into its second year is starting to grow fast, and has allowed me to continue to indulge my passion for rowing, which Headington did so much to nurture.

## 2004

### Sarah Groves

Nearly at the 3 year mark teaching in Abu Dhabi and still loving the expat lifestyle and permanent sunshine.

## 2005

### Gisèle Earle

After taking a break from academic rearearch I converted my thesis into a book and it was published by the Modern Humanities Research Association last year under the title of *Gómez Manrique, Poet and Statesman: The Practice of Poetry in Fifteenth-Century Spain*. I was delighted to learn that it will be available in paperback form later this year.



Gisèle Earls' book 'Gómez Manrique, Poet and Statesman: The Practice of Poetry in Fifteenth-Century Spain

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## 2005

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### **Oyin Oduya**

(NÉE ANUBI)

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I appeared on CNBC Europe live to discuss my economics research on the Nigerian economy while working at Bank of America Merrill Lynch as the lead economist and fixed income strategist for Sub Saharan Africa. I have since left the bank to pursue a career in impact investing (investing in emerging markets for both financial and social returns).



Oyin Oduya on CNBC Europe live

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## 2005

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### **Dilhani Thomas**

(NÉE GUNWARDANE)

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Started a small business ([www.littlepeanutcreations.com](http://www.littlepeanutcreations.com)) selling unique beaded jewellery and personalised handmade keepsakes such as memory boxes, baby grows, toddler T-shirts, glassware and deep box frames.



Dilhani Thomas

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I started this business after becoming a mum and put my creative skills to the test. I have been to a few Christmas fairs and they were very successful! More than I had expected as I only started selling in September 2018.



Helen McGloin at the WeAreTheCity awards

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## 2009

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### **Helen McGloin**

(NÉE LAKE)

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Helen was shortlisted in the Science & Engineering category for a WeAreTheCity Rising Star Award which recognises female talent in 20 industries. Finalists are selected by a judging panel and public vote. Helen was one of the winners.

'I was very pleased to be announced as a Rising Star in Science & Engineering as part of the WeAreTheCity awards sponsored by The Times in July

2018. WeAreTheCity Rising Star Awards recognise upcoming female talent across 20 industries annually and the awards evening was a great opportunity to meet and hear from a number of inspiring women. This award recognises my work in Research & Technology for manufacturing processes in the Aerospace industry and also my role championing Gender Equality in Engineering and within Rolls-Royce.'

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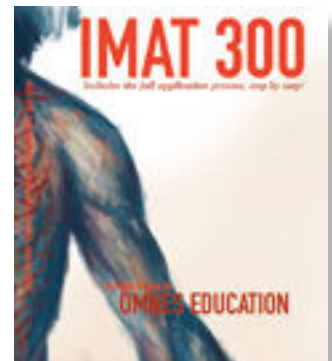
## 2016

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### **Sophia E Hodgkinson**

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Sophia founded Omnes Education, an educational consulting company with the primary focus of helping students secure places in medical school. The first completed project is the revision guide for students sitting the international medical admissions test (IMAT).



Sophia Hodgkinson's book *IMAT 300*

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# OBITUARIES

## Jacqueline Alexander

(NÉE HEMSHALL, 1960-2018)  
HEADINGTONIAN, 1978

*Written by her husband, Rod Alexander.*



Jacky passed away, aged just 58, after battling a very malignant and aggressive brain tumour.

Although originating from Oxford, Jacky's family moved to Hong Kong when Jacky was seven. Jacky had olive skin and lovely dark brown eyes. She was quiet, modest and kind and even at a young age demonstrated a keen sense of social justice and a determination to succeed. At thirteen, she chose to continue her education at Headington. From there she went on to Hull University, graduating with a degree in Social Sciences.

While at University she met Julian and they married when Jacky was 22. Robbie was born three years later while they were stationed at RAF

Lossiemouth in Scotland, where Julian was a fast-jet pilot. However, when Robbie was just 18 months old, Julian was tragically killed during a night-time training flight.

In his tribute, Robbie described that, while he was too young to remember his father or the accident, he nonetheless enjoyed the "warmest, happiest childhood that anyone could imagine. It was the ultimate testament to Mum's incredible inner strength. She was kind and warm and had a beautiful smile. I am so proud of everything she did".

Jacky and Robbie subsequently moved to Waterperry where Jacky completed a Social Work Degree at Oxford Brookes University. For the next 20+ years she worked for Oxford Social Services, looking after Children with disabilities, subsequently becoming a Team Manager.

In her tribute, Jacky's Manager described the outstanding contribution that Jacky had made. "Jacky was someone who never gave up, who persistently advocated for vulnerable children. She had a steely core of stubborn determination. She was a 'go to' person for colleagues from other departments when they could not find a way forward. Her clarity and analytical skills were exceptional. Jacky never accepted anything less than the best and inspired those around her to give their best too. We miss her so much but will always be able to draw on the wellspring of her wisdom and all she taught us over the years".

In 1994, Jacky married Rod. By that time, Jacky had been on her own with Robbie for seven years and Rod for four with Jamie and Jenny. Samuel was born a few years later to complete their new family. In his tribute, Rod said that "over the years,

many people have remarked on the incredible bond which exists between the four children. I do believe it is very special and brought us unrivalled happiness". Jacky worked tirelessly and selflessly to bring up the four children while retaining her commitment to work. Outside family and work, Jacky's great love was walking her dogs.

Jacky's courage during her illness was extraordinary and humbling. Rod thanked everyone for their love and support before concluding: "My final thanks go to Jacky. Thank you from all your family and friends for enriching our lives in such a wonderful way and for all the goodness you brought to the world. And thank you from me for 24 incredible years together, bringing me love and happiness I would not have believed possible".

## Margaret Norma Avery

(NÉE BOOTH, 1929-2018)  
HEADINGTONIAN, 1946

*Written by her son, William Avery.*

My mother, Margaret Norma Avery, died peacefully with her family around her at her home on 31st May 2018 at the age of 89. She was sent to Headington School partly so that she would be in a safer place during the war than her home in Harlow, and having left school did various jobs until marrying my father in 1951. I arrived in 1953 and was in due course followed by Mark, Brice and Charlotte. We have produced five grandchildren and two great grandchildren so a relatively small family. She devoted her life to looking after her family and when we started to fly the nest, took up voluntary work and became very active in her



local church. My father, who was 9 years older than her, moved them to Monks Risborough to be close to my sister and I who both live in Wendover, which was a good move as he died shortly after they got settled in November 2005.

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## Elena Bryan

(1977-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1993

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*Written by her close friends from Headington School.*

At school, Ele was known for her dry sense of humour, her kindness and her sheer determination. She joined Headington aged 4 in 1981 and despite a strong sense of fun, she never seemed to get into trouble. Alongside her studies, she managed to find time to play the clarinet and flute.

Here are some memories from her many friends at Headington:

I have very fond memories of Ele. She was one of my closest friends at school. When we were 14/15 we spent a few summers working at Honeypot restaurant in Anglesea and living on our own in a flat above the restaurant. After prepping food for the evening we would have a brilliant time riding around the island on our bikes, and going to the

beach. We had such freedom that I don't think 14/15 year olds have now. She was so positive, kind with such a dry humour and literally not a bad word to say about anyone. (Emma Lidgley, 1995)

Ele was one of the most caring, kindest uncomplicated people I knew. So thoughtful, so generous and so loyal to those she loved. Everyone in my family thought very highly of her. Ele put on such a brave fight with her epilepsy, rarely discussing it and certainly not allowing it to stop her dreams of travel, adventure and caring for children. Happy memories include frequent sleepovers, hiring films from Blockbuster, Dominos takeaway pizzas, a trip to Amsterdam and an introduction to the chocolate game. All necessary past times for adolescent girls! Our friendship continued beyond University, with meet-ups for hot chocolate in Georgina's, walks in South Parks, visits to her house off the Cowley Road and going out for Thai food. Sometimes it wasn't all rosy. The epilepsy drugs could get her down both mentally and physically but she bravely fought on, trying out alternatives whilst putting her energies into the things she loved. Ele had a wonderfully supportive and loving family by her side, and the love between them all was heart warming to see. Ele, you will always be in our

hearts, and we will never forget your incredible kindness, generosity and the way you got on with life. RIP dear friend. (Lottie Parsons, 1993)

I remember Ele joining our class in U4Wi with Miss Wilkinson. We were in the room downstairs closest to the gym. I remember that day very clearly. We were all sat at our desks and Ele was bustled in looking a little wide-eyed and she sat down in the middle row by the wall on the right as you looked towards the door. We all welcomed her and she soon settled in and made lots of friends. She was always so kind, so positive and wanted to join in with everything. She never had a bad word to say about anyone. The last time I saw her was when I was at Uni at Oxford Brookes and we met up a couple of times; she was full of enthusiasm about working with children and plans for the future and her travels. (Anna Bendall, 1995)

Ele spoke a lot about her brother. Her gorgeous blond wavy hair and big smile stick in the mind, and her love of children. I remember how wonderfully kind her Mum always was to us. (Niki Fraiss née Bowles, 1995)

When I think of Ele I remember her kindness, her generosity, her enthusiasm and her bravery for growing up with epilepsy and never complaining about it. We met when Ele put a note in my bag in the Upper Third, asking me to be her 'crackling', back in the day when older girls ('cracks') asked these things! She said she always wanted to be a twin. Lottie and I soon became friends and we loved staying over in the bunk bed at her Mum's house in Headington, visiting Gray's sweet shop, eating Chinese food and watching videos. I remember her friendly smile, her curly hair, and chatting away in our French lessons with Madame Clacey. After school we both headed to Manchester to study, and I used to visit her at Princess Christian College, where Ele studied childcare. We also travelled to Amsterdam and met up backpacking in Thailand. Ele was one of a kind: so genuine and easy-going and I miss our catch-ups in Oxford, no matter how sporadic they became as we grew older. Ele loved music and dancing, and one highlight as a fourteen year-old was when Lottie, Vic Ellis, Emma Lidgley and I were VIP audience members on The Word, where we got to go backstage and chat to Terry Christian and Ryan Giggs! Ele was always up for a giggle and she was always a very loyal friend. She adored her family and she spoke her mind. Ultimately she was an amazing person, who fought with such courage



Back left to front Emma Lidgley (1995), Kate Seaton (née Borrowdale, 1995), Elena Bryan, Katie White (1998), Katie Geddes (née Weeks, 1995) and Monique Ryan-Musacchio (née Ryan, 1995).

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and never let the epilepsy get in her way. She was a good person who never had a bad word to say about anyone, and she was taken far too soon. We miss you Ele x (Alice Hockings née Parsons, 1993)

I remember Ele making us laugh and messing around, for some reason a lot in Latin! My locker was beside hers in U5 and she let off a can of deodorant at one point and all of our lockers smelt like that for weeks! (Marina Golding Smitherman née Golding, 1995)

I remember Ele's incredible warmth of character, her smile, and interest and enthusiasm in everyone's news. She was just a very friendly and happy soul. (Issy Holdaway née Rambaut, 1995)

Ele had always wanted to work with children and in 1993 she left Headington to Oxford C of FE to study Health and Social Care. In 1995 she went to study childcare at the Princess Christian College in Manchester. Her chosen career brought her much happiness and she went on to gain experience in several nurseries before taking up a position as a nanny to a family where she stayed for almost 15 years. The family had four children, all cared for part-time by Ele from an early age. When she left, as a testament to how much they loved her, the family gave her a specially commissioned ring containing all the children's birthstones. Travel was one of her passions, and she travelled all over the world, many times raising money for The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London, at which she was a patient. In total, she raised in the region of £25,000 and she has a plaque at the hospital in her honour. Even in death, she thought of others, and her final gift was her organ donation; yet another example of her remarkable and selfless generosity. Though much missed by her friends from Headington School, her sense of fun and drive has been an inspiration for us all and through her kind deeds, her legacy lives on.\*

\*With thanks to Ele's Mum, Rodi for providing details on Ele's achievements after leaving Headington.

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## Una Goble

(NÉE LEWIS, 1934-2018)

FORMER STAFF, 1996

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*Written by her daughter, Catherine Clews (née Goble, 1980)*

Una Rose Goble, who taught History at Headington School from 1966-1996, died at home on 24th November after suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Una was born in Scarborough to Harold and Rose Lewis. Early in her childhood the family made a move across to Lancashire, where Una grew up with her elder brother and sister in a close-knit, supportive and friendly neighbourhood on the outskirts of Bolton.

From an early age Una loved to read, and no doubt this early passion for literature was responsible for her emerging academic prowess across a wide range of subjects.

Una's father Harold, who trained at the Royal College of Music London, encouraged and helped nurture her skill as a musician from a young age. Una was to become an accomplished singer, and string player, and she enjoyed a lifetime of involvement in a range of amateur orchestra and choirs.

Una often recalled how much she loved her childhood school, run by the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. Una totally excelled under their guidance, and she won a state scholarship to study History at St. Anne's College Oxford.

Una relished every aspect of her academic life, and she also found time to pursue her love of music. Soon after arriving at Oxford, Una met her future husband Andrea. His own love of singing had led to his membership of the same madrigal choir as Una, and little would they have realised that this first musical encounter would be the start of a sixty-three year relationship!

In 1956 Una and Andrea were married, and family life became a priority following the births of her children Anthony, Bernard, Catherine and Philippa. Despite the demands of life with a young family, Una took up a teaching position at Headington in 1966 (encouraged by Peggy Dunn, the headmistress), where she taught history for the next thirty years.



Una loved her work. She was passionate, imaginative and skilful in her teaching, and she was able to bring her subject to life for the many

young girls she taught. Una threw herself in to the life of the school teaching a full timetable, playing the viola in the school orchestra under the leadership of Mervyn Loft-Simpson, and accompanying many girls on musical and historical school trips around the county and further afield, even to the USSR. Una was much loved by her colleagues who admired her for her academic wisdom and practical advice, and many remained steadfast friends to the end of her life.

Una's rich life was full of meaning and achievement, and her unshakeable faith in Christ guided her through good times and bad. She will be remembered for her warmth, kindness and everlasting optimism.

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## Janet Lindsay Jochum

(NÉE SAUL, 1929-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1947

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*Written by her daughter, Christina Jochum.*



A review on the successful, fulfilled and happy life of an exceptional lady.

Janet was born in Nottingham and as a child travelled together with her parents Norah and Charles Saul and her younger sister Patience to Australia. Her father stayed there for a while to set up his business. Before the Second World War, Janet, her mother and sister travelled to Europe by ship via India, Malaysia, Singapore and North Africa on their way home. With a chartered small propeller aeroplane they "just" made their way back to England from France before the troops marched into Paris.

Janet attended Nottingham School of Art, Headington School (Hillstow) and left in 1947 to study at the Sorbonne in Paris, furthering her studies at the Royal College of Art in London where she graduated with excellency. She designed for

Vogue and Marks and Spencer in London before deciding to spend some time climbing in the mountains. She had already learnt to ski "down under", so Tyrol was the place she wanted to go. Inghams Travel and other tour operators employed her to develop tourism in the Austrian Alps.

In 1956, Janet came to the high valley of the Wildschönau in Tyrol, Austria for a three month sabbatical where she met Franz, a handsome ski-instructor, who, when off the slopes, always wore the traditional Tyrolean leather trousers, "Lederhose". She left a secure future in Great Britain to begin a new and definitely harder working life in Niederau. She married the love of her life in 1960 and together they had three daughters, Christina, Andrea and Francesca. Franz and Janet literally built their house with their own hands, Jochum Appartements, a Tyrolean style house, with a large garden and swimming pool. The flats, now run by Christina, are in an ideal location next to the ski-lift in Niederau and are let to tourists who want to discover the Kitzbühel Alps all year round.

Later, with a little more time to spare, Janet started to paint again in the late 1980s and had many exhibitions throughout Austria, Germany, Switzerland, the UK and in many other countries. She worked mainly in acrylic and water colour but also had a series of oil paintings and more modern paintings in acrylic bonded pigment colours. Her paintings capture the atmosphere of mountain scenery and its local inhabitants, but she also had a great affinity for water and seascapes. As a contrast, she also experimented with abstract and modern techniques. Contrast of light, harmony of colour and tonal values were of fundamental importance in her artistic work. Her original paintings and limited editions of prints are still for sale and naturally can be viewed anytime in the Galerie Jochum in Niederau. Furthermore, there are many in private collections world-wide. For Headington School Foundation Day Centenary in 2015, Janet donated FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, an acrylic painting on canvas, to the School to commemorate her time in Oxford.

Janet had a great sense of humour, enjoyed interesting discussions, travelling, reading fascinating books and having a good meal accompanied by a glass of wine with friends, as well as visiting the theatre and music events. On April 19th 2018, Janet passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. She will always be in our hearts.

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## Judith Mary Musgrove

(NÉE JOHNSON, 1938-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1956

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*Written by her daughter, Nicola Musgrove.*



Judith was born in Camberley, Surrey in 1938. After her father, Drummond Johnson was killed during the War in 1943, she and her brother Jonathan, and her mother, Léonie, moved back to Colchester.

Judith boarded at Headington School (Davenport), and in her final year she became Head Girl. Her mother, Léonie Johnson (née Foster), and her aunt, Evelyn, had also attended Headington.

Judith was academic and sporty at school, and after Eastbourne Secretarial College, she applied to the Civil Service to join the Home Office. She was offered a place but turned it down as by this time she had already started working at the Almoner's Office attached to St Thomas's Hospital in London, helping poor and deprived families. She subsequently worked for John Musgrove, an eminent Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon in Wimpole Street and they married in 1963. He was the ENT consultant to famous singers and actors of the time, such as Shirley Bassey and David Niven, and they lived a somewhat glamorous life in London. They parted shortly before the birth of their daughter, Nicola in 1969, and Judith and Titus, the dog, moved back to her mother's house in Colchester, before moving to Boxted, where Judith remained for more than 40 years.

Whilst Nicola was young, Judith's interest in helping others in need led her to volunteer for the Children's Country Holiday Fund and she became responsible for heading up the North Essex Area. The charity arranged a fortnight's summer holiday in the country for children from deprived areas of London, staying with local families. Judith also started volunteering helping people to read and write who had not learnt at school. She then

trained as an Adult Literacy tutor and worked for more than 20 years in the role.

Judith had numerous interests. She was very creative - although she would dispute this - and attended embroidery classes for many years, creating some beautiful designs, and had a talent for drawing and painting. She loved nature and adored animals, at one point having a menagerie of twelve! She was a passionate Colchester United fan for more than 60 years, barely ever missing a home match, and loved watching all sports.

Judith was a wonderfully loving, and absolutely adored mother of Nicola and proud grandmother to Mia and Henry; she was always good-humoured and had a remarkable talent of making everything fun. She had a delightfully playful nature and never missed an opportunity to laugh and joke. Judith was interested in everything and everyone, but whilst she had lots to say, equally she was a great listener and wise source of advice and support. She had a thirst for knowledge, and prolifically read the newspapers and did the crosswords each day; she never stopped learning or wanting to discover new things.

Judith was healthy and well until the final two years of her life during which a series of hospital errors and misdiagnoses led to her death from untreated thyroid cancer. She will be remembered as a kind, generous, very humorous soul, with the warmest of hearts, and a wonderful smile, who was always thinking of others, and by the inspirational way she faced difficulties, always with hope, perseverance and extraordinary bravery.

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## Margaret Rosalind (Roszy) Milmine

(NÉE WHITLEY, 1921-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1939

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*Written by her son, The Revd Canon Neil Milmine BSc.*

Roszy or Ros, who died in August 2018 at the age of 97, was born in Oxford but after her time at Headington School her family moved to Torquay. The War scuppered her ambition to become a concert pianist and instead she trained as a nurse at the Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Her mother, having lost a son in a tragic flying accident, opened her home to serving RAF officers to give them some rest and recreation and it was thus that she met Douglas Milmine. Subsequently shot down and taken prisoner, he



Rozzy Milmine with her daughter Helen Lahaye, Headingtonian (née Milmine, 1969) and husband Douglas Milmine.

proposed marriage by letter from POW camp. They were married upon his repatriation at the end of the War.

Douglas completed training for ordination and Ros supported him in curacies in Ilfracombe and Slough while raising her growing family of three boys and a girl. When a fifth child was born with a heart defect from which he died days later, she wrote a simple tract, 'Blue Baby', seeking to offer comfort and support to others thus bereaved.

Responding to an invitation, after due preparation the family set off on the great adventure of missionary life in Chile, first amongst the Mapuche Indians of southern Chile, and later in the capital, Santiago. Challenges included using horses as a means of transport, providing local healthcare while the mission nurse was unwell, catering for unexpected large numbers of people, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. In her 40's Ros suffered a stroke which left her with lasting numbness on one side which, sadly, limited her ability to play the more complex piano pieces.

After three tours of duty, having settled back in Oxford believing their time in South America was over, they were asked to go to Paraguay where Doug was to establish the Anglican Diocese of Paraguay and become its first diocesan bishop. There, as in Chile previously, they made many friends, their home ever a place of welcome, hospitality, and Christian encouragement.

On retiring Ros and Doug chose a flat overlooking the sea in Eastbourne which again was ever a centre of friendship and hospitality. Ros was never happier than when surrounded by family and friends. One of the legacies of Ros' time at Headington School was the number of lifelong friendships begun there.

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## Philippa Smyth

(NÉE GOBLE, 1963-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1982

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*Written by her sister, Catherine Clews (née Goble, 1980)*

Philippa, who studied at Headington, died from transitional cell carcinoma on September 9th, 2018.

Philippa's childhood was spent in Forest Hill Oxfordshire, with her loving parents, and two older brothers Anthony and Bernard, and sister Catherine. She loved her time at Headington, and excelled at her studies with history and music her main source of academic passion. She made many life-long friends during her school career and these were certainly very happy years for Philippa.

Philippa began learning the piano and oboe whilst at the Junior School and she excelled at both. In her late teens she played in local music groups, and gained a place in the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra where she enjoyed playing many of the great orchestra masterpieces, whilst enjoying the friendships of others, and discovering the rich language of classical music. She went on to fulfil her creative, musical and performing promise by studying music at Birmingham University. A love for all genres of music remained a great source of joy and enrichment for Philippa throughout her life.



Philippa settled in Belfast with her husband in 1985, and she quickly embraced her new life in Northern Ireland. Her knowledge of the local countryside, its history, traditions and culture became insightful, and she developed a genuine love of the rich country she had adopted. Philippa became a mother to her four children, Peter, Helena, Michael and Alan and combined full-time primary school teaching with motherhood until her illness was diagnosed in 2013.

Despite the difficulties of coping with life fighting her illness, Philippa found the energy and inspiration to learn to play the traditional Irish whistle, and while she was still able to be active she took up Celtic set dancing as well. This rich, traditional style of music enriched her life immeasurably in her later years.

During her five-year battle with illness she was diagnosed twice with secondary cancer, and underwent chemotherapy, radiotherapy, open surgery on her kidney and three subsequent brain operations. The range of support provided throughout this time by the Marie Curie charity was invaluable to Philippa and the family, who cannot speak highly enough of the dedicated staff and incredible services they were able to provide during this most traumatic time.

Philippa will be remembered for the light and happiness she brought to each of our lives. She characteristically put everybody else before herself, and she remained a strong and caring presence for her young family to the end.

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## Jean Mary Williams

(NÉE CRAIG, 1930-2018)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1948

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*Written by her daughter, Anne Williams.*

My mother, Jean Williams (née Craig, 1930-2018) was born and raised in Headington and attended Headington School from age 10 as a day pupil. She had very fond memories of her time at school including dashing back on her bicycle from lunch at home so she could hear the stories being read to the boarders at rest time, devouring the books in the library, playing hockey for the school and becoming house Hockey Captain, singing (including a memorable performance of Bach's B Minor Mass at Oxford Town Hall), and as a member of the school Brownie and then Guide Troops. Guide Camp at the start of the school summer holidays



Jean Mary Williams (7th from right top row) at Beanwood 1945.

was a big adventure – their tent’s “Opposums” flag, made from dusters, heets and oddments survives to this day. Jean lived in Hertfordshire for virtually all of her adult life, and in Hitchin for the last 45 years where she was a founder member of the local historical society and involved in a variety of groups and charities, particularly the Hitchin British School’s Museum. She is survived by her four children and four grandchildren.

## Celia Yeo

(NÉE PEARCE, 1933-2019)

HEADINGTONIAN, 1951

*Written by her son, Andrew Yeo.*

Celia Pearce attended Headington School from 1946 to 1951, but her early life was spent very differently as her father was an Inspector-General in the Indian Imperial Police. Consequently, on 1st December 1933 and aged only 5 weeks old, Celia and her mother embarked on the steamship Mantua to return from London to Bombay. In India the family lived in Lucknow (250 miles east of Delhi) and, during WWII, Celia boarded at the Hallett War School in Nainital – a hill station in the Himalayan foothills.

At Headington, Celia successfully completed her Oxford School Certificate followed by A-levels in Music and History, and also achieved Grade 8 on the piano – achievements which, in many ways, set

the course for her life. After Headington, she went to the Guildhall School of Music from which she graduated in 1956 having completed her teacher training in piano, singing and general musicianship (GGSM, LGSM, LRAM). Thereafter, Celia taught at three girls’ schools – Selhurst Grammar School for Girls (1956-61), Sydenham High School (1961-65), and finally as Head of Music at Stratford House School, Bickley (1975-92).

At Stratford House School, she focused on introducing a wide number of pupils to music and nurturing their emerging talents. She was always ambitious for them and sought out opportunities to inspire them and help them achieve all that they could. As well as regular performances and concerts at school and at St George’s Church, Bickley, pupils also had opportunities to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and, notably, in the ripieno choir for the Bach Choir’s St Matthew Passions at the Royal Festival Hall. Celia also expanded the annual Stratford House Summer Wind Course, an annual week of chamber groups and concert band music-making in the summer holidays.

During these years she also brought up her three sons, David, Andrew and Tim, managed a busy family home, and was a stalwart alto in the choir of Bromley Parish Church.

After retiring from full time teaching, in 1993 Celia and her husband, Ernest, became joint chairmen of the Bromley Speech and Music Festival, and

worked tirelessly to develop the festival and expand its reach. On her retirement from the festival after 20 years, a surprise presentation by the Mayor of Bromley of a civic award for her “unstinting voluntary work” had been planned. Sadly, that morning she suffered a stroke which left her physically disabled and with severe speech difficulties. Although her final years were blighted by this, her personality, inner strength and determination still found ways to shine through as she stoically faced her challenging situation. She is sorely missed and remains much loved by her husband of 54 years, her three sons and their families.



# LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

Congratulations to our newest Headingtonians who left the School in summer 2018,  
and our warmest wishes to them all as they embark on their chosen paths.

Name	Institution	Subject
Morayo-Oluwa Adegoke	University of Nottingham	Architectural Environment Engineering
Magdalene Adochim	University of Exeter	Economics and Finance
Faatema Ali	Gap Year	
Oluwatobi Ambah	University of Manchester	French and Spanish
Eniola Amosun	Gap Year	
Nikol Andrzejkiewicz	University of Warwick	Sociology
Ella Ashworth	Newcastle University	Architecture
Oyeoluwatoyosi Atoyebi	Queen Mary University of London	Medicine
Heloise Bach	Newcastle University	Law
Jodie Bhachu-Smith*	Syracuse University	Liberal Arts
Isabella Barr	University of Leeds	English and Comparative Literature
Imogen Barrett	University of Oxford	Beginners' Italian and Linguistics
Natasha Barron	Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	Musical Theatre
April Bedford	Gap Year	
Ximena Bollen	Gap Year	
Mary Bowen	Oxford Brookes University	Art Foundation
Morgan Brock	Brighton and Sussex Medical School	Medicine
Abigail Bronniman	Oxford Brookes University	Art Foundation
Elizabeth Bulkeley-Bye	University of Bristol	Medicine
Matilda Burn	University of Exeter	English
Louise Butcher	Gap Year	
Louise Butler	University of Nottingham	Physiotherapy
Gabriella Cairns	Durham University	Music
Phoebe Campbell	University of Cambridge	Classics
Anna Campbell Ryan	Cardiff University	Music
Mariana Capdevielle	Cardiff University	Computer Science
Sun Yu (Victoria) Chan	University College London	Architecture
Claudia Chan	University of Hong Kong	Korean & Japanese Studies
Pak Yin (Chloe) Chan	University of Manchester	Philosophy and Politics
Florence Chan	Gap Year	

Name	Institution	Subject
Darcy Chapple	Falmouth University	Fine Art
Lap Ting (Natalie) Cheung	University of Leeds	Fine Art
Ho Yee (Stephanie) Cheung	University College London	Pharmacy
Tsang Yi (Vicky) Choi	University of Bristol	Mechanical Engineering
Phoebe Clargo	University of Birmingham	Biomedical Science
Louisa Clarke	University of Nottingham	Medicine
Lucy Cook	Manchester Metropolitan University	Philosophy/Sociology
Innes Coward	University of Edinburgh	Economics
Frances Curtis	Boston University	Liberal Arts
Natalia Dale	Oxford Brookes University	Art Foundation
Pauline Darcis	University of Reading	Applied Psychology
Lucy Dent*	Exeter University	Geography
Florence Douglas	Gap Year	
Arabella (Grace) Douglas	Newcastle University	Physiological Sciences
Holly Dunmore	Condé Nast College of Fashion & Design	Fashion Communication
Susannah Dutton	Gap Year	
Alice Ede	University of Exeter	International Relations
Phoenix Edwards	Gap Year	
Amelia Fennell*	Keele University	Forensic Science w/ Science Foundation
Zoe Freeman	University of Nottingham	Law with French and French Law
Hing Ying (Anna) Fu	University of Cambridge	Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
Ritu Gada	University of Birmingham	Medicine
Grace Gowler*	University of Sussex	English
Karen Jiaxi Guan	University of Manchester	Modern Lang and Business Management
Amelia Hayes-Newington	University of Sheffield	Criminology
Olivia Henderson*	University of Bath	Chemistry
Emma Henriksen	Gap Year	
Sophie Herring	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Fashion Marketing Management
Katherine Hetherington	University of Exeter	Bus. Management w. International Study

Name	Institution	Subject
Camille Hinton	University of Birmingham	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sophie Hollander	University of Amsterdam	Liberal Arts
Tiga Hornbrey	University of Bristol	Medicine
Hannah Hornby	University of Nottingham	Medicine
Olivia Howe	University of Edinburgh	French and English Literature
Georgina Hunt	University of Roehampton	Psychology
Iona James	University of Bristol	Politics and International Relations
Leia Jennings	Oxford Brookes University	Nursing (Adult)
Ruoxi Jia	University College London	Architecture
Shuqi Jia	University of Cambridge	Engineering
Yiming Jin	University College London	Chemistry
Christina (Temi) Jones	University of Bristol	Chemistry
Kate KIELTY	University of Exeter	Law
Andrea Lau	University of Kent	Clinical Psychology with Placement Year
Elise Lawrence	University of Liverpool	Bioveterinary Science
Isabel Lawrence	University of Southampton	Music
Yuen Kiu (Michelle) Lee	University of Warwick	Economics
Chloe Lee	University College London	English
Vita Leone	The Courtauld Institute of Art	History of Art
Jin Wei (Emma) Leung	Durham University	Law
Yi Ting (Melissa) Leung	London School of Economics	Economics and Geography
Mingming Li	University of Manchester	Economics
Xiaochun (July) Liang	Imperial College London	Biological Sciences
Yumeng (Tina) Lin	University of Warwick	Chemistry
Caroline Liu	University of Warwick	Economics
Sasha Liwicki	University of Edinburgh	Geography
Anna Lockhart	Newcastle University	Biochemistry
Camille Lord	Gap Year	
Cheuk Ying (Charmaine) Ma	London School of Economics	Law
Sophie Marcussen*	University of Exeter	Psychology
Grace Mark	Imperial College London	Mechanical Engineering
Holly McCulloch	University of Warwick	History
Ruth McDonagh*	Cardiff University	Physiotherapy
Beatrice McNally	Royal Holloway	Modern Languages
Cassia Miell-Ingram	Exeter University	Anthropology
Emily Miller	Gap Year	
Chloe Morales	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Business and Management
Dara Morrow*	De Montfort University	Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Freya Mosedale	Durham University	Modern European Languages and History
Olivia Newall	Durham University	Combined Honours in Social Sciences
Kei Wing Ng	University of Manchester	Actuarial Science

Name	Institution	Subject
Olasubomi Onashile	University of Kent	Law
Zhi Lin Ooi	University of Essex	Law
Abigail Ormrod	University of Leeds	Biochemistry
Olutemisade Oyekan	Nottingham Trent University	Biomedical Science
Skye Page-Croft*	University of Edinburgh	Spanish and Philosophy
Asita Parmar	University College London	English
Freya Parsons	Gap Year	
Kajal Patel	University of Leeds	Economics and Geography
Rhea Patel	University College London	English
Annelise Perkins	Imperial College London	Chemistry with a Year in Industry
Zara Petranova	University of St Andrews	Philosophy
Alice Plucknett	Gap Year	
Sophie Prentis	British Equestrian Federation	England Excel Talent Programme
Lucy Pullinger	Gap Year	
Marina Ramos*	University of Leeds	Geography and Sociology
Emmanuelle Riehl	Nottingham Trent University	Psychology with Sociology
Emma Robinson	University of Birmingham	Biomedical Science
Karla Rodgers	University of Bristol	Biomedical Sciences
Olivia Rogers	Gap Year	
Simran Sabharwal	University of Exeter	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Amber Sconce	Manchester Metropolitan University	Physiotherapy
Roshanak Shahid	University of Hertfordshire	Pharmacy
Yimeng Shang	London School of Economics	Mathematics with Economics
Isabella Staines	Gap Year	
Elizabeth Stephens	University of Nottingham	Architecture
Maike Stitt Brouwer	University of Manchester	English Literature
Lena Stroem	Gap Year	
Xin Yi (Betty) Su	Parsons School of Design	Fashion Design
Helen Tappin	University College London	Modern Languages
Ho Yee (Chloe) Tong	University of Oxford	Classics
Amy Vallis	University of Birmingham	Dentistry
Lois Walker	Royal Agricultural University	Business
SiYi (Happy) Wang	University College London	Biochemistry
Yudan (Jessica) Wang	University College London	Biomedical Sciences
Siena Whitaker	Cardiff University	Politics
Francesca Wilcox	The Goldsmiths' Centre	Jewelry Foundation Programme
Mattea Wuethrich	University of Amsterdam	Psychology
Jiahui (Monica) Xu	University College London	Chemistry with Mathematics
Ashley Yeo	Royal Holloway	Biomedical Science
Meri Yoneda	International Christian University	Liberal Arts
Wing Yan (Annie) Yu	University of Southampton	Economics
Bukun (Charlotte) Zhao	Gap Year	

\* deferred entry 2019



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