

WITHINGTON
ONWARDS



withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL EST 1890

2020

welcome



MRS LESLEY DOWDALL Director of Development

I am delighted to share the 2020 edition of *Withington Onwards*, your annual publication for Withington alumnae, friends and former staff.

None of us could have predicted what 2020 had in store and it has no doubt been an unusual and challenging year for us all.

School closures, remote learning and COVID-safe protocols for the re-opening of school all brought new challenges but I am sure you can imagine our joy in welcoming all the girls back to school for the Autumn term. It is heartening to see the corridors and classrooms bustling again after being quiet for so long. As you would expect, the Withington resilience and spirit is alive and well!

We are extremely grateful for the incredible support that we have received from our alumnae and wider community. You have been supporting our pupils in myriad ways during these unusual times – from virtual assemblies and participation in our new virtual careers sessions, RISE: Live, through to the launch of our new podcast series, Spotcast On. The sense of community has always been a special part of Withington and never has it been more important than over the last year.

This powerful community spirit was perhaps most prevalent in the wonderful response to our Bursary and Hardship Appeal (see page 34). We asked you to help us to support girls with

true potential who would otherwise miss out on all that a Withington education has to offer and to help ensure that no pupil is faced with the distressing possibility of leaving Withington due to a change in family circumstances brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. You responded with warmth and generosity and helped us to raise an incredible £114,338.75. Special thanks to one alumna, who wishes to remain anonymous, who very kindly agreed to match so many of your contributions to help us reach this wonderful total.

Towards the end of this very challenging year there has been some good news for everyone associated with the school. At the end of November, we were absolutely delighted to be named as North West Independent Secondary School of the Decade by *The Sunday Times*. You can read more on page 9. Thank you to all of you who support learning at Withington in countless different and beneficial ways.

We've also had the opportunity to meet so many of you during virtual reunions and have been thrilled to welcome alumnae from across the globe to these events. It has been so much fun meeting you and hearing of your time at Withington and your journey since then.

We very much hope we will be able to welcome you back to school next year but, in the meantime, thank you again for your unwavering support.

KEY WORKING ALUMNAE

portrait project

Inspired by the highly successful and wonderfully inspirational national project, 'Portraits for NHS Heroes'; initiated by the brilliant artist, Tom Croft, we in the Art Department here at Withington also held a deep desire to give back to our very special key working alumnae, all of whom we know have been working tirelessly and without question for all of us during this time of unprecedented international crisis.

We decided to follow in Tom's large footsteps and offer a free portrait to our alumnae to say thank you and to express the depth of our gratitude and our heartfelt thanks for all that they have done and are continuing to do for us during the pandemic.

We very much hope that all of the beautiful ladies, (and dads!) within the artworks enjoy their portraits as much as we have all thoroughly enjoyed creating them, with love and with care. We hope they will look on them fondly and with pride, now and in years to come, as they capture such a monumental point in all of our lives. As Tom Croft said himself:

"As a physical record of our existence, a portrait is more likely to last far longer than we will and hopefully get passed down through generations."



MRS RUTH FILDES Head of Art

Click here or scan to view
our Key Working Alumnae
Portrait Project film



***Art is where we find purpose.
It is how we discover meaning in this
great big expanse of chaos around us.
We search, we seek, we witness,
we question, we think.***

Anon

***We are humans.
We need connection with other people.
Art acts as an anchor to our humanity.***

Marion Lynch, former Deputy Director at NHS England

Art is a wound turned into light.

Georges Braque

***Art is not what you see,
but what you make others see.***

Edgar Degas

***Art doesn't have to be pretty.
It has to be meaningful.***

Duane Hanson

***Life beats down and crushes the soul
and art reminds you that you have one.***

Stella Adler

You will see that the portraits created by WGS staff and students of our key worker alumnae run throughout this edition of *Withington Onwards*. Alongside the portraits, you can learn something of our alumnae's experiences of working through the pandemic, and read notes from the artists about their approach to creating each portrait.

a year like



MRS SARAH HASLAM Headmistress

A very warm welcome to our 2020 edition of *Withington Onwards*.

It has been an exceptional year for us all, one that none of us could have anticipated back at Founders' Day in October 2019. Our theme for that uplifting occasion when pupils, parents and staff past and present, alumnae and friends of the school came together in the splendour of The Bridgewater Hall was 'Sustaining People and Places'. Little did we know then just how apt that choice of theme would become. 2020 has been a year unlike anything any of us have experienced before but one in which our focus on what is always our key purpose – the pupils in our care – has enabled us to hold fast and weather the storm. The pandemic has challenged us all and will continue to do so for some time to come but at Withington we can take pride in how we, as a whole school community, have pulled together, sustained one another, met the many challenges presented, and ensured that our school and its people continue to thrive. I am immensely grateful to everyone, including our alumnae, who has helped to make this happen and been part of this inspiring story.

We know that those whole school occasions which bring us together have more than a touch of magic about them at Withington – Founders' Days, Open Days, Christmas concerts, House events, Sports Days, Drama Productions, School assemblies. But when we are faced with not being able to share these occasions in person, we realise more profoundly than ever just how strong the Withington ties, the Withington relationships and the sense of shared purpose are. We look forward with great anticipation to when we will all gather together in person once again, and in the meantime, take satisfaction from how we have created innovative, often virtual, alternatives which have reflected

and sustained the Withington spirit and Withington community at its very best – purposeful, compassionate, creative, resourceful and determined.

As the new decade began, 2020 marked the 130th anniversary of Withington's foundation in 1890 and, although January brought with it a vague and growing sense of unease, none of us imagined that it would not be possible to hold Founders' Day in October. As January became February and February became March however, special events such as our International Women's Day celebrations when 25 speakers, many of them alumnae, generously gave of their time to lead workshops for our pupils, and the Emily Simon Legacy Lunch in this the 100th anniversary of the death of WGS Founder, Emily Simon, who bequeathed the School its playing fields, all took on a growing significance as the prospect of what would come to be called 'lockdown' grew. At the Emily Simon Lunch in March, we were privileged to host four former Withington Headmistresses, including Miss Hulme whose tenure began in 1961. This moment felt like a gift and the sense of continuity, of strong foundations and Withington family would encourage us all during the months to come.

Our keynote speaker on International Women's Day in March, WGS alumna, Joëlle Warren (Class of 1980), encouraged the girls and us all to 'Remember Your True North; and this theme inspired us all as we entered the previously inconceivable reality of school closures, remote learning and national lockdown. Our School's digital strategy, which had involved a growth in digital working for all Senior School pupils and staff where it was beneficial to learning, meant that we were well placed for a switch to remote learning. Nonetheless, those final days before the closure of

no other...



schools at the end of Friday 20th March, were busy and intense as everyone pulled together to ensure that plans for teaching and learning remotely were in place, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils had 'last days' to remember with fondness and our provision for Key Worker School was thoroughly risk assessed and staffed. This would be the first time since 1939, when the school community was evacuated to Staffordshire for a year, that the school had had to leave the school site for any length of time. We left the building that day on Friday 20th March with some trepidation and no indication of when the whole community might return.

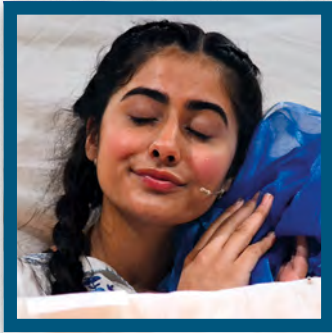
By 23rd March 2020 our Virtual WGS was live - an online, virtual equivalent of our daily School which aimed to continue as many aspects of normal school life as possible. We were determined that our pupils' academic learning and progress should continue unhindered and also our pastoral care, guidance on health and wellbeing, extra-curricular activities as far as that could be achieved and, crucially, the integral sense of the Withington community and connectedness we all felt daily when we were in school. Teachers and pupils embarked on the challenges of teaching and learning at home and a loyal band of colleagues travelled on eerily quiet roads to School each day to care for the children of key workers, a service we are proud to have continued throughout the Easter and May school holidays. Our teachers approached the process of Centre Assessed Grades, the alternative to public examinations devised by central government, with great care and integrity, just as they then coped stoically with the changes to how the GCSE and A Level grades would be determined during August. It was a source of sadness for us all that we could not share the usual 'last day' and very special Leavers' Dinner with

the wonderful Class of 2020 and their parents to mark together all of their achievements and contributions, but we continue to look forward very much to the day we can hold an in person reunion for this very special year group.

Whilst none of us would choose this way of working over the pleasures of day to day life in school, as in other times of adversity and challenge, much progress was made during an intense period. The Withington spirit and commitment to maintaining the best for our pupils and honouring our commitment to their parents and to the Withington ethos and values, meant that we were soon delivering assemblies, running our own WGS radio through Junior and Senior School podcasts, writing a WGS Journal to chronicle our experience of this exceptional time, and finding creative and alternative ways of sustaining Music and LAMDA lessons and House events. By the end of Summer Term, Sports Days, Citizenship Day, alumnae Careers events, our Art exhibition, Music Festival and the wonderfully uplifting Junior School production of 'Olivia' had all taken place, and provisional plans were in place for the much anticipated full return to School in September.

Summer 2020 also saw Withington Girls' School reflect on how it should respond to the calls for renewed focus on equality, diversity and inclusion. With the support of our alumnae, staff and current pupils, we sought to engage with these vital issues in new ways and commit to an embedded, strategic approach which will ensure that everyone can benefit from the strength and success that a positive, active approach to inclusion brings. This will be an ongoing focus in 2021.

a year like no other...



MRS SARAH HASLAM Headmistress

In July we launched our Bursary Appeal 2020. We have always held dear to our founding principles that the opportunity of a Withington education should be possible for bright girls, irrespective of financial situation. As the year progressed, the impact of the pandemic on incomes and livelihoods became more apparent. Not only did we anticipate increased calls on our bursary provision in the future, it was very important to us that no present Withington pupil should be faced with the prospect of having to leave due to a change in financial circumstances. As always, the response from our extended Withington community has been fantastic. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who supported the appeal. Your donations continue to make a real difference.

Beyond school, news of our Withington alumnae and your responses to working during the pandemic has been incredible. Hearing some of your experiences through our project to paint portraits of key worker alumnae has been a source of inspiration. I am delighted that we have been able to share these with you in this edition of *Withington Onwards*. Our alumnae continue to be a great source of pride for us all.

The return to School in September was unlike anything I, or any of us in School, have ever experienced. After extensive risk assessment and preparation during the summer holiday, we were ready for the start of term - wearing masks, observing hygiene protocols, social distancing and operating in year group bubbles but crucially - we would be in School together again, reunited after six months of remote working. The excitement and delight were tangible - some nervousness of course and some adaptation

required - but we could now get back to much of what we love about being in our School. Our Golden Rule of Respect for Self, Respect for Others and Personal Responsibility has never been more relevant and our school community has responded brilliantly to what is required.

How wonderful then, that after almost a year of steadfast hard work, innovation and resolute commitment to the highest standards in all areas, to learn that *The Sunday Times* had awarded Withington the prestigious accolade of North West Independent Secondary School of the Decade in its Parent Power Guide published in November. The award recognises the consistency of academic excellence at Withington, the supportive, caring environment, the myriad extra-curricular activities, the commitment to accessibility through the bursary programme, and celebrates the diversity of the school and the school's capacity to inspire its pupils. We are thrilled that the dedication, the care and the passion of all who make up our community, present and past, have been acknowledged by *The Sunday Times* in this way.

This year has brought immense challenge, sadness, suffering and hardship. It has also seen determination, creativity, flexibility, resourcefulness, teamwork, compassion. None of us will forget the year of 2020 but I hope that the Founders would be proud of how the School has risen to the challenge, supported by all in the Withington community - pupils, staff, alumnae, parents, governors, trustees, and friends of the School. We hope for better times in 2021 but whatever it brings, I have no doubt that together we will be equal to it.

portrait project



RACHEL STONE (Class of 1998)
GP Principal, GP Trainer, Macclesfield

As a GP trainer and partner, I was responsible for ensuring the practice continued to be able to care for our patients, despite staff having to shield or self-isolate.

We saw high levels of anxiety and distress in our patients; loneliness for the elderly especially and a lot of fear for families and their loved ones living with health conditions. With reduced availability of hospital input due to restrictions on referrals and admissions, we had to be flexible in the way we offered care to patients. We set up virtual clinics with local consultants, set up text messaging and online consulting platforms, and converted our first point of contact to telephone consultation to reduce the risks of virus transmission. We had to work hard to source appropriate PPE for all our staff as NHSE originally prioritised hospitals above GPs in allocating PPE.

I and my partners also maintained responsibility for training junior doctors who showed exceptional resilience and dedication through what was a very challenging time. Junior doctors had to face rapid changes to their work, exam and rota patterns. We offered to host a trainee at short notice who could no longer see patients in hospital due to being at high risk from COVID. Without our support to do telephone work in practice she would not have been able to continue training.

We supported GP practice staff with daily team briefings, which dropped to weekly after the first lockdown was eased, weekly meetings with neighbouring practices, virtual staff meetings and words of support.

All the while fielding an average of 60-80 patient contacts a day via telephone, online and face to face.

For my PPE I chose superhero print in blue because real superheroes don't wear capes.



Artist: **MRS JULIA JOHNSTON**
Teacher of Art, WGS

Rachel's pose and the mysterious element of wearing a mask reminded me of a painting called 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' by Vermeer and so I adapted the pose and the background to echo this famous artwork. Rachel said she chose a superhero print because real superheroes don't wear capes and so I felt it was important to keep the pop art, superhero element of her attire, although I changed the words to suit the pandemic situation and to add some context to the portrait.

WITHINGTON IS THE

north west independent secondary school of the decade!



WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED THAT WITHINGTON GIRLS' SCHOOL HAS BEEN NAMED
NORTHWEST INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE DECADE BY THE SUNDAY TIMES

Alastair McCall, editor of Parent Power, said:

Winner of our Northwest Independent Secondary School of the Year in 2019, Withington Girls' School goes one better this year with our regional School of the Decade award. This latest accolade acknowledges the consistent academic excellence achieved by the school over the past 10 years, when it has finished as the top-ranked independent school in the Northwest in our annual Parent Power rankings every year.

This has been achieved without creating an academic hothouse. Girls thrive in a supportive, caring environment, where they are encouraged to contribute to school life in myriad ways, not just in examination halls. The school's commitment to accessibility through a generous bursary scheme sees many study here for reduced fees – or even no fees at all. The diverse community of more than 700 girls leave the school ready to take their place in the world and become leaders in their chosen fields, as so many of their predecessors have done.

Mrs Haslam expressed her delight at this recognition:

We are so proud of the outstanding academic achievements of our pupils and the joy they bring to their learning and the whole school community, inspired in no small measure by our outstanding teaching staff.

One-in-six of our pupils are supported by the Bursary Fund which, in line with our founding vision and ethos, contributes to our warm community centred on equality and opportunity and helps to maintain the diversity that has been celebrated since 1890.

It's our pupils' engagement with their learning and with the broader aspects of Withington life – a wealth of extra-curricular activities and opportunities for community partnership work – that is a privilege to be a part of. Our pupils' sense of fun, their enthusiasm, their collaboration with and support of one another creates a very special atmosphere here at Withington and we're thrilled that the dedication, care and passion of all who make up our community have been acknowledged by The Sunday Times in this way.



We are particularly thrilled that *The Sunday Times* has acknowledged the part played by our Bursary programme in awarding this accolade. It is thanks to our extended Withington community who have supported, and continue to support, the Bursary Fund that we are able to offer opportunities to bright girls, irrespective of race, religion, social background and financial situation. The Bursary Fund plays an active role in changing the future paths of many girls.

As one of our bursary ambassadors says:

A bursary is not just a one-time investment, but an investment in our futures.

portrait project



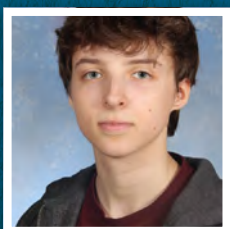
SONAM AOJULA (Class of 2010)

Trainee GP, A&E Doctor during pandemic

My name is Sonam. I am a leaver from the class of 2010, having been at Withington from Year 3 with Mrs Hastings, all the way through to Sixth Form with Mrs Robinson.

I then left to study Medicine at Newcastle University and have since returned home to Manchester, where I am currently in my second year of GP training.

During the pandemic I have been working at a GP Practice (Ordsall Health Surgery) and Salford Royal A&E.



Artist: **ALEX S**

I really enjoyed painting Sonam. For the portrait I used a wash paint on board. I'd like to thank her for all she does, from putting up with wearing a mask every day, all day, to risking her own health to keep us safe. I hope that she likes it.

NEWS OF former pupils

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY



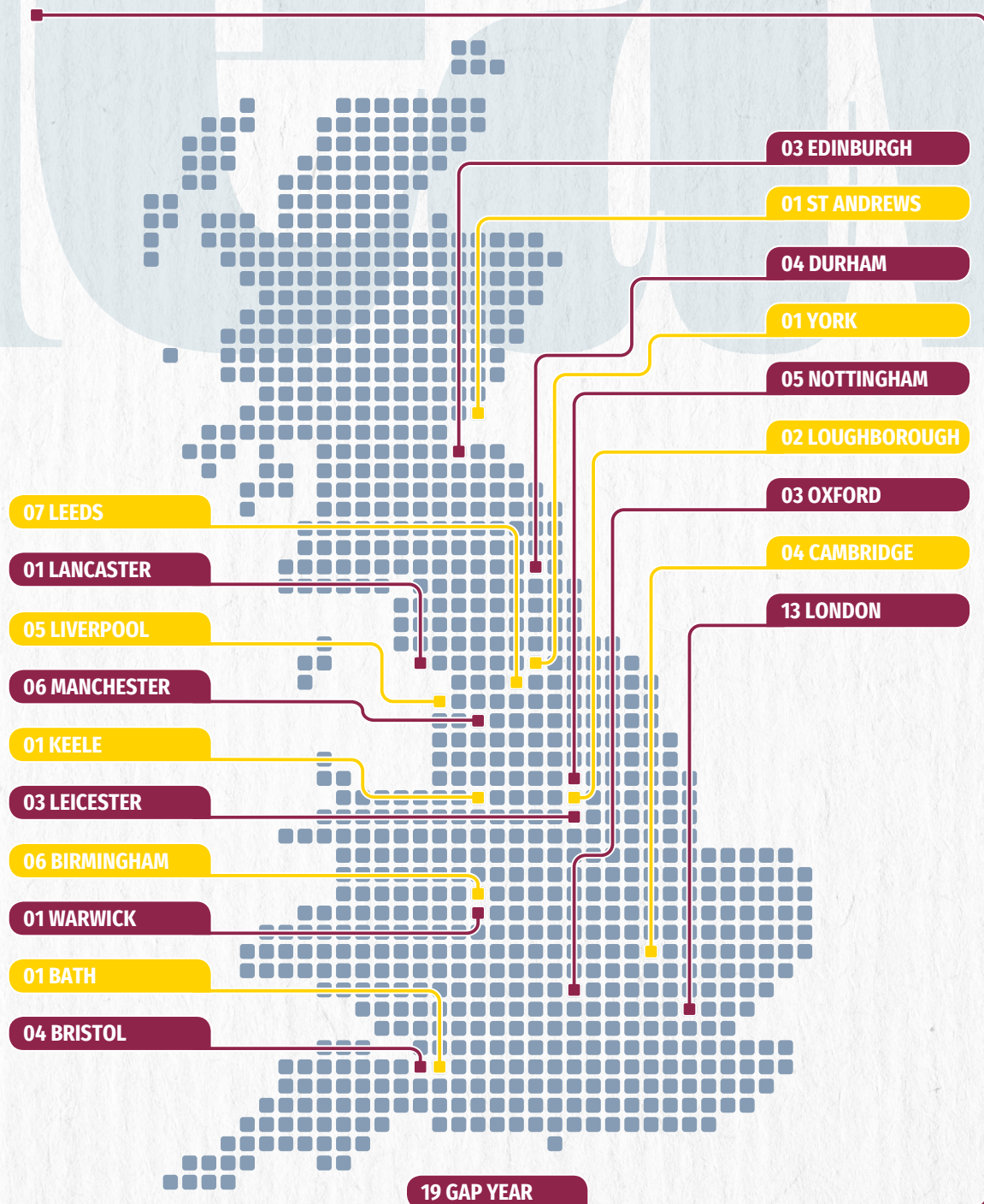
Earlier this year, Carol and David Yates celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at the height of the first national lockdown. They met in Styal, where they both lived and one thing they definitely had in common was that they had both attended WGS.

Carol (née Eaton) attended WGS from 1946 to 1953/4 when she had to finish early due to ill-health. Her husband David was one of the WGS boys attending the school when he was about six for a short time during the war. His mother, Dorothy Yates, used to teach at Withington and his sister Jane (Class of 1956) also attended the school.

Carol recalls:

"I remember the long corridors, lined with coat hooks, wire cages underneath for pumps, and a rather unpleasant odour from all our sweaty feet. We did not change into games gear for either outside activities or in the gym - the latter down to blouse and navy (if new) knickers - otherwise with an odd purply tinge! The gym was very well equipped and the playing fields, surrounded by ordinary type properties, were just wonderful. I was in Simon House (yellow) and if we were representing the school in a games match, we wore our house tie/girdle. Founders' Days were held at Manchester University and were grand affairs. I learnt to play the violin but did not display amazing talent. I did play in the orchestra for a Founders' Day event when the organ was being renovated. I had a great love of all sport and was, I suppose, just average in academic studies but we must have been taught very well as most of us have retained a good knowledge of English. My friend, Pat Shackleton (see Lives Remembered), used to play the piano and the polka was one of our favourites."

destination of leavers



A-LEVEL SUBJECTS

ART	07	EPQ	14	PHILOSOPHY	01
BIOLOGY	41	FRENCH	05	PHILOSOPHY (PRE U)	01
CHEMISTRY	38	FURTHER MATHEMATICS	08	PHYSICS	07
COMPUTER SCIENCE	02	GEOGRAPHY	07	POLITICS	08
DRAMA	03	GERMAN	01	PSYCHOLOGY	13
ECONOMICS	18	HISTORY	16	SPANISH	13
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	04	MATHEMATICS	47		
ENGLISH LITERATURE	10	MUSIC	02		

DEGREE SUBJECTS



1 ACTING



1 ARCHITECTURE



**5 BUSINESS /
MANAGEMENT**



4 CHEMISTRY



**1 COMPUTER
SCIENCE**



2 DENTISTRY



3 ECONOMICS



4 ENGLISH



2 FINE ART



5 GEOGRAPHY



4 HISTORY



1 LAW



2 FILM/MUSIC



2 NEUROSCIENCE



5 PSYCHOLOGY



**2 SOCIAL
SCIENCES**



21 MEDICINE



3 PPE



**2 NATURAL
SCIENCES**



1 SPORT REHAB

For more detailed information on the Class of 2020, please visit www.wgs.org/admissions/sixth-form-admissions/. Includes 2019 Gap Year pupils. Courses are grouped by subject area for simplicity.

MY FIRST TERM AT UNIVERSITY *Shamae Griffin (Class of 2020), Politics & International Relations, University College London*

It is fair to say that this year's first year students have not had a 'run-of-the-mill' introduction to university life. I started studying Politics and International Relations at UCL in late September, which is when cases of coronavirus started to increase at a rather rapid rate. My entire first year teaching is online as a result of this. Just before I was due to move into halls, I made the decision to live with my younger brother, who is at drama school in London, in his flat. Whilst I know it was the right decision to make, it has been a lot harder for me to meet new people. I have only been on campus twice since I started and there are times where I wish I could meet the friends I have made over our countless WhatsApp groups. I have

joined several societies, but all of their events are also online, so there are not many ways of being able to connect with other students. It is, however, reassuring to know that most people are in a similar position.

Although there are disadvantages to being online, I have found that there are more opportunities in general, such as having speakers online for societies who otherwise may not be able to go on campus. I also prefer online lectures as they allow me to revisit the material as many times as necessary. It is frustrating that our entire first year will be defined by the current situation, but the main thing is that we are able to adapt and stay safe in such uncertain times.



School NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD GIRL



This year at school has, of course, been very different due to the current COVID-19 circumstances.

Having joined the school in Lower II, I have seen it develop, change and progress during my nine years here. As Head Girl during these unprecedented times, I feel an obligation to do what I can to support Withington and the community through the difficulties and challenges that the pandemic has brought.

This year has been unusual as there are many restrictions in place, such as the year group bubbles and limitations on some of our extra-curricular activities. However, I've also realised how fortunate we are at Withington, whether that be through the provisions for online learning or the support we receive at school. Within the Head Girl Team we too have adapted, helping to create videos for the return to school and for the school's virtual Open Days.

I feel it's also important to acknowledge the opportunities that have arisen during this time. There have been so many chances to learn new skills, getting to grips with the everchanging

technology and using the lockdown period to understand ourselves much better. The Head Girl Team reflected on these lessons in our assembly last half-term to the whole school in which we talked about what we had learned during lockdown, such as prioritising mental health and adapting to the new normal.

WGS has also supported the local community during these times and my form's assembly focused on this. Inspired by Marcus Rashford's support for free school meals, the Sixth Form has made a commitment to our local foodbank to drop off donations every Friday. We have also been supporting with wrapping gifts for the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Concert which has been pre-recorded this year. We think it even more important to help our local community at the moment.

What I really love is that Withington is still finding ways to thrive and flourish, even during these challenging times. Even though, as students, we may still feel uncertain about the exam situation and what may happen, there is comfort in realising that we are going through the same thing and, in true Withington spirit, we are all in this together!

Being on this journey as Head Girl is exciting and I am looking forward to continuing to make a difference in the Withington community.

NATASHA ARORA Head Girl, 2020-21



KEY WORKING ALUMNAE

portrait project

WGS VIEWED FROM A DISTANCE



They say that necessity is the mother of invention and for all of us in so many different ways, that has been the case this year.

Never more so than when it came to finding ways to welcome prospective students and parents for Open Days without being able to invite them into school. The answer has been live, virtual Open Days with a series of films highlighting different aspects of what makes our school such a special place.

We'd love to share them with you too. On the virtual tour we know that there will be some rooms and buildings that will be entirely familiar to you, and others that have sprung up since you left. We're sure that our film, 'What is it like to be a Withington pupil?' will resonate with you too – once a Withi Girl, always a Withi Girl!

Both films can be accessed here:

Click here or scan to view our virtual tour film



Click here or scan to view the Being a pupil at WGS film

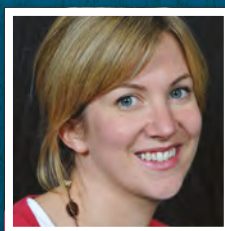


ELLIE JESKY (Class of 2000)

Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham

I returned from maternity leave in April 2020, right in the height of the pandemic. I was leaving my two girls in key worker school and nursery to go back to my role looking after children with leukaemia, other blood disorders and other solid organ cancers.

Our work had to carry on pretty much uninterrupted, as these children still needed our care. Trying to look after scared children and their families in full PPE was certainly an adjustment. The biggest challenges were communication in PPE and the lack of visiting allowed, meaning we were looking after families who were separated. This is completely different to how we work normally. Parents were very scared about bringing their immunocompromised children to hospital. As a team we needed to be a point of calm in the storm and try to carry on as normally as possible.



Artist: MRS ZOE TAYLOR Teacher of Art, WGS

I've really enjoyed painting Ellie's portrait and I decided early on that the NHS blue and also the blue of the face masks should play an important part in the portrait. As you can see, it's a mixture of the two. The portrait of Ellie fades in and out of the blue background in places to connect the two together and this was done on purpose to reflect Ellie's deep connection to the NHS. Coming from a textile design background, I tend to incorporate fabric and stitch in my artwork. I've sewn on the masks and a delicate piece of broderie anglaise, as well as gold stitch around the edge of the portrait. This adds a tactile quality to the portrait.

School NEWS

A MERRY LITTLE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS AT WITHINGTON

As is the Withington way, the show will go on, and the Music Department was very proud to present our 2020 Christmas Concert Series with a difference!

The opening music to one concert suggests 'It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas'. Well, at Withington it was beginning to 'Sound a lot like Christmas' in September, as we began preparations for filming our Christmas concerts just before the October half-term, rehearsing each ensemble in their year group bubbles with face masks, visors, perspex screens and much use of anti-bacterial wipes and hand sanitiser!

During those six weeks we rehearsed in the Arts Centre with the girls. On occasions, some students were in isolation at home but they still managed to attend rehearsals via Microsoft Teams and appeared on the big screen. Conversely, sometimes staff were in isolation, leading the rehearsals from home. We even managed to organise a visit to St Ann's Church to film the Revd Canon Nigel Ashworth, who kindly agreed to deliver the Introduction, Bidding Prayer and Blessing for our annual Carol Service.

No matter what hurdles were thrown our way, including a fire drill which involved Upper Sixth dancers dressed as Christmas Trees, Puddings and Crackers on the astro-turf, we were determined that the show would go on and we would still bring much festive cheer at the end of this 'year with a difference'.

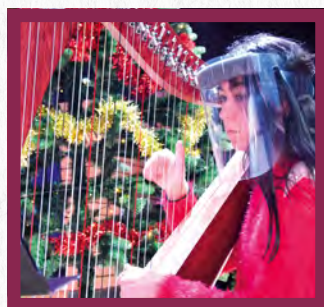
All the ensembles were recorded to a pre-recorded backing track and, after two days of filming the Senior School and one week of filming the Junior Show, the massive challenge of editing and mixing all the different numbers began; no mean feat, given that we had recorded over seven days using four cameras. Our technicians, Joe Walsh and Cat Meaden, layered, synchronised and mixed all the soundtracks, producing a superb series of Christmas Concerts to be enjoyed by one and all.

All concerts were released online on the days that they would have been held in school. The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party still took place, albeit in the form of pre-recorded DVDs, along with cake and presents being delivered to them by Santa's elves, otherwise known as WGS staff.

This was a huge team effort, showing Withington at its very best. If you've missed your normal Christmas musical activities, sit back, relax and enjoy ours – and do feel free to join in at home!

MRS GILLY SARGENT Director of Music

P.S. Normally at Christmas we would be raising money for the following charities, St Ann's Church, Wood Street Mission, The Booth Centre and WGS The Bursary Fund. This year we are using online giving to continue to support them. Please do consider making a donation, if you can.



Click here or scan
to make a donation
to our Christmas
Appeal...



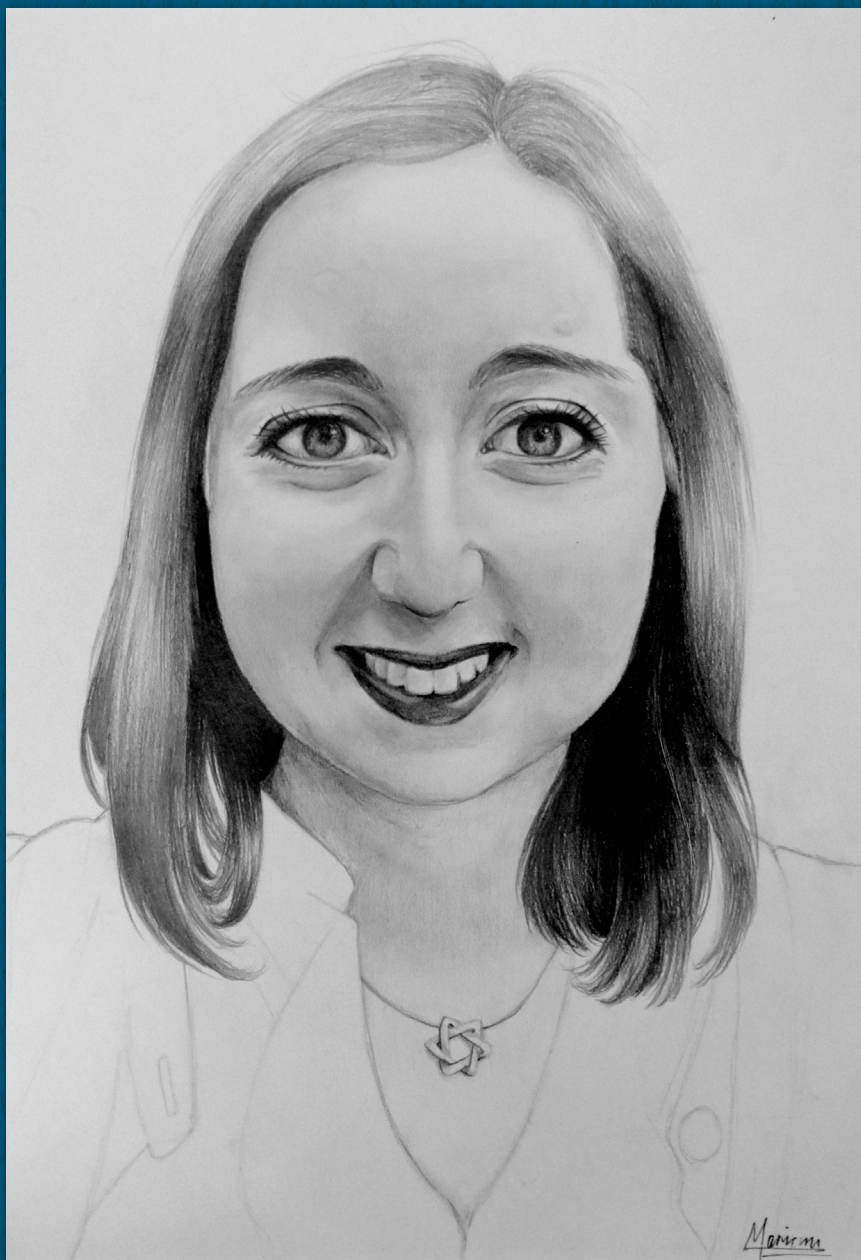
Click here or scan
to watch the
Senior Christmas
Concert...



Click here or scan
to watch the
St Ann's Carol
Service...



portrait project



CHLOE PRAGER (Class of 2011)

Clinical Pharmacist, Watford General Hospital

During the pandemic, I was redeployed from paediatrics back into ITU (Intensive Therapy Unit) where I had been working up until February. The ITU expanded to double the usual capacity, taking over theatres and day surgery. The biggest challenge was maintaining the stock levels of critical medication when so many patients across the whole country required high doses of the same set of drugs. The multidisciplinary team on ITU were amazing. Staff members were pulled in from all different departments and the constant process of teaching and learning from each other was incredible to see. We switched to a day rolling rota which made weekdays and weekends indistinguishable and tough when trying to keep a routine at home.

Watford Football Club next to the hospital were so generous with their facilities and resources. They opened their doors to us, fed us and gave us a place to escape from the stress of the hospital wards.

It is such a fantastic and heart-warming idea that WGS staff and students have offered to do portraits of key workers. In my era at Withington it was not common to go into pharmacy. Many people do not know the role we play, especially in a hospital. I'm pleased that pharmacy will be represented in the exhibition, to raise awareness with current Withington girls of the many opportunities in the healthcare world that make such a difference to patients.



Artist: **MARIAM H**

The key workers have been essential to our community in these unprecedented times and I'm really grateful to have been given this opportunity to create a portrait for one of our Withington alumnae working for the NHS. I decided to use pencil for the majority of the portrait, as it is a medium that I am more familiar with and in order to capture a good likeness of Chloe. I hope that she enjoys the end result. I enjoyed working on this portrait very much.

careers

#WGSEACHFOREQUAL International Women's Day Celebrations

Withington celebrated International Women's Day 2020 with a series of inspirational and thought-provoking workshops organised jointly by the Development team and Head of Careers, Nicki Cottam, encapsulating the 2020 IWD theme, #EachforEqual or 'an equal world is an enabled world'.

Members of our alumnae, parent community and local business representatives volunteered their time to deliver a series of empowering equality-themed talks to WGS's Lower Sixth, including guidance on working in male-dominated sectors; how to get the

best out of teams as a female leader; strategies for closing the gender pay gap and winning promotions; and how to balance work, life and family time effectively.

In her keynote talk, Class of 1980 alumna Joëlle Warren, Executive Chair and founding partner of Warren Partners Executive Search, spoke of Collective Individualism and called on the students to help to influence change. She pointed out that there are currently more men in CEO roles in the FTSE 100 with the names Steven or David, than there are women in the top posts; just five female leaders

who, on average, earn 32% less than their male counterparts. Sharing anecdotes of her own personal experiences, she advised, "Don't hold self-limiting beliefs; don't fear failure and don't lose sight of personal beliefs and values. Go for it, don't be afraid."

Thank you to all those who helped to make the event such a success. As Mrs Cottam pointed out, the contributors were fantastic champions of the International Women's Day message 'to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements.'

I think it is important that we celebrate IWD at Withington because we come from a school where female role models are of great significance. It is positive that we have knowledge of what will happen when we go on into the outside world and how to create an environment that is as supportive as it is here in school.

FIONA Lower Sixth

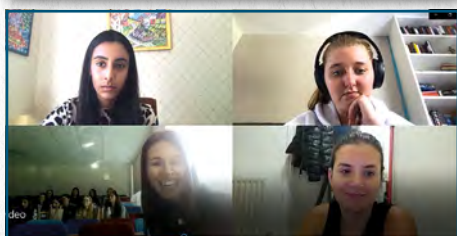
I have learnt some important life skills. Often women are criticised for trying to be assertive, as they are mistaken for being bossy. After listening to these amazing women, I now have confidence in the knowledge that it won't reflect badly on me to follow my own path, because all people should be equal.

NADIA Lower Sixth



portrait project

ALUMNAE UNIVERSITY INSIGHTS



With Lower Sixth students unable to visit universities to help inform their UCAS applications this year, we enlisted some of our more recent alumnae who are still at university to help.

In the summer term, a number of students kindly gave up time to create videos giving an insight into what life was like at their particular university. This covered things like studying, accommodation, cost of living, transport links, student welfare, and so on. We had some great contributions.

With UCAS application deadlines looming, we also hosted a number of live university insight sessions with alumnae at various universities across the UK. These insights were also incredibly helpful to our current students and meant that they were able to hear first-hand, not only about university life under normal circumstances, but also how different universities have adapted to online learning and what that has meant for their students.

We would love to expand our video university resource. If you are at university and would be willing to record a short video, please contact us at development@wgs.org.

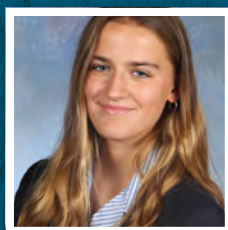
Thank you to all those alumnae who have supported this initiative during a challenging time for all university students.



CHARLOTTE DEANS (Class of 2007)
Detective, Metropolitan Police

As the portrait shows, I started out as a police officer on the beat in the Metropolitan Police Service. I then became a detective and initially specialised in investigating serious sexual offences. I've now moved onto the Department of Professional Standards, investigating internal misconduct and deaths after police contact. It has been business as usual during the pandemic, although our resources have been super stretched, with various colleagues needing to self-isolate or shield, or being deployed to the pandemic multi-agency task force. Supporting them is so important.

I'm glad I have been well enough to carry on going to work to do my bit for the people of London during this strange and confusing time.

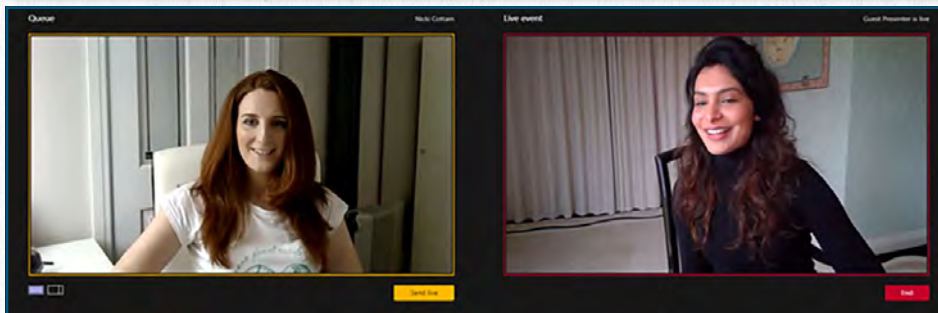


Artist: **MOLLY D**

I really enjoyed painting Charlotte and being part of this key worker alumnae project. I used acrylic on canvas in a semi-realistic style and I hope that I have captured her friendly face in a realistic way. It was really nice to give back to the key workers and they can look back at the paintings and know that they are appreciated and celebrated every day for their hard work and effort.

careers

WGS RISE: LIVE Online Careers Sessions



We have a wonderful tradition of being able to call on the experiences of our alumnae to support students in considering the many and varied career opportunities available to them. With the arrival of COVID-19 and the changes it brought, we needed to find new ways to do this.

In the Summer term, working closely with the Head of Careers, Mrs Nicki Cottam, the Development team helped to devise a programme of live, online careers sessions with the opportunity for students to take part in a Q&A. These were based around the premise that, having completed a degree, there were many different career journeys possible. In the Autumn term we have concentrated on developing skills such as how to network and playing to one's strengths.

These sessions have been excellent for allowing us to invite alumnae to take part who would not, under normal circumstances, be able to visit Withington in person. It also meant that we could extend the invitation to join the sessions to our most recent alumnae, those still at university or just graduated, who we thought would also find the sessions beneficial, especially during this time.

Mrs Cottam, Head of Careers, said,

“It’s been a real pleasure to host these inspirational women. It demonstrates that following your genuine academic interests, and allowing them to inform your career decisions, ultimately leads to jobs that provide huge fulfilment, challenge, enjoyment and excitement. Our alumnae spoke about how to make the most of opportunities and your network, how change and challenge should be welcomed rather than feared, how sometimes the most surprising directions can be the most rewarding, and how it is ultimately your skills, and not the name of your degree or university, that set you up for a worthwhile and satisfying working life.”

We’re delighted that this online format has allowed us to connect with our wider network of alumnae and would welcome future involvement from any alumna who feels that this is a programme with which they would like to engage. Any Alumnae at university or recently graduated interested in listening to any of the above talks, please email development@wgs.org.

We are extremely grateful to the following alumnae who have supported the programme:

LIZZY BURDEN (Class of 2012)
Humanities Degrees:
From History to the
Economics of Coronavirus
Economics Reporter, *The Telegraph*

NATALIE BODEK (Class of 2002)
Language Degrees:
To Finance, Electoral Reform and Beyond
Acting Deputy Director, Elections Division
at the Cabinet Office

INGA DEAKIN (Class of 2001)
Science Outside the Lab
Entrepreneur in Residence/Mentor
in Residence at Duke University,
North Carolina, USA

MICHELLE GOULTY (Class of 2005)
Language Degrees:
Sport to the Charitable Sector
Head of Foundation Partnerships
at City Football Group

SABINA PURI (Class of 2005)
Science Degrees and Beyond:
Natural Science to Investment
Vice President, Blackstone, New York

HELEN MOUNTNEY (Class of 1980)
Making the Most of Networking
Formerly Managing Partner, Kurt Salmon
UK, part of Accenture Strategy

DIANA BREEZE (Class of 1985)
Identifying Your Strengths
Group HR Director, Bunzl PLC

portrait project

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE



Iram Kiani (Class of 1997) was kind enough to return to Withington at the beginning of the year to speak to the Politics Society and give them an insight into standing for Altrincham & Sale West in the last General Election. Sixth Former Heather Goodwin from the Politics Society writes:

'The Politics Society welcomed Iram Kiani into school to speak to a range of students, including A Level Politics students, about her experience of standing as an independent candidate in the 2019 general election. She delivered a fascinating and inspiring talk on her journey as a candidate, documenting her successes and difficulties. Her experience standing against candidates with a party supporting them made her realise how much preparation goes into election campaigning, from distributing leaflets and talking to constituents, to participating in debates with other candidates. Her dedication and perseverance were evident. She spoke about her decision to stand as an independent candidate stemming from her belief in voting for policies you truly believe in. All who attended enjoyed hearing about Iram's experiences, with many informed questions asked afterwards.'



CHERIE DEANS (Class of 2007)

Doctor, Leighton Hospital, Crewe

After Withington I studied Medicine at UCL and I am now working as a doctor in Leighton Hospital in Crewe, alongside several other Withington alumnae. Currently, I am working on the coronavirus wards, but I hope to return to General Medicine soon. I am now living in Didsbury and pass Withington regularly, it brings back lots of fond memories!



Artist: EMMA S

I took part in this project because I am so proud and impressed with all that the NHS is doing to combat this dangerous virus. It could not have been done without every brave individual who risks their lives to save the lives of brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, parents, grandparents and friends. Every life saved is important to so many people, and I don't think that the country can ever repay that debt to them. I wanted to give something back to this incredible community and give up my own time to give someone the recognition and acknowledgement that they deserve. It is a difficult time for everyone, and I would like to thank Cherie and show my appreciation with this portrait.

Careers

AN UNEXPECTED CAREER



You have the ability to walk out of here and change the world in so many different ways, but always remember that the privilege that we have is about giving people who don't have a voice the opportunity to express what they have to say and to be heard, in order to create a better world for everyone.

These were the inspiring words of alumna Olivia Darby (Class of 2002) when she visited to speak in assembly at the beginning of the year. Olivia is one of the founders of the WONDER Foundation, a woman-led charity dedicated to empowering women and girls through quality education and access to good work.

She described her career as 'unexpected' and the fact that having to change her A Level options because they didn't fit the timetable, had inadvertently set her on the path to where she is now. She also had some wise words for students about not having to do everything perfectly and that working with others whose strengths complement each other helps us to achieve more than we can by ourselves.

NEWS OF former pupils

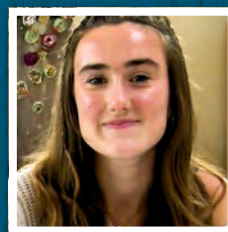
MIDLOTHIAN DEPUTY LORD LIEUTENANT

Congratulations to Rachel Oliphant née Sluce (Class of 1985) who was appointed as Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Midlothian in October. Due to the pandemic she has as yet only carried out one official engagement; a socially-distanced, discreet wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. We are sure she will be much busier once the situation improves.



KEY WORKING ALUMNAE

portrait project



Artist: **ANOUSKA B**

I wanted my portrait to convey the brutal reality that key workers face working in the coronavirus pandemic; the painful restrictive nature of PPE, the long shifts. I chose to use black ink as I felt that ink was the best way to capture the ruthlessness and the effects of these realities, such as the jagged marks caused by wearing face masks.

CHARLOTTE STRZELECKI (Class of 2003)

Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine
Speciality Registrar, Stepping Hill Hospital

I am an anaesthetics and intensive care registrar working within the North West. At the time of the first wave of the COVID pandemic I was working at Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport. Whilst at Stepping Hill my usual job included working in general theatres, maternity theatres and intensive care but as the pandemic developed nearly all my clinical time was spent in intensive care. As you would expect, the majority of our work during this time related directly to looking after patients admitted to our hospital with COVID pneumonitis.

I wasn't quite sure exactly what kind of image would be suitable for the portrait project, however, this image was taken very early on during the COVID pandemic and I think sums up a lot of the issues and emotions we were all experiencing at the time.

We were all exhausted, we were working a minimum of thirteen hour shifts and they were gruelling. We had more than tripled our number of critical care patients and they were all extremely unwell all at the same time. It is more usual that we have patients at different points in their illness, so some are sicker than others. That didn't happen, they all arrived at once and were the sickest patients we had ever really looked after.

My photo also sums up what we have all 'affectionately' termed The COVID Nose, caused by the respirators and masks that we were wearing for the entirety of our shifts. They are very effective, but they hurt, rub terribly and give you headaches and pressure sores.

Once you are in PPE you can't just get out of it; it is a time-consuming process that carries a significant risk of self-contamination. So, once it's on, you can't drink, eat or go to the toilet. We also didn't want to waste any of the PPE we had, so once it was on we stayed in the COVID bay for many hours to get as much done as we could and use the least amount of PPE per



shift. I am not complaining though, as our PPE was really top notch, it protected us very well indeed and we had very few ICU staff contract COVID; in that respect we were very grateful.

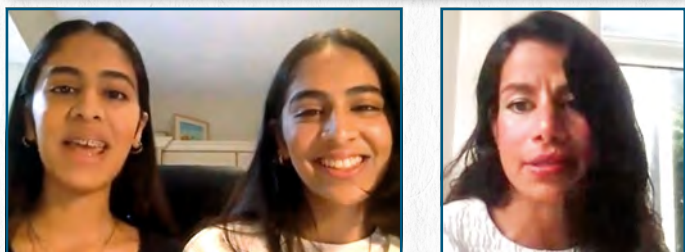
Additionally, our maternity service came under significant strain due to another local hospital having to close their maternity department when the pandemic hit, as they did not have sufficient anaesthetists to provide both ICU capacity for COVID patients, as well as maternity anaesthetics. As a result, our hospital took over the care of half of their maternity patients, almost doubling our birth-rate overnight. At a time when we were redirecting anaesthetics, theatre and nursing staff into our intensive care to look after patients with COVID, we also had to balance care provision for our maternity patients and work within the confines of the COVID safety policies. This proved exceptionally challenging.

As part of our usual rotations, in August I moved to the Royal Oldham Hospital where I am working solely on the intensive care unit and will do so until our next rotation in February 2021. Currently, we are still looking after patients requiring intensive care for COVID pneumonitis and, as you may be aware, Oldham and the surrounding areas have been hit with a spike in local cases. We are also dealing with the knock-on effect of healthcare services being significantly restricted during the COVID pandemic. This includes patients presenting with malignancies, patients deteriorating clinically due to delayed procedures or surgeries and sadly, we have seen the ramifications of both lockdown drinking and patients who have suffered mental health crises.

As we move forward during this pandemic, I feel that the major challenge will be trying to balance the clinical and logistical burden of patients with COVID-19, with attempting to keep the rest of our health service provision functional.

news from development

ALUMNA WORKING FOR UN JOINS MUN ONLINE



Sixth Form students, Imaan and Safa Saeed were part of the committee organising this year's Withington MUN (Model United Nations) Conference. Although the conference, involving 22 schools, was unable to go ahead, the girls, working with the Development team, set up an online session for Withington MUN students with the keynote speaker, Pallavi Sekhri (Class of 2000) a Legal Counsel at the United Nations in New York.

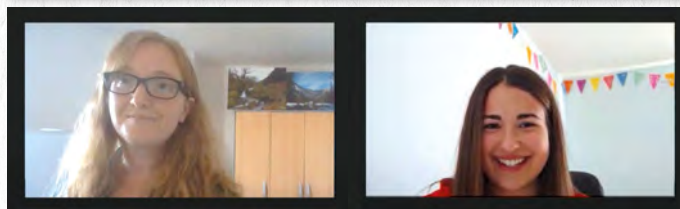
Ms Sekhri delivered an inspirational and thought-provoking speech about her career and life since leaving school. She spoke to us about her work as a Legal Officer for the UN, and working as Counsel for the Secretary-General. This work in the UN particularly fascinated us, as it brought the Model United Nations experience to life.

Aside from working in the UN, Ms Sekhri also explained how, after becoming a practising lawyer, she spent much of her free time working on pro-bono cases, eventually spurring her to move to Rwanda, where she set up a government programme. The vast range of roles and projects Ms Sekhri has worked on taught her many life lessons which she shared with us. Her advice about building a vision and a resilient attitude resonated with a lot of us. We particularly enjoyed that she intertwined her own experiences with thoughtful advice which she thought we may find useful, considering she too was once a Withington pupil.

It was a great privilege being able to listen to her and we hope to be able to welcome her to school next year for our conference.

IMAAN & SAFA SAEED Year 12

MANCHESTER LIT & PHIL SOCIETY



It was a proud occasion for Withington when the Manchester Lit & Phil, the first and oldest literary and philosophical society in Britain, ran its first ever online event in the Spring featuring a conversation between a former and then current pupil of WGS.

The live session entitled, 'There are no adults: My journey to realising that no-one has a plan!', was aimed at encouraging young people to consider a career in STEM. Kirstie Whitaker (Class of 2001), shared insights into her career journey with then Upper Sixth pupil, Tea Milanovic.

Kirstie, a neuroscientist, is currently the Programme Lead for Tools, Practices and Systems at the world-renowned Alan Turing Institute. Her work covers a broad range of interests and methods, but the driving principle is to improve the lives of people with mental health disorders.

During the course of the interview she revealed to Tea she had considered the option of becoming a professional choreographer before opting to pursue a science degree. Kirstie stressed that her arts background had helped her to develop skills she had not realised she would need as a scientist, including the ability to write well and to present well. Creativity, she said, was a key part of being a scientist.

She also advised:

Follow your joy because every pathway is going to give you pain but know that there can be a joyful day along this journey.

Tea, having been awarded A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Biology, is now studying Chemistry at Imperial College London. As well as being awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, Tea was also accepted into McKinsey's Leadership Academy 2020.



Click here or scan to watch the interview via the Manchester Lit & Phil website

THE AD LUCEM FUND



The Ad Lucem Fund (formerly known as the Annual Fund) supports projects across the school which enhance and enrich the girls' learning but that normally fall outside the reach of the annual school budget. This year, staff were encouraged to suggest projects that would provide opportunities to compensate for experiences lost during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Food & Nutrition Department applied for funding for new, specialist equipment and to host workshops to ameliorate the impact that COVID-19 had on practical lessons for those studying GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. The sessions gave the girls the opportunity to gain new experiences from a trained professional and to learn new skills and techniques that they can incorporate into their studies. Two practical workshops were delivered by Alan Sosa, Executive Chef from Holroyd Howe, Withington's in-house catering provider, showcasing the preparation and cooking techniques used to make international street food.

Nichola Watson, Teacher of Food & Nutrition, said:

"We are most grateful to Alan for sharing his knowledge and culinary expertise. The students thoroughly enjoyed the interactive workshops. They were introduced to new food preparation techniques, ingredients and flavour combinations, as well as understanding the use of specific cooking techniques and garnishing and decorative hints and tips. They are now eager to try out some of the new ideas shared with them."

The new equipment, two Thermomix machines and a food vacuum packing machine, will save time, food costs and improve efficiency when preparing food for lessons.

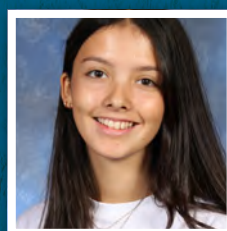
We are very grateful to all those alumnae who continue to support education at Withington through the Ad Lucem Fund.



NADIA AWAN (Class of 2003)
Consultant Doctor, Salford

I am working as a Consultant Doctor in Salford during the COVID-19 pandemic; unprecedented times which have completely changed how we work in these challenging conditions. My sister, also a WGS alumna, and brother (MGS alumni) both work as doctors. This presents equal parts pride and worry for their safety.

I have been in touch with many of the WGS alumnae during this period and we've all been looking after and supporting each other through this. I made some incredible lifelong friends at school. I may be on the frontline, but many of these ladies have been lifesavers in their own way.



Artist: **MIA A**

Over the last few months I have been painting Nadia's portrait. I chose acrylic paints and I really hope that she likes it. I would like to say thank you so much for all her hard work in these unprecedented and difficult times. I really appreciate the work that she is doing as a doctor during the pandemic.

ALUMNAE ASSEMBLY



We were delighted that, just after lockdown started and as our school community returned for the summer term with our remote learning programme, Virtual WGS, Dr Caroline Major (Class of 2006), our Founders' Day speaker for 2019, kindly made a video assembly for our students. An ocean advocate, veterinary surgeon and adventure seeker, she shared tips and ideas for maintaining wellbeing and motivation as our students adjusted to life in lockdown and adapted to new ways of working.

SPOTCAST ON

In the Spring the Development team launched Spotcast On. In this monthly podcast we talk to an alumna about their life and career, finding out more about the paths they have chosen; the highs and lows, how Withington has influenced them as they have moved forward, and what they have learned along the way. We hope that this will inspire both our alumnae and current Withington pupils as they prepare to take their next steps.

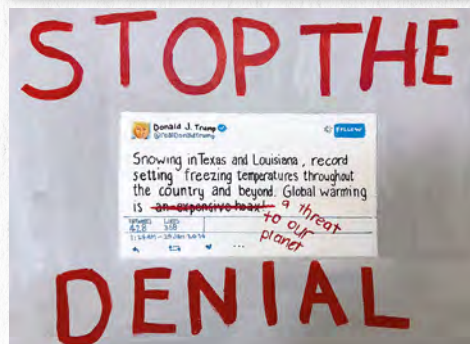
Our first interviewee was Denise Parnell (Class of 1979), who talked about her career as a professional tennis player, her move into coaching and then becoming Assistant Referee at the Wimbledon Championships. We followed this with conductor Tori Longdon in conversation with Withington's Director of Music, Mrs Sargent, discussing her love of singing, being a judge on Gareth Malone's *The Choir* and her latest venture setting up the online Stay at Home Choir during lockdown.

Next up were Lizzy Burden (Class of 2009), Economics reporter for *The Telegraph*, interviewed by then Upper Sixth student, Shamae Griffin, and film producer Catherine Slater (Class of 2007) in discussion with Deputy Head and alumna, Jen Baylis. In December Assistant Head, Dr Madden, spoke with Elissa Thursfield (Class of 2005) about her leadership roles as Head of Employment Law in a Welsh law firm and first female helm of RNLI Abersoch's lifeboat.



Click here or scan to listen to our Spotcast On series from the School website

THE RUTH BAYLEY ILLUSTRATION COMPETITION



Former pupil, Ruth Bayley, left a generous gift to Withington in her will, some of which she wanted to be used to promote art education, and the illustration competition was set up in her memory.

This year's competition on the theme of 'Art in Action and Activism' was launched in October by guest judge, Diana Ali, creative mentor on the BBC's *Painting Challenge* and *Celebrity Painting Challenge*. She is also a highly successful curator of visual art and a practising artist. The theme was inspired by Head of Art, Mrs Fildes' relative, Mary Fildes, who had been a key figure in the Peterloo Massacre in 1819. The brief was to create an artefact or artwork to articulate activism.

There were a tremendous number of outstanding entries submitted and the Art Department very much enjoyed seeing the personal and powerful works of art, demonstrating both passion and dedication towards many important and current global issues. As well as judging the entries, Diana also recorded a message which was played during a virtual assembly congratulating all those who had entered and announcing the winners.

The overall winner was Year 9 pupil, Safiya Fazuan, with her work entitled 'Stop the Denial'.

Mrs Fildes said:

"I have been thrilled with how the girls have engaged with this year's competition. The theme of 'Art in Action and Activism' clearly ignited their passions! We had so very many exciting and varied pieces of work maturely tackling personal, local and global issues in such diverse mediums such as textiles, sculpture, painting and digital art. We were immensely proud to have Diana Ali as our judge and she was equally as impressed at the standard of art and the sophisticated nature of the girls' messages which came through in their pieces."

The competition for 2020-21 asks students to get creative with the design and creation of a face mask so that it communicates and engages with those that see it.

Sincere thanks to the executors of Ms Bayley's estate for their ongoing support of the Ruth Bayley Illustration Competition.

portrait project

ANA CLAYTON-SMITH (Class of 2012)
Working in Acute Medicine
& Intensive Care, London

ZOË CLAYTON-SMITH (Class of 2007)
Specialist Registrar in Radiology,
Sydney, Australia



My older sister Zoë and I are both doctors, working through the COVID pandemic.

I was working at Northwick Park Hospital, London, which had the highest number of cases of COVID at the beginning of the first peak. As a result, I was redeployed first to work in acute medicine and subsequently, intensive care. These were incredibly difficult times for everyone involved. When cases first started coming through, no-one knew how best to manage these patients and beds soon started filling up. Our hospital had to be reorganised overnight and our intensive care capacity quadrupled. Meanwhile, my sister has been on the other side of the globe at Concorde Hospital in Sydney. She's now a specialist registrar in radiology and has been reporting on scans and performing interventional procedures throughout the pandemic, providing doctors on the ward (like me) with the essential information we need to treat our patients.

We are lucky if we manage to see each other more than once a year, but although we are on opposite sides of the world, this COVID outbreak has brought us closer together. We now speak almost every day and Zoë has been an invaluable source of support to me through some very trying days.

The pictures I sent in for the project were of us cycling together in Australia over last Christmas. I thought they were fitting because, during the pandemic, we have both made an extra effort to commute only by bike to try and limit contact with others on public transport and prevent possible spread of COVID.



Artist: **RAAIDA H**

I chose to do this portrait in acrylic paints as I felt it was the best medium to portray the cheerful smiles and optimism in the photo, which is perfectly symbolic of brighter times ahead. Celebrating two key workers with this captured moment of joy felt like a small way of expressing my appreciation for your constant hard work and courage and it was nice to paint a portrait knowing that it was bringing two sisters on opposite ends of the world close together.

repatriating british citizens

DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

HELEN SMITH (Class of 2000)

UK's Deputy High Commissioner in Wellington, New Zealand



I have worked for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (or, since 1st September this year, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) since graduating in 2004, and have been the UK's Deputy High Commissioner in Wellington, New Zealand, since June 2015. This is my second overseas posting in a career which has involved, amongst other things, three years working in Poland and two years leading UK policy on Somalia, and which will shortly take me to Tokyo as the UK's Deputy Ambassador to Japan.

In normal times, my role is to work with the High Commissioner to lead our team of 40 staff in Wellington and Auckland to represent UK interests in New Zealand, whether negotiating on a future Free Trade Agreement, engaging with the New Zealand government on foreign policy issues such as Hong Kong and Iran, or supporting British businesses exporting here.

When COVID-19 hit New Zealand in March this year, my role changed substantially. New Zealand went into nationwide lockdown on Wednesday 25th March, stranding thousands of British visitors with no ability to travel domestically to reach flights and most commercial routes back to the UK being cancelled. We immediately moved the High Commission into 'crisis mode' to support the British citizens stranded here.

The numbers of Brits involved were staggering - within days of launching a registration system for British Nationals in New Zealand, 12,000 had signed up. Globally, the FCO supported 1.3 million British citizens to return to the UK via commercial routes, and a further 38,000 through a special charter flights programme. I have worked a number of crises in my time with the FCO - from terrorist attacks to earthquakes - but the scale and length of this crisis was unprecedented.

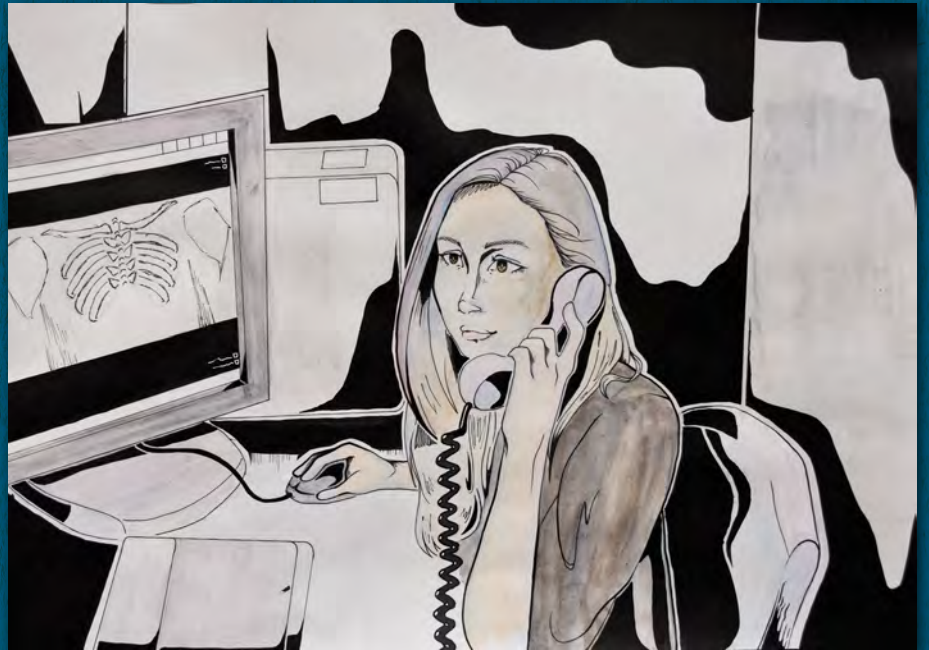
In New Zealand, over a period of 8 weeks, we supported more than 6,000 British citizens to return to the UK on a combination of commercial and a series of eight charter flights. We targeted our charter flights at those deemed to be more vulnerable, whether due to age, health conditions or travelling with young children. Our small High Commission teams who deployed to the airports to support these flights showed resilience and creativity, dealing with everything from complex medevacs and crying backpackers,

to brokering how to share five bassinets amongst eight infants on a nearly 30-hour journey. I was unable to deploy to the airport myself due to being pregnant and therefore considered 'at risk', but even from a distance it was great to see the gratitude of the those who were finally able to return home.

My role as Crisis Manager was to co-ordinate all elements of the High Commission's response, from communications to and, support for, British nationals, to engagement with the New Zealand government and airlines to try to open up routes home, to the practical logistics of running a crisis response with all staff working from home in lockdown. I needed to ensure we had the right people working on the right issues and that they had the support they needed. Many were taking on unfamiliar tasks, such as our Defence Section Office Manager engaging directly with British nationals in distress. Some were working hard on the crisis response while locked-down alone or in difficult family circumstances; in the first weeks of the crisis, our communications team faced regular trolling on social media from British nationals unhappy with the UK government's overall response. Without the usual camaraderie of working in an office, I worked with our designated Welfare Officer to ensure we maintained staff morale and that no-one felt isolated.

The experience taught me a lot about my own resilience and leadership. With two children under three, and another on the

portrait project



way, working 16 hour days from home was a real challenge. I was regularly to be seen giving my youngest a bottle with one hand whilst editing our daily email to British nationals with another! But experiencing this also helped me to support colleagues in similar situations, not all of whom were lucky enough to have a husband who could take on most of the childcare. Many of the skillsets I had to use in this crisis built on the values instilled in me during my time at Withington – confidence, teamwork and consideration for others.

With the consular crisis now over, I feel very fortunate to be in New Zealand. The response here was 'hard and fast' with one of the strictest lockdowns in the world. But the result is that NZ is now essentially COVID-free and since May life has been pretty much back to normal, but with strict border controls making travel to and from the country close to impossible. It can feel surreal to live in a COVID-free bubble, whilst worrying about family in the UK and my husband's in the US, and not knowing when we will be able to see them again. Here's hoping the situation changes in 2021, not least so that our parents can meet their new grandson!



Helen's baby, Teddy, arrived October 2020

SOPHIE CHESHIRE (Class of 2009)

Radiology Doctor

My current role is Radiology ST5 (final year of registrar training; I am due to take up a Consultant post next August) and I am working at Royal Blackburn Hospital. When the photo was taken I was a Radiology ST4 (Speciality Trainee Year 4) at Stepping Hill Hospital.

Sadly, the last few weeks have showed an increase in cases of COVID, echoing what we saw during the peak in April. As well as these new presentations, we are doing an increasing amount of imaging to tackle the issues of "Long Covid" whereby patients are suffering with a multitude of after-effects from contracting the virus. Radiology and diagnostic imaging has played a massive role during this pandemic and I am proud to be a small cog in the massive wheel that is the NHS.

One thing to add is that I have only had to diagnose the horrors of COVID by viewing the images of inside the body, whilst many of my colleagues and fellow WGS alumnae have faced the problem head on and had to deal with some unimaginable situations, for which I'm sure no amount of training can prepare you. I have a huge respect for my colleagues and fellow Withingtonians who have been battling this virus over the last few months.



Artist: REANNA M

For the portrait project I had the honour of painting a portrait of Sophie Cheshire who works as a radiology doctor. Her role within the medical field has played a part in the fight against COVID-19 and I hope that my portrait will show my appreciation towards her hard work and efforts. With inspiration from the warm lighting in the photo, coupled with the x-ray photos, I decided to do a warm and desaturated drawing in watercolour and fine line. I hope that she likes it.



ad-lucem awards



We are very proud to announce the launch of the Withington Girls' School Ad Lucem Alumnae Awards.

We know that our alumnae are an amazing group of women, excelling in so many different ways and in so many different areas, and we wanted to celebrate some of these achievements, as well as inspire current pupils.

The recipient of an Ad Lucem Award will be a Withington alumna who has made an outstanding contribution to society or who acts as an inspirational role model, either in a professional, voluntary or philanthropic capacity, or through their personal endeavours. Their achievements, outlook and conduct will demonstrate that they continue to reflect the school's ethos and values, making them an exceptional public ambassador for our school community.

There are two categories, the Ad Lucem Award and the Ad Lucem Young Award (for alumnae under the age of 30 at the nomination deadline). These will be awarded biennially, commencing in 2021, and will be announced and presented at our Founders' Day celebration.

Anyone is welcome to make a nomination but please note:

- **Nominees shall have attended Withington Girls' School**
- **Nominees shall not be current WGS staff members**
- **Awards may be considered posthumously**
- **Nominees should be nominated by someone other than themselves**

You can make a nomination at www.wgs.org/alumnae/ad-lucem-awards/ You are invited to submit a statement (up to 500 words) to allow a greater understanding of the nominee's achievements and/or contribution to society and submit any supporting documentation (press articles, publications, resume of nominee). Alternatively, you can post your nomination to the Development Office at school or email it to: development@wgs.org

The closing date for nominations is Friday 28th May 2021.

A shortlist of nominations for each category will then be identified by the selection committee made up of:

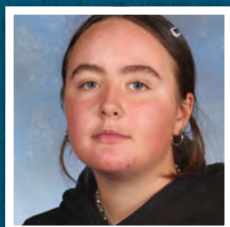
- **Headmistress**
- **Director of Development**
- **Director of Marketing & Admissions**
- **Head Girl Team**
- **Alumnae representative on Governing Body**

Once the shortlisted nominees have been contacted to gain their permission to be put forward, Senior School pupils will be asked to vote for their preferred nominee in each category. The awards will be designed by a current pupil as part of a Design & Technology Department competition.

We are sure that many of you will have someone in mind who would be a worthy recipient of an Ad Lucem Award. We are looking forward to receiving your nominations and presenting the first awards.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ON 0161 249 3377 OR EMAIL DEVELOPMENT@WGS.ORG

portrait project



Artist: **ELEANOR C**

I chose to do this portrait because I was drawn initially to the composition of the picture. I love the armchair and the positioning of Amy's figure on it. I chose to use colour pencil because it is a traditional method and produces the best quality result for Amy. I really enjoyed working on this piece and I hope that she likes it. Thank you so much to Amy for all her hard work over the last few months.

AMY HAWKES (Class of 2007)

First Secretary, Justice & Home Affairs, British High Commission, India

Amy studied English at Oxford, then converted to law and undertook barrister training. In 2012, she joined the Civil Service.

For the last two years, I have been a diplomat in the British High Commission in New Delhi. My day job is to manage the justice and home affairs relationship between India and the UK which includes, for example, overseeing extraditions, visa policy, and prisoner transfers. It's an amazing job - but not exactly what you would call front line most of the time!

However, when coronavirus really hit India in early March, I and many of my colleagues paused our day-jobs and volunteered to help with the emerging consular crisis. In response to rising case numbers, the Indian Government cancelled all flights with less than 24 hours' notice, stranding over 20,000 Britons and their families. While some, mostly in the South of India, were tourists on holiday, a very large number were 'overseas citizens of India' (OCIs) visiting their families or undertaking religious observance. Many of these people were very elderly and found themselves unexpectedly away from their families in the UK with dwindling medical supplies and funds, and little or no internet access. Meanwhile, India enforced the largest and strictest lockdown in the world and, sadly, some communities in India were becoming increasingly worried about, and hostile to, foreigners.

My role was to run a 'field deployment team', a team of High Commission officials on the ground to support Britons, at Amritsar airport. This is a very small, three gate airport in the North Indian state of Punjab, from which over 6,000 people were repatriated in five weeks - the largest single location from which a British



repatriation has been run in peacetime. My team facilitated the repatriations of around 1600 people, with flights in the very early hours of the morning, sometimes within a few hours of each other.

The conditions were hard on the team, passengers and airport staff - for example, weather conditions included dust storms, torrential rain and temperatures that remained well above 30 degrees - even at midnight, with high humidity and massive mosquitos! This added to the difficulties of the large majority of our passengers who were vulnerable - most were very elderly, with the eldest's passport showing them to be over 110 years old (!) and a about third of each flight's passengers being born pre-Indian Independence. We provided food, water and mosquito spray; as well as logistical support (a government-approved transport plan was required for every single traveller, a number of whom travelled over a hundred kilometres to get to Amritsar); medical, airline, immigration, welfare and translation assistance (when faced with such a stressful situation, many passengers became more comfortable in their first language, Punjabi or Hindi). During our flights we had several seizures, faints, strokes and hospitalisations - these were people who needed to be back home with their families.

I am proud of the front line work I did here, and incredibly proud of my pragmatic, empathetic, multilingual team who often went far beyond the call of duty to help people in distress. Overall, nearly 20,000 people returned to the UK on British-run repatriation flights over eight weeks, with over a few thousand more supported to get onto flights run by other countries. This is HM Government at its best!

NEWS FROM THE archive



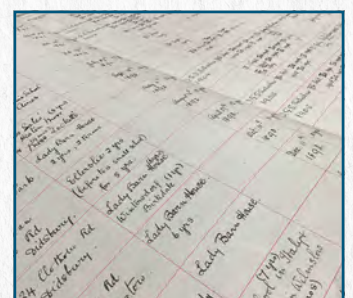
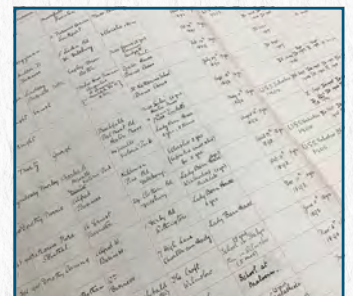
MISS HANNAH BROWN Archivist

Our archive is filled with resources that inform us about the lives of our school community during challenging times in modern history. We are privileged and thankful that our archive exists and that these treasures have been set aside and saved for us to learn from today. It therefore made perfect sense to us, that in our own challenging times, we should record and document the thoughts and ideas of our current school community. We are delighted to be collating a range of poetry, paintings, drawings, diary entries and photographic pieces produced by pupils and staff into one special book entitled *Journal 2020*. This will be printed and sent out to all who contributed and digital copies will be available to everyone upon request. We will store this book within our archive so that future generations can build up an image of the difficulties we have faced together, and maybe even a few moments of joy too!

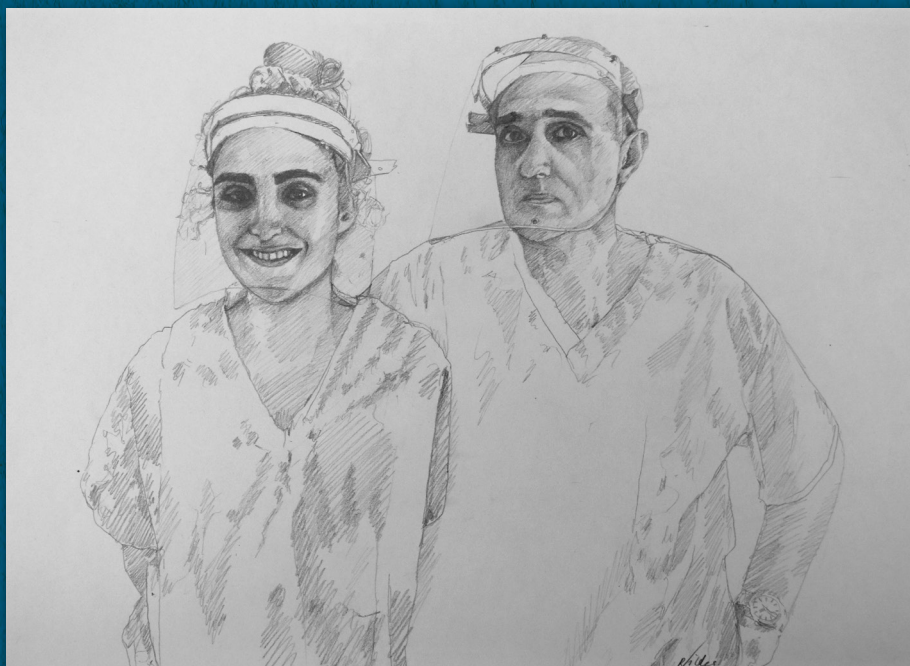
We are currently working towards another digitisation project with the aim of commissioning a professional heritage scanning company to digitise our original admissions register. This is a particularly precious, handwritten hardback book that documents every pupil who entered our school from the very early days. The information is very useful when researching the history of specific individuals and provides us with an insight into family backgrounds and where our pupils moved on to after their school career at Withington. We have many of these books stored carefully in chronological order. They are so large and heavy that we will definitely need support with scanning every page!

We are also hopeful that we will be able to convert a substantial amount of our early whole school and class photographs into digital files. This will mean that the images are protected for the future and can be easily disseminated to those who are interested.

If you would like any further information regarding our archive or you would like to donate any objects, photographs or documents to the archive for future research, please do get in touch via archive@wgs.org.



portrait project



ALIAH MIAN (Class of 2017)

4th Year Medical Student

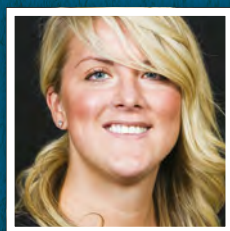
AND HER FATHER DR SHAN MIAN

I am currently a 4th year student at the University of Birmingham, studying medicine but intercalating this year in Public Health which is very relevant at this time.

During the summer, I was working with my dad in the COVID -19 clinic in Stockport as a PPE buddy and also as a self-swabbing assistant. I also worked as a healthcare assistant for a refugee centre in Manchester.

My father is Dr Shan Mian, Deputy Medical Director of Mastercall Healthcare, which provides the Out of Hours services in Stockport and Trafford and set up the COVID-19 clinics for these areas.

I wanted to surprise him with this portrait as a way of remembering his hard work during this time.



Artist: **MRS RUTH FILDES** Head of Art, WGS

It was really heart-warming to hear Aliah's reasons for sending in her photographs; to pay tribute and say thank you to her father for all his hard work during this very difficult year. The photograph is wonderful of the two of them. I love the dynamic between them in the image. Aliah's father is clearly very proud of her, too. There is an obvious, strong bond, which is lovely

to see. I've drawn the composition in pencil, due to the scale and composition in the photograph, and I've deliberately chosen to add more detail and depth of tone to their faces to draw more attention to their differing facial expressions. I hope that I have been successful in this and that they will both enjoy the piece and continue to look back on it in years to come.

VIRTUAL VE DAY ASSEMBLY



We marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May with a virtual assembly devised by the Development Department, looking back at how life and learning were affected for our school community during World War II.

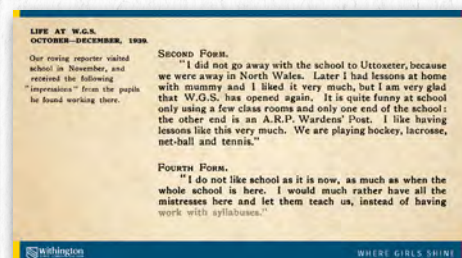
The assembly took the form of a video using photos, first-hand accounts and artefacts from our archive to illustrate the extent to which school life and learning had been disrupted by national events in the past. Pupils and staff had to adapt to a new and different way of life then, just as we were adapting in the present, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WGS staff were just as keen then, as now, that girls should continue to receive the highest standards of education possible in the circumstances.

A big thank you to Upper Fifth pupils Alice, Jodie and Raya, all now studying A Level Drama, for taking the time to record voice overs at home and send them into school to be edited into the assembly. Likewise, to staff members Mrs Berry, Mrs Edge, Ms Bowie and Ms Dalton-West, who brought the staff of the past to life.

It is clear that the sense of community, resourcefulness and resilience displayed then is still very much a part of the Withington of today.



Click here or scan to watch the film from our website



Bursaries

BURSARY APPEAL 2020 - THANK YOU!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have responded to our Bursary and Hardship appeal launched in the summer. The response has been incredible. Thanks to your generosity, the appeal has raised an astonishing **£114,338.75**.

We were delighted when an alumna, who wishes to remain anonymous, agreed to match the first £12,633 (equivalent to a full year's fees). She was so impressed with

the response that she matched further donations received throughout August.

This year, more families than ever are facing financial hardship as the coronavirus pandemic affects income and livelihoods. We expect greater calls than ever before on our Bursary Fund from those seeking a place at Withington and some families needing short-term support to enable their daughter to continue her education with us.

These funds will be used to support girls with true potential who would otherwise miss out on all that a Withington education has to offer, and to ensure that no pupil is faced with the distressing possibility of leaving Withington due to a change in family circumstances.

A big and heartfelt THANK YOU to all who supported this campaign.

In June it was already obvious that the coronavirus pandemic would have a catastrophic effect on many fee-paying families. I didn't want any pupil to have to leave WGS midway through their education. Immediate help in the form of additional bursaries and hardship funding was the only solution to the unprecedented crisis. I am absolutely delighted with the response from fellow alumnae and extremely proud of what we have achieved together as a community.

Alumna who match-funded donations to the appeal

The Withington Bursary Scheme is there to help young women achieve their full potential. I have been lucky enough to have witnessed that process through my own daughter's personal growth and development whilst at Withington and beyond. It is an honour to be an Ambassador for the WGS Bursary Scheme.

Paula King, mother of Kea Bell, Bursary Ambassador and Head Girl 2019-20 who featured in our campaign

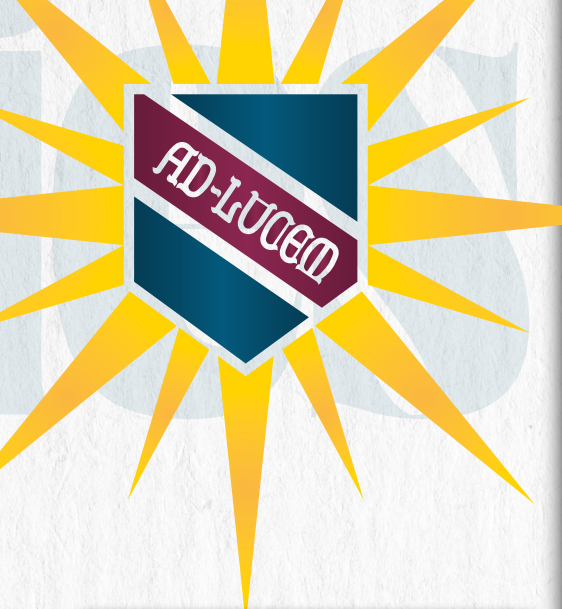
Click here or scan to view a thank you message from one of our current pupils



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT!

As part of our Bursary Appeal 2020 we asked you to send in encouraging messages for our pupils as they returned to school after such a long absence. We'd like to say a huge thank you to those of you who took the time to send them in. It was much appreciated. Mrs Haslam quoted one or two of them in her virtual welcome assembly on the first day of term and they have been displayed in the entrance foyer this term for girls to read as they arrive at school.





WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Withington is a partner of the Bursary Foundation, which was founded by a Withington alumna, Jenny Hopkinson (Class of 2005). The Bursary Foundation works with primary schools to identify pupils with high potential from low-income backgrounds and supports these pupils with tutoring and mentoring, so that they and their families are well prepared and well informed before sitting entrance exams for schools such as Withington.

The Bursary Foundation has been continuing with online tutoring sessions since lockdown began and in July the Development team facilitated sessions for Bursary Foundation pupils to receive a special virtual visit from one of Withington's Bursary Ambassadors.

Our Bursary Ambassador programme invites bursary recipients in the Upper and Lower Sixth to become ambassadors to help promote and celebrate the Bursary Fund by sharing their Withington experience, both in school and further afield.

Kea, Maisie, and Farah were able to speak to the Year 5 pupils about what life is like at Withington and to encourage them to keep going with their studies, despite not being able to attend school, due to the lockdown.

Jenny Hopkinson said:

Connecting our pupils with Bursary Ambassadors at Withington provided a wonderful opportunity for them to ask questions about what life at a school like WGS might be like. The occasion fit perfectly with our work around raising aspirations and it was inspiring for our girls to hear about the brilliant things that your bursary pupils have achieved. Thank you for having us!

We are very grateful to the three Bursary Ambassadors for helping inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

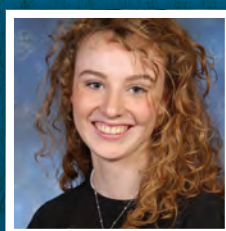
KEY WORKING ALUMNAE

portrait project



ANGELA MACFOY (Class of 2003)
GP, Wigan

During the pandemic, I have been working in general practice in Wigan. This has been a really challenging time with rates of anxiety, depression and social isolation increasing exponentially. I have learned that some patients are not keen to "bother the doctor" due to the pandemic. I have spent plenty of time reassuring patients that they must get in touch if they have concerns. In this time of confusion and worry, it can be easy to forget that there are lots of other illnesses that require care and attention. In general practice we have been working harder than ever to provide healthcare and support to our patients.



Artist: **OLIVIA M**

I really liked the composition of the photograph that Angela sent to us. As you can see from her arms, it is clear that Angela was holding the camera and that she took the photograph herself. This makes the image more personal. I thought that water colour would be an appropriate medium for this piece, as the translucent layers of colour allow the warm undertones of her skin to show through, bringing life to the portrait. I hope that she likes it.

events

EMILY SIMON LEGACY LUNCH 2020

In March we welcomed alumnae, former staff and friends of Withington back to school for the Emily Simon Legacy Society Lunch, an event to thank those who have pledged to leave a gift in their will to the school.

Guests arrived in time for a drinks reception where, they had the opportunity to meet our Sixth Form Bursary Ambassadors who talked about their experiences at Withington and the difference that bursary support had made to their education and to their lives.

Following this, two members of the Gambia team and Miss Browning gave a presentation of highlights from their recent trip, demonstrating the impact that our ongoing relationship with organisations in the Gambia, especially the Mama Tamba Nursery, makes to the children there.

Over lunch, Mrs Haslam addressed guests, saying that it was particularly appropriate to be holding the lunch one hundred years after one of Withington's founders, Emily Simon, bequeathed the playing fields to the school, benefitting thousands of pupils through the generations.

It was also a historic occasion in that five headteachers of Withington were together – Miss Hulme, Mrs Kenyon, Mrs Pickering, Mrs Marks and Mrs Haslam.



GOOD TO (VIRTUALLY) SEE YOU!

Whilst we had to cancel all our face to face events from March onwards, we were determined to help those year groups celebrating special anniversaries in 2020 to get together, have a chat and reminisce.

Our virtual online reunions have proved popular and have allowed alumnae who wouldn't normally be able to participate the opportunity to join us, wherever they are in the country or, indeed, the world. Whilst some were raising a celebratory drink in the evening, others had set an early alarm and were joining us in pyjamas with their first cuppa of the day from New Zealand, or had taken time out

of a busy schedule to tune in from their office in New York. Closer to home other alumnae were able to introduce their children to their former classmates via our Zoom events.

Thank you to all those who have joined us this year – the Classes of 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2010 and former WGS staff. We've loved meeting you all virtually and we very much hope that we will be able to meet some of you in person in 2021.

If you would like to arrange an online or in-person reunion for your year group, then email us at development@wgs.org and we will do our best to help.



ANNUAL OPEN REUNION

Saturday 13th June 2021

We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to host our annual reunion at school in 2021. Given that we were unable to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the founding of Withington with alumnae in 2020, we are hoping to go ahead with our Reunion Founders' Day, planned for last year's event. So, keep brushing up on your *Gaudeamus*. We'll send out more details as soon as there is more certainty about organised events being able to take place.



portrait project



NUTAN PATEL (Class of 2004)

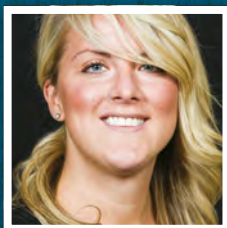
GP, Stockport

AND HER FATHER DR SHAILESH PATEL

I am a GP working in two busy practices. I have been involved with a complete change in operational systems, helping to create new systems that are safe for our patients and staff, but responsive to the medical and mental health needs of our patients during this uncertain and difficult time. We also made sure that we were offering extra support to the shielding and vulnerable patients.

I also work in a children's hospice where, again, we made sure we changed our entire operational system to keep our children and families as safe as possible.

My father, a GP partner in Wythenshawe, has also been heavily involved in operational changes and in providing extra support to vulnerable patients and ongoing help to patients who have required a lot of advice for their physical and mental health. He has also ensured that he is keeping his staff as safe as possible during the pandemic.



Artist: **MRS RUTH FILDES** Head of Art, WGS

I was delighted to create a double portrait of Nutan and her father to say thank you for the work they are both doing as GPs here in our hometown of Manchester. I decided on a pencil drawing for the major part of the artwork, due to the complexity of the composition with the two portraits and the intricate and beautiful clothing. What also struck me was the richness of the turquoise colours within the clothing of Nutan and her father, which was also mirrored through the sky at the top. I hope that I have captured the clearly close relationship between father and daughter.

NEWS OF former pupils

LATIN ROCKS ON



Sarah Rowley's (Class of 2003) most recent book, *Latin Rocks On*, is a collection of popular songs from the last 50 years translated into Latin, which she hopes will bring the language to a new audience in a more and accessible way. It was published during lockdown and she was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *Front Row*. She also kindly recorded some of the Latin lyrics used in the book to create a House competition on our Senior podcast where students had to guess the song.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS!

We are always keen to hear from alumnae who are established in their careers in any sector to provide profiles. These are fantastic for inspiring current pupils and young alumnae and encouraging them to think about a range of career options. It's also good to hear from those taking their first steps in their career, as it can be very helpful to our alumnae who are still at university.

We may publish profiles in the *School Bulletin*, *Withington Onwards*, on the website and make them available via our Careers Office.

If you would like to complete a profile or share your news, please contact development@wgs.org or call 0161 249 3494



@WGSAlumnae

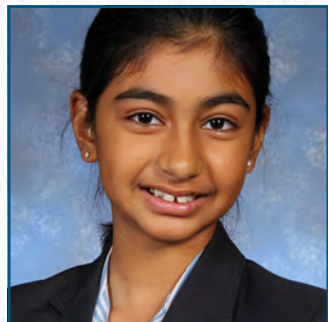


@WGSAlumnae



Withington Girls' School

pen pals



During the Summer Term, we launched our pen pal project with the Junior School. This pairs a Junior School pupil with an alumna to exchange letters. The aim was to help pupils to develop their English and writing skills, especially at a time when the majority of their learning was online. We thought it would also be a lovely way of helping pupils to gain a greater understanding our extended school community.

Upper II pupil, Rawdah, and alumna Pamela Birley (Class of 1950) have been corresponding since July and by all accounts have struck up a wonderful friendship. Both have a great interest in writing – Pamela has been busy writing a novel during lockdown and Rawdah loves penning her own stories, so they have lots in common and much to discuss with each other.

Pamela says,

I joined WGS during the last months of 1939 and, regardless of the war and the upheaval outside its gates, nothing disrupted the harmony and routine of school life. It represented an escape from the chaos occurring during those years and taught me that, with determination, it was remarkable what could be achieved. I have always felt I owed WGS a great deal, so asked if I would like to participate in the pen pal project I was delighted to agree. It has proved a most enjoyable association with a very bright, intelligent girl who, through her enthusiasm and letters, is reminding me how wonderful it is to be on the brink of life with everything to look forward to.

Rawdah is equally delighted:

The pen pal project has been an inspirational journey through which I have learned so many new and exciting things. I am absolutely thrilled to be part of this fantastic scheme and I feel honoured to get to know a friend as amazing and creative as Pamela (Mrs Birley).



portrait project



RAKHEE NAYAR (Class of 1998)

Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Merseyside

I work as a Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon in Merseyside.

My role outside of the pandemic is mainly facial skin cancers and reconstructions post-excisions, as well as burns and trauma work.

During the pandemic, I was part of the team who managed the urgent skin cancer workload whilst services and staff were redistributed into different departments. We've kept cancer patients safe and ensured those with urgent disease still received their procedures and appointments. It meant being extraordinarily busy, as we lost some of our workforce to illness and redeployment.

I have also been involved in the ongoing trauma work and retraining to look after COVID-positive patients who were being cared for by the Trust.

I have two young daughters and balancing the above and caring for children at home as a single mum has been challenging.



Artist: **AASIYA K**

I really enjoyed being part of this project painting NHS key workers. With my portrait I chose to use acrylic paint as it highlights the vibrant tones in the image. Rakhee is a consultant surgeon in reconstructive plastic surgery who has been working hard to make sure that her cancer patients are protected and taken care of during this pandemic. Her determination is admirable in these tough times, and I'm glad we can give something back to those risking their lives for us.

NEWS OF former pupils

MALEK JOINS THE WGS BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Malak El-Gonemy (Class of 2012) joined the WGS Board of Governors at the beginning of 2020. Malak studied English Literature & Theatre Studies at the University of Leeds, followed by a Master's in Modern & Contemporary Literature, before embarking on her career in TV Production. She has worked as a researcher on a range of factual entertainment programmes for the BBC and is now part of the Drama Development team at FilmNation Entertainment UK, a leading independent entertainment company focused on the production and distribution of feature films, television and theatre. She is also a freelance writer for an online arts website, where she offers written commentary and nuanced observations on scripted film and television. Having left Withington in 2012, Malak is able to provide a valuable perspective to the Board not only from the world of the Media and Performing Arts, but also as a young alumna.

keep in touch!

We're proud of our warm relationships and vibrant Withington alumnae network. We enjoy keeping in touch with you and our links with alumnae are crucial to the ongoing success of the school. We hope that you enjoy keeping in touch with us too!

In order to maintain our contact with you, please do let us know of any changes to your details. We also want to ensure that we are contacting you in the way that you want to hear from us. You can update your contact preferences at any time by contacting development@wgs.org or call **0161 249 3494**

Information on the way that we store and use your data can be found in our Privacy Notice on our website: www.wgs.org

farewells...

MRS NADINE DALTON-WEST



Nadine Dalton-West joined us in September 2007. She immediately established herself as an energetic and inspirational teacher who involved herself

in every aspect of school life. In the classroom she was inventive and original and her creative ideas and enthusiastic manner made her lessons both educational and entertaining.

Nadine was always interested in what was going on in the world around her and this made her an ideal person to run Debating Club. The girls benefited from her involvement in current issues and were able to explore challenging subjects under her guidance; it is not surprising that we enjoyed a great deal of success at national and even international competitions.

During her time at Withington, Nadine immersed herself in both the academic and extra-curricular life of the school and was constantly revealing new talents: who knew she was such a talented singer?

In 2017 she took on the role of Head of Enrichment, co-ordinating a range of activities for Sixth Form pupils. The breadth of subjects taught on this demonstrates Nadine's interest in education in its widest sense. Keen to continue her own learning, she took a sabbatical in 2018 - 2019 to work on her own writing and returned in September last year ready to share her insights about the creative process with her students.

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Nadine this summer: we will miss her wit and energy, but we would like to wish her all the very best in her new job at The Latymer School and for her new life in London.

DR ANNE MAISEY



Dr Anne Maisey has retired after 24 years as a dedicated Teacher of Chemistry. Before joining Withington, Dr Maisey gained her

BSc from the University of Birmingham and then her PhD from the University of London, followed by a PGCE at Manchester University.

In addition to her role in the Chemistry Department, Dr Maisey has also been very active in the extra-curricular life of the school, having run the annual Linguistics Olympiad in which, over the years, many pupils gained awards and some progressed to the International rounds of the competition.

Dr Maisey also oversaw the Junior Scientific Society, a popular Science Club run by Sixth Form pupils for Third Form and Lower Fourth girls, and the Philosophical Society, aimed at Sixth Form students, hosting weekly talks about various scientific matters presented by guest lecturers and researchers. She regularly accompanied younger pupils to annual Chemistry competitions such as the ChemQuiz, the Salters' Festival of Chemistry, the Catalyst Museum and the RSC Young Analyst Competition.

Dr Maisey was the school's Gifted and Talented Coordinator for several years and, for the last five years, was the School's Trips Coordinator, ensuring that all trips outside School were properly risk assessed and recorded.

We would like to thank Dr Maisey for her invaluable contributions to life at Withington and wish her all the best for the future.

MRS ZOË GOLDMAN



Mrs Goldman leaves Withington after 12 years in the Design and Technology Department, where she was originally Head of Department

and more recently a part-time teacher of DT. Mrs Goldman, who studied Textile Engineering at UMIST, originally joined WGS in 2006, but left in 2010 to study Art at the University of Arts, London, where she gained a Distinction. Mrs Goldman returned as a cover supervisor in 2012 then, in 2015 returned to the DT Department as a part-time teacher.

One of her WGS teaching highlights was assisting in the introduction of a GCSE in Design Technology. "I see the subject being a huge benefit to our students because the world they will be working in is constantly evolving, as shown during the COVID-19 crisis. DT can equip students to be multidisciplinary and well-rounded in their future careers," she said.

Mrs Goldman is still deciding on her next steps but with a passion for arts and crafts, she is hoping now to have time to pursue her interests and perhaps study for a formal Arts qualification.

portrait project

MISS KATE EASBY



Miss Easby leaves her post as a part-time Teacher of Classics at Withington after five years and will take up a position as a Teacher of Latin at a school in Cheshire after the summer.

Miss Easby joined Withington in 2015 after spending two years in Rome as a Latin teacher at St George's International School. During her time at WGS, Miss Easby was involved in the School's Classics Club and organised and accompanied various school trips including to Italy and Greece; experiences that she describes as being amongst her Withington highlights.

WE ALSO SAID FAREWELL TO:

MR IAIN LINDSAY DUNN

Assistant Site Manager

MRS NICOLA BYRNE

Human Resources Manager

MRS KATHRYN WILLIAMS

(née Miss Gardner) Junior School Teacher

MISS ILONA KISS

Design & Technology Department Assistant

MRS HELEN SHARP

Chemistry Technician

MISS ELLEN SIDES

Music Administrator & Junior Assistant

MISS IONA WHYTE

PE Assistant

MISS ELLA ROSENBLATT

Marketing & Drama Assistant



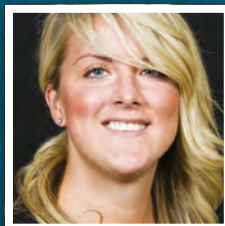
ELLENA COTTON (Class of 2013)

Junior Doctor

Earlier this year I completed my six year medical degree at St Andrews and then Manchester Medical School - where I was primarily based at the MRI hospital.

Due to the fact that at Manchester Medical School there is an opportunity to sit your finals in January, those eligible were able to start work as Junior Doctors 'early' to help with the situation posed by the pandemic. I worked from April in the MRI and moved to what is now my base, Warrington Hospital, in August.

Not just for me, but for all the Junior Doctors and staff starting work during the pandemic, they say it has truly been a case of being thrown in the deep end, not only because you are coping with the demands of shifts, long hours and actually learning to do the job, but also to maintain all the protocols for the pandemic.



Artist: **MRS RUTH FILDES** Head of Art, WGS

It has been my pleasure to paint this picture of Ellena who is also the daughter of a dear friend and colleague, Fabiola. I watched Ellena grow up at school and continued to hear about how hard she continued to work to become a doctor. She graduated earlier this year and, without any hesitation, began to work on the front line as a junior doctor.

In my oil painting I wanted to use the colours and brush strokes to capture Ellena's infectious smile and the warmth of her personality. I hope that I have gone some way to achieving this. I have thoroughly enjoyed painting it as a gift for them both.

lives remembered

HAZEL MURPHY née Faulkner (Class of 1966) died 31st December 2019



Hazel was a marketing expert who is widely acknowledged as being almost single-handedly responsible for the staggering growth of Australian wine exports to Britain, from fewer than 100,000 cases in 1985 to 20 million in 2002.

In recognition of her exceptional achievement, in 1996 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia,

an honour rarely given to foreigners, and also received the Maurice O'Shea Award for her outstanding contribution to the success of Australian wines in the UK.

To capture my first impression of Hazel, we need to roll back the years to a sunny September day in 1959 and a queue of 11-year-old girls on the school path in their crisp navy blue uniforms, velour hats dutifully clamped on their heads, waiting with a mixture of excitement and trepidation for the doors to open and their new life at Withington Girls' School to begin. Suddenly, a voice straight out of an Enid Blyton *Mallory Towers* novel piped up from the crowd, enquiring whether a fellow old hand from the junior school had had "good hols". My heart sank as I wondered how I was ever going to fit in if that was how I was supposed to speak!

Naturally, I teased Hazel about this from time to time during our 60-year friendship, essentially because it had portrayed her in the wrong light - she was the exact opposite, a very down-to-earth person.

Hazel was a linguist but she wanted to develop and practise her skills in the field of business. She attended Manchester College of Commerce and undertook a two-year Diploma in Linguistics and Secretarial Studies where she gained a distinction in business studies. By choosing a route not usually recommended by the school in those days, she demonstrated her foresight and determination - qualities which greatly contributed to her successful career.

Her lifelong love of travel was sparked in her first job as an export sales assistant at Calico Printers Association in Manchester. In the mid '70s, she took up a marketing position at the Australian Trade Commission, firstly in Manchester and later in London. It was around this time that her marriage to her childhood sweetheart ended. They had no children.

A very sociable creature and also very observant, during her early Manchester-based years, she worked for a while in the evenings at a local pub in Altrincham where she came across many different types of people. Her kindness and generosity shone through during this period when for several years she cooked Christmas lunch at her house in Hale for those single people at the pub, her waifs and strays as she called them, who otherwise would have had nowhere else to go.

At Austrade she wrote a paper in which she concluded that Australian wine had the greatest potential out of all the commodities in her portfolio. She followed this up by organising the first all-Australian wine presentation in London in 1982, inviting 40 wineries. She knew she had to win over the most influential opinion-makers in the wine industry. Her budget was small but in 1985 she came up with the solution - she flew over to Australia a group of English Masters of Wine for a tour of the vineyards. They were duly impressed, and the word began to spread.

1985 also saw the formation of the Australian Wine Bureau with Hazel as its chief executive. Within a year she had doubled wine exports to Britain. The bureau eventually represented some 80 producers and by the 1990s Australian wine was the British favourite. The value of Australia's wine exports was A\$1.4 million in 1985 but by 2002, largely thanks to her work, they had leapt to A\$897.1 million.

Hazel had a "glass-in-the hand" approach, judging that the best way to appreciate Australian wine was actually to drink it. To this end, she organised endless free wine tastings up and down the country. She also initiated the annual Australia Day wine tasting at the Café Royal which later moved to Lord's Cricket Ground.

Her greatest coup was the launching in 1992 of a series of "wine flights of a lifetime", a two-week tour of the wineries which, unusually for the time, brought together critics and industrial buyers: a quick and effective way to generate and spread enthusiasm. There were 110 people on the inaugural flight and she once confided that her experience as a cub leader in her early years had stood her in good stead when supervising this and future trips! Hazel was small in stature but her casual and friendly nature belied her energy and determination. Her refusal to put up with any nonsense earned her the nickname of 'Mighty Mouse' amongst her colleagues and friends in Australia.

She stepped down from the Australian Wine Bureau in 2004 but continued to work as a consultant to the wine industry. Her last Wine Flight was in February last year.

Tremendously fit and energetic, she lived in a remote cottage in the Peak District, which suited her down to the ground. She was always open to new experiences and her love of travel never abated. She visited many countries, including Africa, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and China.

She was extremely modest about her achievements and few people ever saw, or even knew about, her medals which she kept hidden away. As part of her legacy, plans are now afoot for an annual award for contributions and achievements in the field of Australian wine to be set up in her name.

MEGAN BUTTERS née Daniels (Class of 1966)

portrait project



AARTHI RAVISHANKAR (Class of 2009)
Doctor, Children's A&E and GP, South London

I have had two very different experiences of working in the NHS through the pandemic. From April to August I worked in a Paediatric A&E in South London. I remember how difficult it was having guidelines change daily and not knowing what the future held and how scared I felt. However, as we got more used to things, I felt that working through the pandemic made the whole team feel more connected than before. This made work really enjoyable and, strangely, I think it was one of the most positive experiences in my career so far.

From August onwards I have been working as a GP registrar in a practice in South London. I have found the experience to be much more challenging than working in the hospital. The risk management has been so much harder whilst trying to deal with a completely new way of working with telephone triage. I think most people don't realise that most GPs find dealing with things on the telephone really difficult. The huge media backlash against GPs has been hard to deal with when, in many ways, I feel my job is much harder now than when I was in the hospital!

I have also found the rise in calls about mental health really tough to deal with emotionally, especially with longer waits for therapy services due to the pandemic.



Artist: **HANNAH J**

It's been an honour to paint Aarthi's portrait and I'd like to thank her for sending her photograph in. I thought that the flowers would add a nice touch and I think that they complement her really well. I would also like to say thank you for all the hard work that she has done during these difficult times and I hope that she likes the portrait.

lives remembered

JACQUELINE M^cCARTNEY née Salmon (Class of 1983) died 30th September 2020



My beautiful wife, Jacque passed away after a long battle with cancer.

She packed a lot into her life, tackling everything she did with energy, enthusiasm, patience and love. From Withington Girls' School she moved on to Oxford University to read Law and thence to Chester Law College where we met.

Jacque gravitated to London, rising to be a Partner at Fishburn Boxer before retiring to raise our four beautiful children – Alex, Georgina, Jonny and Dom.

For many years she served as a trustee of the Burgess Autistic Trust and more recently she put her skills to use as a teaching assistant at Michael Faraday School, supporting children with learning difficulties. She also developed a passion for singing, first with the Carefree Singers and later with Just Voices.

Wherever she went she made lasting friendships and is remembered for her warmth, her wit, her charm, her kindness, her sense of fun and her beautiful smile. I will always cherish my memories of her. I am privileged that she shared her wonderful life with me.

PAUL M^cCARTNEY

IRENE CARRIER Irene Carrier (Former Teacher of History) died 16th September 2020



When I became Head of the History Department in 1982, Miss Hulme appointed Irene to join me and it proved to be an inspired choice. We both had the same degree from the same university and a clear commitment to combining a fun approach to History teaching with the highest academic standards. It formed the basis of a successful partnership which lasted for almost twenty years.

Before accepting the post, Irene requested that she should be allowed to teach seventeenth century British History at A Level and her expertise and attachment to the Stuarts soon became apparent. The culmination of her considerable research and insight was the publication of her book on James I, based on documentary evidence and written to complement one module of the A Level specification. The Sixth Form historians clearly benefited from this high standard of scholarship, as reflected in their examination results.

Irene knew that enjoyment was the way to engage her pupils' interest and all years benefited from a variety of activities. The Third Forms will have memories of singeing the edges of their 'medieval' documents to make them look old and making models of medieval villages; the GCSE groups undertook coursework based on fieldwork at sites such as Helmsore Textile Museum and the Bridgewater Canal and the A Level historians made cultural visits to the Banqueting House in London and exhibitions of seventeenth century art and paintings.

The wider aspects of school life also interested Irene and she was generous with her time in offering support and help to the activities of other departments. She was also prepared to give

up part of her holidays to accompany French language trips abroad. She involved herself in Careers Guidance, which led to her appointment as Head of Careers. Under her, Careers became an integral part of the curriculum, with group talks and individual interviews. She had a talent for setting up useful contacts so that the girls could benefit from high quality advice and the opportunity to undertake relevant work experience. In giving advice she was always encouraging yet realistic. On one occasion, in reply to someone with unrealistic ambitions, she replied, "And I want to be a Size 8!"

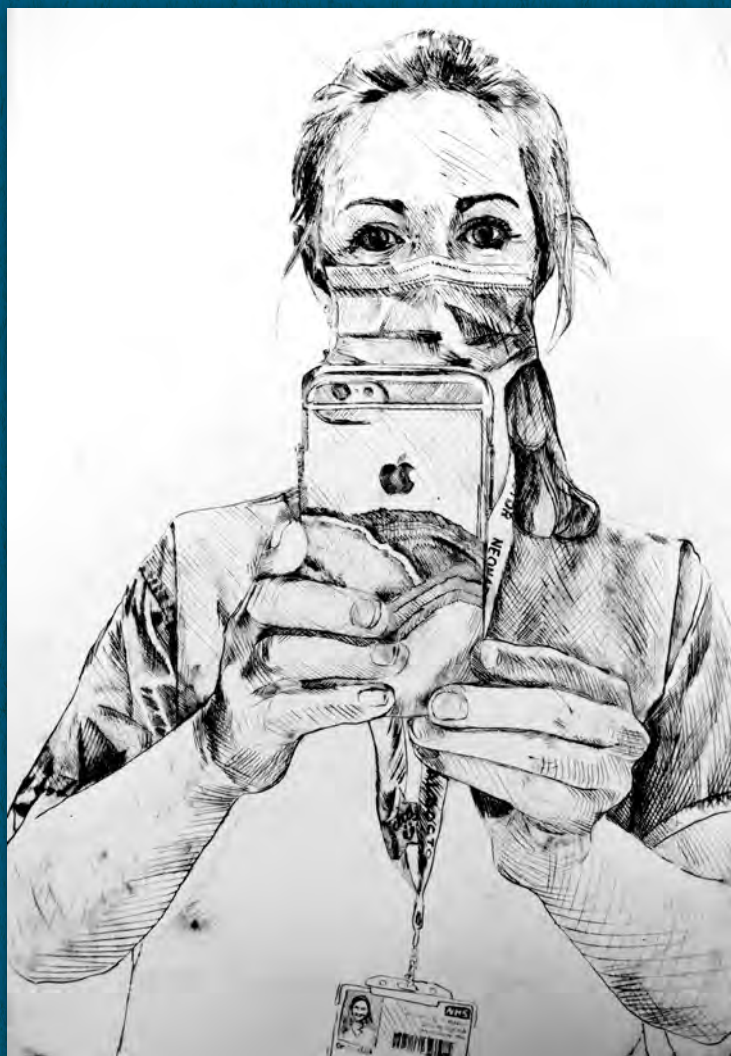
Irene was always very generous in sharing her personal, wide cultural interests, especially musical, with the rest of the staff room and she introduced several of her colleagues to the world of singing and opera. She knew how to acquire tickets, even those in great demand, for opera festivals and performances and was happy to organise group bookings and transport.

In the staff room Irene was a positive influence. She showed kindness to everyone, from the youngest new member of staff to retired ex-teachers. Her sense of humour brightened even the dullest day and she was always cheerful and looking on the bright side. Her contributions to staff meetings were perceptive, constructive and highly relevant and her colleagues respected her opinions. Irene retired when she was 61, in accordance with school policy at the time, but she was always willing to return to school to help cover periods of maternity leave and she has stayed in touch with school ever since.

Irene was a 'larger than life' character, with unbounded energy. She had considerable talents which she shared with Withington for 20 years and is remembered appreciatively by both students and staff. She never lost her interest in the Past, Present and Future of Withington Girls' School.

GAIL DAWSON Head of History 1982-2005

portrait project



JOCELYN HUGHES (Class of 1991)

Specialty Doctor in Neonatal Intensive Care, Southampton

I left Withington in 1991 having been there since Third Form. I was Deputy Head Girl. I studied Medicine and had a career in Paediatrics. I sub-specialised in Neonatology as I loved working with babies and their families, but of course not all life stories have happy endings, and the unfairness and struggles of some babies' journeys took its toll on me emotionally. I left the NHS six years ago for a multitude of reasons. I hung up my stethoscope and hesitantly cut the umbilical cord that had been my life for 25 years.

I bred two litters of cockerpoos, landscape-designed our acre cottage garden, ran our family home, self-taught glass mosaic art and I set up a small business from home making mosaics for commissions and teaching beginner workshops in my studio. I also edit the thrice-yearly magazine for British Association of Modern Mosaics and do medical reports for firearm licence renewals; a satisfying, yet not completely fulfilling, portfolio of occupations.

Then COVID struck and I felt I couldn't sit at home knowing I had particular skills and experience of our local Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I volunteered my services to cover staff shortages that would inevitably occur due to the pandemic. I had no idea how long I would be needed and I was terrified going back after a six-year break, but it has all been hugely successful. It is good to "make a difference" again. Strange how things have turned out because, as a result of this short-term role, I have been head-hunted to transfer to a long term NHS role as Specialty Doctor in Community Paediatrics in Southampton.

If you had told me, as I wrote my year's goals on 1st January 2020, that within five months I would be Dr Hughes again and within 10 months I would be offered a permanent but slower-paced, more ideal paediatric job, I would have laughed aloud, but maybe every cloud does have silver lining.



Artist: **MRS RUTH FILDES**

Head of Art, WGS

Jocelyn sent in some lovely photos, but I chose the one in her mask and scrubs because it really captured the moment and told the story of the current situation. I was really struck by what she wrote in her email to us, and I am really pleased that we are able to offer her a little thank you gift for coming out of retirement to cover the gaps left by doctors on a special care baby unit. I've created her portrait using a special etching technique which I hope captures all the intricate details in her photograph, including the words and images on her lanyard, identity card and lovely star badge. I hope that it is something that she will treasure in years to come.

lives remembered

JUNE COWPER née Bowman, Head Girl 1942, died 8th January 2020

June died in January of this year in Devon, where she had lived for many years. Born in Manchester in 1925, she attended Withington during the war years, being evacuated to Uttoxeter on 1st September 1939, where she stayed on a farm. This was a life-changing event for June, who 'thought she was in heaven'. This started her love of farming and the countryside.

She was Head Girl in 1942 and in the 1943 newsletter Miss Bain said, 'June Bowman (Head Girl 1942) holds a Scholarship (Agriculture) at Reading, where she hates butter-slapping in a cold

dairy, but loves the warmer "Humanities" and modern literature.' Later she became a member of the Women's Land Army. It was during these years that she learned to ride. June gained a BSc at Wye Agricultural College where she met John, her future husband. They married in October 1949 and lived in Bedfordshire before moving to Devon in the 1970s.

Her great passions were horses and horse racing, her garden and Lancashire Cricket Club. She loved her large family; she had three sons and twelve grandchildren.

PATRICIA SHACKLETON (Class of 1955) died 24th December 2019



Pat was originally from Sale and attended WGS until 1955. She lived in a variety of locations in the Lake District, providing piano lessons, including masterclasses whilst living in her large house at Troutbeck. She finally settled in Newbiggin, Temple Sowerby.

The other passion of her life was dogs. She bred spaniels and later Dachshunds and had as many as

nine or ten at one time. She thought the world of her dogs and always said they were the family she never had.

About three years ago Pat's health deteriorated. She stopped driving which was devastating to her as it meant she had lost the independence which she cherished so much. Pat was a sweet lady, quite eccentric in her ways, quite stubborn, but generous in the extreme. A number of her ex-pupils had stayed in touch and attended her funeral, highlighting the respect they had for her. She was very highly regarded within her profession.

JAMES WALKER Pat's neighbour

JOAN HILTON née Rowlands (Class of 1956) died 18th October 2020

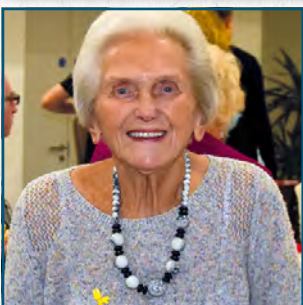


Joan was very proud of attending Withington Girls' School and her real pleasure at school was sports, especially tennis, hockey and lacrosse. She made life-long friends at Withington in Barbara, Janice, Sally, Liz and Diane and they had a carefree social life, mixing with the boys they met at Manchester Grammar School.

A degree in Pharmacy at the University of Manchester followed school. She met her husband, David, at Timperley Lacrosse and Tennis Club. They were married for 59 years until his death in 2019 and they had three children, Peter, Christine and Carol and six grandchildren.

Joan's passions were gardening, travelling and making people feel welcome at the home in Hertfordshire she loved deeply for 45 years. She died very suddenly from pneumonia in October and is deeply missed by all who knew her.

THELMA GOWENLOCK (Friend of WGS) died 26th October 2020



Mrs Thelma Gowenlock was a close friend of Withington Girls' School and a generous supporter of the Bursary Fund. Thelma was introduced to the school through her connections at The Christie, her close friend and volunteer line manager Sue Royle, and former WGS Director of Development, Toni Leden. Thelma never missed a Senior Citizens' Concert or drama productions at School.

It was because of the loss of her step-daughter that Thelma became an active fundraiser and volunteer for The Christie. She loved spending time with patients. Sue said, "She was a warm and friendly person with a tongue-in-cheek personality. She would do anything. Thelma will be missed by many."

Thelma lived in Didsbury Village for most of her life and loved to holiday in Italy. Very community-minded, as well as volunteering at The Christie, she spent her recent years volunteering for a local GP's office, reading to local children at the library and completing crosswords with Didsbury Good Neighbours.

portrait project



DOMINIQUE FINNEGAN-PARSONS (Class of 2005)

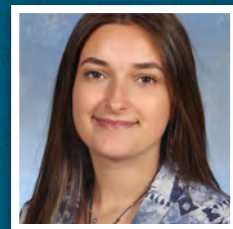
GP, Altrincham and Occupational Health Physician, Healthwork, Manchester

Working as a GP during the pandemic has been a challenging but rewarding experience. I have had to adapt the way I work, for example, carrying out more digital consultations and wearing full PPE, to ensure I provide care safely for my patients. I have learned quickly about the effects of COVID-19 on the human body and how best to treat patients who have contracted it, as well as those experiencing more long-term effects. I have realised the importance of reaching out to those who have felt isolated during the pandemic and it has been rewarding to provide support to them.

I also work as an Occupational Health Physician. I have been working with a local fire service to help their employees remain safe and well during the pandemic. It has been particularly fulfilling to help protect those at increased risk from the effects of the virus and support those returning to work after COVID-19. This pandemic has emphasised the importance of protecting and maximising the health and wellbeing of people when at work.

At times, it has been emotionally challenging and, in particular at the start, I worried about bringing the infection home to my family and felt guilty dropping my son at nursery when his friends were safe at home. However, I have been lucky to work with great teams in both roles who have remained positive throughout and I have been very grateful for the ongoing support of my wonderful WGS alumnae friends.

I look forward to the day when we win the fight against COVID-19 and feel privileged to have been able to play my part.



Artist: **SOPHIA B**

I was drawn to Dominique's image because of the visible PPE that she is wearing and the background of the hospital bed. To paint her face concealed with equipment initially seemed odd to me, but it reflects the current state that we are in perfectly. To see in an image a small snapshot of the working of a key worker in such circumstances was captivating. I chose to use acrylics to paint my portrait and adopted a realistic style to portray Dominique in her surroundings. I would like to say a huge thank you to Dominique and the NHS for all their hard work and sacrifices.

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



This may have been the most extraordinary of years, but WGS and our students continued to learn and flourish, adapting well to the guidelines of year group bubbles and appropriate social distancing.

2020 in



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

APRIL



MAY



JUNE



pictures



OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Printed on Antalis, NAUTILUS® SuperWhite
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Withington
GIRLS' SCHOOL EST 1890

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