



**HARROGATE
COLLEGE UNION**

The Alumni Association of Harrogate Ladies' College
and Highfield Prep School

THE CHRONICLE

2025

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PRINCIPAL JOANNA FOX

After 12 years of exceptional leadership and service to the community of Harrogate Ladies' College and Highfield, Sylvia Brett stepped down from her role as Principal in the summer. Continuity is incredibly important to the school, so we were delighted when our Senior Deputy and pastoral and safeguarding lead, Joanna Fox, accepted the role.

Joanna deputised as Principal on a regular basis and led the team during our last successful ISI Inspection. Before joining HLC, she was the pastoral lead at Ipswich High School and, prior to this, was the Head of Lower School at The Royal Hospital School. Her earlier career was as a nursing officer in the armed forces.

As Principal of the school, Joanna is looking forward to fulfilling her role as President of the HCU and to meeting many of you soon.

"I am honoured to be the custodian of your school and am committed to leading with enthusiasm and integrity."

Joanna Fox.



I am delighted to introduce this year's Chronicle, which is a celebration of another successful and memorable year in the life of our school and its alumni community. From the activities of the youngest children, all the way through to the incredible careers and journeys of our alumni, our values and ethos pervade the whole school and are taken by our pupils out into the world as they leave us.

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA

Our very special school community is now more than 130 years old. Having started life as a boys' school, we went on to become pioneers of girls' education. Like any forward-thinking organisation, we have continued to evolve in order to meet the needs of our pupils and parents, opening a co-ed nursery in 1997, followed by a co-ed prep school 25 years ago.

Our ethos has also evolved and today we are focused on providing an individual experience for pupils of all ages. With our ethos and the current challenging climate for all independent schools in mind, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors have decided to begin the phased transition to a co-ed senior school provision from September 2026.

Our plan is to offer a co-ed provision in Year 7 and Year 12 from September 2026. This will then gradually move through the school with this intake of pupils.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

This next stage in the evolution of our school will also enable us to provide new and exciting opportunities to current pupils, such as a Design Technology department, cricket, boarding house refurbishment and a new stand-alone Sixth Form Centre.

A NEW NAME FOR A NEW ERA

Harrogate Ladies' College would be a challenging name for a co-ed school. As you know, we were previously called Harrogate College, but this is now the name of a local Further Education college. We have therefore decided to change our name to Duchy College from September 2026. This is in recognition of our location on Duchy Road, within the Duchy area of Harrogate, and also

of the heritage of our beautiful school buildings, which are leased to us by the King's Duchy of Lancaster.

YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR ALUMNI

Our new name will be used across the whole school from 2-18 years, helping to bring us together as one community. The names Harrogate Ladies' College and Highfield Prep School will always be part of our heritage, part of our tradition, and part of what leads us into our future.

Above all, this will always be your school; you will always be part of our school community. We will continue to welcome you to school with open arms and we know you will continue to inspire our current and future pupils.

We will also continue to support you through the Alumni Association which, in time, will also welcome alumni of Duchy College alongside those of Harrogate College, Oakdale Prep School, Harrogate Ladies' College and Highfield Prep School.

Joanna Fox





CHAIR OF THE HCU

ALICE GRAY (NÉE HOWARD)
(Lincoln East, 1976 -1983)

I hope the new edition of The Chronicle finds you well. I would like to start by thanking Sarah Mills for all the work she has put into not only this year's Chronicle, but also the alumni events over the past year.

It has been a year of change at the school from the welcoming of a new Principal, Joanna Fox, to the announcement that, from September 2026, there will be a phased admission of boys into the school.

Harrogate Ladies' College is not only an educational establishment, but it is a business and in these economic times, it must change and adapt to ensure the future of the school. I hope the alumni will join me in wishing HLC success as a co-ed school under its new name 'Duchy College'.

During the July 2025 HCU Executive Committee meeting, much discussion was focused on how we should use the remaining HCU funds to maximise their potential to support the alumni. As the school has taken over the administration of not only the alumni events but, more importantly, also the alumni database at some expense to the school, it was agreed

half of the £21,288 should be given to the school to put towards the ongoing costs of the alumni programme.

For the remaining half, we would appreciate suggestions from the members as to how they would like the funds to be spent. In order to adhere to the spirit in which the HCU monies were acquired, it was agreed at the Executive meeting funds should not be used to support individual pupils except in exceptional circumstances.

Please direct any suggestions to either me or Sarah by emailing HCU@hlc.org.uk. The deadline for comments has been set as the end of January 2026, so the Committee can then agree on an outcome, and we thank you for your input.

I wish you all a very happy 2026 and look forward to seeing some of you at the Reunion on 25th April 2026.

ALUMNI PREFECT

We would like to thank our outgoing Alumni Prefect, Eleanor Shendery, for her hard work. The role of the Alumni Prefect is to educate current pupils about the benefits of joining the Alumni Association once they have completed their studies. As a Textiles Scholar, Eleanor collated information on the history of the College uniform for her specialist project.

Eleanor updated pupils and parents at Speech Day on all the work she had completed in her Prefect role and said:

"I found it fascinating to see how the uniform compared to fashion trends, from the Edwardian blouses to the modern pink striped shirts; seeing the contrast reminded me of how things have developed. This project also made me feel so connected to the women in whose footsteps I walk. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role and the projects I have been able to undertake, such as the Upper 6 social media Takeover Week which involved working with the prefect team and comparing our days at school to girls of the past."



We now welcome Finn Kendrick as our 2025-2026 Alumni Prefect, who is our 4th pupil to be awarded this position. Finn is studying Physics, Geography and Biology A Levels.

Finn has also worked closely with the Alumni Relations

Officer in co-ordinating the annual Upper 6 social media Takeover Week. Across one week in December, Upper 6 took control of the Alumni Facebook Page and e-newsletters to document their first three months of the academic year, so comparisons could be made between now and in the past.

Finn is also developing an archives exhibition, cataloguing the continual evolution of the school to complement the progression to Duchy College. Therefore, please contact miss.mills@hlc.org.uk with any anecdotes of your time at school. This will be showcased at the Alumni Reunion in April. We aim to keep elements of this exhibition within school after that time.

Thank you to our former pupils who have taken the time to be interviewed to raise the profile of our wonderful alumni community and inspire our current pupils.

The full interviews can be accessed on our website at:
www.hlc.org.uk/news/alumni-news



BRIGITTE KAVIANI (NÉE NASSER)

YORK - 1979-1983
PREFECT

Brigitte is currently serving as the Programme Director of People Experience at the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, where she leads a dynamic team dedicated to enhancing the experience of over 72,000 health and care professionals across the region.

“

I fondly remember my school years as a time of deep connection and personal growth. Living in Bethlehem, Palestine I travelled back and forth at the end of each term, supported by a close-knit circle of friends and their families. I embraced the wide range of sports and extracurricular activities, which helped shape my confidence, resilience, and team spirit.

After completing my A levels, I moved to Sheffield to study Diagnostic Radiography, launching my career at the Northern General Hospital. My early clinical years were marked by rapid progression, including leading the setup of Sheffield's first CT scanner.

Balancing the demands of motherhood and a full-time career, I transitioned into a nationally unique educational role within the Radiology department, earning a Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Learning from the University of Huddersfield.

In 2017, following the merger of Sheffield's hospitals, I was appointed Assistant Operations Director, leading on workforce for the largest care group in the trust. My leadership was especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, where I led the health and wellbeing response for the workforce.

In March 2021, I joined the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System as Head of Health and Wellbeing, a role that paved the way for my current position as Programme Director of People Experience in 2024. Today, I lead strategic programmes across mental health, wellbeing, retention, EDI & belonging, and talent.

My work includes the award-winning 'Mission: Menopause' initiative and I have been recognised with multiple accolades, including Employee Benefits Professional of the Year (2024) and team awards from HSJ, Henpicked, Employee Benefits, and HPMA.

I volunteer overseas, leading educational radiography programmes in developing countries such as Zambia — a global commitment to healthcare education and equity. My passion for sustainable impact led to the founding of Global First Aid Zambia, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving first aid knowledge and emergency response capabilities. I have recently taken up partial retirement and seeking roles in supporting organisations in developing countries to support Global Majorities.

”



POLLY LANE

YORK - 1987-1994

HOUSE PREFECT AND ATHLETICS CAPTAIN

Polly is an Associate lawyer in the Human Rights and Specialist Litigation team at DAC Beachcroft in London. She defends complex Human Rights, discrimination and civil liberties cases for a range of public and private sector organisations.

“

My memories of HLC are a mixed bag. On the positive side I remember laughing 'til I cried with funny friends, hot breakfasts and chocolate slop. The choir was my happy place — both as audience and participant. There's also a special place in my heart for the stationery order form and the sports room cupboard that smelt of lacrosse stick oil and Dunlop tennis shoes.

After leaving school, I headed for Oxford... alright, not *that* Oxford. Having slept through my A levels, I washed up at a secretarial college to be armed with enough skills to survive in London. My first love was music, and I found my way into the music industry doing TV and radio PR and organising live tours. It was exhilarating, if a little surreal — imagine a socially awkward teenager making polite chitchat with Bono.

Six hazy years of Soho gig venues later, a family tragedy shifted my priorities and, seeing as I had promised the rest of the Upper Sixth that I would be Prime Minister one day, I went to Goldsmiths to study Political Sociology with an eye on a career in political journalism, and

stood as Parliamentary candidate in the 2010 General Election. A master's degree followed, before a law conversion for entirely pragmatic purposes. I then trained at a human rights firm, cutting my teeth on criminal defence and civil liberties cases.

After having my first child, I joined the Government Legal Department, representing the Ministry of Defence in post-war human rights litigation and later serving as National Security Legal Advisor at the Home Office. Then after seven dynamic years in central government, I rejoined the private sector to take my career to the next level.

Today, I run complex cases involving discrimination and police misconduct, often touching on cutting-edge legal issues, and occasionally making the news. My advice to aspiring human rights lawyers? Perhaps don't sleep through your A Levels. Be patient. The rewards aren't always financial, but the experiences are far richer. As for me, Partnership could be next. That or Prime Minister.”

”

1995 LEAVERS' REUNION



Leavers from 1995 recently spent a long weekend reuniting in Harrogate and took this fabulous photo in front of the school (from left, Vicky, Ide, Vicky, Amanda, Philippa, Mimi, Mandy, Rachel, Katie and Silke.) They were also later joined by Louise and Natalie, and all had the best time catching up, sharing photos and remembering their various adventures and fun times at College. We are always thrilled to see alumni reconnect and are so pleased they had an incredible time reminiscing on their time at College. The class of 1995 is now hoping to catch up annually, not necessarily in Harrogate, so if you would like to join in, please contact miss.mills@hlc.org.uk and we will put you in touch.

1972-1973 LEAVERS' REUNION



In August, a group of former HLC pupils, who will be 70 in 2025/26, met for lunch at Bowcliffe Hall.

The lunch was organised by Val Hartley and attended by Rachel Harrap, Helen Cottier, Sally Cahill, Sally Bean, Angela Roy, Libby Cookson, Sarah Doyle, Penny Whittington, Fi Harper, Debbie Harper and Sally Blackburn.



HCU GOLF MATCH V OEU

In September, the HCU golf team played their annual match against Queen Ethelburga's at Ilkley Golf Club. This match has been played annually since 1983. This year, the sun shone and even though the course had been under water the week before due to the River Wharfe bursting its banks, the fairways were firm underfoot and the conditions were great. HCU welcomed two new players Mary Griffiths (Pleasington GC) and Debbie Witherow (Cambridge Country Club). Their matches are played in better ball match play format, off handicap. Some matches were close but unfortunately, HCU narrowly lost 2½ to 1½.

The HCU team was Susan Caton, Fiona Wood, Kate McKeag, Nicky Watson, Rachel Jackson, Mary Griffiths, Debbie Witherow and Claire Whitfield.

They are always looking for golfers to come and join their group; handicaps currently range from 2 up to 28. They enjoy a dinner out the night before and next year with it being at Bamburgh, several of the team are planning a mini break!

NEXT MATCH: 30th September and 1st October 2026. If you would like to play, please get in touch via the school.

Thirteen of our alumni community have visited College in the last year and enjoyed a tour around school to reminisce of their experience here.

For example:



**ELIZABETH IRENE
BECK (NÉE BLACK)**
(Swinton, 1947-1948)



**JANICE SUTHERLAND
(NÉE MILLER)**
(York, 1954-1959)
And her sister

**EILEEN BURNS
(NÉE MILLER)**
(York, 1955-1961)

Alumni are always welcome to visit College, and we love the opportunity to show you around. Please email alumni@hlc.org.uk to arrange a convenient date.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2026 ALUMNI REUNION



We look forward to welcoming you all back to school for a special alumni event – come to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate with a:-

- Glass of fizz, followed by a delicious light lunch.
- Chapel Service, with an update of our future plans for the school.
- School tour, including our new Sixth Form Centre and the brand-new Design Technology department.
- Breakout sessions to include either an Archives Talk from a local historian, a Come and Sing with the choir, or Business and Social Networking.

We already have over 200 people signed up, so if you wish to join us, please Register via the Alumni Events Calendar on our website.



Alumni are also welcome to attend our 2026 school events, including our drama production 'Grease' on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March at 7pm; Speech Day on Saturday 23rd May at 11am; the HLC Friends Bonfire Night in November; and the College Carol Service in St Wilfrid's Church on Friday 11th December.

Please email miss.mills@hlc.org.uk to book.



LEE BRAITHWAITE

(Pankhurst, 2013-2020, Head Prefect)

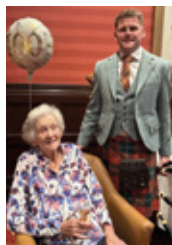
MAKES SILVER SCREEN DEBUT

Former pupil, Lee Braithwaite, is making waves in Hollywood after starring alongside Academy Award nominees Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh in 'We Live in Time'.

Following their time at HLC, Lee attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Professional Acting. Lee had roles in multiple drama productions at school.

DR EDITH TURNBULL (NÉE LOUDON)

(Armaclare, 1937-1943)



CELEBRATED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Edith attended Harrogate College from 1937, when she was 12. When war broke out, her parents

John and Lousie

Loudon asked for her to be sent home to Bothwell (Scotland) at the Easter break and she did not return until September. This was when the school was relocated to Swinton Castle.

Edith was one of three girls who were given the privilege of staying in the turret bedroom in the Castle. She also said her love for music and choir singing came from her time at school – and she still enjoys singing the Hallelujah Chorus to this day!

Photo of Edith with her son, James.

HIGHFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

has earned national recognition after being named a finalist in the Independent School of the Year awards. Hundreds of schools from across the country submitted entries in all award categories, with Highfield Pre-School named a finalist for the Independent Pre-Prep of the Year award. Weekly activities include French, Music, PE, Swimming, Early Years Yoga and Forest School in the large private gardens.



HARROGATE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

We were delighted that our Principal, Joanna Fox, was a Finalist in the Business Leader of the Year category. In addition, we were named a Finalist in the Employee Health and Wellbeing Award, which recognises businesses that have made a significant commitment to supporting employee health and wellbeing.



Harrogate Ladies' College would like to congratulate all our recent leavers who graduated from university this year. For example:



EVIE COLLARD

(Nightingale, 2015-2022)

I was Head Prefect at HLC in 2022. I graduated from Queen's University Belfast this year with a first-class degree in Politics and International Relations. I am now undertaking a Master's and then PhD to become a clinical psychologist.



CHLOE FOSTER

(Franklin, 2018-2022)

I graduated this year from the University of St Andrews, where I spent three years studying Medicine. I graduated with a BSC Hons degree in Medicine, for which I gained a first-class classification. Alongside this, I was awarded inclusion on the Dean's List for my second and third years. I have continued my medical studies at the University of Edinburgh Medical School, a partner medical school of St Andrews. I will be doing 40 placement weeks across various disciplines in the hospitals and GP practices around Edinburgh and the Lothians.



ADRIENNE IVES

(Franklin, 2018-2020)

After leaving HLC in 2020, I graduated from the University of Leeds this July with a Master and Bachelor of Dental Surgery, with Distinction, and I am now undertaking further training whilst working as a qualified dentist in practice.

ELLIOT REID (Franklin, 2017-2024)

CHORAL SCHOLARS UNITE



In October, current choral scholar Annabelle Carter took to the stage of the Grand Theatre in Leeds, in Opera North Youth Chorus' excellent production of 'The Secret of the Black Spider' by Judith Weir. Annabelle was joined on stage by Elliot Reid, former choral scholar and Head of Chapel Choir 2023-24. It was fantastic to see them sing and act on stage together at such a prestigious venue! **Elliot is pictured on the right.**

We asked our alumni community to provide their updates and received these wonderful and diverse responses, collated in order of when they left HLC.

ROSALIND KEEN (NÉE HOLE)

(Lincoln, 1948-1952)

I like to paint, in oils using just a knife, and have over the years sold a number of paintings and been offered commissions. A lovely hobby! Now in my early 90s I continue to be active – in my garden, at church and in my social circle.

JUDY DALE (NÉE GAMBLE)

(Lancaster, 1953-1958)



After a working life in London from 1960-1995, I retired to North Devon with my new husband, Chris, where we have just celebrated 30 years together. In August I realised a dream from books I read aged 11-13 and travelled on a Hurtigruten cruise through the Northwest Passage. One is never too old to explore and learn about the world and its fantastic communities! My trip included a 'Polar plunge' and a wonderful boat excursion amongst towering icebergs in Greenland. The photo is taken in a zodiac excursion from our ship, MS Roald Amundsen, to see ice floes.

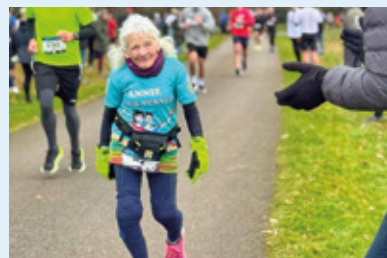
FELICITY WILLIAMSON (NÉE MUSGRAVE)

(York, 1953-1958)

I am still living between Edinburgh and Manchester, plus visits to London to see my son and 4-year-old grandson. I am enjoying retirement and having time to visit museums and art galleries.

ANN BRUCE-LOW (NÉE WINESTONE)

(Swinton, 1954-1958)



I am busy training for next year's Half Marathon in aid of Southampton Hospital's Charity. It will be my 9th in a row! July/August consisted of helping to raise money for the Christmas Fire Engine. My son, Stewart, passed his exams for driving a power boat and he took me out in it. Fantastic experience! Every year there is a raft race for the public to build their own rafts. Two years ago, the pub runners I run with came first for best dressed raft!

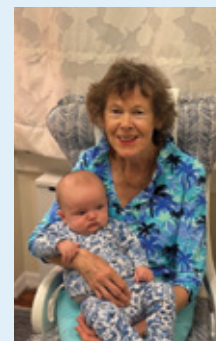
LORRAINE YOUNG (NÉE HOGG)

(Swinton, 1951-1959)

I am still very busy running our ornamentals nursery with my son. I keep in touch with my Swinton house mates Vivien Marshall-Cook (née Marshall) and Ann Bruce-Low (née Winestone).

JILL KENYON (NÉE HARRISON)

(Oakdale & Balliol, 1955-1964)



I have been on a trip to NYC to babysit my two grandsons. The photo is of Dex, 3 months old. Jack (2 years old) has just started pre-school. I have been busy emailing 1964 leavers, urging them to attend the 25th April 2026 school reunion in Harrogate to also celebrate our 80th birthdays together. I no longer wear glasses after 74 years, thanks to a cataract removal, replaced with multi-focal lenses!

JANET PEMBERTON (NÉE BIRTWHISTLE)

(Oakdale & Lincoln, 1955-1965)

I am nearing 20 years of retirement from the health service. I am still busy as secretary of the local food bank and the Hull and East Riding Organ Group. Two of our four grandchildren are starting at university this term and a third has done well in GCSEs. My brother, Robert, died last year, sister Elizabeth having died in 2017. My youngest sister, Lindsay Jephcote, lives in Devon, so telephones are indispensable. I was delighted to meet up with Janey Blackburn on a recent visit to Brighton - we had a lot to talk about, see photo.



CHRISTINE CROWTHER (NÉE BURDON-BAILEY)

(Balliol, 1959-1965)

I am sure everyone knows 'The Great Gatsby', but now there is a new modern take on this story written by Jane Crowther, my daughter. It is called 'Gatsby' and was released by Harper Collins 100 years to the day after the original by F Scott Fitzgerald on 10th April 1925. Jane has launched a second book titled 'Silver Screens - Spectacular Cinemas from Hollywood to Hong Kong'.

RUTH GRENFELL (NÉE HARVARD) (York, 1959-1965)

Last year it was our 50th wedding anniversary and we were thrilled to have the whole family, our four children and eight grandchildren, with us to celebrate. We spend much time travelling to see them in France, Torquay, London and Scotland. I'm still a Licensed Lay Minister in the C of E and involved with many aspects of church life. I sing with two choirs, act as a chaplain at Ripon Cathedral and go to concerts. I'm a committed LibDem and write endless letters! I well remember a mock general election at school during my final year when I was cast as the Labour candidate.

**AILSA SPENCER
(NÉE MCDONALD)**
(York, 1962-1971)

Having celebrated our Golden Wedding last year, we celebrated the 51st this year in Switzerland during the ladies' football and in France. We drove 3,000 miles visiting well-loved places and family.

This year we are also expecting another addition to our glorious family in December. With three granddaughters and a grandson, what more could we want?

**SARAH KONSCHUH
(NÉE BERWICK)**
(Oakdale & Lancaster,
1965-1971)

I attended Bishop Burton Agricultural College and then came to Canada on an Ag exchange for two years. I met my husband Stan and raised our three boys. We have been married 47 years and took over the family farm, which our eldest boy Ryan has now done. We raised cattle and many pigs - then sold the pigs and I went into Real Estate which I have been doing for 27 years and am now semi-retired.

ALISON DALE (Lancaster, 1969-1972)

I am still living in Christchurch, Dorset and working as a psychodynamic psychotherapist after retiring from a long career working in the Probation Service. I would love to meet up with any old school contemporaries so please do contact me via school if you are in the area.

PROF CATHERINE JACKSON
(Swinton, 1970-1975)

I have spent a couple of months this year in St Kitts and Nevis visiting a medical facility there.

**BELINDA SMITH (NÉE GIVANS)**
(Clarence, 1969-1976)

In July last year, I became a granny for the first time to Archie. I am so lucky to be able to spend regular time with him. I also love spending time with my sisters who were both at Harrogate College - Alison Turner and Emma Anderson (née Givans). This photo is of the three of us when we visited Emma in May - left to right is me, Alison and Emma.

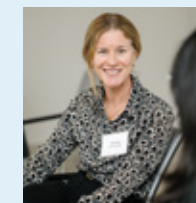
**SUE BOOTH**
(Swinton, 1973-1979)

I am now a landlord of 20 properties, a wedding venue, a campsite and we have 3 holiday lets. Take a look at the website www.oldvicarageatellesley.co.uk - Wow, I have been busy and am looking to retire soon.

SAHRA EVANS (NÉE STOKES)
(Lincoln East, 1978-1986)

Living in Warwick, I have four children and one mad dog! I work in educational recruitment.

Over the summer I climbed Snowdon raising money for an educational charity. I had never climbed a mountain before, so I was proud of myself for achieving this. I loved seeing friends and Mr Andrews at the Choir Reunion last year.

KATRINA (KATE) HENN (NÉE MULLAN)
(Lincoln, 1974-1989)

I recently joined Pro Bono Ontario as the Director of Volunteers and Strategic Partnerships, where I lead efforts to engage the legal profession in providing

free legal help to people who can't afford a lawyer. I work with law firms, in-house legal departments and professional associations to expand volunteer opportunities and strengthen access to justice across Ontario. Last year, the charity helped over 30,000 Ontarians who couldn't afford a lawyer. I am based in Toronto and became an empty nester this autumn, when my youngest son, Charlie, started at McGill University.



EMMA WALTERS (NÉE ROBERTSON)
(Lancaster, 1983-1990)

I was thrilled to share my OBE investiture (for services to foreign policy) with two very special HCU alumni: Janie Crompton (née Harrison, Lancs, 1950-1957), source of unconditional, maternal love and support and best friend since Upper 3, Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Currie (née Brearley, Lancs, 1982-1990). Through a working life spent largely across the Middle East, most recently in Israel, through motherhood, setbacks and adventures these two have provided wise counsel, laughter and hugs in equal measure. Testament to the strength of friendship made on the lacrosse pitch, after lights out and whilst testing teenage boundaries.

Photo: Lizzie Currie (left) and Emma Walters (right) at Windsor Castle, 2nd October 2024

SOPHIE DWERRYHOUSE
(Lincoln East, 1992-2000)

I am still in regular contact with lots of HLC friends. It was particularly nice to manage to have a lovely dinner in London with Heather Gagen in July. Seemingly becoming a regular feature is a catch up with Rachael Linsell (née Gowland) at a racecourse. This summer it was at Goodwood in the sunshine, which was fabulous. Work at the CLA continues to be very interesting especially with the huge challenges facing the farming sector. I've enjoyed chairing a committee of The Farmers Club in Whitehall over the last year which has been a great experience.



LOTTIE MCGUINNESS
(Nightingale, 2009-2018)



I represented Team GB in October's World Para Powerlifting Championships in Cairo. Competing in the 55kg category, I opened at 102kg and made the 106kg on my final lift - putting me

10th in the world rankings.

AYAZHAN SULEIMEN
(NÉE ABDUKALYKOVA)
(Tower, 2016-2018)



On the last day of summer, I had a big wedding in my hometown Almaty, Kazakhstan. I met my husband in London while studying at the City University of London after graduating from HLC.

After my Master's at Imperial College Business School in Strategic Marketing I moved back to my home country and worked in Phillip Morris as brand marketing executive. After my marriage proposal I moved to Astana.

PHOEBE DYE
(Lancaster, 2020-2022)

I am currently in my third year of the Comics and Graphic Novels course at Teesside University and am in the process of my final major project- a full 30-page comic issue. I was in New Jersey for a month this summer on an intensive course at the Joe Kubert Comics School. I have already started getting jobs in the comics industry. I worked on a nine-page comic for Russell Hillman, on his anthology project 'Dead Men Tell Tales' which was published in October. I also had a page in H.L. Robert's autobiography comic 'Hello! My Name is Robert Latham.' An anthology I worked on as part of a comics collective has been printed, where I have two pages in that story, alongside writer Daniel Pollard.

SALOME GORJOMELADZE
(Lancaster, 2020-2022)

As I approach my final year as a Law student at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in Tbilisi, I've found myself reflecting on how foundational my time at HLC has been in shaping that journey. One of the defining highlights of my legal education was participating in the 13th edition of the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition, where I had the honour of representing the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in a simulated hearing before the European Court of Human Rights. Our team was awarded Best Team in the Regional Rounds held in Prague. This secured us a place in the Final Oral Rounds in Strasbourg as the 7th highest-ranked team among 18 finalists—marking a historic achievement for Georgia in the competition's history.



Photo: second right.

SOPHIA CREBBIN
(Nightingale, 2021-2023)



I am currently studying Geography at Newcastle University. I was delighted to receive my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award earlier this year at Buckingham Palace.

EMILY WALKER
(Franklin, 2020-2024)



I have been awarded a St. Andrews' Chorus Scholarship. I always enjoyed singing with the chapel choir in my four years at HLC, as it provided me with a solid set of choral skills which are highly valued by a number of traditional

universities. The discipline and teamwork skills which singing in choirs has brought me are easily transferred into my academic studies. I am hugely grateful for the baseline that HLC gave me.

TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE WAR YEARS AT SWINTON CASTLE

BY HISTORIAN, DR. PAUL JENNINGS

By 1938, plans were already being made in anticipation of war. Staff at the College began to attend instruction in air raid precautions. Nationwide preparations included the evacuation of city children and the move of key government departments away from the capital. For the latter, Harrogate, in the comparative safety of Yorkshire and with many suitable buildings, was an ideal location. So it was that the College was told that in the event of war it was to be requisitioned for the use of a section of the air ministry. The minister was Viscount Swinton, and he offered the College the use of his home near Masham in Wensleydale for their use.

Preparations for the move had already begun when the lease was signed in October 1939. The College paid a peppercorn rent but was required to cover the cost of any necessary alterations, ongoing maintenance, damage done during its stay and for electricity and water supplies from Swinton's own power plant and waterworks. The school was accommodated in the main section of the house, while Lady Swinton occupied rooms in the West Wing. Preparations included covering the floors with linoleum and providing extra support for the main staircase in anticipation of an 'onslaught of vigorous feet'.

The main reception rooms became classrooms, where lessons were taught in the company of works of art by the likes of Canaletto, Gainsborough and Sir Thomas Lawrence, and beds were fitted into corridors and any other available space. Staff were at first accommodated in Masham, walking or cycling the two miles to Swinton, including at the King's Head.

Around 300 girls then moved to Swinton in mid-October; the Junior School at Oakdale remained in Harrogate. When war broke out the headmistress, Miss Jacob, and a group of girls and staff were actually in Canada, the cricket team having gone there in August for an exhibition tour. After some delay they sailed back to England in convoy as a precaution against the threat of U-boat attack and docked on the 28th after 'an uneventful and very pleasant journey'.

As far as possible school life was continued as before. Lessons were taught and exams were sat; university and college places gained. On Sunday church service was held in Masham. School dinners were eaten in the magnificent dining room and, despite rationing, good, healthy meals were served, including local rabbits and occasionally venison. The stables were converted to accommodate baths and showers, each girl allotted two baths, no more than five inches deep, and a shower each week.





Sport was important. Miss Jacob had been a hockey blue at Cambridge and now had several front teeth knocked out in a match between staff and pupils. There were netball, rounders, tennis, gymnastics, lacrosse and cricket, matches being played between girls and estate workers and a team of Masham 'boys', although it was noted that some of them actually looked about 20. Cycling was popular and swimming in a nearby reservoir. Harsh winters meant that skating was possible on the Home Lake; tobogganing was apparently not permitted but girls enjoyed it anyway using sheets of aluminium purloined from roadside ammunition dumps.

A wide range of music, entertainment, and interest groups also flourished. Piano practice rooms were in the dog kennels but for lessons, bedrooms in the main house were used. There was panic on one occasion when the piano tuner arrived, and some girls had hidden contraband food behind a panel in one for a midnight

feast; fortunately for them the tuner did not get to that particular piano that day. There were concerts, a highlight being the Carol Service. There were guest speakers, like Monsieur Inébnit on Rousseau or a Mr Beard on 'The coal miner and his life'. Plays were produced and performed, like the History Plays by the Fourth Form or Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. The School Cinema included screenings of films like *The Lady Vanishes*. There were history expeditions to places like Middleham and Fountains Abbey and the Literary and Debating Society flourished.

Nevertheless, the war was always present. An air raid shelter was constructed in the ha-ha between the park and the garden and girls had to huddle there when the siren sounded. Identity cards and ration books were issued, and gas masks were at first carried everywhere.

Girls and members of staff had fathers and brothers serving, some of whom were killed or taken prisoner. The girls undertook a variety of work in support of the war effort through the Victory Service Clubs, formed from 1941, including making camouflage netting, gardening (lifting potatoes), knitting for the troops and collecting salvage. Due to the call-up of domestic staff, girls performed tasks like laying and clearing the tables at mealtimes, mending their clothes, making jams and Hoovering. Many old girls were actively involved. Of the 90 members of the Harrogate alumni branch, for example, in 1941 Brenda Wales was a telephonist in the W.R.N.S. in Northern Ireland, while Peggy Ferguson drove a mobile canteen round isolated camps and searchlight stations around Scarborough. Some had hair-raising experiences. Jenny Salmond, of the Edinburgh and North of Scotland Branch, and her sons were sailing to India to be with her husband when their ship was torpedoed and sunk; they were rescued but lost all their belongings.

From 1943, it was clear that the war was going to be won. Thoughts turned increasingly to the future. A Post-War Reconstruction Group was set up in the sixth form and met fortnightly to discuss issues such as the future position of women or the introduction of a state medical service. A mock election produced a victory for the Conservatives.

The war's end did not bring an immediate return to Harrogate, which was delayed until 1946 for the start of a new school year due to the need to prepare the premises, which very much bore the marks of wartime use. Conversely, the College had to foot the bill for repairs arising from their occupation of Swinton, in total over £4,000 (well over £200,000 today). The first Speech Day since hostilities began was held at the College on 26 July 1947. None of the returning girls had ever known the Harrogate school. Lord Swinton attended to present the prizes and trophies. In his speech he paid tribute to the morale

and discipline of the girls, saying 'You maintained an extraordinarily high standard of behaviour in our home', and adding 'You never threw darts at my ancestors!' For her part, Miss Jacob noted the seven years that the school had spent at Swinton, finding there 'a sanctuary amid the danger and anxiety of war and a home of great beauty and happiness.' The College was granted the Freedom of Swinton and thereafter enjoyed school holidays there.

Sources:

Dorothy Hewlett, *Harrogate College 1893-1973*

Elizabeth Sharp, *The Swinton Years: Harrogate College 1939-1946*

The Chronicle of the Harrogate College, 1938-48

Illustrated London News, 2 December 1939

Swinton Estate Papers at North Yorkshire Archives



You can find this article amongst others in our new 'Tales from The Archives' page on our website.



BE INSPIRED

The school would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our alumni who have given back their time to inspire our current pupils:



'INSPIRATIONAL WOMAN' ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

ALICE BARBER (Pankhurst, 2006-2013)
AND ELLE ARMITAGE (NÉE KAY-COLES)
 (Pankhurst, 2011-2015)

In mid-May, we hosted a Luncheon for the finalists of our 'Inspirational Woman' Essay Competition, where Key Stage 2 pupils from local schools were given the opportunity to write an essay about a female figure they have been inspired by. The winners were presented with their certificates and book tokens by a presenter from local radio station, Your Harrogate. The children then had their essays read out by inspirational women too. We would like to thank Alice and Elle for coming back to school to do this, both of whom work within the writing and performance industries.

STATISTICS WORKSHOP

KRISTINA GROLMUSOVÁ
 (Tower, 2017-2019)



After leaving school in 2019, Kristina completed her Physics degree at Manchester University and is now working on a PHD in Statistics at Lancaster University. She ran a session for our Lower 6 pupils to share some of the research she is conducting. This involved modelling how rivers flood and the likelihood of flood events in different sections of rivers.

MZIKO NIKOLISHVILI
 (Tower, 2021-2023)

We would like to thank Mziko for sharing her knowledge of studying Business Management at Toulouse Business School with fellow Georgian and current pupil Mariam.

HANNAH KINGWELL
 (Austen, 2007-2014)



In May, Hannah visited to talk about her journey to being a doctor. She studied medicine at Cardiff University, graduating during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is currently a resident doctor and has worked in a variety of specialties including surgery, general practice and paediatrics.

DIANA AND SOFIIA SHYPOVYCH
 (Tower, 2021-2023)



Ukrainian twin sisters Diana and Sofiia returned for a visit this February, after having attained A*A*A* and A*A*A respectively in their A Levels, and are both currently studying Psychology and Behavioural Sciences at

Cambridge University. We would like to thank them for speaking to our team, in order to share their school and university experiences with the wider community.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

Please email miss.mills@hlc.org.uk if you wish to be involved in our Be Inspired speaker programme or wish to have a stand at our Careers Fair.



BE PART OF HISTORY: SPONSOR A SIXTH FORM STUDY

As Harrogate Ladies' College enters an exciting new era on its journey to becoming Duchy College, we are delighted to share news of a landmark development: the creation of a brand-new, stand-alone Sixth Form Centre.

This inspiring new space will be housed in the former Lancaster (and, before that, Swinton) boarding house—a building rich with memories for generations of pupils. As part of the transformation, the familiar bedrooms are being thoughtfully redesigned into individual and shared study rooms for today's Sixth Formers. (You can see the first beautifully refurbished study pictured.)

At the HCU Executive Committee meeting in July, a wonderful suggestion emerged: to offer members of our alumni community the chance to sponsor a study. Each sponsored space will be named in honour of the alum

or alumni family— The Jayne Smith Study or The Smith Family Study for example—with a dedicated plaque mounted on the door to commemorate your connection.

Just as the sponsored chairs have become a cherished part of daily life at school, we hope these new studies will offer a meaningful and enduring way for alumni to leave a mark on the next generation. It is a chance to create a legacy—one you and your family can revisit for years to come.

Study rooms vary in size, and sponsorship opportunities range from £1,000 for a single study to £5,000 for a three-person study.

If you would like to explore sponsoring a study space or simply wish to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact miss.mills@hlc.org.uk or call **01423 537029** for an informal conversation.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES



We are committed to celebrating and recognising individual excellence as well as widening access to our school. We have a range of scholarships and bursaries available

to potential pupils including Academic, Music, Choral, Sport, Creative Arts and Drama Scholarships – for those with a specific talent.

We also offer Means Tested Bursaries up to 100% and the 1893 Scholarship is made possible through the continued generosity of our alumni

community. We are proud to be a socially and culturally diverse school community and we are committed to widening access to our schools to families who might not otherwise be able to fund a place. We are looking for pupils who are truly passionate about joining our school and who can demonstrate the potential to contribute amazing things to our school community.

Please email miss.mills@hlc.org.uk if you wish to donate or leave a legacy to the school.

EXAM RESULTS

"As a largely non-selective school, we are exceptionally proud of our pupils' progress, which is down to their hard work and the expertise and dedication of our incredible teachers. We take immense pride in nurturing our pupils as individuals, sharing in their success and seeing them follow their dreams in a broad range of subjects."

Joanna Fox, Principal



A LEVEL RESULTS

PUPILS CELEBRATE BEST A LEVEL RESULTS FOR OVER FIVE YEARS

85% OF ALL RESULTS WERE A*-C GRADES

This is the highest percentage since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the number of A* grades doubled compared to the previous year and nearly half of all pupils achieved at least one A* or A grade.

These outstanding grades were achieved across a wide range of subjects, with 80% A*-B grades in Modern Languages, Business and Economics and 100% of Textiles pupils achieving A*-B grades.

Our pupils will now go on to study a broad range of subjects in the next stage of their academic journey, with careers in Medicine, Archaeology, Law, Business, Psychology and International Relations all on the horizon.

Among those celebrating their A level results in August was Alumni Prefect Eleanor Shenderay, who achieved A*A*A.

*"I am over the moon with my A-level results. Three A*s is a dream come true, and I am so grateful to my teachers who have supported me every step of the way. During my time at Harrogate Ladies' College, I have found happiness, fulfilment and personal growth, and developed a strong sense of resilience."*

Eleanor is now studying Philosophy and Theology at the University of Edinburgh.

Erinn Baskind achieved A*A*A and is now studying Fashion Photography next year.

Also celebrating were Kristen Chu, who is now studying Veterinary Science at Nottingham University, Nina Brezinova, studying Economics at New York University's Abu Dhabi campus and Daisy Qiu, studying Maths at the University of Warwick.

GCSE RESULTS

A RECORD 22% OF ALL GRADES AT THE SCHOOL WERE 9S, WHILE OVER A THIRD OF PUPILS ACHIEVED 5 OR MORE 9-7 GRADES.

Pupils studying STEM subjects continue to excel with 80% of all Physics grades at 9-7, while in Creative Arts (Art and Textiles), 81% of all grades were 9-7 and an incredible 22% of pupils achieved marks of 100%.



The pupils achieved an average of one grade higher than their baseline prediction, a key indicator of both their hard work and the quality of teaching at the school.

These pupils will be part of history, becoming the first to achieve their A levels from Duchy College in two years' time, as we prepare for our new co-ed era. Through our individualised support, we look forward to nurturing each and every one of them in the next stage of their academic journey.

Now in Lower 6, India Thomas achieved a clean sweep of 10 x 9s in her GCSEs, including a perfect score of 100% in Textiles.

Another pupil who shone in STEM subjects was Reewa Bennett, with 4 of her 9 x 9s coming in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

COLLEGE SPEECH DAY

We had an incredible day on Saturday 24th May at our Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, talents and hard work of our pupils and we extend huge congratulations to all the prize winners.

We would like to say a particular thank you to our Chair of Governors and alumna, Dame Francine Holroyd, for her Opening and Closing Remarks and to the Prefect Team who inspired us all with their incredibly honest, authentic and confident speeches. Thank you also to our wonderful VIP Guest Speaker, Helen Thomas, Head of BBC Radio 2 who told Upper 6 Leavers to "make the most of this precious time" in their lives. And thank you to all the alumni who came along to make the day so special.

Following a Choir Interlude with 'What a Wonderful World', 'Seasons of Love' and 'Irish Blessing', our guests enjoyed annual review speeches from the outgoing Prefect group:



"Like all of us, I'm not just one thing, I'm a mosaic of everything I have lived, learned, struggled with, and grown through. I have met teachers who have inspired me, made friends who make me feel valued, and found a community where I feel I truly belong. So, thank you, Harrogate Ladies' College. You will always be part of my mosaic, the piece that helped me become the girl I always hoped I could be."

Erinn Baskind,
Lower School Prefect



Pupils received prizes for their academic, performing and creative art, sporting and extra-curricular successes from the 2024/25 academic year, followed by an inspiring dance performance from the HLC Dance Company.

After presenting the Upper 6 Leavers' Awards and Upper 6 Prizes, our Principal, Joanna Fox, had a special message for our outgoing Upper 6 class as we welcome them as alumni:



"Although they will soon be leaving us to start their next chapter, we hope they take with them a sense of belonging and know they are still part of our extraordinary family. We are grateful for everything they have given back to the school, which has always been with enthusiasm and a smile. We hope they will return and keep us up to date with their adventures, wherever they take them, as they will be missed."

Joanna also announced our new Upper 6 Pupil Leaders.

Photo: Helen Thomas and Dame Francine Holroyd present a prize.

Staying true to yourself and taking as many opportunities as you can was the inspirational message delivered by the Head of BBC Radio 2 at the 2025 Harrogate Ladies' College Speech Day.

Helen Thomas, who began her role as Head of BBC Radio 2 in 2020, urged the 600-strong audience of pupils, parents and staff to 'experience life in technicolour'.

"You are at the very beginning of your journeys and trust me when I say you don't need to know the end point when you start out. This is your chance to flex and experiment, this is where the growth comes. You'll like certain aspects of your university courses or jobs way more than others - that's inevitable - but enter into everything with an open mind and an open heart."





SIXTH FORM BALL

Following the school's annual Speech Day, our Sixth Form Ball was held at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. Parents, staff and Sixth Form pupils attended the black-tie event, which gave members of our community an opportunity to come together and celebrate a memorable year at College.



The guests were treated to a champagne reception with canapes, a three-course dinner and danced the night away, revelling in a live band. Memories were shared by the Head of Sixth Form, as everyone celebrated the remarkable achievements of the entire Sixth Form cohort.

EMPOWER

NEW SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This year we were proud to launch The Empower Programme, a pioneering leadership and development initiative designed to equip Sixth Form pupils with the skills, confidence and resilience to excel beyond school. Rooted in the College's ethos of academic excellence and personal growth, this transformative programme ensures every pupil is prepared for the demands of higher education, professional careers and leadership roles in an ever-evolving world.

At its core, The Empower Programme provides a comprehensive Sixth Form package built around academic excellence; at its core is the A level programme of study our 6th Form students embark on. Beyond this foundation, the programme incorporates four dynamic pillars:

- **Think** – Developing intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.
- **Grow** – Encouraging personal development, independence, and adaptability.
- **Lead** – Cultivating leadership skills, teamwork, and initiative through real life challenges.
- **Propel** – Providing career guidance, mentorship, and university preparation, including Oxbridge, Medicine, Law, and international pathways.



These pillars are underpinned by Flourish, the school's pioneering health and wellbeing programme, ensuring our pupils are happy, healthy and confident, to help them excel both academically and beyond the classroom. Recognising that senior school is both an emotional and intellectual journey, Harrogate Ladies' College prioritises comprehensive care and well-being, ensuring each pupil receives the individual support, guidance and encouragement they need to thrive at every stage.

Bonnie Christie, Head of Sixth Form at Harrogate Ladies' College, says;

"The Empower Programme is key for our students. It not only strengthens their academic foundations, but also equips them with the mindset, skills and experience to thrive in their chosen paths. Our goal is to develop confident, capable future leaders who are ready to take on the world with ambition and purpose."

With The Empower Programme, Harrogate Ladies' College continues to set the benchmark for holistic education and leadership development, reaffirming its commitment to preparing students for success at university, in their careers, and in life.

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

At the Area Netball Tournaments, each of our teams rose to the challenge that faced them.

The U12s battled hard, securing two impressive wins and narrowly missing out on the knockout stages. The U19s had a particularly strong showing, finishing third overall – our best result in years – while the U15s enjoyed a fantastic campaign, reaching the final and earning an excellent second-place finish.

Our netball trip to Valkenburg combined competitive training with cultural exploration. The pupils took part in high-level coaching, competed in a tournament and ended their visit with a thrilling day at a theme park, strengthening team spirit and creating lasting memories.

Our football teams have also enjoyed a season full of highlights. The U13s earned a commanding 6–0 win against St John Fisher and staged a gutsy comeback to beat Ripon Grammar 2–1, before delivering a confident 3–0 victory over Woodhouse Grove.

Our badminton teams proved to be a real force, with the U15s defeating Queen

Margaret's 6–2 after several tense rallies, and the seniors securing a 10–6 win through tactical play.

In athletics, 13 pupils were placed in the top 3 in the first round of the Harrogate and Craven Athletics Competition, with 7 event wins and 20 finalists. At the Harrogate and Craven Finals, nine pupils reached the podium, the junior girls' 300m school record was broken and two of our athletes were crowned Harrogate and District champions in the discus for their age groups.

In the Yorkshire lacrosse trials seven pupils from lower school, twelve from middle school and five seniors were all successful and went on to represent Yorkshire.

The sun shone on Sports Day, and we saw some amazing competition throughout the afternoon! There was fantastic sportsmanship and determination on show.



MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

In the Spring term, the annual House Music competition produced some fabulous performances.

In addition to the house music performances, the Upper 6 cohort staged a memorable tribute honouring their time at College together. While Franklin took home the overall winners' prize, Director of Music, Mrs Kate Morgan, was impressed by the standard of each House's performance. Mrs Morgan was joined by music teacher, Mr Dan Webster and Harrogate Ladies' College alumna, Elle Armitage (née Kay-Coles), as judges. Elle also performed for us.



Later in the term, the Chapel Choir were proud to compete for the second year running in the finals of the Barnardo's National Choir Competition, giving them another opportunity to sing in the renowned acoustic of Birmingham's

Symphony Hall. They also sang in the Royal Hall on the last day of term, for the national Inner Wheel (Rotary) conference.

"There has been a huge amount of effort and teamwork evident in lots of rehearsals over the last few weeks," Mrs Morgan said.

"With every single pupil involved, House Music is always a special night for our community."

DRAMATIC MOMENTS

This year's whole school production was a true highlight—a bold, retelling of Baz Luhrmann's 'Romeo & Juliet', that enthralled audiences with its fusion of contemporary music, impactful lighting effects and inventive staging.

Pupils from Upper 3 to Upper 6 came together in a remarkable demonstration of collaboration and talent. The production's final performance received a well-deserved standing ovation.



The school's Dance Company has continued to flourish, with pupils demonstrating outstanding technical ability. From contemporary routines to high-energy ensemble pieces, dance at HLC continues to be a thriving and integral part of our creative offering.

In October, we saw a fantastic example of our school community coming together with our annual House Drama competition!

From the 'Wizard of Oz' to 'Cinderella', 'Shrek' and 'Mean Girls', the capacity crowd were treated to an incredible night of high quality drama.

SCIENCE: EXPLORING, EXPERIMENTING, EXCELLING

At College, our science and engineering initiative was relaunched this year to incorporate a tiered system for individuals to demonstrate their passion and involvement in STEM-related areas. This drew together all STEM subject leads including PE, Maths, Psychology, Food and Nutrition and any activity that crossed over to STEM via the Arts. Pupils across all age groups have enjoyed Astronomy Club, Gardening Club, Baking Club, Coding Club, Maths clinics, as well as volunteering in the wider Harrogate Community, participating in the Science Fair and the CREST club.

The school entered the Teen Tech Awards, a nationally recognised competition where pupils design innovative solutions to everyday problems. We ran this competition as part of our 'future scientists' club. We achieved one Bronze award, two Silver awards and two Gold awards, with one team making it to the grand finals in London. They were placed in the top 5 groups for Best Research. The quality of the projects along with how the programme was organised was highly commended and, consequently, our

school has been officially accredited as a Silver Centre of Innovation and Creativity.

Science pupils had an unforgettable opportunity on the Physics trip to CERN in Switzerland, where they visited the world-renowned particle accelerator and heard from leading experts in particle physics. The experience brought complex theories to life and inspired many to consider careers in STEM.



Photo left to right: Anya Soranarakso, Dr Davina Kirby, Tamara Pohronska

OBITUARIES

The deep sympathy of Harrogate Ladies' College is offered to the relatives and friends of the following:

August 2023 Marianne Drennan (née Bromley), Lancaster, 1943-1948. Marianne attended Swinton Castle during the war, and she was Head Girl in 1948.

March 2024 Susan Rippon Prest (née Davies), Oakdale & Armaclare, 1950-1958. Her son stated she continued to think very fondly of school, and he remembers as a child being very excited when she showed him the cricket ball with which she had bowled a hat-trick in a house cricket match.

June 2024 Patricia Smith (née Dawson-Hall), Balliol, 1953-1958. Her sister Veronica stated Patricia knew how privileged she was to have been a pupil at Harrogate College and that this stood her in good stead for a year at St Godric's Secretarial College in London and her further working career.

July 2024 Susan Warren (née Vallance), Armaclare, 1947-1952. Sister of Margaret Lee (née Vallance), Oakdale & Balliol, 1949-1955. Susan lived in California for 60 years. She is survived by her husband Michael, a retired Professor of English at the University of Berkeley, and a son and daughter. After leaving school, she trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, London and subsequently taught English and Drama, mainly at schools in and around Stratford-upon-Avon. Whilst in the States, she taught students in Speech and Drama producing plays and, being a talented needlewoman, made many of the costumes used.

July 2024 Joan Jones

Joan, who was matron of Clarence House for around 10 years up to 1997, has sadly died aged 92.

November 2024 Rosemary Bryant (née Burridge)

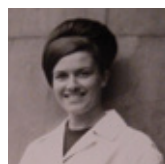
Swinton, 1950-1958. Rosemary was the sister of Francesca Gibson (née Burridge), Swinton, 1944-1954.

November 2024 Elspeth Cox

(née Harrison), Lancaster, 1954-1961. Her two sisters Rosie (who sadly died a couple of years ago) and Janie were both also in Lancaster.

December 2024 Jennifer Osman (née Lawson)

Lincoln, 1949-1953.



December 2024 Jill Sendall (née Parker), Oakdale and Lancaster, 1951-1957.

December 2024 Lucy Cadogan (née Fox), Lincoln West, 1964-1969. Sister of Judy Fox (Lincoln West, 1961-1967) and Felicity Hamilton (née Fox) (Oakdale and Lincoln West, 1968-1975).

2024 Stella Wade

Stella worked at HLC in the 1990s as Assistant Housemistress in Lancaster House.

2024 Rosalind Belfitt, Lincoln, 1948-1953.

2025

Ann Tabak (née Atkinson), Armaclare, 1942-1951.

2025 Mary Scrase (née Boddington), Lincoln, 1930-1936.

March 2025 Olive Morgan, 1974-1995.

Long serving Housemistress of Clarence House and teacher of English and Geography, she led the school's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme for many years and over the years she accompanied several girls to St. James' Palace when they received their Gold awards. She loved live theatre and relished the Shakespeare Company tour north every year, attending that and ballet. A very keen embroiderer, Miss Morgan participated in numerous local and national Embroidery Guild shows.

April 2025 Joan Stephenson

(née Godfellow), Armaclare, 1941-1944.

Joan trained as a teacher in Bedford; she then taught in Worthing, Wimbledon and Epsom. On retirement she became more involved in Church activities, in particular helping to organise retreats and other parish groups.

April 2025 Joan Rasmussen (née Hardy)

Balliol, 1941-1950. Joan had a full and interesting life, travelling to Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, Canada and the Middle East, and is a sadly missed stepmother.

May 2025 Lise Pinchbeck, Lancaster, 1987-1994.

July 2025 Jane Sperry (née Henriksen)

Jane leaves a husband, three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson all missing a very special person who enriched their lives.

August 2025 Lady Jill Hine (née Gardner)

York, 1949-1953. After leaving school, Jill became a trainee nurse at the Royal Masonic Hospital in London. She married Patrick Hine at Christ Church in Harrogate in 1956 and spent almost 69 very happy years together before she passed away shortly after her 90th birthday. They had three sons and nine grandchildren. Jill took the title of Lady when Sir Patrick became a Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath in 1983.



September 2025

Helen Edgar (née Thomson), Armaclare, 1958-1961

October 2025 Jennifer Logan (née Smith), Lancaster, 1961-1965.

October 2025 Beryl Rosalind Dickinson

Former teacher, Mrs Dickinson, sadly passed away, aged 99. Beryl taught Biology at school between 1953-1985. Her son, David, commented it was a lifetime of devotion from a work point of view, but that his mother never thought about it as work as it was something she enjoyed and was very good at. He says he has found a bundle of old letters from former pupils thanking her for her efforts.

November 2025 Ceris Sladdin

Ceris worked at HLC for 8 years as our librarian. She was a much-loved and respected member of our community who was instrumental in setting up the competitions and engaging displays in the library, took pupils to external reading competitions and was a key member of the Covid testing team. Ceris's family have said how much she loved working at HLC, not least for the friendship and sense of community she gained whilst here and, of course, working with the pupils.

In memory of Alan, husband of Rosalind Share (née Stoll) (York, 1953-1957). Alan died this August, and they had been married for 57 wonderful years.

In memory of Malcolm, husband of Valerie Pugh (née Walton) (Clarence, 1968-1972) who died in June 2024 and will be greatly missed.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

As we prepare for our new co-ed era as Duchy College from September 2026, refurbishment work is already underway on our boarding house and brand-new Design Technology Department. We look forward to keeping you updated across next year.

We are incredibly excited about the continued evolution of our school community. Our progression towards co-ed is a pro-active and positive long-term strategy which will enable us to continue to uphold the ethos and values of your school; to expand the opportunities for current pupils; and secure the future of the school for the next 130 years and beyond.



Photos: Refurbishments for Duchy College

GET IN CONTACT

Please email us at alumni@hlc.org.uk or call Sarah Mills on **01423 537029** for any of the following:

VISITS AND TOURS

Alumni are always welcome to visit College and we love the opportunity to show you around. Please contact us in advance to arrange a suitable date.

BE INVOLVED

If you wish to submit an Alumni Profile or be part of our Be Inspired programme please let us know.

MAKE A DONATION

To make a gift, to leave a legacy or to find out more about donations to HLC, please contact us.



ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES

Alumni Representatives are a network of volunteers from across the UK and internationally who provide support by organising local events and being a point of contact to those new to an area. Decade Reps encourage and support you in organising year-group reunions. Please let us know if you wish to be connected to your local representative or if you are interested in becoming one.

DISCOUNT FOR ALUMNI

As a valued former pupil, you will automatically receive a 10% discount on current school fees for your children and grandchildren.

If we do not yet hold an email address for you, we request that all alumni contact miss.mills@hlc.org.uk with one please, as next year we are aiming to only send out The Chronicle digitally, to be more environmentally friendly.



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