



NOTTING HILL & EALING
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

*150th
Anniversary
Bursary
Appeal*

‘Notting Hill and Ealing High School helped mould me into the person I am today and helped me access opportunities I never would have thought possible. I am incredibly grateful to have received the bursary.’

—Ayesha Sehgal, Class of 2018

‘The education I received at NHEHS has shaped my life, empowered my career and established my values. I am very grateful to the donors whose generosity meant that I was able to access a life-changing education at NHEHS.’

—Anna Lewy (née Piotrowski), Class of 2009



At Notting Hill & Ealing High School we have been educating girls since 1873 to reach their potential. Our students are aspirational but grounded; our community is strong yet open-minded; our alumnae go out into the world with good hearts as well as fine minds.

September 2023 marks our 150th anniversary, a significant milestone in our history. From our earliest years, there were past and present staff and parents, alumnae and governors, who recognised that provision needed to be made for those talented girls for whom a NHEHS education was beyond reach. Thank you to those of you who have helped and continue to help us remain so. In the academic year 2021-2022, 44 of our students received financial support, 32 of whom were recipients of transformational, full-fee awards, with the remainder given help with fees from between 30% and 75%.

We are proud of our philanthropic roots and the diverse and meritocratic culture it has created.

As we look to the future, we have identified accessibility and affordability as requiring our most urgent attention. Fees in all independent schools continue to be a challenge; this limits the number of families who can afford us. Every year we have to turn away 80% of deserving families because, despite their daughters' talent and generous contributions from our community, sufficient bursary funds are just not available. While we lead the sector in so many ways we lag behind many other independent schools in our current provision, with just 7% of our school population receiving bursaries as opposed to 10%, which is our sector's stated aim. Given our location in one of the most ethnically and economically diverse areas of London and the down-to-earth yet aspirational nature of the school we wish to do much better in this area.

So, as our landmark approaches, we launch our 150th Anniversary Bursary Campaign.

With your help we hope to provide a minimum of three new bursaries, timed to start on the school's birthday in September 2023. Two of these will run for the seven senior school years and one for the two sixth form years. We wish to make them transformational i.e. 95+%, for those with a total family income of less than £42,500 a year. We will name each of these bursaries in recognition of the contributors: for our alumnae, former parents and former staff, **'The OGA Alumnae 150th Anniversary Bursary'**, for our current parents in both the junior and senior schools, **'The Parents' 150th Anniversary Bursary'** and, for our Leavers, **'The Class of 2023 Bursary'**. This would be our biggest investment in bursaries since the end of the Assisted Places scheme in 1997. As we look forward to our next 150 years, we will reinforce the NHEHS founders' commitment to the accessibility of our school.

We ask that you read through this brochure and consider whether you can partner with us to realise this ambition. We are most grateful for those who are able to support with gifts great or small; all donations of whatever size make a difference, and there are lots of different ways in which you can donate. As Margaret Mead said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.'



Matthew Shoults,
Headmaster



Charlie Altman,
Chair of Governors



*Zosia Thackray
(née Kulesza)
Chair of the Old
Girls Association
Class of 1994*

Reflecting on my time at Notting Hill and Ealing, I realise now what I could not properly then: how much it would shape me and my personal and professional relationships; give me confidence in my career; and reinforce my values.

I want to make sure that I play my part in ensuring that NHEHS is a place where as many students as have the ability to secure an offer here can benefit from these advantages.

When I meet a fellow alumna, I am struck by how powerful the NHEHS culture is. It instantly removes the barrier of age and focuses us on what we have in common, while appreciating how the school and society have changed.

So much of our experience at school is communal, whether that be in the classroom or the assembly hall, so it is fitting that on our 150th birthday we act together to make a difference. As the current Chair of the OGA, I ask former pupils, parents and staff to join with me and donate to the OGA Alumnae 150th Anniversary Bursary.

Hear from our former bursary recipients....



*Natasha Delcourt
Class of 2002*

My mother was determined that I should do well at school. I went to St Gregory’s Catholic primary school in Ealing and wanted to go to another local secondary school as that was where my friends were going but my mother wanted me to have the best opportunities so put me down for the NHEHS entrance exam. I got in – I still remember the family excitement of the letter arriving - but there remained a few anxious days before we learnt I had been awarded an assisted place as I definitely couldn’t have gone without it. I was shy - I still am really - but I learnt to manage it and at NHEHS my confidence grew.

I quickly saw why my mother had wanted me to go to NHEHS. It was cool to be clever, a school of book-y girls just like me! When you did well in a test it was celebrated, everyone wanted to do well; we were encouraged.

At 24yrs I got a life-changing job with Clifford Chance, one of the top five international law firms headquartered in the UK; I was thrilled; my mother cried! A NHEHS education had led me to this point and prepared me to thrive in this environment. NHEHS has taught me to speak up for myself, not to be intimidated, to back myself; when in doubt to know that I got there on my own merit.



*Sophie Ralli
Class of 2006*

I didn’t start off needing a bursary but I remember money increasingly being a problem - my parents were separated and my mother an artist. I remember such a difference at home when I was awarded the bursary; it really took the weight off.

I came by the phrase ‘safe space; brave space’ the other day – I don’t remember the context – but that is what NHEHS was for me. The art teachers were very supportive - I still have pinned up the postcard Mrs Plowden wrote to me when I left wishing me the best. While my mum was always supportive, not having much money at home deflates your ambition. There I found stability and safety as well as affirmation of my potential. They opened me up to the possibilities of what I could achieve.

After leaving St Martin’s I set up a business with my brother, Ralli Design, with me doing the ceramics. My fine artwork is figurative in nature and has a lot of movement in it - the mural in the old gym may have informed or inspired my artistic focus in a small way. Now I am doing work in experiential creative design for major brands, chiefly with ideation. This is a new area for me so exciting and allows me to buy a flat as well as continue with my Fine Art and exploration of NFTs. NHEHS nourished me and embedded in me the confidence to adapt.



Brenda Owen (née Lewis)
Class of 1978

I was ecstatic when I discovered that I had been awarded a direct grant; it was life changing assistance. My father was blind and there would have been no way my parents could have afforded a public school education. I had a wonderful experience at NHEHS. In the seventies we did not have the facilities that the girls have now but the teaching staff were dedicated to our education. Apart from a first class education, opportunities to join sports teams, choirs and orchestras, Notting Hill gave me confidence; made me successful. I threw myself into everything!

On leaving Notting Hill, I attended the Chelsea School of Chiropody. I qualified in 1981 as a podiatrist and have practised ever since. I have had four children and educated them privately at secondary school age. I have worked in industry, private practice and for the NHS. My career has been very rewarding.



Anna Lewy (née Piotrowski)
Class of 2009

My parents were very proud to send me to NHEHS. I started in Year 1 and was catapulted into a new and exciting world.

Later that same year, my brother was born and very soon after we noticed that he was missing key developmental milestones. It took a few years for him to be diagnosed with autism and a severe learning disability, which would require life-long one to one support. We all became his carers and my parents were not able to devote as much time to the family business as before. By the time I was in Year 6, the business was struggling and my parents were running out of financial options. When the school awarded me a bursary it was a lifeline.

After working for the investment bank Credit Suisse, I moved to Gazprom. There I source, structure and execute physical transactions in a fast paced, high-pressured and dynamic market environment utilising my fleet of ships and network of national oil companies, commodity traders, oil and gas majors and local industrial clients. I am one of a handful of women in the world doing this job. NHEHS, where we were taught to learn without limits, gave me the confidence to go into and thrive in this environment.

My education has also given me the confidence to be an advocate for my brother and others like him. I am a Trustee at the Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE), which translates world-class autism research into excellent evidence-based support, via partnerships, to create a world where autistic people are respected and valued.



Madeleine Heggs (née Calderan)
Class of 1948

My father was killed in the war leaving my mother with three children; we were on the breadline. Staff at NHEHS were kind and taught me certain standards, both academic and moral.

I wanted to do a Physics degree, but in 1947 as a woman that would make you unemployable. Miss McCaig suggested I go into law. In those days you couldn't get a grant for Law school so I had to get a job, which I did and read articles whilst working. After a year living in Yale where my husband had a scholarship and I did legal research, I returned to the UK and qualified.

Once I had my children I did some legal work from home for two local banks and I was in practice for 25 years. In 1975 I was asked to become the Chairman of National Insurance Tribunals, eventually taking over an area from London Airport right up to the City. It was a fantastic job because it got me out of the house and I worked 10am to 4pm, so I could get the children to school and see them afterwards. After that I became President of the London Building Acts and was invited to become a Commissioner, which is now an upper tribunal judge.

For me, giving to the bursary fund is about giving bright children an opportunity who would otherwise not have access to such a high standard of education.



Clare Johnson (née Walkden)
Class of 1973

If I hadn't received financial assistance my life might have been very different. When I was 11 my father retired at 65, making it impossible for my parents to keep on struggling to afford the fees.

Attending NHEHS helped me to gain wider horizons, a less parochial viewpoint, and to meet a greater variety of people than would have been possible otherwise. From the unforgettable singing at assembly on my very first school morning, and from all the subsequent assemblies, music lessons and choral events, I gained a lifelong love for music. From the fascinating nature tables in the classrooms and from my mother, who first had the idea of sending me to a GDST school, I learned a deep appreciation of the natural world, shared by my husband and passed on to all our children.

Our children are young adults now and my role as a mother has progressed easily into that of carer for our younger daughter, the one of us most affected by Asperger's.

NHEHS gave me enough confidence to be able to regard myself as equal at heart with others. It encouraged many interests which have brought beautiful enrichment into my life and it has helped me to continue developing an open-minded attitude and a love of learning.

For me, receiving a bursary meant stability, continuity and the opportunity of a broad academic education which has stood me in good stead all my life.



Alisha Ahmed Class of 2022

Both my parents grew up in Pakistan and we lived, and still do, in Ealing. My parents have always considered good education and working hard to be important, so they stretched to sending my two older siblings to independent schools. However, both my parents developed significant health issues which led to poor mobility, and they have been unemployed for eight years. Having no family income other than benefits, a private education was suddenly far beyond what they could give me. Family income is very tight, but my parents manage, and for some years I have done a tutoring job to help out. Covid was hugely stressful, particularly as my father is clinically vulnerable.

Before I came to NHEHS for sixth form, my teachers were great but focused on getting us to pass our exams, to reach a certain level. Here, the teachers give you so much support; they really care. You are encouraged to go as far as you want to. Being at NHEHS has made me realise that there isn't a limit on what I can achieve.

The school has been brilliant throughout my two years here. As I have taken Sciences for A-levels, there haven't been the extra cost of trips but whenever it has been tricky such as getting a Leavers' hoodie, going to the Prom, travel to visit universities NHEHS has been generous in ensuring I don't miss out for which I am so grateful.



Ayesha Sehgal Class of 2018

My seven years at Notting Hill and Ealing High School helped mould me into the person I am today and helped me access opportunities I never would have thought possible.

The HSBC Scholarship I subsequently received provided me with financial support, and also the opportunity to visit HSBC's offices, and learn a bit more about the banking and insurance industries from a young age.

NHEHS nurtured me from a young age, both academically and pastorally, and I have made friends and support networks for life. Without the bursary I would never have been able to attend NHEHS, I would not have received the grades required for university and I would not have felt so confident moving forward into higher education.

Now that I have graduated from Oxford and am undertaking my Masters in Social Anthropology at LSE, I'm thrilled with the continued support and communications from staff, and of course access to the Alumnae Network! After completing my MSc and graduating from LSE, I intend to join Oxbow Partners as a graduate consultant, a role for which I'm incredibly excited.

I am incredibly grateful to have received the bursary.

FAQs

What is a bursary?

A bursary is a reduction in school fees. Bursary awards are provided to families where a child meets a school's admissions criteria, but the family does not have the income or financial resources to accept a place or to remain at the school. A bursary is now distinct from a scholarship: it is means-tested, awarded on an independent assessment of a parent's ability to pay, not on the child's performance in a specific area.

How much is awarded?

The size of the award depends on a family's financial situation. Most independent schools offer a range of financial support, and the GDST usually offers bursaries from 30% upwards. Awards above 95% are often referred to as transformational bursaries.

What are the criteria for awarding a bursary?

In common with other GDST schools in London, NHEHS awards higher-value bursaries to families with a total income of less than £42,500, who have no capital assets other than their home. It is unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £92,500, other than in very exceptional circumstances. Whilst it is anticipated that a bursary will last for the duration of the student's time at school, it is reassessed annually to take account of any significant changes in family circumstances and to ensure bursary support is directed where it is needed most.

What exactly is the bursary offer to students at NHEHS?

At NHEHS, depending on the size of the award, students will also receive help to meet the cost of their uniform, school lunches, music lessons, travel, (if a child lives more than 3 miles from school), and essential school trips. In the Sixth Form, 100% bursary holders are provided with a laptop, and we fund three university visits as well as the cost of a ticket to the Year 13 Prom. Providing this additional support allows our bursary recipients to make the most of the opportunities offered by the school.

How many students at NHEHS currently receive bursaries?

We currently offer up to seven bursaries for 11+ entrants in each year and two additional bursaries for Sixth Form. In the last academic year, we had a total of 44 bursary students: 32 were recipients of transformational awards, with the remainder given help from 30% to 75%. 44 students represent 7% of the school population.



Partnerships

As part of the GDST family of schools, we also work with a number of philanthropic charities and organisations who are all committed to widening access to independent education. We are enormously grateful for their support. Some of those that currently support or have in the past supported NHEHS students include Garfield Weston, HSBC and John Lyon's Charity. In 2022 we established a new partnership with the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation.

If you represent a company or charitable trust and are interested in supporting the life-changing work of the GDST, please contact Chris Conneely, Philanthropy Manager (Trusts and Corporates)
Email: c.conneely@wes.gdst.net

Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation



NHEHS is proud to have been accredited by Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (RNCSF). RNCSF is the UK's largest bursary charity, helping young people facing the most challenging circumstances from across the UK to access great educational opportunities.

RNCSF works to bring the transformational opportunities offered by the UK's independent and state boarding schools to the young people who will benefit from them the most. By 2025 it aims to have supported 2,000 young people from challenging circumstances to access these opportunities - changing their futures, influencing their peers and becoming role models to others. It works with more than 120 schools across the UK; each of whom has demonstrated its commitment to widening access and providing exemplary pastoral care and support for pupils facing disadvantage and vulnerability.

Since 2017 the charity has worked exclusively with boarding and day schools with remarkable results, supporting over 1000 children. They wish to extend their reach and impact further by working with selected day schools, including NHEHS. We are delighted to be partnering with such a wonderful organisation and hope to welcome our first ever Springboard pupil in September 2023.



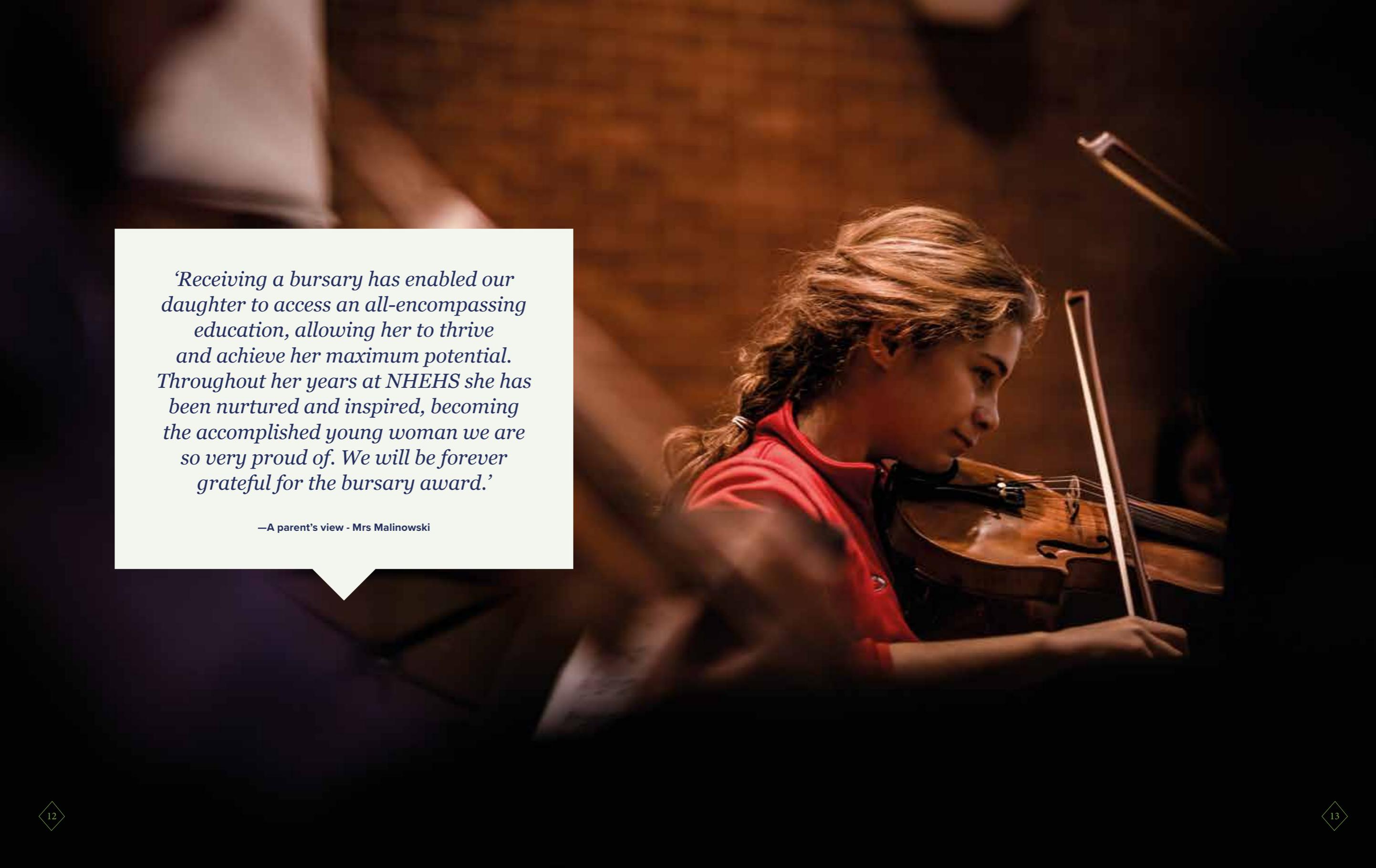
Susan Whitfield
Head NHEHS
1991-2008

It would be a wonderful thing if there were no need for fees to be an issue for parents looking for the right school for their daughter in west London. Since that is not always the case, we can help as many able pupils as possible to come here despite what might seem too great an obstacle, by having more bursaries to offer.

For generations, with the Direct Grant Scheme and Assisted Places, girls from every background have come to this school and thrived in every way. One of my Victorian grandmothers and her daughters were GDST-educated, all three blazing trails in their lives which women could follow, contributing to society in big ways and small. From NHEHS there must have been thousands, armed with the confidence, resilience, creativity, and academic understanding and

qualifications they gained here to live the best lives they could, and have made life-long friends and been happy and cheerful along the way.

If everyone I knew through my very enjoyable seventeen years here could join with me and those who came before and since who want to help, using gift aid where possible, then I am very sure we can enable many more bursary-holders to come to NHEHS and flourish, to the benefit not only of themselves but also to our society in the future.



'Receiving a bursary has enabled our daughter to access an all-encompassing education, allowing her to thrive and achieve her maximum potential. Throughout her years at NHEHS she has been nurtured and inspired, becoming the accomplished young woman we are so very proud of. We will be forever grateful for the bursary award.'

—A parent's view - Mrs Malinowski

Hear from some of those who have made a gift in their will to NHEHS...



Francesca Scarles Class of 1974

'My father, John Quinnen, sent all six of us to NHEHS. He was chairman of the NHEHS Committee of Parents and member of the Board of Friends of the Girls' Public Day School Trust for 19 years. I tried to follow in his footsteps and was on the OGA Committee for nearly 25 years.

My father's mother died in the Spanish Flu in London and, as his father was a serving soldier and couldn't look after him, he was sent to a Barnardo's Home at the age of six. Some years later his father re-married and then Norman joined his father and stepmother. From this difficult and lonely beginning, family became very important to my father, indeed to both my parents, and they went on to have six daughters and two sons. From humble beginnings he trained as an accountant, and, as a result of hard work, was eventually promoted to the board of a major company.

All six of us daughters went to Notting Hill spanning twenty-seven years (and the boys to St. Benedict's). My parents strongly believed that the best gift one could give one's child was a good education which would last them a lifetime. Not only did it provide an excellent start in life enabling us to make the most of every opportunity; Notting Hill also provided life-long friendships. In a tribute to him in the 1986 NHEHS OGA magazine, Miss J. Hendry, headmistress of NHEHS 1960 to 1974 wrote, 'The essential goodness of the man made itself felt by all those around him....The school was blessed in having such a steadfast friend and I feel truly privileged to have known him.'

Following his active support of the school during his lifetime, John generously left a legacy to NHEHS in his Will. We thank him and his family for their continued support.

Alison Bond Class of 1971



'My reason for leaving a legacy to my old school is that getting a place at NHEHS was probably my luckiest break in life and if in some small way I can help someone else to get that opportunity it would be great. It is my small way of helping to return to the principle of helping to level up education and opportunities in life, which I feel passionate about, as well as thanking NHEHS for such an inspiring education.'



Angellica Bell Class of 1993

'Sometimes in the moment you don't realise its value or importance. It may sound strange, but I've always said I was blessed to have been awarded a bursary to attend NHEHS - the drive the other students gave me, the belief some teachers had in me and since that time the opportunities which have opened doors for me. Now, after twenty years in television and radio, I want to ensure that future generations of students get the chance to be educated at the school as I did, irrespective of economic barriers.

At the end of the day, being a pupil at NHEHS helped mould me and gave me the confidence to be the person I am today. It gave me insight into what could be achieved - everyone should have that chance. I am delighted to support the 150th Anniversary Bursary Appeal and look forward to meeting supporters over the coming year.'

Ways to give

You can make a gift in many ways. Your options include a regular donation, a single, one-off gift, or a legacy pledge. Please complete the enclosed donation form.

Whichever way you choose, your generosity is appreciated and will help fund a transformational bursary for a talented student.

If you would like to discuss a donation or have any questions about our Bursary Programme then please contact Molly Tollit, our Development Manager, at development@nhehs.gdst.net



When I got to NHEHS everyone was given the same opportunities, the same chance; I want to support efforts to ensure that this equal access is offered right from the beginning, from the admissions stage. I am proud to support the NHEHS bursary fund.'

—Natasha Delcourt, Class of 2002

1% more

Donors who make regular gifts are vital to our programme.

To ensure our 150th campaign has the reach and impact we seek, it must be sustainable; regular giving is an important part of this.

'1% more' is an initiative designed to make regular giving as straightforward and accessible as we can for as many of our parents as possible. We are asking all of our parents who are able to donate 1% of your school fees to support and sustain a transformational bursary place.

Details are shown on the enclosed donation form but essentially you would be committing to donate around £200 a year to the bursary fund and if you complete the Gift Aid Declaration, you can make your gift worth 25% more.

One fully-funded Senior School Bursary

Fee-paying families	Percentage of fees	Period of time
100%	1%	1yr
50%	1%	2yrs
33%	1%	3yrs

Leavers' Deposits

Traditionally, our Year 13 parents and some early leavers choose to give by donating their deposit, and occasionally also making a separate, additional gift. Both are eligible for Gift Aid so will be worth 25% more to 'The Class of 2023 Bursary'.



Notting Hill & Ealing High School
2 Cleveland Road
Ealing
London
W13 8AX

www.nhehs.gdst.net

As parents of girls at NHEHS we decided to donate to the Bursary fund so that girls requiring financial assistance who could otherwise not afford a private education are given the opportunity to join. If we can help other girls to benefit from the same education it will ensure that we leave a legacy for future generations.

Richard and Ali Palmer,
parents of Ella, Year 12, and Jasmine, Class of 2022

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Part of the GDST network of schools.

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