

SEPTEMBER 2023

CAMP HILL CONNECTIONS

PALOMA ZHU'S (CLASS OF 2018) AMAZING PAINTING "THE MOON" IS HANGING IN THE SCHOOL RECEPTION



THE MAGAZINE FOR FORMER STUDENTS AND
FRIENDS OF CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

CONTENTS

WELCOME TO CAMP HILL CONNECTIONS!

IN THIS EDITION

Back to School!

News from Former Students

Spotlight on..... Teachers

School Archive

Camp Hill Girls Time Capsule

Lives Remembered

Tributes

Inside Stories

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Back to School!

By Sayuri Knox 11L and Bahar Kayani 11S

On July 8th, we had the privilege of attending the Camp Hill alumni event and hearing some of the stories of students who came back to visit. From disbelief to intrigue, it was a real rollercoaster discovering how our school has evolved over the decades. There were ex-students who remembered an era where stockings, ties, Le Touquet hats, and knee length skirts were the norm... something very difficult for us to imagine! But from secret pottery rooms to the opening of the swimming pool, we discovered so much about our school.

Despite the physical changes the school has experienced, some things have remained the same. Inspirational teachers seem to have existed throughout Camp Hill history, revealed by Càit Mulleague's (Class of 1980) stories of the marvellous Head of Classics Miss Jackson, who made the lessons fun and interactive with Latin songs every Friday. We were astounded to learn about how the girls had to sew their own summer dresses - inspired by Mary Quant, Twiggy and Miss Jackson, who was generally considered a fashion icon within the school! (See our tribute to Miss Jackson later in the magazine).

The school trips (which we sadly missed due to Covid), were just as good in the 1970s. Christine Tipping (Class of 1974) recalled her own 3-week trip to Austria when she was in school, during which they stayed in a chateau! Our jealousy worsened yet when we chatted to Michelle Cresswell and Anna Potter who told us all about their favourite memories of the France trip. Other fond memories cherished by ex-students included the biscuit days every Tuesday with Dr Raj, being a member of the dance show committee and performing NSYNC's 'Bye, bye, bye'.

We were lucky enough to bump into Issy Clark (2019) and Maisy Bocking (2017), who were both in the same year. Although Maisy went off to Sixth Form in Solihull and later studied Psychology at Leeds, Issy stayed with us and joined the Dance Show Committee in year 13; some of you may remember their iconic 'Dancing Queen' performance with some volunteers from next door! After leaving in 2019, she went off to study Architectural Engineering at Liverpool. Both of their favourite Camp Hill memories remain to be Year 11 Stand Down where they dressed as 'Ja'mie: Private School Girls' and started a mock communist takeover.

Last but not least, we came across earlier members of the Camp Hill Community. Liz Lindsay (Class of 1962) told us, much to our surprise that there used to be a little pottery room in between our Art Room (above the canteen) and the boys school, where students from each school had the chance to mould their own little pot and fire it in the kiln... on separate occasion of course: the boys side was locked as we used it and vice versa. Liz remembered the school in the 1950s; in particular, being made to stand on a chair in art and recite 'Black is not a colour!'. Doreen Hancox, who was the School Secretary under Miss Miller as headmistress, reminisced about the days when O-Levels and short-hand letters existed.



We loved chatting to former students from different ages, and we noticed a few things that remain true whenever you leave Camp Hill. The in-depth knowledge of our subjects and the wider world we acquire at school serve students well in later life, evidenced by the wide array of universities attended and careers our alumni have pursued. We met graduates from various universities: Cambridge, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. In terms of the jobs former students are doing now, they vary from an online vet to an acoustic engineer! It was inspirational for us to meet so many successful women who have achieved their dreams with the help of their Camp Hill education. Furthermore, our former students have travelled worldwide, broadening their horizons and having incredible experiences: Katie Salter off-handedly mentioned her time as an au pair in Mexico and living in Spain and Germany as we hurriedly scribbled down her experiences - our eyes wide!

What stood out to us most perhaps was the friends walking through Camp Hill corridors, reminiscing about their own time here. It was reassuring for us to see old friends reunited and hear how they have kept in touch and are still close with their school friends - even if they left school more than twenty years ago. Michelle Cresswell and Anna Potter's friendship filled us with hope for the future, as we heard how it has stood the test of time, despite different universities, careers and paths in life. Their recollections of their first day of Year Seven and ... an unfortunate Tippex incident.... showed us that the friendships we make here really do last forever. Even though Anna studied Theology at Birmingham University (later becoming an Assistant Headteacher at a primary school) and Michelle studied Social Sciences at York University, their jokes and laughs together proved to us that the friends we make now can be there with us throughout our lives.

Who knows, maybe one day we'll be back for a Welcome Back event!

**Save the Date! The Welcome Back Event
in 2024 will take place on Saturday 29th
June. We will send out further details next
year, but we would love to see you!**

We love seeing former students again, and so many of you have come back to school over the last year to help out with a wide variety of activities. A huge thank you to all those listed below, and any others I have missed off the list - we are really grateful!

Condover School trip - with the help of Y14

by Kyla Byrne Y14



Back in July, six of us Year 14s volunteered to come along on the Year 7 and 9 residential trip to Condover. It was altogether a brilliant trip, albeit predictably rainy, packed with all the fun and memories of our own residential trip seven years ago. It was so much fun to come back to the Camp Hill community after a year away and be able to participate in one of the most iconic and immersive trips of the school experience: three days packed full of amazing activities like rock climbing, kayaking, and archery. As well as being a fun trip, it also provided us with invaluable experience working with students. To be able to connect with younger students, the other Year 14s, and the wonderful teachers who organised the whole event was so enjoyable, and I wholly encourage any past students who want to get involved in opportunities like this to go for them!

Our thanks to : Kyla Byrne, Aleeza Butt, Libby Bruten, Sana Karim, Maria Begum and Vaidehi Kadhane, along with Aoife Hay, who all enabled this trip to take place.

Nikita Badesha (class of 2016), recently awarded a Distinction for her MSc in Construction Management and championing diversity in the construction industry - for coming to present awards at Summer Celebration

Mei Mac (class of 2010), fresh from her performance at the Coronation Concert - spoke at our 6th form Leavers' Assembly

Hannah Khalique-Brown (class of 2017) most recently in Barbie and What's Love Got to do With It - joined us for an assembly and talked about her acting career

Ruth Thrush (class of 2018) - for giving a lunchtime talk about her experience of studying English, and applying to Oxbridge

Chenyao Zhou (class of 2022), currently finishing her gap year and working as an Ambassador for Wings of Hope charity - for coming and presenting to students and mentoring the Y10 groups in their hugely successful fundraising projects.

Rafaela Monteiro (class of 2021) now at PwC - for coming to our post-18 event to speak about degree-level apprenticeships.

Ruby Hodges (class of 2018) final year medic at Newcastle - for running online sessions for students preparing for medicine interviews.

Santina Bunting (class of 2021) representing Great Britain in the U19 handball squad - for coming to present sporting colours, and talk about her sporting career in and out of school.

Paloma Zhu (class of 2018) and Holly Reynolds (class of 2016) - gave online talks to arts students about their different pathways to careers in the arts.

Ella Blyth and **Noora Al-Nemrat** (class of 2022) who left as students last year, but have stayed to work in placements in school and done a fantastic job - we don't know what we will do without you!

Celia Fraser (class of 2010), among many other things awarded Google EMPOWER UK Top 10 Black Executive List 2021, and Women in Investment Rising Star of the Year 2021 - for being Vice-Chair of our School Governing Body

THANK YOU!

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Catching Up With Former Students

By Safa Sujan 12C



Tia Hau (class of 2019)



What have you been doing since you left Camp Hill?

Since leaving Camp Hill, I've completed my undergraduate degree in Paediatric Nursing at the University of Leeds. I now work as a Paediatric Intensive Care nurse at Birmingham Children's hospital- the largest PICU in Europe!

(Tia was too modest to say, but while at Leeds she won the Eva Moynihan Prize for Nursing Students, which recognises outstanding performance and commitment in a final year student—well done Tia!)



What is your favourite thing about nursing?

My favourite thing about nursing is seeing the children get drastically better; we look after some of the sickest children in the country on the ICU and to see them get well enough to get discharged to the ward is truly rewarding. In paediatrics, we support the families which is just as rewarding as looking after our patients; getting babies out for cuddles with their parents even when they are critically ill warms my heart the most. People think the ICU is sad, which it is- it's a very emotional place to work, but the good outcomes always outweigh the bad and that's what keeps us going.



What is your favourite memory of your time at CHG?

I have a lot of good memories from Camp Hill, such as being on the dance show committee in year 13 and the role of House Captain for Priory. But my favourite memory of Camp Hill was coming into the common room every morning and catching up with my friends, who I'm still in contact with now!



What have you been doing since you left Camp Hill?

One of the highlights so far was my involvement with the Department of Education as an Apprentice panel member for the Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education. I have also been awarded Student of the Year at college, where I study one day a week and have received a prestigious Institute of Civil Engineering QUEST Scholarship. Outside of work, I also am in the Great British team, as the goalkeeper, for handball and will be going to Kosovo for the European Championships in the summer.



Santina Bunting



What inspired you to take on a civil engineering apprenticeship?

My journey into civil engineering began with a childhood love for playing with Lego. It ignited my passion for problem-solving and creativity, which became apparent during my participation in the IET Faraday Challenge in Year 8. Winning the challenge among 450 schools and even enjoying a free trip to Thorpe Park confirmed my decision to pursue engineering.

➔ What is the best part of your role as a Geotechnician?

Geotechnical Engineering involves understanding the behaviour of soil and rock materials in construction projects which is not as boring as it sounds. I specialize in the highways team, where I've had the opportunity to work on a multitude of projects, including two Indian projects. Currently, I'm involved in the development of a new service station in Solihull, which is nice to see I'm making an impact on real-life projects.

➔ What is your favourite memory of Camp Hill?

Our trip to France in Year 9 stands out the most. The residential experience, the independence, and the team activities, along with a bit of French language practice, made it an unforgettable adventure shared with my friends.



Alice Dodds
(class of 2019)

➔ What have you been up to since leaving Camp Hill?

I moved to London to read History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. I graduated last summer, and this year have been back at the Courtauld for my MA in British and American modernist painting. I'm now preparing to speak at the International Virginia Woolf conference this summer before starting my PhD in October. Oh – and I was on University Challenge!

➔ What was the most exciting part of representing the Courtauld on University Challenge for you?

As I have been a huge University Challenge fan since my early childhood, the whole experience was incredibly exciting and a little surreal, so it's hard to pick just one part! I think I ought to say it was the lifelong friends I made through the experience, but really it was probably being chastised by Jeremy Paxman – it felt like a rite of passage!

➔ What did you find most fascinating about your degree?

I think a lot of people think History of Art is a really niche subject that only involves standing around looking at old paintings wondering what they mean, but I've studied textiles, furniture, books, protest banners, séance photography, gardens and countless other objects during my degree! Having such a vast amount of material means that you encounter history in really varied, incisive, and often humorous ways, giving varied and nuanced ideas of what people saw, felt, and thought in a particular period – and how these thoughts and feelings changed as the art objects continued to exist as the historical periods changed.

➔ Favourite memory of Camp Hill?

Chamber choir tours! I was lucky enough to go on two during my time at Camp Hill – one to Germany and one to Czechia – and the wonderful memories of music, camaraderie, and delicious food will stay with me forever.

A special mention goes to Layla Guscoth (class of 2010) who, as we went to print, was representing England in the Netball World Cup final in Cape Town, South Africa. The Roses came second in the tournament, reaching the final for the first time ever!



Former students: we would love to feature your news in the next edition – let us know what you have been up to. Family news, professional milestones or just your latest: let us know!
community@kechg.org.uk

Teachers

Some Camp Hill students loved school so much that they made careers in education and teaching.....

By Bhavana Sathyamurthi 12CL



Anne Oxborough (née Lawler)

➔ What have you been doing since you left CHG?

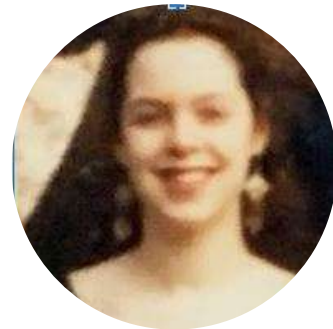
I went to University of Birmingham and then Bristol University to study English Literature followed by a PGCE in Secondary Education. I taught English with some Drama for 15 years in 3 different secondary schools in Hampshire, West Yorkshire and North Devon. Later, I moved to Exeter College, a tertiary college, for the last 22 years of my career, where I taught English A Level and the IB. I later became the Head of a large Faculty of English and Languages in 2001 and then Assistant Principal in charge of all A Levels and the IB for 7 years. Since retirement I've been awarded an OBE for services to Further Education and become Chair of Governors at Exeter School of Mathematics.

➔ What made you decide to go into teaching?

I went into teaching because I loved the varied possibilities of teaching English to young people and I could enjoy a fair amount of autonomy in the classroom. I stayed in teaching because working with young people helps keep you young in mind and approach. I enjoyed the camaraderie of the staff room too

➔ What is your favourite memory of your time at CHG?

My favourite memory of Camp Hill is the Friday singing. It introduced me to loads of songs from different genres. I can still amuse my friends by singing words to Schubert's The Trout! Also, I was part of the team which won The Fry Cup for the first time in years.



Mrs Tromans (class of 1985)

➔ What have you been doing since you left CHG?

I left Camp Hill in 1995 and went to read Law at Oxford. I went to Law School in London and then trained at an international law firm in the City. I qualified into Corporate Law and subsequently moved back to the Midlands to be nearer to my family, working at a commercial law firm in Birmingham for over a decade. During that time I also got married, had children and did a Masters in Public & Comparative Law at Birmingham University. My first teaching job was teaching Law A Level, but I returned to university to study English Literature so that I could teach both subjects. I came back to Camp Hill as Head of English in September 2020, and am now Assistant Head.

➔ What made you decide to go into teaching?

I come from a family of teachers so there was often a lot of talk about education and learning. It was obvious that we all really felt the importance of the job - supporting young people to achieve their full potential really does matter. I've also always loved learning - not as a means to an end or to pass an exam, but just for the joy of learning something new. I wanted to be able to pass that on to others.

➔ What is your favourite memory of your time at CHG?

On the fun side, we all loved the annual pantomime which was performed by sixth formers pretending to be members of staff, including borrowing their clothes (I am not suggesting we bring that back though!). I remember our field trip to Carding Mill Valley (which the school still does every year) and an A Level trip to the RSC to see 'King Lear'. But most of all I remember the time and effort of specific teachers who helped me achieve my goals, particularly my history teachers Miss Holland and Miss Davies. They would lend me their books so that we could chat about them together in the history office - which was then a cupboard outside the art room - crammed floor to ceiling with books. Although it was ostensibly as preparation for my Oxbridge entrance exams, I realise with hindsight it was invaluable for so many other reasons, not least fostering that love of learning.



Lенае Hamilton (class of 2019)

➔ What have you been doing since you left CHG?

After finishing my A-Levels at CHG in 2019, I studied Physics with Astrophysics at the University of York. I graduated in 2022 and went straight into teacher training doing a PGCE in Secondary Science with a Physics specialism at the University of Bristol. I am currently in the last phases of my course and job hunting for September!

➔ What made you decide to go into teaching?

I am currently completing my PGCE, which is a university-based 1 year teacher training course. It combines school teaching experience with university study into the pedagogy of teaching, and researching how students learn, in order to be the best teachers we can be. I remember during school (both primary and secondary) I had some incredible teachers who really changed my life - I would never have even thought of studying physics without Dr Dewes - and I loved the idea of doing that for someone else. I also had many family members who were teachers so I suppose it was in my blood (I even got voted most likely to return to CHG as a teacher in my yearbook!). This dream was replaced for a bit as my love for physics grew and the idea of becoming an astronaut or a researcher in the search for extraterrestrial life was my new dream. During my university studies I did a lot of tutoring for GCSE and A-Level science and maths, and I really enjoyed this, especially seeing the progress in my students work - and it was a great part-time job whilst studying at uni. This made the idea of teaching come back to my mind and I decided that teaching was what I really wanted to do. I even chose a final year project which was related to teaching and this solidified in my mind that teaching was the right job for me - now here I am!

➔ What is your favourite memory of your time at CHG?

I have so many wonderful memories at CHG, from every Songs from the Show performance, to singing our unofficial school song and everyone in Priory (best house) doing the quack. As well as running the year 7 disco and working every parents evening are memories I will cherish. However, I would say my absolute favourite memory of my time at CHG was when Mrs Johnson chased me around the drama studio with a crutch, absolutely hilarious!



Ms Gouldsworthy Former Teacher of MFL and Assistant Head, current Director of King Edward's Consortium Teacher Training

➔ What have you been doing since you left CHG?

Having worked as a MFL classroom teacher and later as an assistant headteacher in schools of every variety for thirty years, moving into a leadership role teacher training seemed an appropriate challenge and a logical progression. I now work as Director of Initial Teacher Training at the King Edward's Consortium, a very diverse group of 24 schools throughout and surrounding Birmingham. We're based on the Camp Hill site and we train teachers. I interview and appoint trainee teachers and find them schools to train in; I visit them in those schools to watch them with their classes and I work with amazing people in those schools who host, support and guide our trainee teachers as they develop their confidence and classroom practice; I deliver a programme of centre-based training to develop trainee teachers' knowledge and understanding of cognitive science and pedagogy; I work with my colleagues to deliver tutorials and the University of Birmingham's Postgraduate Diploma in Education; I oversee trainees' subject development. In short, I make sure that our trainee teachers fulfil all of the Department for Education criteria. My job involves working with all sorts of people in all sorts of schools. I love it!

➔ What made you decide to go into teaching?

I like young people and that is a very good start! It is a stunning privilege to be handed children and get the chance to help them learn: as teachers we know that every child in our class is someone's whole world. There is nothing on earth like the moment where the penny drops and a light goes on in a pupil's eyes as they 'get it' and want to know more... and it's a teacher who can make that happen. There is no other profession that makes all other professions possible - and that makes it quite special. I decided to go into teaching to share my knowledge and understanding of subjects that I am talented in and I have never regretted that decision.

➔ What is your favourite memory of your time at CHG?

That really is a difficult question as there are simply too many highlights to mention. Perhaps appearing dressed as a minion, bee, mirror or unicorn? Maybe each and every 'Songs from the Shows' performance, or when I first heard the Chamber Choir? Ms Stevens might suggest the moment I fell into a bush, dressed as a crocodile. If I had to settle on one thing, I believe it would be the morning when all students returned to school following the pandemic. I had to take a moment to compose myself when I realised for sure how much I had missed them all.

School Archive

By Palak Dore 12S and Iona Mandal 12W

We recently had the fantastic opportunity to learn more about the history of the King Edward's Foundation, particularly through the Archive, carefully compiled by the wonderful Charlotte Gallant. Below is a short interview we conducted with her, in which she explains more about her job as an Archivist, as well as more about what is in the Archive itself.



➔ What is your role and what does it entail?

My job title is Foundation Archivist. An archivist is a person who looks over an organisation's historical records, which can range from anything to old Latin documents to mp3's - basically anything that represents the history (or soon to be history) of the school. As Foundation Archivist, I look after all 13 schools and my job is to talk to the schools about their history and archive, collect anything the schools want to be kept, organise it (which involves a lot of reading and listing), make sure it is in a good condition (free from insects that eat paper and remove items like staples and paperclips that can rust) and where possible digitise items so more people can view them.

➔ What currently resides in the CHG archive? What is missing?

The Camp Hill Girls archive is really interesting as there is a good mix of old and modern materials. The majority of the collection is physical (paper, photographs and even one or two artefacts), but I'm hoping to get more digital records in the future.

➔ What is the most challenging thing about the archive?

The most challenging thing is keeping on top of everything. There is so much I would love to do with the collections but there are only 24 hours in the day. Sometimes I'll read a really interesting letter and want to find out more about the people who sent it and I have to stop myself otherwise I'll never get the box sorted by the end of the day!

Do you have any memorabilia of your time at Camp Hill?

We would love to have scanned copies of photos (or originals for us to scan and send back) or ticket stubs, drama programmes, sports results. Anything that represents the school at the time (and anything from the Covid era). A document, photograph or even a video that someone likes or represents the school at that time for the archive.

Please contact Charlotte on charlotte.gallant@kevibham.org

➔ What is your favourite part of the archive?

It's quite hard to pick a favourite item but I've managed to narrow it down to two.

The first is a video of Busted performing at CHG in 2003 (now 20 years ago, which makes me feel very old!). This was on VHS but I sent it away to a company in Sussex to digitise and it's really fun to watch how excited the girls are when the band arrive.

The second is a collection of pictures of pupils from the 1920s. A lady whose mum attended Camp Hill during that decade contacted me recently and asked if we had anything about her. Sadly, the photographs in the archive didn't come with any names on them, so I sent her several photographs just in case her mum was in any of them.

Find yourself in the digital archive!

The digital archive is currently available for everyone to access, you can find it here:

<http://kescamphillforgirls.cook.wesbds.net/default.aspx>

Charlotte is slowly upgrading it so keep an eye out for new photographs and magazines.

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Camp Hill Girls' Time Capsule

By Eshal Aamir and Akshara Guduri 8V

On 10th May, 1983, a time capsule was buried at the entrance of the school, not to be opened until 100 years have passed. It contained items which the students believed would represent Camp Hill and be of interest to the school community after 100 years, and provide a very real connection with the past.



Whose idea was the time capsule?

Past school documents reveal that it was in fact sixth formers who thought of the idea. Ros Jackson (the Head of Sixth Form) was the lead teacher in the project and helped make it a reality (you can read more about Miss Jackson's amazing contribution to the school in the Tributes section).



What is in the time capsule?

The time capsule contains a wide variety of things. It ranges from certificates to bus passes, even house badges! Additionally, the students put in a certain item which they hoped would prove to be mysterious to the future students who would open up the time capsule. This item was a plastic radiation mask, which was donated by a fellow student who was receiving treatment for leukaemia. This was especially included in the capsule as it represented the newest technology that was being used in hospitals at the time. Each form was asked to give a list of three possible items that would represent the school. One hundred items were chosen, such as whole school photographs, exercise books, a tape recording of whole school assemblies, house and officer's badges, and even programmes from 1983's dramatic and musical productions (show choir!). Before they put all of them in the time capsule, they put all the items up on display for everyone to see.

Handing over the titanic Time Capsule
Brian Watson, Mrs. Jackson, Rachel Beall, Prof. V. D. Alexander, Peter Baldwin



Images from the school magazine in 1986



Where is the time capsule buried?

No-one is quite sure!! However, you may be surprised to know that you have probably walked on top of the time capsule many times! We believe that it is buried at the front entrance to the school (where the automatic doors currently are). Previously, however, this space would have instead been in an open area and easily accessible. It is located 2 metres down, in a brick lined chamber. The school is planning on placing a plaque near the time capsule so as to be a reminder of its place in our history.

If we have any former students who remember the exact spot the time capsule was buried in, we would be delighted to hear from you!



Eshal and Akshara in the spot where the time capsule is buried (we believe!)

Lives Remembered

By Emily Jones (11L) and Oluwaferanmi Adebayo (11M)

"In teaching me Latin, Camp Hill gave me a treasured resource for life"

➔ Supporter of the school

Mary's contribution continues to help the school: she left an incredibly kind legacy of £50,000 to our school, which has contributed to many recent developments, most notably our studio dining room extension!

➔ Educational Pioneer

Mary was highly regarded as being a pioneer for education, navigating through different changes in the education system, such as the introduction of GCSEs (about which she caused quite a stir) - complaining about the schools league tables being incorrectly reported. This led her to being interviewed by the BBC and mentioned in the House of Commons!

➔ Latin Enthusiast

She was very passionate about learning Latin and classical Greek during her time here at Camp Hill, saying later on: 'In teaching me Latin, Camp Hill gave me a treasured resource for life.'



Miss Mary Moon

Miss Mary Moon was an ex-Camp Hill girl attending between 1943 and 1951. And she is still contributing to the life of the school today, thanks to her generous legacy donation.

At Camp Hill, Mary gained many awards, from a Foundation Scholarship in 1947, to a certificate from the Royal Life-saving Society, and she also wrote stories for the school newsletter, 'Twixt Road and Rail'.

After the war, (which disrupted Mary's first two years at Camp Hill), she travelled with school and made links with a German school. Corresponding as a pen pal, she helped to break down the barriers and stereotypes that existed after the war.

After leaving Camp Hill, Mary studied English for her undergraduate degree, before moving on to study Education for her Masters at the University of Manchester. She later became Headmistress of two schools, Pate's Grammar School (1971-1983) and then Manchester High School for Girls (1983-1994).

Mary was an avid traveller, often exploring the ancient world with her sister - Brenda, (who also attended Camp Hill and was later the Librarian at the University of Edinburgh). They travelled extensively visiting Holland, the classical sites of Rome and Greece, Australasia and South America.

From travelling, to helping others to learn as she became a teacher and headmistress, to helping improve the school today, Miss Mary Moon has had an incredible life and inspired countless others.

Photo from Manchester High School For Girls Archives

Tributes

We were sad to hear about the death of a much-loved member of the Camp Hill Community, and we wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate their life and their impact on the school.

Rosalind Jackson: Former Head of Sixth Form

Ros was Head of Classics, and later Head of the Sixth Form, here at Camp Hill. She was a pupil here from 1947-1954, and a member of staff from 1958-1993. Upon her retirement Ros presented the school with a wooden ballot box, which remains in the Sixth Form staff office. Inside the lid was a plaque inscribed with the first four lines of her favourite poem, "Auguries of Innocence" by William Blake; any student taught by Ros could recite these lines from heart:

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand

Former students have described Ros as being "the memory bank of all the quirky traditions of Camp Hill" and standing out in their memory for her kindness & infectious enthusiasm. She also had a remarkable ability to recognise former students more than 20 years after she had retired.

Former student and columnist, Hannah Betts, wrote this lovely piece for the Daily Telegraph and has kindly given us permission to share it here:

I lost a loved one a couple of weeks ago and have spent several teary days as a result. This wasn't a parent, nor a friend, although there were aspects of both in our relationship. For Miss Jackson, Ros - and what a struggle it is to call her that - was my teacher. And, there we are: I'm weeping again.

As half-term ends, for others begins, many parents will be offering up a silent prayer to our teachers. But what of the life-changing effect that they have on their charges? The Princess of Wales recently attested to this bond in her ecstatic embrace of her former history teacher, twenty-five years on, when she ran across him in Falmouth. For teachers are life shapers. The bad ones leave their brand by crushing one's very soul, and never stop being detested. Whatever divides my four siblings and I, we will always have the shared folklore of our school antipathies.

I was lucky. I boasted not one, but a trio of fantastic teachers. My beloved English mistress was my mentor for seven years and remains the individual I've most sought to impress. My history master was as benevolent as he was exacting, informing the boys in my sixth form that they should harbour a crush on me, when this certainly hadn't occurred to them. (My crush on him is such that I still regularly dream about him into my sixth decade.)

However, it was my Latin teacher, Ros Jackson, who propelled me on into the world through sheer force of epic, Roman will. My grammar school was her grammar school, at which she had been a pupil, then student teacher, home to her first and last job. It is no exaggeration to say that she gave her life to it in a way that was unusual then, unheard of now.

Ros was, it is fair to say, A Lot. Known as Wacko Jacko in this, the Thriller era, she strode womanfully about, all booming alto, arm raised in salute on spying pupils long distance, never not a woman on a mission; pantsuited long before Hillary Clinton made this a thing. She thundered at the piano for our Friday singing choices, issued me with my first newspaper job reporting from Troy, drilling us in our declensions via a game of Die, in which the errant were declared deceased, in a way that would surely be banned today.

Miss Jackson would have made a charismatic head, but she preferred to be a fashioner of futures. As head of sixth form, she took a hundred girls a year and launched us into our lives. I had thought she did this merely for bolshie, unbiddable me, but she did it for all of us. When I tweeted my sadness that my Latin teacher had died - without naming her or my alma mater - several women got in touch to say the same thing: that she'd known what they needed and given it to them, that they'd been seen.

Ros taught me Latin and Greek, Homer, Virgil and Ovid, about Dido and Aeneas and Lavinia's blush, opening up the whole of Western culture. But, more than this, she overlooked my lamentable Latin, and realised there were things I *could* do. When she took me aside at 17 and forced me to fill out an Oxford application form, she knew me better than I knew myself. For better or worse, I am the monster she created.

Later, it was my pleasure to know RJ as a friend: to learn of her Gorgon mother, to visit the home she shared with her partner, the biology mistress, after this parent passed on, waiting until the end of her working life for her private life to start. The pair visited me at my first newspaper, with school-trip rucksacks and cagoules, and we feasted on politics, pasta and Primitivo.

She asked whether I knew the wartime play, *Dear Octopus*, telling me I was probably too young. I sought it out: the family, whose tentacles one can never escape, and the woman's role in it, as mother, daughter, self-sacrificing lover. I think of it still, also choosing to be single into later life, fascinated by a career rather than babies, fulfilled in independence. Albeit, never as unselfish as to give what she gave.

I loved her. And she loved all of us. When a self-regarding woman from a swanky London school inquired why I, a state school girl from Birmingham, had the career she wanted, I was able to answer "because I was well taught".

Atheist that I am, I can't pray to RJ's Christian God, but I can make a household god of her: a special type of fertility goddess, brimming with generosity. As I said to my life's other great crafter, my Oxford tutor, as he lay dying: "Every good thing I know was taught to me by you."

Inside Stories

Keep up with the news from school and see if anything has changed from your day! The Chronicle is published half-termly and you can find it on the school website or link to the latest one [here](#).

You can also follow the school on X [@kechg](#) and LinkedIn [King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls](#)

Next time....

What I Go To School For....

Those of you who remember when boy-band Busted came to Camp Hill may be horrified to hear that we are coming up to the **20th Anniversary**. If you were there, we would love to hear about your memories.



Spotlight on Writers!

We have many former students who have written books, or been journalists and publishers. If you would count yourself among them, please get in touch!

Former Student News

We love to hear about what former students have been up to. Whether it is starting businesses or families, living abroad or changing career, please let us know!

Please email us on community@kechg.org.uk, with any thoughts, suggestions, updates. We'd love to hear from you!

Thank You!

As you will have noticed, this magazine was largely written by current students and it simply would not have been possible without them.

A huge thankyou goes to Sayuri Knox, Bahar Kayani, Safa Sujan, Bhavana Sathyamurthi, Palak Dhore, Iona Mandal, Eshaal Aamir, Akshara Guduri, Emily Jones and Oluwaferanmi Adebayo.



Join the Camp Hill Community!

Our aims are:

- To enable former students / staff / other supporters to keep in touch with the school and with one another;
- To use our networks to support current students with advice and information needed to take their next steps to university, training, work, volunteering;
- To create a CHG community in the wider world as a resource for networking and celebrating all of our achievements;
- To be a lifelong resource for former students needing advice about next steps.

Join the Camp Hill Girls' Community so that we can stay in touch with you and keep you informed about all our activities.

[JOIN HERE](#)