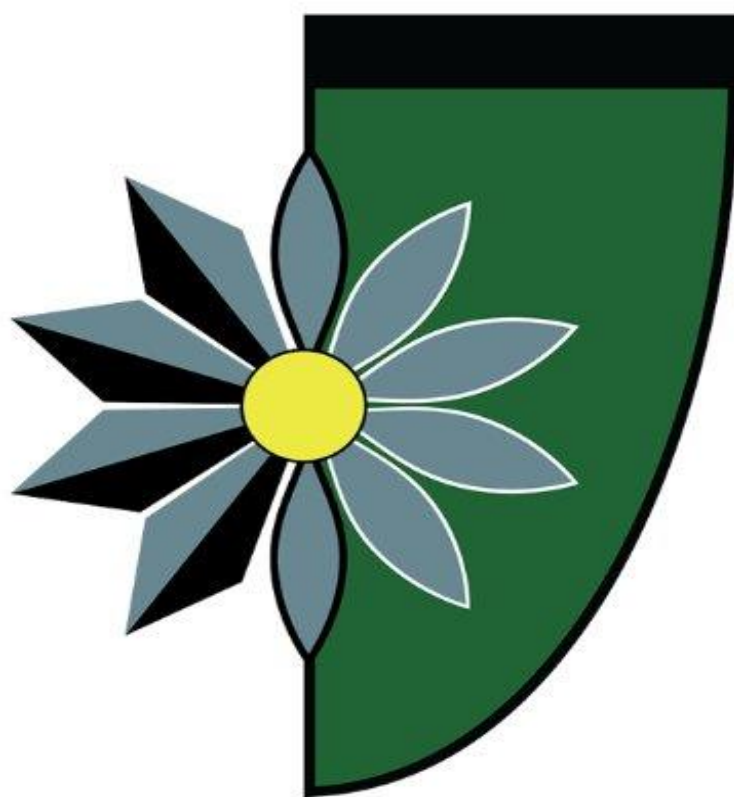


**Kesteven & Sleaford High School
Old Girls Association**



**Newsletter
September 2022**

Letter from the Chair

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of our KSHS OGA Newsletter. No one could have predicted how the world would change in 2020, or that we would not be able to meet with friends and family for so long. We have all had to rapidly develop skills to allow us to stay in touch with others. The committee found ourselves on Zoom before we were allowed to meet in person again. We have been trying hard to keep things ticking in the background in order that we could arrange to meet with members again when it was safe to do so. We have kept in touch with school and are grateful to Mrs Smith for providing her Senior Speech Day report of 2019 which will give you an idea of news from the school. We are delighted that Mrs Smith will deliver a short presentation of current news and achievements at our late summer meeting. You may recall that we asked for your suggestions for an appropriate way to remember Margaret Outram. We were delighted with the Student Honours Board which was eventually put in place at the top of the main staircase, with a tribute plaque to the left side.

We are all looking forward to meeting up at Emily's Bakehouse on Saturday 10th September 2022. The different format of an Afternoon Tea will allow us to fulfil the obligation of the AGM whilst catering for a smaller gathering.

I hope that you enjoy catching up with news and look forward to hearing from you in the coming months.

Michelle

The Student Honours Board in memory of Margaret Outram



News from the Committee

Lizzie Curley

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of my sister Hannah's death. Hannah Brandon (nee Doughty) attended the High School from 1979 – 1985 and later became a member of the Old Girl's committee producing the annual newsletter.



Hannah qualified as a social worker in 1998 when she began her career in youth justice. She worked in Manchester, Salford and Grimsby Youth Offending Teams as a practitioner and as a manager in Lincoln and Liverpool before becoming Head of Targeted Services for Liverpool City Council in 2014. This was an integrated Service which included the Youth Offending Service, Targeted Youth Service and teams working with missing children and children at risk of exploitation. During this period

Hannah was seconded to HMI Probation for 18 months as a practice assessor inspecting Probation and Youth Offending Services in England and Wales. Hannah had been involved in various youth offending initiatives including peer reviews, sitting on the joint Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Association of YOT Managers (AYM) boards. She was the north west executive member for the AYM and chaired the core cities youth justice group. In 2017 Hannah moved to London and began working in the London Borough of Croydon as Head of Adolescent Services where she had responsibility for the Youth Offending Service, missing children and strategy for vulnerable adolescents. She set up social work teams that specialised in working with 13 – 18 year-olds where there was risk outside of the home. Hannah had a specific interest in adolescent risk, child criminal exploitation and in securing positive long-term outcomes for children. In 2020 Hannah moved roles within the borough to become Head of Social Work with Children Looked After and Care Leavers before taking early retirement in August 2021. She was a Director of the Skill Mill having set up two successful Skill Mill teams in Liverpool and Croydon.

Hannah was diagnosed with incurable bowel cancer in the summer of 2020.

She was determined to live a full life throughout her treatment, even with a pandemic, and quickly discovered there were many others with similar conditions. By joining and even creating online groups she was able to both offer and receive essential support. She carried out fundraising for cancer support and cancer charities, lobbied long and hard in favour of experimental treatments and trials and encouraging others to be involved and educated about cancer.

She married Charlie in May 2021 in Liverpool where they met long before her diagnosis and will be greatly missed by her immediate family and those who became her new family through marriage.

Her life came to a premature end as a result of her cancer on 26 March 2022.

Pam Edwards – Reflections on the Pandemic

2020 began badly for me. In January I developed a viral infection, with a persistent dry cough. I'm a lifelong asthmatic and accustomed to respiratory infections, I have never had anything like that before. It went on and on but of course I hadn't been to Wuhan so it was treated as a "normal" infection. I'm certain it was Covid. Most of February was wiped out for me and by the second week in March I was in my own lockdown – I did not want a repeat of that experience and I certainly didn't want others to suffer from it. So, I embraced mask wearing and social distancing; after all I could remember as a five-year-old walking to school with my gas mask in its case hanging from my arm. Fabric masks are a breeze compared with those, and we had to carry them.

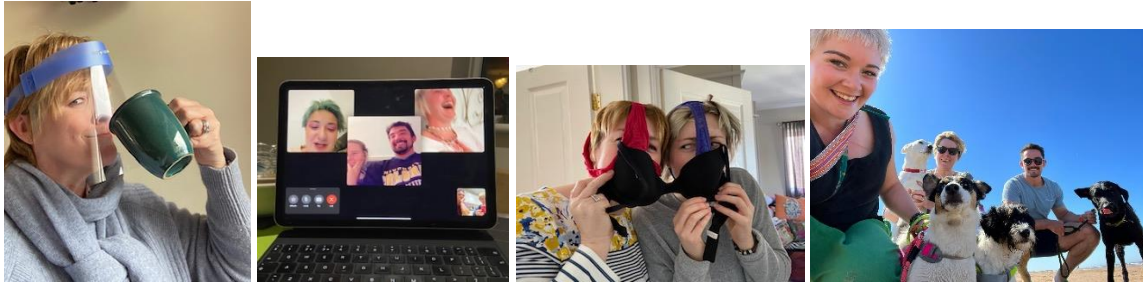
Both my son and daughter were fortunate enough to be working from home throughout, but I was only too aware that had I not been retired I would have been in school every day, with inadequate protection. It seemed to me that the best thing I could do to help was to keep clear of further infection. We were so fortunate to have a garden and country walks on the doorstep.

As my son and family live at a distance Skype/Zoom/Microsoft Teams etc. soon became a normal part of life. Things became more difficult when a close family member was killed in April, and we found ourselves coping with police/post-mortem/coroner and my son unable to get here to help. Thus, we entered the realms of funerals with ten people maximum and then had to cope with maintaining and clearing a property, unable to access charity shops and recycling centre, and with long delays with legal proceedings. At this point a very close friend in a care home became unable to deal with her finances and I had to activate an LPA and deal with various utilities etc, some of whom were brilliant and some the reverse. And of course, I couldn't visit my friend except to talk through the window occasionally.

On the 17th December 2020, as an over 80, I had my first dose of Pfizer at the Meres at Grantham. I was thrilled to receive it and so impressed with the scientists who developed the vaccines and the NHS who rolled it all out with such efficiency.

Christmas was a washout, I saw my grandsons only briefly, otherwise it was good when it was all over. In March 2021 my friend died, and I arranged another funeral with ten maximum attendees. At this point my LPA duties ceased and I found myself with time on my hands again but a curtailed social group. We managed to do a family holiday in August 2021, providing a much-needed psychological lift.

In conclusion, I am still wary about crowds and continue to mask up in various places, but I'm trying hard to live a reasonably normal life; but the norm is now different. I have enormous respect for and gratitude to all the people who continued working throughout, at considerable risk to themselves; we all know who they are. And I'm afraid I have little tolerance for the anti-vaxxers, and those who felt that their human right to do as they pleased outstripped everyone else's right to life and health.



Michelle Tupholme – Life during the Pandemic

I recall collecting our youngest daughter from university in London as she came home for the Easter in March 2020. I said “I don’t think that you will be back straight after Easter, so better bring a few extra things home”! That was the last we saw of her halls, and all her possessions until we were legally allowed to travel to London and collect them in August! Who could have guessed how the world would change as the reality of the pandemic took hold of our lives.

Once I calmed down from the worry of how to keep my business going, how to pay all the bills, and how to look after my staff let alone our family, there were many good things which evolved from the pandemic. I read more books than I had in years, I did lots of training courses all over the world from the comfort of my own home, and I got to spend precious time with my adult children. Megan (KSHS 2003-2010) found that all her work as a professional dancer and singer vanished. She could not meet with her choir and could not teach her dance students. Luckily for me she was able to help me keep my physiotherapy practice afloat, and she used the time to retrain as Pilates Instructor. She helped me with all the administration and risk assessments as I prepared to see patients again. The practice looked like a scene from CSI by the time we had finished, with stripey warning tape everywhere and notices advising patients to check that their route was clear!

In September Emily (KSHS 2012-2019) eventually returned to London for her second year. University has not been the experience that she would have expected, with sculpture lessons over Zoom rather than in the workshop for example, but despite the challenges, Emily has graduated with a first class BA(Hons) in Production Art this year and is now working on some very exciting theatre and film projects, most of which she cannot tell us about!

Our son, Luke (a Carrensian), has been based in Cornwall with the Fleet Air Arm since 2019. It was awful not seeing him during the pandemic, but family zoom calls were usually animated. I think my biggest regret is that we were unable to see him parading in uniform with his colleagues on the deck of the HMS Queen Elizabeth as she departed for her maiden voyage to the South China Seas in April 2021. Essential travel only was permitted at that time and we decided that morally it was not a truly essential journey. However, I feel that it was a momentous occasion – thank goodness for the webcam over Portsmouth Harbour!

Apart from attending a funeral of a close friend via Zoom from Canada, I think that one of my strangest experiences during the pandemic was using the train to travel to London. The train was virtually empty, and passengers were seated at distances, wearing masks of course. Once in Kings Cross I found the underground deserted. I felt as though every camera was directed on me and that, at any moment I would be tapped on the shoulder and asked the purpose of my journey! I nervously walked along the corridors, not because of covid, but rather that I expected to meet a supernatural being – it was like being on the set of “American Werewolf in London”!

The pandemic was history in the making. When asked to think of words which make me think of that time I list family time, masks (and silly mask competitions!), gloves, vaccinations, bad hair, zoom parties, and, at times, anxiety and distress. It was also a time to reflect on what matters, what is important in life, and of re-evaluation and refocus. I loved being with my family, taking time for long walks and long talks. We were lucky and did not face the loss of any close members of our family. We have much to be grateful for. I am now thoroughly enjoying seeing my friends again and getting back to our normal gatherings and days out.



We are sad to say Goodbye to Hannah Brandon (nee Doughty),
Wendy Brothers and Muriel Robson

Senior Prizegiving 2019 – Head of School’s report

Good evening and welcome Rosy, Mr Mayor, Invited guests, Trustees, Governors, Parents, colleagues and, of course, prize winners. Thank you all for joining us on this celebration evening. It’s a real honour for me to be standing here for the fifth year, sharing with you the school’s successes of the last 12 months.

Nationally 2018-19 was supposed finally to be a more settled year in education. The legacy of education secretary, Michael Gove’s significant changes to the curriculum and the way it is assessed was finally completed and all students in school sat the revised syllabuses across all subjects. For the first time in decades the Daily Mail resisted the urge to print exemplar questions from Mathematics exam papers of the 1950s comparing them with the supposedly soft touch papers of the 2000s and at home parents tidied study bedrooms marveling at the thickness of revision guides or the Amazon bill for highlighters, post it notes and revision notecards.

Students, of course, took all this in their stride. In a Year 11 cohort made up of girls, visitors to the school would observe us gliding together like dignified swans through the dark December days of the mocks and the Spring weeks of examination preparation. Though behind the scenes I’m sure we could have made a very engaging ‘Tantrums and Tiara’s documentary that would have given the Kardashians a good run for their money.

A combination of home study, the independence of driving and the benefits of studying across the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form kept most of you sane in the sixth form, balancing the demands of Extended Project Qualifications, coursework, exam preparation and the highest number of silver and Gold D of E success to date. I was even a proud headteacher when at the summer prom I asked several of you if you were going on elsewhere after the entertainment. “We are going home Miss” several of you replied. Reassuring for any responsible member of staff to hear until one student pointed out that ‘Home’ was the name of the sticky floored, 10 Jägermeister shots for the price of a revision guide nightclub in Lincoln.

Whatever the ups and downs of last year it is certain that tonight we can celebrate the fact that you must have got the balance right. For you GCSE students who are now a sixth of the way through your Sixth form studies to the undergraduates in the room who have come home for the Christmas break with piles of washing and an overdraft that you hope some Christmas money might just sort. Tonight is all about your success and a chance to recognize what a fantastic job we think you've done.

Just as we are proud of you we hope that you feel some pride in sitting here tonight as part of the High School community. I sometimes think that people just assume because you have attended a grammar school that good grades will come naturally, when in fact your high aspirations mean you work hard to earn every mark in those exams.

At GCSE this summer over 40% of grades were at grade 7 (A+) or higher with the highest percentage at grades 8&9 (A*) since the syllabuses started to change 3 years ago. Hazel Williams, Alice Booth, Tamzen Brenton, Hazel Richard, Abby Couchman, Mollie Thomas, Mabel Redgrave, Amelia Fish and Alice Murray all achieved more than 11 qualifications each at these highest levels.

With 83% of grades at A*-C at A Level many students here tonight return from their first terms at some of the best regarded universities in the country. Congratulations particularly go to

Name	Grades	Destination	Course
Victoria Roberts	3A* (A* EPQ)	Manchester	English
Emily Tupholme	2A*A	University of the Arts, London	Production Arts for Screen
Katherine Bolton	A*AB (A EPQ) (Dis*Business BTEC)	Lancaster	International Business Management
Anna Wood	3A (A* EPQ)	TBC	History
Kiera Spoors	AAB	Bristol	Music
Amy Phillips	AAA (B EPQ)	Liverpool	Veterinary Science
Emily Byrne	AAB	TBC	
Rebekah Phillipson	ABB (A EPQ)	TBC	English

Whist these students were some of the very top achievers tonight I'd also like to celebrate the successes of the following students who can be especially proud of having met or exceeded their target grades in every single one of their courses.

They are Jess Bailey, Ella Owen, Laura Bates, Sascha Barr and Meg Batchelor. Well done girls.

This evening is to celebrate the achievements of all of our young people but for me it's just as important for me as Head of School to acknowledge the commitment of THE most amazing staff. They are all there sitting on the balcony this evening. We were sad, as we are each year, to say goodbye to some staff in the summer. Miss Shales (teacher of MFL) Mrs Megginson (Maths), Miss Grindey (Geography) all left to teach further afield. This year a special mention must go to the service that Mrs Cate Tipper gave to the school. Whilst Mrs Tipper carries on as a part time teacher of Maths I'm sure there are many of you in the audience who would want me to say a collective thank you for the years she spent as Pastoral Assistant Head. If you ever had need of advice, support or even just a friendly face Mrs Tipper's door was always open.

With every farewell comes the opportunity to welcome new staff. This year we have welcomed Miss Powell (Science), Mrs Samworth (MFL), Mrs Ferrari & Mrs Renard (Maths) and Mr Mapletoft (History). They join a team of staff who continue to give generously and freely of their time to run extra-curricular clubs and take your daughters and sons on more residential trips than any other school I have ever worked in. In these ever more challenging pastoral times I thank the superb team of Heads of Year and teaching assistants. I must also pay tribute to the fantastic support staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to allow the teachers to concentrate on delivering the best possible classroom, sporting, or extra-curricular experiences.

My renewed thanks also go to Mrs Bronwyn Fleming who works tirelessly as Chair of the PTA, we remain ever grateful to parents for their support of our fundraising endeavors. Our prizes this evening are kindly donated by the KSHS alumni association as well as the generosity of individuals noted in the programme.

I'd like to thank the Governors who gave up precious evenings to attend long meetings and I am more than grateful too for the support and advice from individuals and bodies, whose generosity has benefited the students: these include Local Rotarians, successful local and national business people, parents and friends of the school who lent their expertise to put our students through

their paces in mock interviews, facilitating crucial work experience or advising on applications.

If there is one thing I have learnt in the past five years it's not scores or statistics, grades or certificates that really make the High School a special place to be. It's the sense of community, pride in doing well, keenness to make the most of whatever support is available and the sense that the High School is the place to prepare for great things ahead. I have learnt it's that our students who are simply the very best advocates for what the High School can achieve. You are going to hear from several of them now as they, far better than I ever could, define what being a High School student means.

I am proud to introduce 3 members of this year's student senior team and 2 from last year starting with our current Deputy Head Girl Isobel Wooler.

Students speeches here

So what does this next year hold for the High School? We commit entirely to the notion that if you believe you can and are prepared to work hard you achieve whatever you want: both inside and outside the classroom, on the stage or on the sports field. We tip our energies into making sure that learning is productive and inspiring. We strive to add new extra-curricular activities each year, just like the increased number of STEM opportunities for our young engineers, designers and Scientists or the chance to join the rowing, trampolining or climbing activities offered by the PE department. We look to older students to support younger ones, setting up lunchtime clubs or acting as mentors. We proudly strive to achieve some of the best D of E completion rates in the country and give every student the opportunity to participate in the award at all 3 levels. We support students in fundraising for charities as our Interact club and student council go from strength to strength. It's a privilege to work with such bright young minds and emerging talent.

Thank you

Jo Smith

Headteacher

Late Summer Lunch 2019



Contact details and the Social Forum

The association has both a Facebook page (Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls Old Girls Association group) and a Twitter account (@oldgirlsKSHS).

The Contact details for the Committee are:

Email: KSHSOGA@gmail.com

Post: KSHS OGA Chair, 42 Westgate, Sleaford NG34 7PN

The newsletter is also on the school website if you take a look on www.kshssa.co.uk

PRESIDENT	Josephine Smith Kesteven and Sleaford High School Academy			
VICE PRESIDENTS	Neville McFarlane Selecia Chapman Ann Holderness			
COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019				
CHAIRMAN	Michelle Tupholme		kshsoga@gmail.com	2020
VICE CHAIRMAN			kshsoga@gmail.com	
SECRETARY	Viv Porteus		kshsoga@gmail.com	2020
TREASURER	Elizabeth Curley		kshsoga@gmail.com	2019
NEWS LETTER EDITOR	vacant		kschoga@gmail.com	
COMMITTEE	Pam Edwards Elizabeth Venn Suzanne Jones			2020 2020 2021

Constitution of the KSHS Old Girls' Association

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be the Kesteven and Sleaford High School Old Girls' Association.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Association shall be

- i. to enable former pupils and staff of Kesteven and Sleaford High School to remain in contact with each other and with the school.
- ii. to perpetuate the giving of named prizes to Kesteven and Sleaford High School pupils.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall be open to all former pupils and staff of Kesteven and Sleaford High School.

4. MANAGEMENT

- i. Management of the Association shall be vested in a committee comprising of three elected honorary officers consisting of a chairman, secretary and treasurer, and up to ten other elected members.
- ii. The chairman, other honorary officers and committee members shall also serve for a term of three years with the option of standing for re-election if they so wish.
- iii. Elections, when required, shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which shall be held at the annual meeting.
- iv. The committee and four other members of the Association shall constitute a quorum at the Annual General Meeting.

5. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

- i. The head teacher of Kesteven and Sleaford High School, in post at the Annual General Meeting of the association, shall be president of the Association, and shall retain that office as president during the time that they hold appointment of head teacher of Kesteven and Sleaford High School.
- ii. Vice Presidents may be appointed/elected from time to time from members who have given distinguished service to the Association, such title remaining for their lifetime.

6. PROCEEDINGS

- i. At least one meeting shall be held per year.
- ii. Wherever possible, communication with members will be by electronic mean unless a request is made by a member to use postal communication.

- iii. An annual newsletter shall be produced and shall be circulated to members by email or by exception by post. It will also be available on the school website.
- iv. Other activities may be arranged by or with the consent/approval of the Committee.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee shall meet at least once a year at such times and places as the committee shall direct. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. If the chairman is unable to attend, one of those attending will chair proceedings.

8. FINANCE

- i. Monies shall be held in the name of Kesteven and Sleaford High School Old Girls' Association and administered by the committee through the treasurer who shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and shall submit the account, duly audited, for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- ii. Two signatures shall be required on all cheques issued, those authorised to sign being the chairman, treasurer and secretary. Should the bank have other requirements for payment authorisation, the committee will agree how those will be fulfilled.
- iii. The financial year shall commence on the first day of April annually.
- iv. Donations shall be made annually to the Kesteven and Sleaford High School, via the Head Teacher, from the Association's funds allocated for specified prizes to pupils of the school, and from the Helen Vidal Scholarship Fund in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Other donations may be made to the school from time to time on the recommendation of the Committee.

9. AUDITOR

An auditor, who is not a member of the committee, shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to audit the accounts and books of the Association.

10. DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved by a resolution presented at a special general meeting of the Association called for that purpose. The resolution must have the assent of two thirds of those present and voting. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets remaining after satisfying any outstanding debts and liabilities. These assets shall not be distributed among the members of the Association but will be given to the school for the benefit of its pupils.

11. AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

This constitution may be amended or altered by a majority of members voting on the resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

