

Guide to our Houses



STREATHAM
& CLAPHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Welcome to Streatham & Clapham High School's Houses

A message from our Head Girl, Maria Goldman



I remember when I moved to 'big school' I was incredibly excited – however, the truth is that I was also terrified. Would I make friends? Would I do well? Would I get lost? Thankfully, I quickly realised that Streatham & Clapham truly is a family, not just any family, but one that gets to know you, respects and supports you, and looks out for you.

Joining one of the five houses is great, each is named after an amazing woman – three of whom are old SCHS girls! This means you belong to an even tighter-knit family within the school community all the way through your time here.

You'll get to know your House Captains, sixth-formers like me who have been through what you're going through now, as well as your House Mistress or Master who is also there for you. You will have dedicated time with your House as well as inspiring assemblies and brilliantly fun special events like sports day, debates, plays and musical performances.

I wish you a warm welcome to our school family!

An Introduction from Mrs Cross, *Deputy Head Mistress*



No girl is an island, and, at SCHS, we understand that your physical and emotional wellbeing cannot be separated from your academic success. Our House System is testament to our commitment to you and your parents. We have already put you into a House and your House Mistress/Master is really looking forward to welcoming you.

The House Mistress/House Master is a guiding influence who will really get to know you and who will build a relationship with you and your parents for the following seven years. Growing up can be tricky, but we want bespoke care for each of you, nothing else is good enough.

Mrs Cross was born in Mozambique and lived in Zimbabwe until she was ten, the spirit of adventure has never left her. She is passionate about giving young women opportunities to change and shape the world, with confidence and vigour. Education is key to the success of women all over the world and Mrs Cross is extremely proud of being a teacher and loves to help girls to reach their potential. Mrs Cross's academic discipline is English, so it is no surprise that she loves to curl up with a good book. The pen is mightier than the sword!

Our Houses at a Glance

House Mistress
Mrs M Evans



Carter

House Mistress
Mrs S Harmer



Fawcett

House Master
Mr M Spooner



Franklin

House Mistress
Ms K Birtwistle



Knights

House Mistress
Mrs R Grant



Paston
Brown

2020/2021 House Captains



Joely To



Maria Berruti



Amelia Goetz



Katie Robinson



Georgie Gadian



Polly Baker



Shannon Darko



Isabella Pasqua



Lily Christophilopoulos



Elinor Elcombe

Carter

Mrs M Evans
House Mistress



Mrs Evans is extremely proud to be the House Mistress of Carter House. She believes that kindness, a sense of humour and support for one another are great assets, this is her vision for Carter women. We should all be proud of ourselves and our achievements, and value the time we have at school – it does not last long! Having taught drama for over 15 years, Mrs Evans is a real believer in taking a risk and doing something which forces you to face your fears, whatever they are. Mrs Evans has lived in London for over 20 years and thinks it is a wonderful city. She loves going out to restaurants, visiting the theatre, running, cycling and dancing.



Angela Carter

1940 – 1992

Writer

Born Angela Stalker in Eastbourne in 1940, she studied at Streatham & Clapham High School from 1951–1958. Throughout her childhood she read voraciously. Despite her wide reading, she did not do well enough in examinations at school to win a place at university but went instead to work as a journalist, apprenticing at the *Croydon Advertiser*. Later, Carter moved west and entered Bristol University to read for a degree in English.

In 1966 Carter's first novel, *Shadow Dance* was published. She went on to write eight more full length novels as well as many short fiction collections including her 1979 masterpiece *The Bloody Chamber*, as well as poetry, TV and radio plays, children's books and film adaptations.

Carter was often described as a 'magical realist', combining fantasy with clear descriptions which enabled realistic telling of unrealistic events. She was one of the most stylish English prose writers of the age. David Holloway, the former literary editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, called her 'the Salvador Dali of English letters'. In 2008, *The Times* ranked Carter tenth in their list of 'The 50 greatest British writers since 1945'.

Fawcett

Mrs S Harmer
House Mistress



Mrs Harmer is proud to be the House Mistress of Fawcett House. Equality and justice are incredibly important to her and she is happy to challenge if there is a lack of equity. Mrs Harmer spent some years in France and very much enjoys French culture and the language. She is also a keen walker and has hiked all over the UK, in Europe, Egypt and South America. She has also scaled Mount Kilimanjaro. Fawcett House are happy to be adventurous in thought and activity!



Philippa Garrett Fawcett

1868 – 1948
Mathematician

Philippa Garrett Fawcett was the daughter of the suffragist Millicent Fawcett. Her aunt was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first English female doctor.

Philippa Fawcett attended Streatham & Clapham High School and went on to study at Newnham College, Cambridge which had been co-founded by her mother. In 1890 she became the first woman to obtain the top score in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos examinations. The results were highly publicised, with the top scorers receiving great acclaim. Her score was 13 per cent higher than the second highest, but she did not receive the title of senior wrangler, as only men were ranked at this time and women were listed separately. When the women's list was announced Fawcett was described as 'above the senior wrangler'. No woman was officially awarded the first position until Ruth Hendry in 1992.

Following Fawcett's achievement in the Tripos, she won the Marion Kennedy scholarship at Cambridge through which she conducted research in fluid dynamics. She was appointed a college lecturer in Mathematics at Newnham College a position she held for 10 years.

Franklin

Mr M Spooner
House Master



Mr Spooner was very keen indeed to lead Franklin House – as a physicist he has great respect for Rosalind Franklin's work on DNA. For him, Franklin girls should be fair, work hard and have respect for themselves and for others. Mr Spooner loves to tour Italy with his wife and indulge in Italian culinary delights as well as enjoying Renaissance art and ancient Roman sites. He embraces the House System and still keeps in touch with his own House Master. Mr Spooner runs the football team for the girls and plays tag rugby. He is also keen that girls gain confidence from their sporting prowess.



Rosalind Franklin

1920 – 1958

Chemist & X-ray crystallographer

'Science and everyday life cannot and should not be separated.'
– Rosalind Franklin

Long before Franklin discovered the double helix structure of DNA, 15-year-old Rosalind vowed to become a scientist against her father's wishes (he was opposed to higher education for women). Ignoring his displeasure, Franklin enrolled at Cambridge and went on to make the greatest scientific discovery of the 20th century. Unfortunately, her colleagues James Watson and Francis Crick (along with Maurice Wilkins) usually receive sole credit for the discovery of DNA, based on her breakthrough research.

Known to be direct, intellectually brilliant and demanding of her colleagues, Franklin was also a keen climber, an excellent cook, a much-loved daughter, sister and aunt 'whose care and thoughtfulness touched all on whom she bestowed her attentions'.

Knights

Ms K Birtwistle
House Mistress



Ms Kate Birtwistle is a passionate supporter of the girls in her House and their parents. For her, understanding mental health and wellbeing, and how to help yourself through exercise, meditation and self-talk is fundamental to the development of young people. Ms Birtwistle is also a proponent of physical fitness: she skis, runs and enjoys long walks with her pride and joy – her dog Bertie. When not undertaking physical feats she likes to visit new restaurants, museums and exhibitions, making the most of London. Knights girls are always encouraged to be confident and to make the most of all that the world has to offer them.



Winifred Knights

1899 – 1947
Artist

'The works that Winifred Knights produced were of exquisite quality, and the exceptional beauty of her drawings has placed her among the outstanding artists of her generation.'

–The Painting Faculty of the British School at Rome, 1947

Winifred Margaret Knights was born in Streatham in 1899. She studied at the Slade School of Fine Art. In 1920, she became the first woman to win the prestigious Scholarship in Decorative Painting awarded by the British School at Rome. Her prize-winning entry *The Deluge* now hangs in the Tate Gallery. Her work received wide-spread critical acclaim. One arts magazine described her painting 'the work of a genius'.

Throughout her life, Winifred Knights produced work through which she explored women's autonomy. Presenting herself as the central protagonist, and selecting models from her inner circle, she consistently rewrote and reinterpreted fairy tale and legend, biblical narrative and pagan mythology to create visual distillations of her own lived experience.

Paston Brown

Mrs R Grant
House Mistress



Mrs Grant was born and brought up in Hong Kong and only left to attend an English boarding school so that she could pursue her passion for physical education. She has represented Hong Kong in Under-15s hockey and Under-18s in Devon. For Mrs Grant, sport and physical education is fundamental to the holistic development of young people and this leads them to learn about the importance of key values such as honesty, teamwork, fair play, dedication and respect for themselves and others. Travel is also important to Mrs Grant who has travelled to the Arctic, Bolivia and the Galapagos. A Paston Brown girl should see the world!



Dame Beryl Paston Brown

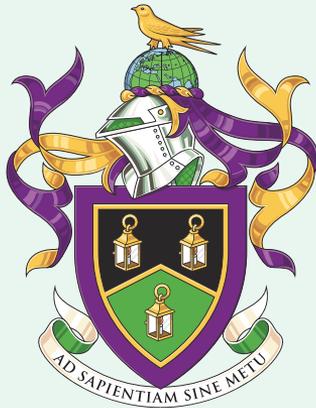
1909 – 1997

Academic and Educator

Dame Beryl Paston Brown was born in London in 1909. She was educated at Streatham Hill High School and Newnham College, Cambridge, where she was awarded Firsts in both parts of the English Tripos. She trained as a teacher in London but in the Depression of the early thirties found it difficult to secure a teaching post. Eventually, Paston Brown found work training teachers in Portsmouth. She became Principal of Homerton College, Cambridge and with little or no encouragement from Cambridge University she established a degree course for teachers which was validated by London University.

She was a member of the Newsom committee that produced the report on secondary education, *Half Our Future* in 1963, and she was appointed DBE in 1968 – so far, Dame Beryl Paston Brown is the only teacher-trainer to be so honoured.





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