

WGHS - Giving back in so many ways



The contribution made by former students over the course of the past academic year has been nothing short of remarkable. Rich, varied, compassionate, informative and persuasive, their stories and reflections really have provided something for everyone.

A plethora of former WGHS and QEGS students have provided an insight into so many careers, professions and lifestyles for the benefit of the current students and their families. **Therefore it is only appropriate to name them in order to recognise the frequency and diversity of their contributions, not forgetting the positions they hold and the organisations they work for.** This has ranged from the speaker programme in Futures Thinking and GEM and Hepworth Lectures to Speech Day and the inaugural Careers INsight Week in March.

Year 11 Futures Thinking is intended to provide an insight into a mixture of careers and professions, from the more established to those still evolving and from people at different stages of their career, from trainees to those at the “top of their profession”. A huge thank you goes to:

- James Robinson**, Next Asset Finance
- Roshan Das**, Grant Thornton
- Giles Wright**, accountant at Greensolver
- Georgina Mouser**, trainee surveyor at Rex Procter
- Emily Ridge**, Buying Manager, Tesco
- Julia Field**, solicitor, Womble, Bond, Dickinson
- Heidi Boot**, Town Planner, Pegasus
- Vicky Sugden**, Lawyer, Ernst & Young
- Cat Chadwick**, Head Nurse, CAHMS, Leeds
- Charlotte Eastwood**, Legal Assistant, Ramdens
- Olivia Russell**, Economist, DEFRA
- Vicky Bedford**, accountant at The Group

This has been supplemented by some outstanding GEM and Hepworth Lectures.

At Key Stage 4, author **Nina Bhadreshwar** spoke about her life as a writer in a passionate GEM Lecture, whilst **Lauren Lockwood** documented her “journey” from disaffected student to financial high flyer.

At Key stage 5, **Heidi Allen**, the former MP for Cambridge South and **Andrew Williams**, consultant plastic surgeon, provided memorable Hepworth Lectures to the 6th Form. **Sam Allen** (private equity), **Gemma Sykes** (diplomatic service) and **Matt Smith** (vet) provided a variety of well attended “job talks”. The Head of Communications at Williams Formula 1 (now McClaren) **Sophie Ogg**, was our keynote speaker at Speech Day in the autumn, and in July, **Lizz Wainwright**, Head of Strategy & Planning for Prime Video Europe was the guest for Junior Section Speech Day.



Nina Bhadreshwar

A bespoke Q&A event for Yr 8 in February welcomed a panel of **Francesca Waugh** (Zumba Instructor), **Tahlia Longhurst** (Financial specialist at Shark Ninja) and **Harriet Kirby- Brown** (trainee accountant at Sagars), and a superb university webinar involved contributions from:

- Elsbeth Lee**, Law, Newcastle
- Rebecca Coe**, Economics, Loughborough
- Sangeeta Unnikrishnan**, PPE Durham
- Ruth Gardiner**, French & Spanish, Newcastle
- Lucy McKinlay**, Dentistry, Newcastle
- Kyra Balmforth**, Industrial Design, Loughborough
- Olivia Heywood**, Fashion Marketing, Manchester
- Holly Burrell**, Veterinary Science, Nottingham.

For those considering “Alternatives Routes”, an in person event in school involved contributions from a variety of former students who had gone down the increasingly popular and rapidly evolving apprenticeship route. This included:

Harriet Kirby-Brown, Sagars, Leeds
Tahlia Longhurst, KPMG
Sophie Browning, Nestle, York
Romy Jackson, Atkins Global, Sheffield
Jenny Collins, DWP, Newcastle
Harriet Rowe, Marketing, Barnsley College

On Thursday afternoons the “diet of speakers” on Instagram TV live has been increasingly diverse, often showcasing the rapidly evolving nature of the labour market. This has only been possible due to the time, support and commitment to WGHS offered by:

Louise Swift, Head of Marketing, ARLA, Denmark
Jenna Hartley, Corporate Finance, J P Morgan
Georgina Carr, Chief Executive, Neurological Alliance
Lauren Wills- Dixon, Solicitor, Gordons, Leeds
Francesca Waugh, Zumba Instructor & entrepreneur
Holly Bemrose, Clinical Psychologist
Abby Gibb, Physics Teacher
Catherine Bennett, Principal Consultant, Market Infra
Isabella Renouccie, Domestic Homicide Review Advisor
Becky Baker, Founder of K9 Nation
Karen Swales, Senior Scientific Officer, Cancer Research UK
Amanda McCurrach, Managing Principal, Capco, London
Nathalina Harrison, career coach, London
Cat Chadwick, Senior Lecturer, Mental Health Nursing, Huddersfield University

In March, an esteemed panel of guests celebrated **International Women’s Day**, including, **Louise O’Shea**, CEO Confused.com, **Serenity Morley**, MD Mount Street Group, **Catherine Bennett**, Principal Consultant, Market Infra, **Muna Abbas**, Lawyer, Connecticut, USA and **Sangeeta Unnikrishnan**, PPE student at Durham University.

One of the highlights of the year was the inaugural Careers INSight Week in March. This included a series of themed nightly webinars for students and parents from both WGHS and QEGS. “Medical Monday” involved contributions from:

Charlotte Smith, Physio & entrepreneur
Kanika Kapoor, doctor
Hatty Jones, dentist
Holly Bemrose, clinical psychologist
Andrew Williams, consultant plastic surgeon
Matt Smith, vet

Tuesday concentrated on **financial services, software and data** and included contributions from:

Oliver Hyde, trader, J P Morgan
Natalie Wright, Mazars, Leeds
Rich Bretton, actuary, London,
Jonathan Lewis, Olympia Capital Partners

Chris Grove, CEO Forster Chase, London
Neena Dugar, Software Engineer, London & California
Sam Allen, private equity, Northedge

It was the turn of business services on Wednesday and this included a rich variety of speakers:

Lizz Wainwright, Amazon
Evie Boothman, specialist litigation lawyer
Nick Watkins, co founder of Mighty Drinks
John Williams, partner at Pinsent Masons, Leeds
Louise Swift, Head of Marketing, ARLA, Aarhus, Denmark
Heidi Allen, company director, charity chair & political advisor



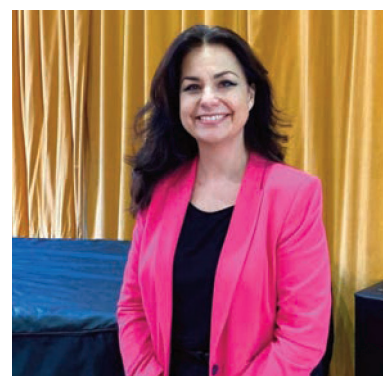
Gemma Sykes and David Eggleston

The event concluded on Thursday evening when the focus was on the creative, media and communications sector. On this occasion a number of insightful and bespoke contributions were provided by:

Katie Alpin, Head of Strategy, Which?
Steve Howell, Executive Creative Director, Dark Horses, London
Zoe Grunewald, writer, New Statesman
Sam Wynn, BBC TV producer
Joel Mitchell, BBC radio presenter
Gemma Sykes, Deputy British Ambassador to Ecuador



The achievements and diversity of all contributors is to be greatly admired. They are the finest ambassadors of WGHS and the wider WGSF. Their journeys, stories and accomplishments is something to be recognised and admired; they have given back in so many ways.



Heidi Allen

Thank you to all concerned.

Mr David Eggleston (DJE)

Instagram live interviews

INSTAGRAM INTERVIEWEES

With thanks to the following
Instagram Interviewees who
lent their time between
September 2021 and July 2022

Catherine Chadwick

Amanda McCurrach

Karen Swales

Becky Baker

Isabella Renouccie

Cath Bennet

Holly Bemrose

Jenny Collins

Francesca Aproskie

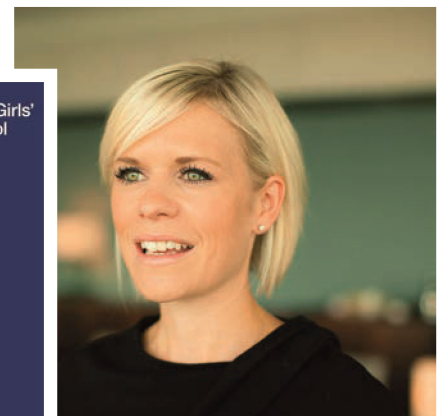
Lauren Wills Dixon

Georgina Carr

Jenna Hartley

Following the launch of the Instagram Live interviews back in September 2020, we have been overwhelmed by your generosity in giving back your time to share your career journey and story with our students. Thank you to all those who have taken part or who have volunteered to do so.

If you are interested in any of these initiatives, and would like further information, please contact cworsley@wgsf.net.



All Instagram interviews can be seen on IGTV, search for WGHSYorkshire IGTV

Whilst we endeavour to ensure that these lists are accurate, we apologise if there are any omissions or inaccuracies. Please get in touch if that is the case.



powHER Panel

Could you help the current generation of Wakefield Girls? Our alumnae always serve as very valuable role models to inspire and help current students. There are many ways you can help by joining our **powHER Panel** comprising alumna who share their experiences and bring back what they carry with them.

Join and help Wakefield Girls', in whatever capacity suits you best:

As A SOCIAL

- by sharing your tips and advice in a podcast or an Instagram Live interview with Mr Eggleston

AS A GUIDE

- by volunteering to talk with students over Teams, G-meet or a phone call

AS A SHAPER

- by volunteering to deliver a lecture about your profession, either in school or online

AS A NETWORKER

- help Wakefield Girls by any of the above plus offering work experience

Please visit WGHSintouch.org.uk/powerpanel for more information and to join the panel!

