

Message from the Chairman

I would like to introduce you to the Downe House Seniors' Association (DHSA), established in 1946 to build and maintain strong and lasting bonds between former pupils and the School.

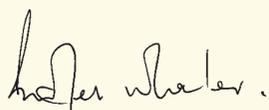


On leaving Downe House, a girl will become an 'Old Senior' and a member of the DHSA providing 'a link which lasts for life'. The DHSA operates through regular printed and electronic communications, which helps girls to stay in touch with each other, maintaining existing friendships and forging new ones, all the while keeping in contact with the School.

The DHSA aims to:

- provide contact and regular news updates of members
- empower members to maintain existing links and develop new contacts
- support individuals and year groups through regular communication, reunion events and grant giving.

We are very proud of the DHSA's work, values and close links with members of all ages and with the School.



Information

The DHSA was founded in 1946 and has a membership of approximately 3,500 strong from the most recent leavers last year to those who were at school in the 1930s. Membership also includes Honorary Seniors (current and former Headmistresses and long-standing staff members).

The DHSA Committee consists of Old Seniors who all give their time willingly to run the Association on behalf of members. The Committee meets three times per year and an annual AGM is held to which all members are welcome. To volunteer please contact us.

The DHSA Committee is supported by an administrator at school who deals with enquiries and maintains members' information. Please see contact details below.

We look forward to keeping in touch in the years to come.



dhsa@downehouse.net
telephone 01635 204719
www.downehouse.net/dhsa.asp

A Link that lasts for Life

Communication

The DHSA membership, normally from one-off subscriptions paid over your first six terms at school, gives members benefits for life. The DHSA biennial magazine is full of news and views from all eras, updates from School and reports of other DHSA activity including grant awards and reunions.



The School maintains the database on behalf of the DHSA. This enables us to provide information to stay in touch and communicate with others, wherever they may be in the world.

'A highlight of my year was the reunion held at the Hurlingham Club. What could be better than meeting up with so many Old Seniors?'

Laetitia Hardie (Wyatt)

Grant Giving

'I must thank DHSA for your help in making this experience possible. I am extremely grateful and I hope that anyone interested in Africa and/or Medicine will be encouraged to undertake a placement like this in the future.'



P McCosh, Medical Elective in Ghana'

The DHSA awards grants to support members, of whatever age, with further education or re-training in a chosen field. The Committee reviews applications three times a year with each case considered individually and on its own merits. During the last 25 years over 100 grants have been awarded to members ranging from 18-55 years of age, for a variety of worthwhile needs including:

- medical electives
- legal internships
- founding of charities
- re-training for career transfer e.g. from administration to physiotherapy, financial to speech therapy, law conversion and other.

More information on the application process can be found on www.downehouse.net/dhsagrants.asp

Application deadlines are 31 January, 30 April and 30 September each year.

Get-togethers

Regular reunions are held by the DHSA. These events are well supported and much enjoyed by all who attend. Venues are carefully chosen with the requirements of those attending in mind. Recently these have included functions for leavers from

- Pre 1960s
- 1960-1978
- 1978-1990
- 1990-2010



'I had a really good evening and was reminded how extraordinary Downe is – what a great mix of wonderful women.'

Gerry Thomas