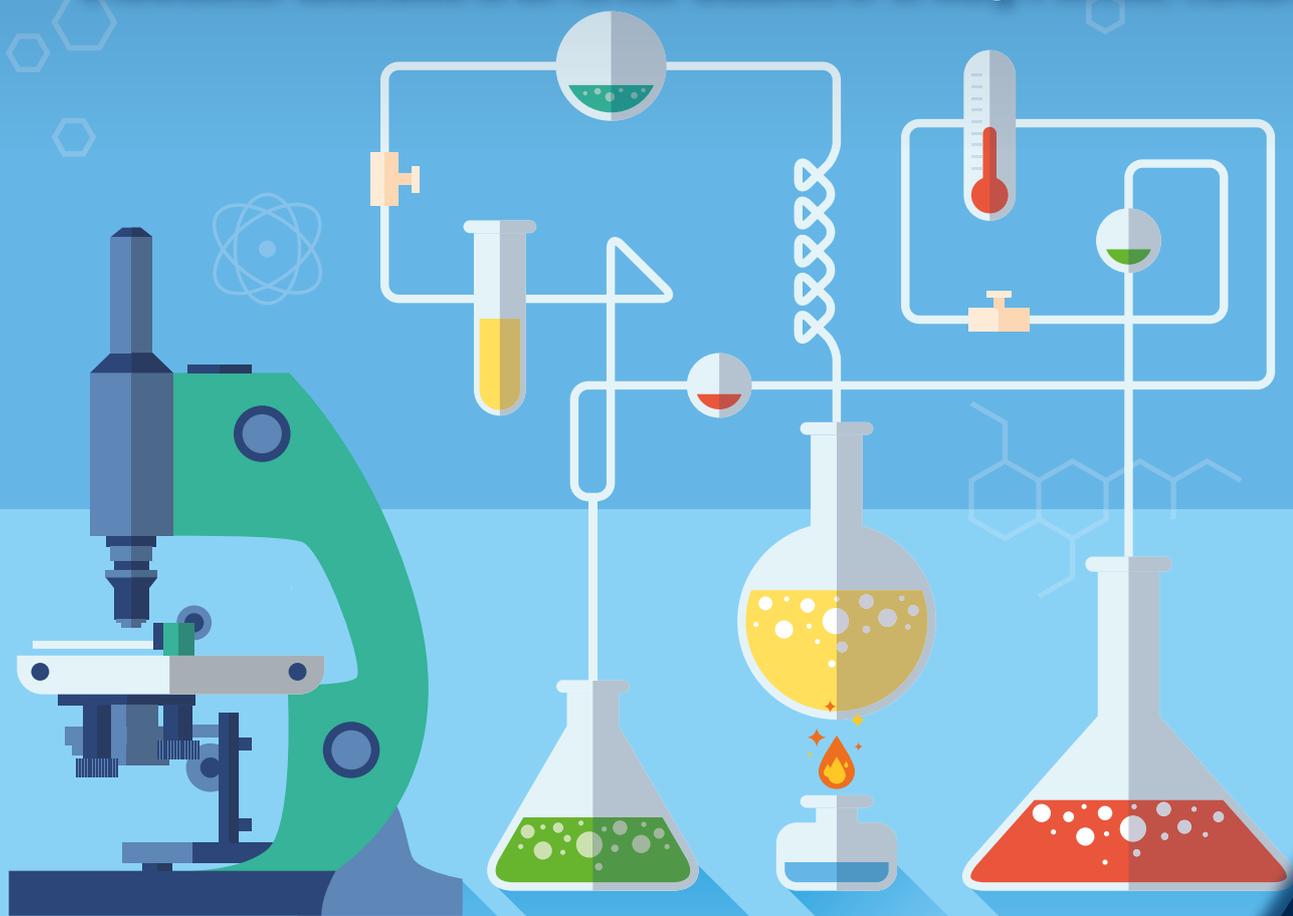


The

PASTONIAN

Association Newsletter

a newsletter dedicated to all former students of St Mary's School, Cambridge



*Once a St Mary's Girls,
Always a St Mary's Girl!*

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PASTONIAN ASSOCIATION
St Mary's School, Cambridge

Issue 3 | Summer Term 2015

Headmistress'

welcome and introduction



Charlotte Avery,
Headmistress

Welcome to the third Pastonian Newsletter of the year.

We are delighted to take a Science focus for this edition not least because of exciting plans regarding the Senior School site and work over the summer holiday to create a Science Hub.

We are moving the location of our two Biology laboratories so that they become accommodated in the same area of the school as the Chemistry and Physics laboratories. We are also taking the opportunity to create a new Sixth Form laboratory as well as offering additional flexibility for teaching Science on our timetable through adding fume cupboards to laboratories which currently do not have one which will allow us to teach any Science in any laboratory. If you would like to join current parents who have generously made donations and sponsored elements on the Periodic Table please contact Nicky Jackson on 01223 224126 or on email njackson@stmaryscambridge.co.uk.

At A Level, our most popular subjects are Science and Mathematics, although we continue to thrive across the range of subjects including having had a particularly stunning A Level Art & Photography Private View this summer which many agreed displayed work of degree show standard.

Many of our students go on to read either pure or applied Sciences at university. For example,

this autumn we have girls reading: Industrial Chemistry at the University of Durham; both Medicine and Nursing at King's College London; Child Nursing at the University of Leeds; Pharmacy at Queen's University, Belfast; Biomedical Science at the University of Sheffield; and both Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry at University College London.

In this edition you will read of Pastonians who have pursued careers involving Science: we are aware of the national concerns regarding the numbers of Engineering and Science graduates and the particular dearth of women in these professions created by the so-called 'leaky pipeline' and we are pleased to note that in this area, as in many others, we continue to buck national trends.

Please do let former friends of St Mary's School, Cambridge know about this publication if they remain unaware of it and please encourage them to contact the Development Office with their contact details.



"Women in time will come to do much"

Rachel Gleeson,
President of The Pastonian Association

I remember using a web browser for the first time when at St Mary's and sending my first email.

I have clear memories of learning classification in Biology, doing chromatography in Chemistry, making a wooden toy and a clock in Design Technology, and the day that trigonometry finally clicked in Mathematics - these memories are ones I don't necessarily cherish, but am grateful for - and the classification knowledge has occasionally helped me in a pub quiz! STEM skills, whether we work within the sector, or not, affect all of our lives - through work in medical research, in energy and sustainability, and much more, it is a field that is continuing to grow.

"We know that female and male brains are wired differently, but it surprised me to learn that just 13% of those working in science, technology, engineering or mathematics are women."

I'm not going to pretend to be scientifically minded (I'll leave that to the experts) - but I'm in awe of those who have mathematical and scientific minds. We know that female and male brains are wired differently, but it surprised me to learn that just 13% of those working in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics are women. According to the physicist Professor Brian Cox, by 2020 we shall need another 1 million scientists and engineers. The need for workers in this sector is paramount to the global economy. It is inspiring to hear of Pastonians who have been successful in this area and are making a huge contribution to our society.

Schools have a responsibility to educate young people; St Mary's goes beyond that in inspiring

them to be great people - socially and morally as well as giving the girls the ability to be high achievers in all fields - and I am certain that many talented St Mary's girls will go on to fill the engineering void and be extremely successful in the STEM field. I would love to encourage more Pastonians working in this area, or with other expertise that they would like to share, to get in touch with the school, to share their expertise, to be a part of enthusing the 'can do' attitude that St Mary's girls have. I urge you to visit St Mary's, perhaps a future Pastonian event - see for yourself the superb work the school is doing - in education

and through charitable and outreach work (if you haven't yet seen the Food Technology room - you won't recognise the down stairs changing room!).

Our founder Mary Ward said that:

"When there is need, what we can do must not be left to another"

I would like to continue to encourage you to keep on sharing your news and expertise, to become an ambassador of the school; to incite current students, to connect with Pastonians and to be a part of supporting a school that does so much work to enable girls to have the confidence to follow the career path that they choose to.



Science Hub – Launch of our first ever Capital Appeal

As a school based in the city of Cambridge, a city rich in Science and Research parks we are fully aware of the importance of offering the highest quality in teaching facilities for STEM subjects and the importance these subjects have on every girl as they start their chosen academic and career paths.

Our aim at St Mary's is to give every girl the opportunity to love Science and to have the self-confidence, the aspiration and the ability to become tomorrow's leaders by taking Science, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics at a level that suits them. Science education is important to us and we wish to provide the best possible facilities.

To this end, we are creating a Science Hub. This involves re-siting the two Biology laboratories on the ground floor to the first floor with the other four laboratories as well as the provision of a bespoke Sixth Form lab and a new prep room. Overall the new Science Hub will give us flexibility to teach each Science in every laboratory.

All the laboratories will be refurbished to a high standard that you would expect in a school that was awarded "outstanding" in the ISI report 2014. Our strongest characteristic is our community, the St Mary's family, and the Science Hub project is one that every year group in the Senior School will benefit from; a project that brings everyone together. The Junior School are getting involved too as they will be able to use the Science Hub as they progress through the school.

Because we understand how important it is for every single girl to have access to properly equipped laboratories, the school is making a large contribution to the project. We want to give all the students the very best and we can't do this without your help.

We have launched our first ever Capital Appeal raising funds for the school. There are lots of ways for everyone to get involved and we would like to involve the whole school community from current parents, to past parents and Pastonians. You can have a plastic test tube at home or at work to collect loose change, you can sponsor an element on the Periodic Table* or you can buy something from the shopping list.

*Please see our website www.stmaryscambridge.co.uk and click on Development.

This is an exciting time for St Mary's School, Cambridge as we develop and grow to the needs of the modern St Mary's girl. If you would like further details of how to get involved or more information on the Science Hub please contact Nicky Jackson 01223 224126 or email njackson@stmaryscambridge.co.uk



We have asked six questions of two valuable members of the current Science staff
Dr Cristina Alves Martin, Head of Science and Mr Gordon Miller who teaches Physics.

Gordon Miller



Did you always want to be a teacher and what would you have done if you hadn't become a teacher?

Actually no, I did not always plan to be a teacher. I came to teaching by accident. I was an engineer at Cambridge Instruments working on electron guns and x-ray spectrometers used in electron microscopes. In this position, it was noted that I was good at explaining technical points to customers so when

an opportunity arose for a teaching position at Sawston Village College I thought I would give it a go and I have been teaching Physics ever since.

How many years have you worked at St Mary's School, Cambridge?
15 years (4 years full time, now only part time).

What is a typical day like for you?

I usually only work mornings teaching Physics mostly to Year 11 and Sixth Form students. I love teaching Astronomy and Cosmology, something especially the international girls take great interest in. I also quite enjoy supporting students with Special Educational Needs.

What has been your memorable experience at St Mary's School?

Seeing how students flourish and gain confidence in the subject and reaching

their potential. On a visit to Hong Kong in 2010, my wife and I were made most welcome by 6 former St Mary's girls. They welcomed us at the airport and the visit turned into a full blown non-stop guided tour of the city. We met their families and were introduced to the most unusual foods and customs. A visit to Disney Land was a must for the girls. For me it was great to see the girls taking pride in showing me something new for a change and taking over the teacher role.

What effect will the new Science Hub have on Science at St Mary's School, Cambridge?

The new Science hub should provide a much better environment for the teaching of Science and bring the Science staff closer together.

Cristina Alves Martin, Head of Science

Did you always want to be a teacher?

No, I only began to think about teaching when I taught part of a module of a Masters degree course whilst working as a research scientist at the School of Pharmacy at the University of London and when I became an Associate Lecturer with the Open University tutoring a final year course.

What would you have done if you hadn't become a teacher?

I most likely would have continued being a research scientist working in a biotechnology industry.

How many years have you worked at St Mary's School, Cambridge?
Nearly 3 years; I started in September 2012.

What is a typical day like for you?

A day starts with reading emails and getting ready to welcome girls to each lesson; it can involve one to one sessions with students who require extra support; being in departmental meetings; supporting staff in the department; marking work

and preparing lessons. With some luck there is time for midmorning tea and a quick lunch!

What has been your memorable experience?

There are several but one in particular took place during our recent Science week where we had students and staff members attending a series of classic Chemistry demonstrations. These led to a buzzing and vibrant atmosphere in the laboratory where staff and students had some fun seeing mini explosions, along with screaming jelly babies.

What effect will the new Science Hub have on Science at St Mary's School, Cambridge?

The new Science Hub will have a cascading effect in a number of directions. To start with all three Science subjects will be located in one area and not on opposite sides of the school as we currently have. Teachers and technicians will be able to support each other more closely and efficiently. Girls will spend less time moving from one Science



lesson to the next and we can maximise their learning more effectively in a 55 minute lesson. In addition, we will also have a new Sixth Form laboratory which means more classes are actually taught in laboratories instead of classrooms. This has an enormous impact when it comes to teaching as we can prepare and provide girls with practical work instead of just theory.

Finally the new Science Hub will provide a more up-to-date environment of what it is like to work in a modern laboratory with more fume cupboards in line with increased health and safety guidelines when undertaking experiments.

News from Our Pastonians

Maya King (2009-2011) – A day in the life of a first year Medical Student

I started at St Marys in year 9, and I stayed until Year 11 when I left to go to The Perse Upper. I have to say I have some fantastic memories from St Marys – particularly physics lessons with Dr Miller!

At the Perse I did Chemistry, Biology and Maths A Levels and then took a gap year. On my gap year, I worked in John Lewis and then as a Healthcare Assistant in Addenbrookes hospital for 6 months. This was one of the most challenging things I have done – I worked 12 hour shifts, constantly on my feet in a very busy ward. It was also one of the most rewarding things I have done, I had a real impact on someone's experience in hospital and it was very humbling to care for such lovely people in their time of need.

After all this, I went to Fiji for a month to work on a conservation program helping to protect sharks in the local area. I worked alongside research scientists who taught us about the importance of sharks to the ocean: without them the whole ocean ecosystem would collapse, Algae would take over and everything we know and love about the ocean would be gone. I loved seeing the principles we learnt at school being used in real life.

During the course of this year I also applied to do Medicine at Durham University. I first realised I wanted to do medicine when I was at St Mary's.

For our English coursework we had to give a presentation to the class and Mrs Garrett told us that the best presentations are ones that are personal to you. So I did some research and I spoke about an operation I had as a child. I found the human body, its precise functions and mechanisms behind diseases fascinating and have wanted to study it ever since.

I have just finished my first year of medical school which has been an absolute rollercoaster (think Air at Alton Towers). The intense hours I spent with other medical students meant we made close friends very quickly, and supported each other through the ups and downs. I

"When I started medical school, I thought there was no way I would ever become a GP – boring! However my experiences this year have made me realise it may be the perfect career choice for me – I even set up a GP society at the University!"

won't lie and say 'I loved every second' – some parts were a real challenge – watching a patient break down in tears during a consultation or learning about conditions for which there are no cure. But there were moments where I knew I was absolutely doing what I wanted to – starting my first real consultation with a patient or spending time on the neonatal ward and witnessing the extraordinary medicine which keeps these tiny babies alive. I think my favourite moment of the year was my final OSCE exam. Now I know

that sounds insane – what kind of weirdo enjoys an exam? These are practical exams in which we perform things such as an examination of a patient's chest, take blood, do CPR or just take a patient history. This was the first time where I had a vague sense of the responsibility, sensitivity, knowledge and skills I will require in the future as a doctor and despite the fact it was an exam, I thoroughly enjoyed this feeling. Those are some of the highs and lows of medical school. Most days are somewhere in between. There might be a lecture on lung physiology and asthma in the morning, then tutorial on the anatomy of the chest and a session with the cadavers in the afternoon. I find the content of these more mundane days just as interesting.

I spent a lot of time thinking about what field of medicine I want to go in to in the future – and I still don't really know. When I started medical school, I thought there was no way I would ever become a GP – boring! However my experiences this year have made me realise it may be the perfect career choice for me – I even set up a GP society at the University. Don't be too rigid in your ideas about your future – let it evolve and surprise you! I also thought there was no chance I could be a surgeon and also raise a family – which is a dilemma for many female medical students. I know this now isn't true – while it might take longer than normal, it is totally possible. Don't be put off any career because you're a woman! You can do whatever you so desire with your future, you are the only person that can hold yourself back!

Pastonian Reunion Luncheon – Saturday 18 April 2015

It was wonderful to welcome back Pastonians to enjoy a luncheon in the Headmistress' study known as the Parlour and to introduce them to the recent High Sherriff of Cambridgeshire, Linda Fairbrother. The group heard about the future developments planned for the school and had the chance to have a good catch-up. Linda gave an interesting talk about her year as High Sheriff, speaking on the topic of Women in Leadership and Service. The event was very enjoyable and we sincerely hope this will mark the beginning of a new phase of regular Pastonian reunions.



Welcome to our new Pastonians 2015



Sixth Form 2013-2015
St Mary's School, Cambridge

On Friday 22 May 2015 the current Upper Sixth attended their final School Mass in the Chapel to say goodbye to St Mary's as a school environment and to welcome them into the Pastonian Association before they headed off to sit their examinations and embark on the next stage of their lives. It was a very happy event with lots of happy tears and goodbyes. This year was the first year that we have established a special Leavers' Book and we were able to mark this special and momentous occasion by asking the girls to sign the book and then to hand them a gift of a framed photograph of their year group to keep forever.



News from ...The Galloping Girls

Emily Hoyle (1995-2000) (nee Pearce Gould) was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis as a child, and told she might not live past the age of 30.

As she grew up, and the disease clogged up her lungs, she was subjected to lengthy spells in hospital, one of them lasting a year and a half.

Then in 2012 Emily was told a pair of lungs had become available for transplant, from a young man who had died, and the operation was carried out at Harefield Hospital. It was a success, and now, at the age of 30, Emily is doing brilliantly - so much so that she is about to embark on a quest to climb the Cotopaxi volcano in Ecuador. The volcano is a huge challenge, at 6000m one of the highest in the world, with a glacier about 1000 metres from its summit. Emily will climb it with about a dozen fellow heart

and lung transplant recipients with the aim of raising money to buy some "organ care systems" for Hasefield, which are sophisticated machines which enable organs to be transported safely.

She said: "It's higher than Kilimanjaro, but I'm sure I will be able to do it. I'm just really keen to take on a personal challenge, to show just what I can do." Emily has been married for seven years, works as a Pilates teacher, and she still has to be cautious health-wise. She has to be careful about what she eats, and is at risk of infection.

We all wish Emily the best of success from the Pastonian Association with this brave venture.

Alice Register (1987-1992)



Alice Register (1987-1992) and Katie Harvey (1987 – 1992) held a very special Reunion on Saturday 16 May to mark the occasion of their 40th birthday year. A group of the friends came to school and enjoyed a glass of Fizz on the lawn and Charlotte Avery gave a brief update on the developments within the school, then the girls enjoyed a tour of their old school and reconvened at a local restaurant where they were able to catch up with each other and exchange stories and memories which had been re-ignited by the day.

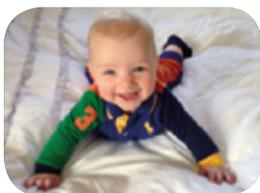
Sarah Cunningham (1981-1986) better known by school friends as Peaky

Sarah is currently living in Doha, Qatar with her husband, Paul, and their three children Samantha (18), Charlotte (17) and James (12). They have been here for 7 years now.

Paul works at Al Shaqab, Qatar Foundation, Doha (a large state of the art equestrian facility). Although Sarah does not work full time here (aside from looking after the family!), she has worked for Trinity Talent Qatar (TTQ) a VIP corporate events company and participated in adverts for them. In her spare time she enjoys all sport and plays golf, tennis, and swims as well as Zumba and Pilates. Sarah is keen to act as an international Ambassador for the Pastonian Association, she would like anyone living or travelling to Qatar to be in contact. Her contact email details are ladysarah.sc@gmail.com

Congratulations

Births



Nathan and Natasha Bird (1996-2001) (nee Bond) are delighted to announce the birth of **Percy Daniel Bird** on 28 September 2014.



Tom and Lucinda Pritchard -Gordon (1995-2001) (nee Neville) are delighted to announce the birth of **Dax Robin Pritchard-Gordon** on 15 February 2015.



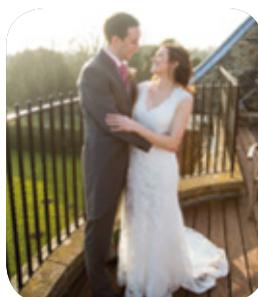
Thomas and Francesca Bean (1996-2001) (Fraggle – nee Carpenter) are delighted to announce the birth of **Charles Henry Thomas Bean** 24 March 2015.

Engagement



Genevieve Cleghorn (2000-2007) became engaged to **Jonathan Wedgbury** on Saturday, 4 April and they are planning to marry in September 2015.

Marriages



Sally Down (1995-2002) married **Dan Matthews** on 20 March 2015 at Trumpington Church.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 19 September 2015	School Reunion Lunch for Pastonians who left in 1940
Tuesday 22 September 2015	Cream tea with Father Tony and Mass
Wednesday 11 November 2015	Encountering Heaven on Earth. Spencer's war-time experiences glorified through faith and art – 50 minute illustrated talk 7:00pm (at St Mary's School, Cambridge with Q & A session followed by a drinks reception)
Friday 27 November 2015	A wine tasting evening
December 2015 (dates to be confirmed)	Panto – Cinderella
Saturday 30 January 2016	Mary Ward Open Retreat Day led by Fr Denis and held at St Mary's School, Cambridge
Saturday 12 March 2016	Auction of Promises
Thursday 28 April 2016	Sports Award Dinner
Saturday 24 September 2016	An Audience with Ann Widdecombe

We say goodbye

to teachers that are retiring or leaving

Kate Darch, Head of French

Jean Doe, Accounts Secretary

Charlotte Goddard, Assistant Head; Director of Teaching and Learning and Head of Classics

Surahbi Khanna, Mathematics teacher

Ailish Meadows, Chemistry teacher

Sarah Mitchell, Head of Psychology

Trish Nicholson, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Alexander Reeve, Chemistry teacher

Petra Stephenson, Head of Music, Junior School

Keeping in touch

Please keep in touch and tell us what you are up to now by emailing ewhittley@stmaryscambridge.co.uk and by joining our dedicated Pastonian Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/239614822750910/> to look for lost friends, share memories, help keep the younger members engaged, career mentoring and more! Just search for The Pastonian Association, St Mary's School, Cambridge the next time you're on Facebook.

In memoriam

We remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have died and the family and friends who mourn them.

William Arnold Fison (1931 – 1936), 19 May 2015

Jane Ingle (nee Ashley) (1942-48), November 2014