

20 YEARS OF GIRLS AT SEDBERGH SCHOOL

In March 2000 the Governors of Sedbergh School, and the Headmaster, Christopher Hirst, took the momentous decision that Sedbergh should become coeducational, and in September 2001 the first 40 girls arrived. Through the teamwork, determination and dedication of so many Sedbergh staff, the support of loyal parents and the OS Club, and the energy, ambition and talents of the girls, coeducation at Sedbergh has thrived and flourished.

The following timeline pays tribute to many who, over the past 20 years have played a key role in Sedbergh's coeducational development and its fine reputation as a school where girls can achieve their full potential in so many varied ways.

- 1929-95
- 1995-2000
- 2000-03
- 2003-05
- 2005-06
- 2006-09
- 2009-12
- 2012-present



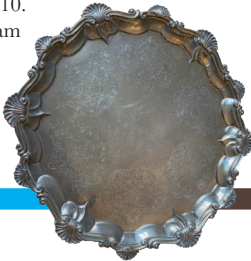
Imogen Schofield
Robertson House 2007-2012
First girl to be awarded a Morehead-Cain Scholarship to the University of North Carolina.



Alex Maling
Lupton House 2006-10
First girl hockey and lacrosse international, played for Wales.



Lauren Crowson
Lupton House 2005-10
Lauren shot with the Ashburton team at Bisley over several years captaining the team in her final year. She was selected to take part in the Great Britain Under 19 Rifle Team Canada tour in 2010. In 2015 Lauren was part of the team that won Gold at the World Championships in America.



2005
The Adams Plate was gifted by OS Michael Adams and his wife Jan and was first awarded in 2005/6. It is presented annually to a girl in Lupton House, Robertson House and Carus House who, it is considered, has given the most to the House and shown the most Sedberghian values in her Upper 6th year.



Abbie Ward (nee Scott)
Robertson House 2009-11
First girl rugby international, made her debut for England in 2015. Since played in the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup, the 2018 Women's Six Nations and the 2019 Women's Six Nations. In 2020 she played in England's game against Italy in the Women's Six Nations – this game enabled England to win the Grand Slam and Ward was named Player of the Match.



Lotte Tulloch
Staff 2009-2021
Lotte was a Morehead-Cain Scholar at the university of Carolina. Was Deputy Head, English teacher and former Housemistress of Lupton House.



Katherine Fleck
Lupton House 2010-16
Shot for England in 2016.



Lucia Sdao
Staff 2011-2020
As Head of Girls Games, Lucia worked to raise the profile of Sedbergh girls sport nationwide with both netball and hockey teams achieving their first National Schools Finals in her time. Lucia achieved 101 England caps in her playing career and coached within Manchester Thunder, Team Bath and Wasps. She is currently Director of Netball at Dubai College.



Courtney Savage
Lupton House 2012-14
First Roger Lupton Scholar. Selected to play on England netball U18's and U21's.



2013
Carus House opened when demand for girls' places grew following the merger of Casterton and Sedbergh. The name Carus was chosen in honour of Carus Wilson who founded the Clergy daughters' School at Cowen Bridge which later became Casterton School.



Harriet Bramwell
Carus House 2013-16
Shot for England in 2016.



Maria Mendoza
Lupton House 2013-17
Third female Head of School and the first ever non-British Head of School. Also Art Scholar and Captain of swimming Maria is the first Sedberghian to go to Queen's College at Cambridge University where she is reading Architecture and Urban Design.



Catherine Hirst
Lupton House 2005-07
Catherine was Sedbergh's first girl to graduate from Oxford University (Earth Sciences) and Sedbergh's first Blue for Netball, also achieving a Blue in Athletics. She is now a post-doctoral researcher (Arctic global warming) at Louvain University in Belgium, having completed her PhD at Stockholm University.



Gwynnie Parry
Staff 2004-present
English teacher who has been Housemistress of Marshall House and Lupton House. Director of Adventure Activities and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award of which girls have been a huge part of from the start. Also ran a girls' Climbing Club for many years.



Rev Olivia Haines (nee Ashton)
Robertson House 2004-06
She is the first female Old Sedberghian to be Ordained in the Church of England, in July 2021.



2004
The core buildings of Robertson House were originally the school's Sanatorium, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1884. In 1983 a new Sanatorium opened and the whole building became the Junior House, Cressbrook. In September 2002, Cressbrook House underwent a new transformation, becoming a Girls' boarding House and receiving a new name, Robertson House, in honour of Mr Michael and Mrs Maureen Robertson. First Housemaster was Brandon Glover 2004-06.



Jennifer Macdonald
Staff 2013-present
Jennifer has worked at Sedbergh since the merger with Casterton in 2013 where she was Deputy Head. She became Housemistress of Lupton in September 2018, having previously been Deputy Housemistress for three years.



Michele Emptage
Staff 2013-present
Senior Academic advisor at Rong Qiao Sedbergh School and Sedbergh School. She was the first Housemistress of Carus House supporting girls making the transition from Casterton School to Sedbergh School.



Tracey Gunning
Staff 2013-present
Teacher of I.T. and Business Studies, Housemistress of Carus House. As Carus Housemistress Tracey has worked to establish new traditions ensuring that the youngest house has a strong character and ethos of its own.



2014
Brackensgill Dining Room extension added to Carus House.



Ella Bowen
Robertson House 2018-20
First U21 England Netball international.



Iona Lindsay
Lupton House 2014-16
Played lacrosse for Scotland in 2016.

Daisy Armstrong
Robertson House 2016-21
Shooting – represented England and is a former Atheling & GB U19.



Freya Findlay
Lupton 2001-02, SJS 02-03, Robertson House 2003-08
First female Head of School Freya arrived at Sedbergh in 2000 with the first girls to join Sedbergh Junior School. Freya is now a reporter for the *News&Star* and the *Cumberland News*.



Kim Buffoni
Robertson House 2001-06
Kim was a member of the school shooting team who represented Great Britain in both small bore and full bore target rifle shooting for the Athelings (U18) travelling to Canada and GB U19 team to South Africa. Kim was the first girl to receive the famous Sedbergh School brown blazer for contributions to international sport.



Ashley James
Robertson House 2001-05
TV, radio presenter, model and DJ. Ashley's career began while at Sedbergh presenting on Radio Cumbria. Ashley has made numerous appearances on T.V. and radio and works for *Huffington Post*.



Helen Taylor
Robertson House 2001-05
First female captain of the shooting team Helen was selected for the Atheling Ireland and GB team. She was Captain of the 1st XI hockey team and in 2005 was 1st placed girl in the Wilson Run.



Katharine Harris (nee Vigar)
Lupton House 2001-03
First ever female winner of the Wilson Run in 2002 with a time of 1:36:14.



Laura Priestley
Lupton House 2001-03
First Sedbergh girl to graduate from Cambridge University. Laura read history before training to be a Solicitor.



Hayley Christy
Staff 2001-present
Hayley was appointed Director of Girls Games in 2001 and very quickly ensured that from the outset girls would be competitive and have the same opportunities as the boys. Hayley coached the 1st VII Netball team from 2001-2011 and Senior Tennis from 2001, as well as developing the girls hockey, athletics and cross country running. She was a supporter of girls cricket when it was introduced in 2004. In 2010 Hayley became Housemistress of Robertson House. She is an active member of the Old Sedberghian Committee.



Sue Wallace-Woodroffe
Staff 2001-2015
First Housemistress of Lupton House, Senior Mistress, Deputy Head Pastoral, teacher of Mathematics and Biology and coach of athletics and netball. Sue had a particular focus on integration of international pupils and worked to develop the best social programme of any school in the UK.



2001
The building now called Lupton House was built originally by a local builder as three terraced houses and called Jackson's Buildings. Lupton received its fixed name in 1908 and is named after Roger Lupton, the founder of Sedbergh School. It was closed as a boys' boarding house in 1995 and became the Lupton Centre until 2001. It was then reopened as a girls' boarding house.



Jane Rowbotham
Staff 1998-2006
A teacher of History and English, arriving from Malsis where her husband had been Headmaster, Jane established Danson House in 1998 for boys aged 7-10 and played a pivotal role in the development of Sedbergh's Junior School where Jane became its first Deputy Head. Jane was also a highly respected and much-loved tutor in Lupton House. Jane tragically died of cancer in 2006.



Sara Hirst
Staff 1995-2010.
Senior Mistress 2000-2010, SJS Headmistress 2008-2010.
Arriving first as the spouse of the new Headmaster, Sara quickly established herself as a talented and dedicated teacher in her own right. Sara taught English and, as Senior Mistress, masterminded the introduction of girls to Sedbergh. In her final two years she also was Headmistress of SJS ensuring that coeducation was fully established in Sedbergh's junior school and that SJS functioned as a vital feeder to the Senior School.



Maureen Robertson
Wife of Michael Robertson, W 1929-33.
Robertson won a scholarship to attend Sedbergh. He went on to art school but this was interrupted by WW2. After leaving the military he became a teacher but continued to paint throughout his life. His wife was a travel writer who became particularly wealthy after selling the Cooper Roller Bearings company of King's Lynn. After her death she left a trust fund of £4.25m for the benefit of the School to be dedicated to scholarships and bursaries. Robertson House is named after Maureen and her husband.