



Annual  
Conference

The Voice of the Girl  
Raised to lead  
Ready to be heard

2026

# Sunday 15 to Tuesday 17 November

The Queens Hotel, Leeds

## Programme

### Sunday 15 November

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| 14:00 | Registration Opens |
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| 15:00 - 17:00 | Boarding Meeting |
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| 17:30 - 18:30 | Regional Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South West &amp; Wales Regional Meeting</li><li>• East Regional Meeting</li><li>• North West and Scotland Regional Meeting</li></ul> |
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| 18:30 | Pre-Conference Dinner in Year Groups |
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| 20:00 | Gin Tasting Event |
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### Monday 16 November

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| 06:30 | Early Morning Activities |
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| 08:00 | Registration Opens<br>Refreshments served |
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| 09:00 | Welcome to Conference<br>Jeanette Cochrane, GSA CEO |
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| 09:20 | President's Address<br>Helen Jeys, GSA President and Head of Manchester High for Girls |
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| 10:00 | <i>Supporting Girls to Navigate the Everyday Landscape of Sexism</i><br>Laura Bates, founder of The Everyday Sexism Project |
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Introduced by Jane Gandee, GSA President Elect 2026-2027

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| 11:00 | Break and opportunity to visit exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:35 | A word from our sponsors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:45 | <b><i>Violence Against Women and Girls</i></b><br><b>Jess Asato (MP)</b><br><br>Introduced by Alex Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12:30 | Lunch and opportunity to visit exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 13:30 | <b><i>Revisiting educational vision and pedagogical beliefs in the light of the global landscape of 2026.</i></b><br><b>Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith</b><br><br>Introduced by Claire Boyd                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 14:00 | <b>1:1 Appointment slots open</b><br>For the first time you can book a private 30-minute session with a specialist. Bring your own questions on personal pensions, school pensions, fundraising, coaching colleagues and supporting neurodiversity in staffroom and leave with practical advice for you and your school. Booking will be open in the week commencing 2 November |
| 14:30 | Break and opportunity to visit exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 14:50 | <b><i>Navigating Friendships in Times of Political Crisis</i></b><br><b>Rabbi Dovid and Iman Kurdy</b><br><br>Introduced by Bridget Ward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15:45 | <b>Day 1 Close</b><br>Helen Jeys, GSA President and Head of Manchester High for Girls                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 17:00 | <b>Leeds Minster Service</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 18:30 | <b>New Heads Drinks Reception</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 19:00 | <b>Drinks Reception for all</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 19:30 | <b>Dinner</b><br>Announcement of the <b>GSA 2026 Photography Competition Winners</b><br><b>After Dinner Speaker</b> , From the British Army to Extreme Cakes, <b>Rose Dummer</b><br><b>Silent Disco</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |

# Tuesday 17 November

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| 07:00 | Early Morning Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 08:00 | <b>1:1 Appointment slots open</b><br>For the first time you can book a private 30-minute session with a specialist. Bring your own questions on personal pensions, school pensions, fundraising, coaching colleagues and supporting neurodiversity in staffroom and leave with practical advice for you and your school. Booking will be open in the week commencing 2 November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 09:00 | <b><i>The Changing Nature of Parents</i></b><br><b>Dr Angharad Rudkin</b><br>Introduced by Sam Gibbons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 09:50 | A word from our sponsors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:00 | <b><i>Holding Firm and Being Human</i></b><br><b>Diana Osagie</b><br>Introduced by Richard Tillett                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:50 | Break and opportunity to visit exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11:15 | <b>Round Table Discussion 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fundraising in Schools, Lesley Dowdall, Withington Girls' School</li><li>• Creating a Coaching Environment in Schools, McKenzie Ceri</li><li>• AI – Top Tips for Workload, Ben Eaton</li><li>• The Work of ISC, Julie Robinson</li><li>• Regulatory ISC Work- SEND, Simon Nathan</li><li>• Dealing with Difficulty, Helen Semple</li><li>• Managing Critical Incidents, Jack Myers</li><li>• Complex HR Issues, Restructures, Redundancies and New Rights, Georgina de Costa</li><li>• What do parents understand the least about schools, Katharine Radice</li></ul> |
| 11:35 | <b>Round Table Discussion 2</b><br>As above and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Wellbeing Dog, Diana Osagie</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:55 | <b>Round Table Discussion 3</b><br>All above sessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12:15 | <b><i>Opportunity to Go Beyond</i></b><br><b>Helen Sharman</b><br><br>Introduced by Helen Jeys , GSA President 2026-2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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13:00

Lunch and an opportunity to visit exhibitors

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13:45

Wellbeing Panel  
Laura Earnshaw - My Happy Mind  
Katharine Radice - Exam Stress  
Interviewed by MHSG Head Girls

Introduced by Anna Wilby

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14:30

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15:00

Closing remarks and conference gamification prize giving  
Helen Jeys, GSA President and Head of Manchester High for Girls

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15:30

End of Conference

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*This programme may be subject to change*