



King's High
School



THE CHANGEMAKER GALLERY

Introduction from the Head Master



A changemaker is someone who takes action to inspire and lead positive change in their community, or in society at large, and at King's High we pride ourselves on being a community of changemakers who are committed to creating a better world. Changemaking is a core value for us and it is a mindset or disposition that we nurture carefully throughout our school.

I am incredibly proud of the many outstanding changemakers within our community – students who have stood up to help others, used their voice and brought about real and positive change.

Our students work with the Stratford-based charity, Kissing it Better, to care for vulnerable members of our community. Our student-led Universal Justice Group and Foundation Equality Working Party work collaboratively across our Foundation family of schools to ensure that our community is inclusive, anti-racist, and promotes the rights of minority groups. Our Environment Action Group works tirelessly to reduce our carbon footprint, to protect the environment and tackle climate change. Our Hobbs Society students hosted a series of fascinating talks on disability and ableism, and many of our students are working closely with staff and pupils at Evergreen Special School. Our group of over 130 Student Wellbeing Ambassadors, trained by the Diana Award Scheme, offer help and support to students throughout the school.

In January we launched our 'Big Changemaker Conversation' to encourage a whole-school debate about the public figures, past and present, who have successfully forged significant and lasting change in the world. We explored a number of simple questions, which led to fascinating discussion:

- Who inspires you? Who do you look up to and admire and why?
- Who has forged positive and lasting change and how have they changed the lives and experiences of others for the better?
- What can we learn from their work and their impact on others?
- How can the inspiring changemakers we celebrate reflect the values at the heart of our school community?

Following discussion and debate, the school was asked to nominate inspiring changemakers who we would celebrate in our Changemaker Gallery.

After a longlist and shortlist process, our students chose nineteen figures for the gallery who have forged positive change and who have stood up for what they believe in. Significantly, the twentieth space is a mirror so that all our students can stand in the gallery and see themselves as part of a powerful and inspiring global community of changemakers and upstanders.

The gallery embodies the values that are important and inspiring to our students. I hope you enjoy reflecting on their work and learning about the changemakers they have chosen.

A very warm welcome to our Changemaker Gallery!

Dr SJ Burley
Head Master

A message from the Head Girl team

The Changemaker Gallery acts as a microcosm of what we, the students of King's High, stand for. The Changemaker Gallery is a place where we hope every single student at King's High can look up to and see someone who inspires them, someone who shares the same values as them, or even simply someone who looks like them. This gallery is extremely important as it shows the pupils at our school that anything is possible, and it only takes one person to make a great change! We hope that you can take a look in the mirror and see yourself being a future changemaker.

Within The Changemaker Gallery there is a diverse range of inspirational women who have all made major impacts which shape the world we live in today. These women range from scientists to Civil Rights protestors. One of these changemakers is Mary Seacole. Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse, who played a major role in the Crimean war by nursing sick soldiers, even after being denied acceptance into the nursing contingent. Throughout her life she cared for the sick and shared her knowledge as arguably the first British nursing practitioner. Another of our changemakers is Rosalind Franklin, the woman who not only discovered the structure of DNA, but also led the discovery of the structures of viruses, coal, and graphite. Her work was fundamental in founding the pathway towards modern day Chemistry. Unfortunately, she was not recognised as being a part of this team until after her death; however, we are now able to look up to her as one of the brightest chemists to have lived.

Changemaking is vital to achieving the goal of social justice. Changemakers actively try to solve the challenging problems and, because of this, they are some of the most inspirational people to the King's High community. Changemakers are resilient, creative, and open-minded: qualities that all pupils at our school value. Every King's High student needs to believe that they can make a difference simply because they can. A King's High student has the voice to be able to create positive change, whether that be in their own community or on a much broader scale. Whatever they are passionate about – science, literature, human rights or the environment – a King's High girl needs to be determined to find solutions for the world's problem and to make sure that they have the resilience to see this through. By joining societies such as Universal Justice, Environmental Action Today Club, Café Scientifique and Café Philo, you can have conversations about a wide range of topics so that you can use your passion and creativity to work with each other and to create a way forward that will benefit society and generate the change that is needed for our society to thrive.

From left to right:

Edith (Deputy Head Girl), Joana (Head Girl), Poppy (Deputy Head Girl) and Bella (Deputy Head Girl)



The Gallery



Maya Angelou
1928-2014

Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist. She became a poet and writer at a young age, as well as having many other occupations. She is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her early adult experiences. The first and most famous being *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. As a civil rights activist, she worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. At the inauguration of Bill Clinton in 1993, she captured the attention of the world when she read "On the Pulse of Morning".



Jane Austen
1775-1817

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six major novels. Austen famously critiques and comments upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18th century and her plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage and the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security. Her most famous novels *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma* are all still very resonant today: Austen herself exhibited a strong desire to challenge the social norms by choosing not to marry and write novels instead.



Tarana Burke
1973-present

Tarana Burke is an American activist, community organiser and executive. She is the founder of the MeToo movement, which raises awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and assault in society. Her work has significantly accelerated the conversation around sexual assault. Starting at just a teenager, Burke led campaigns on housing inequality, racial discrimination, and economic injustice. Burke was named Person of the Year by TIME Magazine in 2017 and earned the Sydney Peace Prize in 2019. She now serves as the Senior Director of Girls for Gender Equity in Brooklyn, New York.



Claudette Colvin

1939-present

Claudette Colvin is a pioneer of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and a retired nurse. At the age of 15 she was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, on the way home from school, for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded, segregated bus. This occurred nine months before the more widely known incident with Rosa Parks. While her role in the fight to end segregation in Montgomery is not widely recognised, Colvin helped advance civil rights efforts in the city giving the community moral courage.



Amelia Earhart

1897-1939

Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer. She was the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license and first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1928. As she was learning to fly, Earhart flew her plane to 14,000 feet – the world record for female pilots. She was seen by the public as a gracious woman who displayed remarkable talent and bravery. She was an accomplished and talented pilot who never panicked or lost her nerve. She tragically went missing whilst attempting to become the first female to complete a circumnavigation of the globe in 1937.



Jessica Ennis-Hill

1986-present

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill is a British retired track and field athlete, specialising in multi-eventing disciplines and 100 metres hurdles. As a competitor in heptathlon, she is the 2012 Olympic champion, a three-time world champion, and the 2010 European champion. Ennis-Hill has encountered many injury setbacks throughout her career but has become one of the most renowned British athletes of all time. She has been nominated and won many awards as well as being an active supporter of a range of charitable projects.



Rosalind Franklin

1920-1958

Rosalind Franklin was an English chemist and X-ray crystallographer whose work was central to understanding the molecular structures of DNA, RNA, viruses, coal, and graphite. However, her contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA at Cambridge University were not recognised in her lifetime and hence she was not awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, which was instead awarded to her male counterparts. In the years before her death, she led pioneering work on the molecular structures of viruses at King's College London. Franklin tragically died of ovarian cancer at age 37, but her team member Aaron Klug continued her research, winning the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1982.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

1933-2020

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American Lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. Ginsburg was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the court, after being nominated by President Bill Clinton. Ginsburg spent much of her legal career as an advocate for gender equality and women's rights, winning many high-profile cases before the Supreme Court.



Amanda Gorman

1998-present

Amanda Gorman is an American poet and activist whose work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race and marginalisation, as well as the African diaspora. Gorman was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. In 2021, she delivered her poem *The Hill We Climb* at the inauguration of US President Joe Biden, the youngest poet to do this. She has been named in Time magazine's 2021 '100 Next' list under the category of Phenoms. She had a speech impediment in her childhood which she says she sees as a 'gift and strength'.



Katherine Johnson

1918-2020

Katherine Johnson was an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent US crewed spaceflight. Johnson was handpicked to be one of three African American students to integrate West Virginia Graduate School, which was one of her several breakthroughs. Johnson did the trajectory analysis for Alan Shepard's May 1961 mission *Freedom 7*, which was America's first human spaceflight. In 1960, she co-authored an influential report laying out the equations describing an orbital spaceflight. This made her the first woman in the Flight Research Division to have received credit as an author of a research report.

In 1962 as NASA prepared for the orbital mission of John Glenn, the astronauts became wary of putting their lives in danger of calculating machines that were prone to mistakes. As part of the pre-flight checklist, Johnson was asked to run the same numbers through the same equations that had been programmed into the computer, but by hand. Due to her immense intelligence the astronauts trusted that her figures were correct and went ahead with the mission which was a great success and marked a turning point in the Cold War.



Helen Keller

1880-1968

Helen Keller was an American educator who overcame being blind and deaf, becoming one of the leading humanitarians of the 20th century. She was born on 27 June 1880 in Alabama and, at 19 months old, she lost both her sight and hearing. With the support of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, Keller was able to learn how to speak and go to school. In 1904, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Radcliffe College of Harvard, becoming the first deaf blind person to earn a bachelor's degree. She then went on to advocate for the blind and women's suffrage, setting up the American Civil Liberties Union.



Hedy Lamarr

1914-2000

Hedy Lamarr was an Austrian–American actress who helped develop an early technique for spread spectrum communications. Born on 9 November 1914 in Vienna, she was discovered by an Austrian film director as a teenager and, when she starred in *Algiers* in 1938, she became an immediate box-office sensation. She then went on to become the leading actress in many well-received films during the 1930s and 1940s, most notably *Lady of the Tropics*, *Boom Town* and *Delilah*. In 1942, Lamarr and George Antheil came up with a system that would keep enemies from decoding messages, becoming very important in the development of security technology for military communications and cellular phones. In 1997, Lamarr and Antheil received the Electronic Frontier Foundation Pioneer Award. Lamarr then went on to becoming the first female to receive the BULBIE Gness Spirit of Achievement Award for the invention.



Mary Seacole

1805-1881

Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse, healer, and businesswoman. She was a highly experienced nurse but, despite that, she was denied entry to the nursing contingent for the Crimean War due to racial prejudice. By the age of 12, Mary helped run the boarding house where many of the guests were sick injured soldiers. She travelled independently and set up her own ‘hotel’ to tend to the wounded. Mary cared for victims of the Kingston cholera epidemic and victims of the yellow fever epidemic. She was arguably the first British nurse practitioner, ahead of Florence Nightingale. Seacole was voted the Greatest Black Briton in 2004.



Eleanor Simmonds

1994-present

Eleanor Simmonds is a British Paralympian swimmer who was 13 when she won 2 gold medals in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing, becoming the second youngest Paralympian in British history to win a medal of any colour. Born on 11 November 1994 in Walsall, she started swimming at the age of 5 and became the youngest British athlete in the 2008 Summer Paralympics, where she won two gold medals. Simmonds won the 2008 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year and was also appointed MBE in the 2009 New Year Honours, which was elevated to OBE in the 2003 New Year Honours for services to Paralympic sport. She is a patron of the Dwarf Sports Association UK, which supports people of short stature and helps them get into sport.



Octavia Spencer

1972-present

Octavia Spencer is an American actress, author and producer. She was born on 25 May 1972 in Montgomery, Alabama and landed her first role in *A Time to Kill* in 1995. She rose to fame when she starred in *The Help* in 2011 where she played the role of Minny Jackson, an African American maid working for a white family in the 1960s. She won a Golden Globe Award for her role and an Academy Award for best Supporting Actress. In 2016, she starred in *Hidden Figures*, a film about African American mathematicians at NASA during the Space Race. Spencer played the role of Dorothy Vaughan, a mathematician and human computer. The role won her a Golden Globe Award and a second nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, making her the first black actress to follow up an Oscar victory with another nomination.



Greta Thunberg

2003-present

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish climate youth activist who has received global attention for her efforts to fight climate change. At the age of 8, she learned about the climate crisis and made lifestyle changes to lower her carbon footprint, including not flying and becoming vegan. In 2018, she was skipping school on Fridays and protesting outside the Swedish Parliament. Social media coverage of her protest spread globally, and millions of young people were inspired to pressure leaders and lawmakers to act on climate change. She says that her diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome is her superpower for her fight against climate change. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in March 2019 and she became the youngest individual ever to be TIME magazine's Person of the Year.



Harriet Tubman

1820-1913

Born into slavery, Harriet Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 300 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the 'underground railroad' network between 1850 and 1860. Tubman remained active during the Civil War, working for the Union Army as a cook and nurse, then quickly became an armed scout and spy. Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, which led her to liberate more than 700 slaves in South Carolina. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.



Li Tingting

1989-present

Maizi Li is a Chinese campaigner and activist for gender equality, sexual harassment awareness and sexuality. She was born in Beijing and had a childhood where she and her mother faced physical violence from her father. In her second year of university, Li set up a lesbian Community Training group, offering counselling services and support for university students. In 2012, she led a protest to draw attention to domestic violence in China and she subsequently participated in the Occupy Men's Room, which protested the huge queues for women's toilets by using both the men's and women's toilets, encouraging male solidarity with a gendered cause. She stated in 2016 that her current campaign work focusses on preventing forced marriage. She is pictured here holding a placard stating *International Women's Day* in Chinese.



Malala Yousafzai

1997-present

Malala is a Pakistani activist for female education and is known for her human rights advocacy for women's rights, especially in Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan where she was born on 12 July 1997. When she was 11, she wrote a blog for the BBC detailing her life under Taliban rule of Swat, a district of Pakistan. It recorded her thoughts during the First Battle of Swat, which caused fewer girls to attend school. Her school was later to be shut down. As Yousafzai became more recognised, death threats against her were published in newspapers and slipped under her door. On 9 October 2012, a Taliban gunman shot Yousafzai on the side of her left eye, as she rode home on a bus from her exam. In 2014, she won the Nobel Peace Prize, becoming the youngest Nobel laureate. She then went on to continue her education in the UK and graduate from Oxford with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics in 2020.





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