

# OAKS INTRODUCE

## Jessica Grant

### **What was it like going from being a student at Arnold to working at AKS?**

It was exciting to be joining Arnold as a teacher. I loved my time at school and felt lucky to have secured a position in such a wonderful establishment. I was one of a handful of new starters, including Mr O'Loughlin who had been appointed as the new Head of Geography, which made the induction and transition easier and fun as we learnt the ropes together. The staff were extremely welcoming and helpful, and I made some great friends.

### **Were you taught by any of the teachers who work at AKS now?**

Yes, my first ever lesson in the Senior School was Science with Mr McKeown. Miss De Miranda tried her best to turn me into a hockey player, but I expect she was relieved when I retired from the sport in Year 10.

### **Who or what inspired you to become a teacher?**

Nearly all OAs and OAKS will remember Mr Winterflood; aka Wintipedia. He was a truly fantastic and inspiring teacher who I had the good fortune to be taught by for my GCSE and A level Geography. He made Geography interesting, thought-provoking and accessible, and his passion for Geography was infectious. I knew this was a subject I wanted to continue studying and one day teach.



### **What are your favourite memories of student life at Arnold?**

I loved the Geography field trips, especially our A level trip to the Netherlands and the CCF field days. Sixth Form was the best of times; I had fantastic teachers and made lifelong friends. I look back fondly on all my time at Arnold; it was a magical place to be.

### **What would our alumni be surprised to find out about you?**

I've never been the 'sporty' type, so some may be surprised to know I've taken up running and recently ran my first half marathon. I also have two young children, Rosanna and Frederic.

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## Helen Hotchkiss (Matron)

### When did you start at Arnold?

I started at Arnold School in 2009.

### What inspired you to work in the field you do today?

When I qualified as a nurse, I took a temporary job at Lawrence House Prep School, a small independent boarding school in St Annes. They had been let down and needed a nurse for the start of term. It wasn't a conscious decision, it just happened, but I absolutely loved it. I worked there until it closed. I didn't return to school nursing until 15 years later when I took the job at Arnold.

### What is your funniest memory as a school Matron?

Taking a group of 30 pupils to the Grand Theatre as a favour for the Head of Drama. She couldn't make the first half, so I agreed to go. Nobody told me about the audience participation and the fact there would be an actor sitting in between the pupils. I spent the whole of the first half watching this random man (actor) praying that nothing would happen.

### Are there any standout moments you have from working at Arnold?

I had the smallest office, basically a cupboard with a window. It was like a tardis, I had everything in there. When we moved the removal man said, "how much stuff does this woman actually have?"

I remember when I arrived for the interview how smart the green uniform looked and the building being so corporate, everything was in school colours.

### What is the hardest part of your job?

Dealing with situations that I can't change.



### What is the worst thing you have seen whilst working as Matron?

We have had some gruesome rugby injuries over the years.

### Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?

On my first day as a student nurse, a nursing officer said, "They might forget your name but will never forget the way you made them feel. Be kind." It's always stuck with me.