



Fort Pitt Grammar School



**Fort Pitt Parents/Carers
By Email**

5 June 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

New Science Building

As you may be aware, our new Science building is nearly finished and the Science department will soon begin the decant process so that they are ready to start teaching from September 2018. In advance of the new academic year, all students will have the opportunity to participate in taster lessons and receive guided tours so that they know what to expect from their new state-of-the-art facilities.

At the last meeting of the Local Governing Body, it was agreed that the new building should be named after a successful female scientist and that all stakeholders should be encouraged to contribute towards the naming process.

As a result, we are asking for you to use the hyperlink below to suggest an appropriate female scientist and outline the reason(s) for your suggestion.

<http://fortpitt.medway.sch.uk/new/?p=7343>

Please make your suggestions by **Monday 11 June at 12.00 p.m.** at the latest. Once the deadline has passed, the shortlisted names will be taken to the Local Governing Body, the Senior Leadership Team, and representatives of the student body so that a final decision can be made.

Attached to this letter are some suggestions already made by members of the Fort Pitt community. You may wish to suggest one of these scientists or an alternative.

We look forward to receiving your nominations by Monday 11 June at 12.00 p.m.

Yours faithfully

A blue ink signature of Nick Watkiss, written in a cursive style.

**Nick Watkiss
Headteacher**

A blue ink signature of Mrs E Woodcock, written in a cursive style.

**Mrs E Woodcock
Director of Science**

Headteacher : Nick Watkiss BMus (Hons), NPQH, FRSA, FCoT, PQSI

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Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the first Englishwoman to qualify as a doctor in 1865. She passed the Society of Apothecaries' examinations, who then changed their rules to prevent other women from entering the profession that way. (2) Between 1866 and 1872, Anderson opened dispensaries and then a hospital for women, and her determination led to an act being passed in 1876 permitting women to enter the medical profession (6).

Dorothy Hodgkin

Dorothy Hodgkin read Chemistry at the University of Oxford in 1928 (5). She went on to work for physicist John Desmond Bernal, where she extended his work on biological molecules. She helped him to make the first X-ray diffraction studies, and was later asked by other scientists to solve the structure of penicillin, and discovered the structure of vitamin B12. (2) She was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1964 for her work.

Helen Sharman

Helen Sharman began her Scientific career studying for a BSc in Chemistry at the University of Sheffield in 1984, followed by a PhD. She then worked as a Chemist for Mars, dealing with flavourings in Chocolate. In 1989, Sharman responded to a radio advertisement for the first British astronaut, and was selected for the mission live on TV! After rigorous training and funding issues, the Soyuz TM-12 mission launched in May 1991 (7). Sharman was responsible for medical and agricultural tests and photographing the British Isles during the mission, as well a radio link up for school Children. (1)

Rosalind Franklin

Rosalind Franklin was a British scientist who studied across all the disciplines. Her work using X-ray diffraction, produced the first images of the structure of DNA. Her data was used by Crick and Watson in 1953, who hypothesised the structure of DNA (4). She also went on to study the polio virus, amongst other things. Unfortunately, Franklin died four years before Crick and Watson were awarded the Nobel Prize, but since the 1990s her contributions to the work have been more widely recognised. (3)

Dame Anne McLaren

Anne McLaren read Zoology at Oxford, where she studies the genetics of rabbits. She continued to work with mice, studying the effects of super ovulation on fertility. She produced the first litter of mice grown from eggs that had developed in tissue culture and transferred into a surrogate mother. (2) Her research and findings paved the way for the embryo transfer in human IVF treatments. In addition to her other work in reproduction, McLaren has worked to negotiate the ethical and legal implications of genetic research (8).

References:

- 1) Made in Sheffield. *Helen Sharman OBE* [ONLINE] Available at: <https://web.archive.org/web/20060814063127/http://www.made-in-sheffield.com/People/helenSharman.htm> [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 2) The Royal Society. 2010. *Most Influential British Women in Science*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://royalsociety.org/news/2010/influential-british-women/> [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 3) The Biography.com website. *Rosalind Franklin Biography*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.biography.com/people/rosalind-franklin-9301344> [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 4) Scitable by Nature Education. Rosalind Franklin. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/rosalind-franklin-a-crucial-contribution-6538012> [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 5) Ferry. G Encyclopaedia Britannica. *Biographies*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dorothy-Hodgkin> [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 6) BBC. *History- Historical Figures*. [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/garrett_anderson_elizabeth.shtml [Accessed 1 May 2018]
- 7) Principia Mission. 2018. *Helen Sharman: Britain's First Astronaut*. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://principiaspacediary.org/helen-sharman-britains-first-astronaut/>. [Accessed 1 May 2018].
- 8) University of Cambridge. *The Gurdon Institute- Anne McLaren* [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.gurdon.cam.ac.uk/anne-mclaren>. [Accessed 1 May 2018]