



Fort Pitt Grammar School



**Parents/Carers
By Email**

9 July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Naming of the new Science Building

I have great pleasure in writing to inform you that following the voting process a few weeks ago, the school's lawyers have this morning confirmed that our chosen name can be used for our new building.

Therefore our building will be named after Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.

Please find attached to this letter some brief information about Elizabeth Garrett Anderson that I am sure you will find interesting.

I am delighted that such an inspirational individual has been chosen by the Fort Pitt community and I look forward to hearing about generations of students in the future following in her footsteps.

An official launch will be held early in the autumn term and my successor, Ms Archer will inform you of all the details.

Thank you for your engagement in this process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Watkiss", is written over a light blue circular scribble.

**Nick Watkiss
Headteacher**

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

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Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was born in Whitechapel, East London, one of 12 children in 1836. During her childhood her father became a successful businessman, enabling him to send his children to good schools. She grew up in an atmosphere of hard work and entrepreneurial spirit in fact all the Garrett children were to grow up to become achievers in the professional classes of late-Victorian England. Garrett was encouraged to take an interest in local politics which was very contrary to practices at the time.

Despite her more liberal upbringing, Garrett was expected to marry well and live the life of a lady. At the end of her formal education, Garrett spent the next nine years attending to her domestic duties, but continued to study Latin and Arithmetic.

However meetings with the feminist Emily Davies and Elizabeth Blackwell, the first American woman physician, convinced Garrett that she should become a doctor.

This was unheard of in 19th century Britain and her attempts to study at a number of medical schools were denied. She enrolled as a nursing student at Middlesex Hospital and attended classes intended for male doctors, but was barred after complaints from other students. As the Society of Apothecaries did not specifically forbid women from taking their examinations, in 1865 she passed their exams and gained a certificate which enabled her to become a doctor. The society then changed its rules to prevent other women entering the profession this way.

In 1866 with her father's backing, she established a dispensary for women in London and in 1870 was made a visiting physician to the East London Hospital. Here she met James Anderson, a successful businessman, who she married in 1871 and with whom she had three children.

She remained determined to obtain a medical degree, so she taught herself French and went to the University of Paris, where she successfully earned her degree. However the British Medical Register refused to recognise her qualification.

In 1872, Garrett Anderson founded the New Hospital for Women in London (later renamed after its founder), staffed entirely by women. Garrett Anderson appointed her mentor, Elizabeth Blackwell, as the professor of gynaecology there.

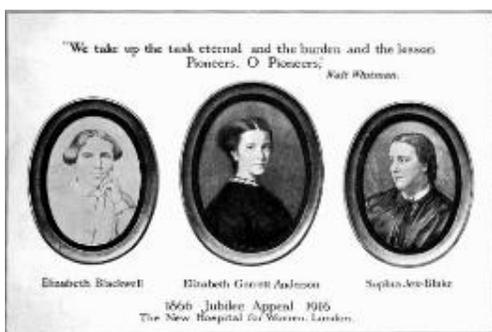
Garrett Anderson's determination paved the way for other women, and in 1876 an act was passed permitting women to enter the medical professions. In 1883, she was appointed Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, which she had helped to found in 1874, and oversaw its expansion.

In 1902, Garrett Anderson retired to Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast. In 1908, she became the mayor of the town becoming the first female mayor in England. She was a member of the suffragette movement and her daughter Louisa was also a prominent suffragette. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson herself died on 17 December 1917.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson embodies the Fort Pitt Values of persistence, innovation, bravery and resilience. We look to her as a catalyst of positive change for women in Science.

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“When I felt rather overcome with my father's opposition, I said as firmly as I could, that I must have this or something else, that I could not live without some real work.”

“I think he will probably come round in time, I mean to renew the subject pretty often.”

“I prefer to earn a thousand rather than twenty pounds a year!”
(When asked why she would rather be a doctor than a nurse)

“It is not true that there is anything disgusting in the study of the human body. If it were so, how could we look up to God as its maker and designer?”

“I remember feeling very much confounded, and as if I had been suddenly thrust into work that was too big for me.”

“My dears, if you go, and if you succeed, you will put forward the women's cause by thirty years!”
(To her daughters, both doctors going to the front during the First World War)

“From 1871 to the close of her working life, some thirty-five years later, she proved that a married woman can succeed in a profession and that a medical woman need not neglect her family.”
(Dr. Louisa Anderson)

“In her girlhood, Elizabeth heard the call to live and work, and before the evening star lit her to rest she had helped to tear down one after another the barriers which, since the beginning of history, hindered women from work and progress and light and service.”
(Dr. Louisa Anderson)

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