



Thomas's Kensington

Nathalia Garcia (née Chubin-Norman)

Class of 1995

I arrived at Thomas's as a fresh faced 4 year old in 1988, making my first friend on the doorstep and stayed until the end of 6KS in 94/95.

I went on to The Godolphin and Latymer School, and left in 2002 to join Trinity College Dublin to read English Literature, and later SOAS, University of London for an MA in International Studies & Diplomacy. Somehow after that I ended up in advertising at McCann Erickson for my first job as a grad, and quickly selected video games as my industry - and I've been at game publishers like PlayStation, Square Enix and Team17 for 13 years, serving on various awards committees and as a BAFTA juror.

I have so many amazing memories at Thomas's. From sports day picnics to the wonderful carol concerts after which we would flock to The Wiz on Kensington Church Street to pick up the latest mega drive game (it started there, maybe?!), and the beautiful summer afternoons spent rolling down the hill in Kensington Gardens. So many lessons have stayed with me all these years, from

learning how the eye works - from Allie Barnes Wright - to reading Sherlock Holmes, learning about the continents with Stephen Brown and getting an early introduction to Greek Myths and Art History from Lady Bethune. The excitement of Prize Giving Day was unmatched, and the weeks spent putting together amazing musicals from The Plantagenets to The Pied Piper of Hamelin live rent free in my memory forever!

At Thomas's the energy thrown behind Drama and English as well as Music ignited my passion for the Arts, and have all played a huge part of my formal education and interests as an adult. A visible presence week to week around the school, Joanna Thomas was ever the passionate ambassador for the dramatic arts!

Four of my close friends are Thomas's Kensington classmates, and while we are enjoying a 35 year friendship, our children are bonding in the same way we did. We are godmothers to each other's children and have enough memories to keep us laughing for decades to come.



Now that I'm a parent at Thomas's Kensington, there are reminders of my school days everywhere. My Year 3 daughter is in my old classroom, and descending the stairs from Parents' Evening, the gentle reprimands of the old Deputy Head "more speed less haste!" ring in my ears. More importantly, the spirit of Thomas's has not changed - and I am grateful my daughters are being raised in the same happy, kind and thriving environment that shaped my childhood.