



# International Women's Day 2021

*Join us in celebrating the women who inspire you*

International Women's Day 2021, on March 8th, is a global celebration of women's achievements which aims to raise awareness of women's equality.

This year, we want you to tell us all about women who inspire you - women who have done incredible things, overcome challenges and who encourage you to aim high and reach your own goals.

Think about how we currently see women in the media and in art, and how we would like to see them in the future. Your suggestions will help shape a vision for future art around our town that celebrates those inspirational women!

## Who inspires you?

- Your Mum, Gran or other family member?
- A teacher?
- A doctor or nurse (or any healthcare provider)?
- A famous person?
- An historical figure?

You can draw or paint a portrait, make a flyer or a poster with some interesting facts about them, or write a short piece - anything you like - telling us what they have done and how they have inspired you.

Remember to include your first name and age on your entry.

## Tell us about them:

If you're doing it in lesson time then your school will collect them in and get them to us, so that we can display them on our website and social media.

Alternatively, you can send your entry to us directly by email or post.

[nochildleftbehind@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:nochildleftbehind@cheltenham.gov.uk)

No Child Left Behind  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
Municipal Offices  
Promenade  
Cheltenham  
GL50 9SA



#ConfidentGirls

**NO CHILD  
LEFT BEHIND**

# These are some of the women who inspire us...



## Sarah Gilbert – Vaccinologist

Professor Sarah Gilbert is one of the leading scientists in the development of a Covid-19 vaccine. A professor of vaccinology at Oxford University, Prof. Gilbert has been involved in the development of vaccines against influenza, malaria and ebola among other things. While studying for her PhD, Sarah considered packing it all in for a more diverse field of study where she could try different things. Thank goodness she didn't!

When the pandemic hit, Sarah and her team set to work developing a vaccine to protect people from Coronavirus. She worked from early morning to late night every day to find a vaccine as quickly as possible to fight this dangerous new virus. Her successful work has meant she has been in the media spotlight this year - something she really dislikes. We are glad though that we have got to learn all about this brilliant woman.



## Ada Lovelace

**Mathematician**

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace was fascinated with the idea of flying. She studied birds to work out the perfect balance of wing span and body weight. She tested out materials and different designs and published a book of her beautiful sketches called 'Flyology'.

She met a mathematician called Charles Babbage who invited her to see a machine he had invented called the Difference Engine. Like a calculator, it could add and subtract numbers. Ada thought the machine could make more complicated calculations, and maybe even play music, and show letters instead of just numbers. She wrote the algorithm, herself, becoming the first computer programmer in history



## Malala Yousafzai

**Activist**

Malala was born in Pakistan in a quiet village. One day a group of armed men called the Taliban came to her village and took control. The Taliban told the girls they weren't allowed to go to school anymore and so the girls' parents kept them home so they would be safe. Malala wrote online about how unfair this was, believing 'education is power'. A few days later the Taliban stopped her school bus and shot her. Malala was strong and survived the shooting, and she continued to campaign for girls all around the world to be allowed to go to school. She is the youngest person ever to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. Malala has recently graduated from Oxford university where she studied Politics Philosophy and Economics

## Imogen Holst

**Composer**

Imogen Holst was the only daughter of composer Gustav Holst, and despite spending the initial years of her career in his shadow, she was a very talented composer in her own right.

She gained several awards for her work, and was given a scholarship to continue her musical studies. In 1940 she was selected to travel to rural communities, inspiring people by organising music activities. She went on to establish a very popular and prestigious music training course at Dartington College.

After the death of her father she honoured him by penning his biography and recording his compositions, sharing his story and music with generations to come!



## Greta Thunberg

**Climate Change Activist**

Greta was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, OCD and selective-mutism, meaning she found communication very difficult, and spoke only when she thought it absolutely necessary. She thought climate change was something she needed to talk about. She started by challenging her family to reduce their own impact on the environment but knew more had to be done. At age 15 she started her first school strike. She sat outside the government building every day for three weeks with a sign that said 'school strike for climate'. Her campaigning has made headlines around the world and in 2019 She became the youngest person ever to be named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' and was nominated for a Nobel Prize!



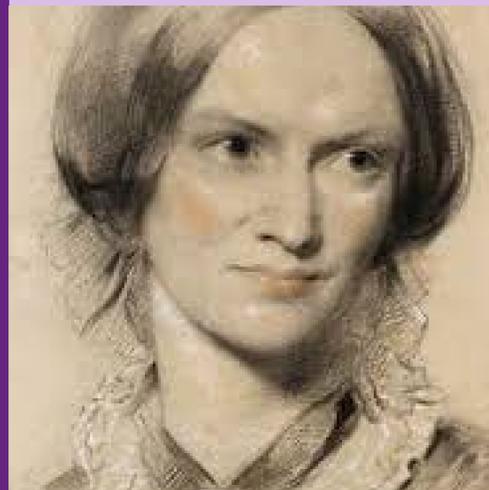
## Baroness Syeeda Warsi

**Lawyer and Politician**

Sayeeda Warsi was born in West Yorkshire after her parents immigrated from Pakistan. She studied law, setting up her own legal practice and became involved with politics.

In 2007 She became the youngest peer in parliament after being elevated to the House of Lords. She was also the first Asian to chair a major British political party, the Conservatives

Under Prime Minister David Cameron, she became the first Muslim to serve as a Cabinet Minister and pictures of her wearing her traditional shalwar kameez outside No 10 Downing st. were broadcast around the world. Sayeeda is passionate that education is the opportunity that makes anything possible.



## Charlotte Bronte

**Novelist and Poet**

Charlotte left school when she was just 15 and came home to teach her sisters, Emily and Anne. The three sisters opened their own school but realised they had a passion for writing. When they first published their books they had to use men's names so that they would be taken seriously!

Charlotte's first book, 'Jane Eyre' gained good reviews, and is still read in schools around the world to this day. It has even been made into several films over the years.

The success of the sisters, who eventually revealed their true identities, paved the way for other female writers to achieve success.

## Nicola Adams, OBE

**Professional boxer and Olympian**

As a child Nicola's doctor told her mother not to let her run around because she had bad asthma. But one day, while her mum was in an aerobics class Nicola decided to join in the boxing lesson in the next hall. From that day on, she was hooked. She won her first ever fight, age 13, but had to wait five years before her next one as there were so few women boxers to compete against!

She went on to become the most successful British female boxer ever, winning Olympic gold medals in London 2012 and Rio 2016. She also won the first ever women's gold medal at the European Games in 2015.



## Ashley Fiolek

**Motocross Racing Champion**

Ashley is a former professional motocross racer and stunt actor.

When she was a toddler Ashley accidentally knocked down a big pile of pots and pans while in her kitchen, but she didn't even turn around when they landed on the floor with an almighty crash.

Her parents took her to the doctor who told them Ashley was deaf. This didn't stop her! She got her first motorcycle at the age of three and rode it around in the woods endlessly, reading the vibrations from the engine to know when to switch gears.

All this practice paid off - she went on to win four AMA women's Motocross National Championships!

