THE OLD
Wellingburian
NEWSLETTER
Michaelmas 2025 The Old Wellingburian Club Est. 1897

# Welcome from Charles



I would like to thank the OW committee in electing me as their new President for 2026.
My name is Charles Keily, and I was in Parker's House from 1965 to 1970.
When I left school in July 1970, I went into the Marine Leisure Business and I have been involved in the same business now for 55 years, which has taken me all over the world.
I am living and still working in the Marine business on the island of Mallorca, Spain , where I have lived for the past 30 years.
As President for the next year, I hope I can meet up with many of my old contemporaries of the time I was at Wellingborough . Hopefully some will be able to attend the annual OW London Dinner on March 20th 2026 .
I may not be able to attend all the social events or meetings organised by the committee , but I hope I can contribute as much as can be expected by everyone.
Wishing everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

## In this edition



Meet the School's new Headmaster p24



OW London Dinner venue announced p3



OW becomes first female Captain of HKCC p10

# Editor's Welcome

## OW Liaison, Katie Powell

It has once again been a pleasure to compile and edit the latest edition of the OW Newsletter. Each one appears to be longer then the last, which is a testament to all the wonderful things that Old Wellingburians get up to after leaving the School. In the past 12 months we have published three newsletters, totally 96 pages of OW and School news!

We have had a fantastic start to the school year for Old Wellingburian events– with both the London Drinks and the Autumn Lunch sold out. Coincidently, I was able to do a site visit to the venue for the London Dinner before the OW Drinks and am very excited to be returning their in March with many of you – we are expecting this to be a busy event, so I encourage you to purchase your tickets quickly when they go on sale very soon!

Despite being Autumn, this newsletter is full of the theme of newness. A new OW President, a new Headmaster and a welcome to our new OWs, the Class of 2025. There is also lots of events and Old Wellingburian news. As always, I really hope you enjoy reading it, as much I have enjoyed putting it together.

# OW's in Europe





We have many OWs living across the world that we interact with, but distance means they are unable to visit the School and attend OW events.

This summer, we were able to connect with OWs on visits to Europe and South Africa such as...

- James Gunnell (62-70, P) in Johannesburg
- Dr Brooke Morriswood (91-98, F) in Frankfurt
- Cornelius Blanke (80-81, P) in Wurzburg
- Steen Taphouse (77-82, W) and Lotte Vaa (81-83, M) in Copenhagen
- Charles Keily (66-70, PS) in Palma

We hope to connect with more international OWs in the future!





Those OWs who are frequent LinkedIn users may have noticed that in the past you have been unable to officially tag yourself as having attended Wellingborough School in the education section of your profile. The School's LinkedIn set up has now been updated to change this - so if you haven't already, we encourage you to update your LinkedIn page.

Why should you update it?

This will increases your discoverability and visibility with other alumni who can be a great source of connections and development.

It can also increase the visibility of the school's profile, making it easier for potential students/parents, alumni, and professionals to find and learn about your Wellingborough School.

# Upcoming OW Events

If you would like to attend any of the events listed below, please contact Katie at kpo@wellingboroughschool.org




**The View is home to the Royal College of Surgeons of England and The Faculty of Dental Surgery, and is just a short walk from Holborn Station.**

**The evening's festivities will start with a glass of champagne in the Erasmus Wilson Room before we move into The Lumley Library for a 3-course meal with accompanied drinks.**

**We have had an overwhelming response to our first events of the 25/26 year and can't wait to open bookings for this event soon!**

## Class of 2024 - Year Out Drinks

### Wednesday 17th December, 2025

Are you an alumnus of the Class of 2024? Join us on Wednesday 17th December for a drink and a catch up at The Priory, Wellingborough.

## Business Networking

### Thursday 12th February, 2026

You are invited to join us to network & promote your business interests at our Business Networking Breakfast at the School. Open to OWs, current parents and the wider School community this event is a great networking opportunity. Colleagues welcome.

## Debating - OW v The School

### Early 2026

Following from OW feedback, we are happy to announce the first OW v The School debating competition.
Please get in touch if you'd like to take part.

## OW Oxbridge Dinner

### Thursday 26th February, 2026

The 2026 Oxbridge Dinner is to be held at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Thank you to current Oxford student Clara Woodhouse (22-24, N) for organising this event.
If you attended Oxford or Cambridge for any of your studies and have not received an invite, please let us know.

## OW Winter Sports

### Saturday 21st March, 2026

The annual Winter Sports OW versus the School in Netball and Football. Join us as a player or a spectator. Refreshments will be provided.

## OW Summer Sports

### Friday 19th June, 2026

The annual Summer Sports OW versus the School in Hockey and Cricket. Join us as a player or a spectator. Refreshments will be provided.

# Past Events

## Business Networking



Our fourth Business Networking event was held at the showroom of Matthew Oliver Windows and Doors, in Hannington on the 12th June.
Matthew, a current parent, kindly hosted the event, which was attended by Old Wellingburians, current parents, school staff and the wider community.
Matthew delivered a brief but enjoyable talk about the history of his company after which guests were free to network.
Our next Business Networking event will be held back at the School in the Trinity term 2026.

## OW Summer Sports and House Reunions







The 2025 OW Summer Sports, compromising of Cricket and Hockey, was held on Friday 20th June. Both OW teams played against the School, playing fantastically in very hot weather. Full match reports can be found here.
Alongside this we hosted our second House Reunion Drinks. Introduced in 2024, the reunion gives a chance for OWs to visit their House as it is today with the current Housemaster or Housemistress.
Before heading to the Houses, OWs met on the Headmaster's Lawn to enjoy a drink together. After the House tours everyone headed down to the sports fields to watch the OW v The School. OWs in attendance spanned a range of 66 years giving ample opportunity to share memories.



# OW Summer Lunch





The sun shone brightly for our 2025 OW Summer Lunch which marked the last OW event of the 24/25 School year.
OWs were welcomed with drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn before heading to the Spencer Room for a two course meal provided by the School's fantastic catering team.
A display of items from the archives were available to browse during the lunch where every guest was able to read or view something of their time at the School.
Lunch was concluded with a Farewell speech by outgoing Headmaster, Andrew Holman, who reflected on his time at Wellingborough School.
As OWs departed they took the opportunity to visit the Senior School Hall, School Chapel, and to view the excellent works of art produced by current students.
OWs of all ages were in attendance, with an age range of 19 to 85!

# Class of 2020 - 5 Year Reunion



For the first OW event of the School year, we were pleased to welcome back the Class of 2020 for their five-year reunion.
For the majority, this was the first time since leaving in 2020 that they had returned to the School and it was lovely to be joined by so many of them.
We were also joined by new Headmaster Simon Hawkes, his family, current staff and former staff too.
Held on the Headmaster's Lawn there was drinks and a fantastic BBQ provided by the School's catering team.
We look forward to seeing many of those who attended at other OW events in the future.





# OW London Drinks





On Thursday 16th October, the OW London Drinks returned after a 2-year break and was a 'sold-out' event! We once again returned to Davy's Wine Bar in St James and packed out an area of the venue with over 50 OWs spanning 7 decades of school life.
It was fantastic to see so many OWs attend, in an evening of memories and laughter. Following the success of this event we will be making it an annul event and so ask that you let us know if you have any suggestions for alternative venues in central London.

# OW Autumn Lunch

Following the success of London Drinks, was our second 'sold-out' event of the School year. Within 10 days of advertising the event all 50 tickets had been sold, and so we moved the lunch into a larger room to accommodate additional guests. The lunch started with welcome drinks in the Sixth form Centre, followed by a two-course meal served in the Dining Hall. We were joined by new Headmaster Simon Hawkes, Heads of School Monpriya and Finley, and Head of Sixth Form Sarah Baxby. We were also pleased to announce the newly elected President of the OW Club, Charles Keily (66-70, Pa), having been voted in at the OW AGM before lunch.









# The Old Wellingburian Golfing Society

## Golf report provided by Tim Poole (77-85, PS)

**Autumn Meeting – Northants County**
Great turnout with 26 players, well managed by Toby Hemsley. The OW Cup was won by David Morgan with 36 points and the Wright Cup (combined Spring and Autumn Meeting) was taken by Jordan McGuire.







**Long Johns**
The annual, end of season, Long Johns OW Golf meeting took place at Wellingborough Golf Club on Friday 10th October. We were blessed with excellent Autumn weather and a golf course in incredibly good condition for the time of year, with the greens exceptional. Thanks go to all at WGC for hosting us so well.
The turnout was a little under par after three late dropouts and an injury, but we still fielded 14 strong golfers with new attendees being George Summerfield and Ian Bird who expressed their appreciation and thanks and will no doubt return.
Third place went to Chris Barltrop with creditable 36 points, second to Harry Underwood on an wonderful 40 points, but the day was one by Alan Harlow with a magnificent 41 points, surprisingly the first time he has collected the esteemed Hugh Denton Salver. Well done Alan.
Nearest the pin was Richard Jackson and longest drive went to Ed Tate who launched an incredible drive up the 17th, his first straight one of the day apparently!!





# The Old Wellingburian Rifle Club

## Report by John Eady (70-77, C)

The Newbery Bowl (shot at 300 and 500 yards) and 600 yard full-bore competitions (both internal Club competitions) were shot at Bisley on 11th May 2025. The shoot was well supported with 12 members turning out. The Newbery Bowl was won by Henry Sanders with a score of 96.8v (ie 8 vbulls), Martin Whatton 2nd on 94.6v and Charles Asquith 3rd on 92.3v. The 600 yard competition was won by Russell Hodgson-Jones with a score of 49.3v, Henry Sanders 2nd on 47.3v and Charles Asquith 3rd on 46.2v.

The highlight of our year is the Public Schools Veterans match held at Bisley on 17th July. We had 10 members take part and entered 2 teams (compared to 3 teams last year).
Our results were:
'A' Team 236.19v placed 29th out of 45 (1st Old Guildfordians 'A' 250.43v)
We scored one more point (strangely with the same number of vbulls) than last year and were placed the same position.
'B' Team 223.14v placed 17th out of 28 (1st Old Guildfordians 'B' 246.26v)

Martin Whatton once again organised a most enjoyable BBQ at the caravan site after the match.

We were delighted for the first time in a number of years to see that the School were represented this year in the CCF Schools meeting culminating with the Ashburton Fours competition. A number of Old Wellingburians were able to meet Mr Beneste who is now running the shooting in the School.

Small-bore shooting continues on Thursday nights in the School range. We entered 5 individuals in the NLRTSA Winter league competition, however, due to a period of range closure we were unable to complete our competition cards.

# The Old Wellingburian Masonic Lodge

## Report by Steve Pateman (74-79, Pa)

It was great to attend the OW drinks in London and to meet so many old and new friends.
Darren Hitchcock, Will Kellock and I were there to introduce ourselves as representatives of the OW's Masonic Lodge. We are looking to recruit new members to the Lodge as well as starting a Ladies lodge to bring a more inclusive and diverse outlook to being a mason as well as another way in which we can interact with the school. We would love to meet, chat and answer any questions about what we do. We are looking for anyone 18 years and over, who either attended the school themselves, or who had a parent attend the school, as well as any member of staff (inc former) connected with the school. If you would like to know more please contact Steve Pateman on secondrow62@gmail.com for more details



# OW Visits to the School

The Foundation team are always pleased to welcome back Old Wellingburians to the School. Please do get in touch with Katie or Graham if you would like to visit.




It was lovely to welcome back two of the newest members of the Old Wellingburian Club to the school in September.
Kitty Thompson-Hurry (18-25, N) and Henry Walker (16-25, G) visited to support Nevill's Breakfast which was taking place to support Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 26th September.
Well done to current Nevill students for hosting such an excellent fundraiser.



Former staff member, Antoine Ertle popped into the School in June whilst visiting the UK. Antoine, who resides in Bordeaux, worked at the School in 1983-1984 as a French Language Assistant. He enjoyed touring the School with his son, Gabriel.



Three OWs were among the players of Marylebone Cricket Club when they played against the School's 1st team on the 13th June. John Bowers (06-12, G), Drew Brierley (13-15, F) and Alex Mills (07-17, C) all played for the MCC in one of the most prestigious fixtures in the school's sporting calendar. The match was a declaration game, with the MCC batting first, setting a target and then inviting the opposition to chase it.
Also present that day was Mike Askham (78-13, Staff) who was also able to catch-up with his former students.

# OW News

## Breaking Boundaries: From Wellingborough to Hong Kong

### By Jasmine Titmuss (02-09, M)

I've been fortunate to tick off some special milestones in my cricketing life, but none mean as much to me as becoming the first female Captain of Cricket at the Hong Kong Cricket Club (HKCC). It's an honour steeped in nearly two centuries of cricketing tradition and one that brings my story full circle, from the pitches of Wellingborough School to one of Asia's oldest and most iconic clubs.

It all started at Wellingborough School, where cricket quickly became more than a game; it became a calling. At fifteen, I had the extraordinary honour of becoming the first girl to be selected for the Boys' 1st XI under Mr. Hilton's leadership. I still vividly remember walking into Mr. Bowe's office, who was Deputy Head at the time, cricket bag in hand, asking if I could play in the boys' team. He looked at me and said, "Are you any good?" before marching me straight to the nets. That day changed everything. A season with the U15 boys led to three seasons with the 1st XI, years that gave me confidence, resilience, and some of my happiest memories. The thatched pavilion, MCC lunches, friends cheering from the boundary, and parents enjoying the school wine on sun-drenched Saturday afternoons all formed the backdrop of the most formative period of my life. Teachers like Mr. Askham and Mr. Ramsden inspired and pushed me, teaching lessons that extended far beyond the field, about teamwork, leadership, and self-belief.

Wellingborough gave me the foundation to join the Northamptonshire Academy as the first girl to do so, before stepping into the England pathway, where I earned my first cap at seventeen and represented both the England Academy and the England A team. After university at Loughborough, I moved north to captain Lancashire Thunder, leading a professional side for five fulfilling years. Cricket took me across the world, but one tour changed my path forever; the inaugural MCC Women's Tour to China and Hong Kong, led by Mike Gatting. I immediately fell in love with Hong Kong: a city where the sea, peaks, and skyline collide in perfect harmony, and where cricket, like the city itself, has an extraordinary sense of community and history.

Founded in 1851, the Hong Kong Cricket Club is among the oldest cricket institutions outside England, predating most others in Asia. Originally located in the heart of Central on Chater Road, the Club's first ground witnessed 124 years of matches before relocating in 1975 to its present site at Wong Nai Chung Gap, a stunning hillside location, boasting the famous skyline on the horizon. Cricket at HKCC is steeped in heritage; the Club hosted its first Interport match against Shanghai in 1866 and later introduced the Bokhara Bell trophy after a tragic typhoon in 1892 claimed the lives of eleven Hong Kong players. This is just one example of the relationships that we have built across the world. As of 2025, the HKCC has approximately 70 reciprocal clubs worldwide, spanning Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, and Africa. These partnerships include some of the most prestigious sporting and social institutions globally, such as the Marylebone Cricket Club, Melbourne Cricket Club, Singapore Cricket Club, Royal Bangkok Sports Club, Royal Selangor Club (Kuala Lumpur), Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club, and many others. HKCC's reciprocal arrangements allow members to access facilities and accommodation when travelling abroad. The network is designed to promote international sporting exchange and member travel privileges, reinforcing HKCC's reputation as one of the most connected and historic cricket clubs in the world.












HKCC's facilities are world-class: a first-class cricket ground, a 3 lane indoor cricket center, outdoor pools, seven restaurants and bars, a fitness centre, golf simulators, ten-pin bowling, outdoor tennis and indoor squash courts and a lawn-bowling green. The cricket section alone boasts over 500 juniors, 14 adult teams including three women's sides, and a thriving development pathway that supports both local and international players. HKCC isn't just a club, it's a community; a place where families, players, and generations share the same love for the game.

While on that MCC tour a decade ago, I was unexpectedly offered the position of Women's Head Coach at HKCC. It wasn't something I'd planned, but after some careful thought, I accepted, and it turned out to be the best decision I could have made. After two years in the role, I transitioned into the corporate world while remaining active at the Club, and this year marks my tenth with HKCC. In June 2025, I was humbled to be appointed Captain of Cricket, the first woman to hold the role in the Club's 175-year history. The Captain's position sits at the heart of the Club's leadership, working alongside the Chairman and General Manager and sitting on the General Committee with Directorship of the club, to oversee all cricketing matters and contribute to the Club's broader direction. To be entrusted with such responsibility at an institution built on legacy and excellence, is a privilege beyond words.

Just weeks into my tenure, I led a 76-strong contingent of players, members, supporters, and families on an unforgettable tour of England. We played at some of the country's most quintessential venues including The Honourable Artillery Company, Oxford Parks, Arundel Castle, Petworth Park, and Wormsley (Sir Paul Getty's iconic ground) before walking out onto the hallowed turf at Lord's. We played on the Day 6 wicket of the England–India Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test, after spending days 2, 4, and 5 in a box at Lord's carefully analysing the surface, before taking on MCC ourselves. To captain HKCC on pitch 12, the centre wicket at Lord's, was the proudest moment of my leadership so far, culminating in a surreal moment: finding myself on a hat-trick ball against Clare Taylor, one of England's finest batters. The cherry on top moment for dedicating so many years to this wonderful sport. I can probably retire now!

As HKCC approaches its 175th anniversary in 2026, I am honoured to lead it into this next chapter. Cricket has given me a lifetime of experiences, travelling the world, lifelong friendships, leadership opportunities, and lessons in resilience. But I trace it all back to Wellingborough School, where the foundation was laid, the place that believed in me, challenged me, and shaped who I am. Those years were the happiest of my life, and I remain deeply grateful for the teachers, friends, and memories that started the journey.

Thank you, Wellingborough, for lighting the spark that continues to burn brightly today, from the school pavilion to the heart of Hong Kong.

# OW News

## OW named in top Law awards



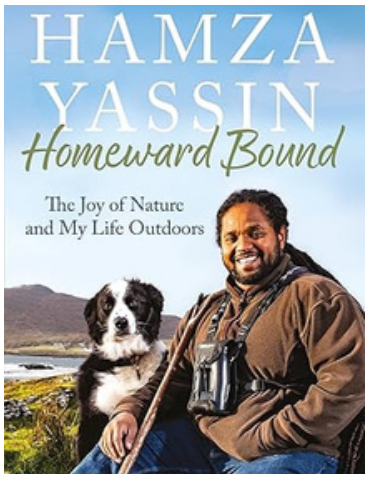
OW William Merry (98-13, F) has been named Associate of the Year at The Lawyer Awards 2025.
Williams works for the international law firm McDermott Will & Emery as a Senior Associate in their London office.
The award is the third recent recognition for William, who has also been named in the Legal 500 UK and Best Lawyers in United Kingdom, "Ones to Watch" in Criminal Practice, 2025

## OW recognised in The King's Birthday Honours



OW Russell Prior OBE (75-82, Pl) was recognised in The King's Birthday Honours this year, for his services to charity and philanthropy.
Russell said of the achievement, 'It's a privilege to be recognised for my contribution to the charity and philanthropy sectors. The worlds of charity and philanthropy are so important to the health of our communities. Through my involvement in these sectors, I have met so many committed and inspirational people and organisations, each with their own motivation to improve the societies we live in. To all the colleagues and friends I have had the pleasure of working with, I'd like to express my appreciation and gratitude for the shared journey.
My personal motivation has been about creating positive social change. For all of us, so much remains to be done.'

## Hamza Yassin's new book and TV series




It has been a busy autumn for OW Hamza Yassin (04-08, G) who has had both a new tv series and book publication in the last couple of months.
In September, Hamza's latest book, Homeward Bound, was published. The non-fiction book focuses on his fascination with the outdoor world, told through personal stories.
In October Hamza's new 4-part documentary series was released on the BBC entitled Hamza's Hidden Wild Isles. The series looks at the amazing wildlife hidden around the UK, with each episode focusing on a season. You can catch up on all episodes on BBC iPlayer.

# OW News

## The spotlight continues to shine for OW Adrian Bracken (57-68, G)



Adrian Bracken (Garne's 57-68) is still working as an Actor, at 75, on Film and TV, together with regular Voice-Over work using his wide variety of English language accents at his home professional studio. Recent feature films have been "The Visitor" (2024)," Bad Patriots" (2025) and "Serial Killers Anonymous" due for release in 2026 – (a real blood and guts Horror film, in which Adrian plays a hammer wielding member of an elite club of psychopathic killers). TV, in 2025, has included two Chinese TV Series - Farewell My Lover" (Netshort 2025) partially filmed at Hinwick House (near Wellingborough), and "Orange Flame of Fury" (Netshort 2025). These are "Chinese Vertical Dramas" so called because they are full length feature films, but broken down into short one-minute episodes and filmed with an elongated aspect ratio, designed to be watched on mobile phones!! (Not a medium for expansive gestures!) Other TV has included Adrian featuring as the Ripperologist on "Nichaela Farrell investigates Jack The Ripper" happily searching out, and explaining on camera, in gory detail, all the "Ripper" murders and events at the actual sites in Whitechapel!

Adrian studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama 68-70 after leaving Wellingborough, and is proud of continuing to be a member of Equity after 58 years. Adrian also Produces – with two short films "When I'm Famous" (2024) and "Same Face Different Lens" (2025) both doing well on the worldwide film festival circuit. Adrian sends greetings to all who knew him at Wellingborough, but acknowledges he is a member of decreasing band of brothers, but this member of the happy few still soldiers on – as long as he can still remember the lines…

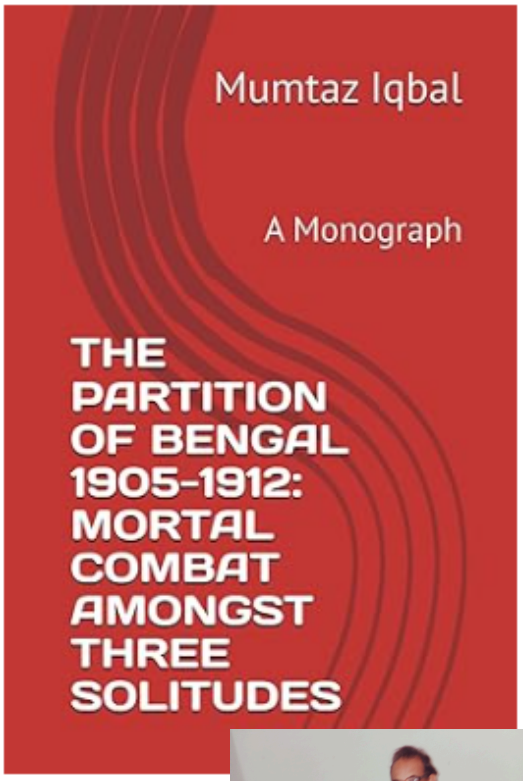
## OW is chosen to switch on town's Christmas Lights



OW James Garside (2001-2003, PS) has been chosen by the Mayor of Kettering to turn on the town's Christmas lights at the end of the month.
James, alongside Kettering resident, Dave Bull were selected as 'local hero's' in recognition on their positive impact within the local community.
James was recognised as a result of his work with Love Kettering, as well as for being the group leader at Kettering Brotherhood, a men's support group.
James will switch on the lights on November 27th.

Share your news with us.
Get in contact with your news and achievements at
kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

# OW Publications

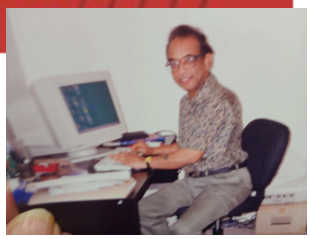



**OW Mumtaz Iqbal (54-57, G) write of his recent publication**

My monograph on The Partition of Bengal, 1905-1912: Mortal Combat Amongst Three Solitudes is now available on Amazon.

The monograph is the outcome of my history Masters thesis completed at York University, Toronto in 2021 at the ripe age of 81!

The subject The Partition of Bengal 1905-1912: Mortal Combat amongst Three Solitudes is relevant and critical to understanding the history of Bangladesh--from where I come--and its material impact on South Asian History and cartography in 1947, 1971 and even now. The details and impact of the Partition are not widely known in Bangladesh. I wrote the monograph to try to remedy this situation and to improve my understanding.



The story of the Partition of Bengal in 1905 and its annulment in 1912 is critical to understanding the political and social factors that foreshadowed the partition of India in 1947, division of Pakistan and the establishment of Bangladesh in 1971, the rise to power of the BJP in India, and ongoing seminal developments in contemporary Bangladesh.

The monograph can be purchased here

**Publication review by Mike Askham (staff 1978-2013)**




If, like me, you've felt inadequate about your understanding of the plight of both Jews and Palestinian Arabs prior to the outbreak of WW 2, then I recommend reading the Tavistock Working Group 2024's analysis of those standpoints. The book may be obtained by following here.

Co-edited by OW Consultant Psychiatrist, Mona [nee Shahid] Freeman (89-94, W), the essays should, at best, challenge preconceived viewpoints and, at worst, via the excellent appendices, fill in those gaps in your historical knowledge of these two peoples.

Dr Freeman is quite clear in underlining that, for her, the mental health of the children caught up in the conflict dominates her thinking. There is a strong acknowledgement in many of the essays that the group's regular meetings were not easy, but that they tried to hold onto the belief that, "Intractable conflict requires diplomacy, not war. And for that, everyone needs a seat at the table, and to be able, and enabled, to sit down.' Students and teachers of Politics, History, RE and Psychology should read it.

# OW News - Running

OW Lois Wagstaff (07-12, M) took part in her second Northampton Half Marathon this October and despite an injury during training was able to complete it in a respectable time of 1h48.
Lois said of the race, 'I was never the most sporty pupil during my time at Wellingborough School however post Covid I decided I was going to start running to improve my physical and mental health. This was the second time I ran the Northampton Half Marathon. I managed to complete my first half marathon in 2024 with a time of 1hr47 and this year my goal was to achieve a new PB. Unfortunately, my training for 2025 was interrupted by an Achilles injury but thanks to a good physio and a great running community around me I managed a time of 1hr48. A hopefully a new PB is not too far away for me.'







Will Knibbs (03-10, G) took part in the world famous Berlin Marathon in September.
"On 21 September I took part in the BMW Berlin Marathon, which was my 3rd marathon so far.
It is one of the largest in the world, with over 55,000 runners alone, and the route takes in a lot of the famous landmarks of the city, with the final stretch including running through the Brandenburg Gate.
Despite the temperature reaching 27 degrees very early in the day making conditions very tough, I was able to finish in 4:16:14, a personal best by a mere 17 seconds!
I'm now looking forward to the Valencia marathon in December hoping to go under 4 hours."

Steen Taphouse (77-82, W) took part in the Mammut March in Copenhagen in August. Steen was one of 3,000 participants in the 100KM race which saw only 70% of competitors complete the challenge which had a cut off of 24 hours.
He was satisfied to finish in a time of 19 hours and 55 minutes after starting the race at mid afternoon.
Steen said, 'I expected walking through the night would be a challenge and that was definitely true. We were off the beaten track, so it was pitch black with only the beam of my headlamp, making it difficult to find far off points as motivation, so it just felt like we were walking for ever. A small mental crisis at 75km, rectified by two large cups of coffee, a change of socks and a Nutella sandwich. Spirits rose with the rising sun and all went well until the last 5km. These last 5km just seemed to go on and on for ever.'




Share your news with us.
Get in contact with your news and achievements at kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

# OW News - Fundraisers



OW Hugh Baxter (01-16, P) took part in the Robin Hood Half Marathon, Nottingham, in September to raise funds for the Matthew22 Foundation.
Hugh lost his friend, Matthew, to bone cancer in 2022, and alongside 5 other friends ran the marathon to support the foundation which was set up to support charities in Matthew's memory.
You can find out more about the Matthew22 Foundation here

Former OW Club President, Sophie Timms (82-92, W) undertook a gruelling endurance event in early September to raise funds for the Royal British Legion and the Kier Foundation.
Sophie, alongside a team from her workplace, took part in the Royal British Legion's Pedal to Paris event which involved a 460km cycle across 4 days from London to Paris. Overall the team raised over £139,000.

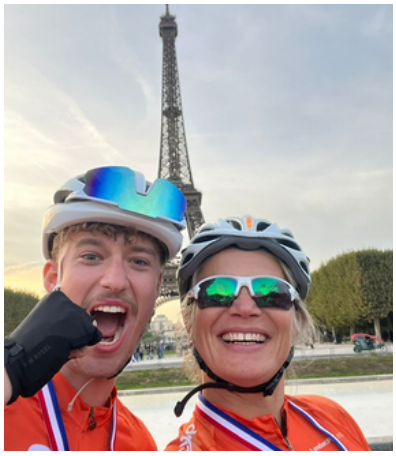





Congratulations to OW Garry Williams (82-87, W) who took part in the Tour De 4 charity ride last Sunday. Raising an incredible £2,860 for Prostate Cancer UK.
The new event has been created by Garry's brother-in-law, Sir Chris Hoy. Following Sir Chris Hoy's diagnosis with Stage 4 cancer, Tour De 4 was established with a clear purpose: to demonstrate that a Stage 4 diagnosis, while devastating, doesn't define the limits of what's possible.
Garry took part in the Red Ride of the Tour De 4, which was a 56 mile ride starting and finishing at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow.

# OW News - Fundraisers





OW Lucas Turnbull-Stubbs (17-24, PS) undertook a gruelling 450km cycle from London to Paris to raise vital funds for the charity Back Up.

This iconic ride was pioneered for handcyclists by Lucas's Dad, Danny Turnbull, a former Trustee of Back Up. Danny's participation back in 2012 had a huge impact on all the other riders who took part, proving just what is possible for people with a spinal cord injury. In 2017, Danny very sadly passed away at the age of 43 after an ongoing battle with cancer.

Lucas was excited to finally be a part of this ride which has played a significant role in his life despite not having the opportunity to participate in it before.

Lucas said of the event, 'The ride went amazingly, we were all very sore by the end of it as you could imagine. But it was really inspiring to ride alongside the hand cyclists, and to raise as much money as we did for BackUp, (around £270,000) really means a lot. I'll definitely be doing it again.'

# Can you help a young OW?

Old Wellingburian Cameron McCulloch (17-24, G) is studying Politics and Geography at Newcastle University, where he has developed strong analytical, quantitative, and communicative skills. He has gained valuable experience through a summer placement at the Houses of Parliament, insight days with leading law firms, and active involvement in the Newcastle Consulting Society.

Cameron is now looking to connect with fellow Old Wellingburians working in business, finance, or consulting. He would greatly appreciate any advice, insights, or introductions as he explores internship opportunities for summer 2026 and his 2026/27 placement year. If you work in these sectors and would be open to a conversation, please feel free to reach out to him directly at c.mcculloch257@gmail.com or connect via LinkedIn at linkedin.com/in/cameron-mcculloch-32ba1a266.



Share your news with us.
Get in contact with your news and achievements at kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

# Welcome Class of 2025 to the Old Wellingburian Club

On the 2nd July, the Class of 2025 transitioned from Wellingborough School pupils to Old Wellingburians. Before their Leaver's Service, Graham Papenfus and OW Emily-May Palmer (13-22, N) welcomed the new OWs to the club and talked about the events and opportunities available to them. This was followed by a heartfelt Leavers' Service in the chapel, after which the new OWs and their families gathered on the Headmaster's Lawn to enjoy drinks and conversation in the sunshine. They then headed down to Prize Giving, which featured guest speaker Professor Simon Denny BA, MA, PhD, recipient of The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.
Upon leaving Prize Giving the new OWs were presented with either a OW tie or engraved pen which were kindly donated by the OW Club.
Earlier in the summer the Year 13s had enjoyed their last formal days at the School where the tradition continues of dressing up, with one day spent in their Primary/Prep School uniform and the second day dressed in an outfit represented by the initial of their first name. .
On the 5th July the young OWs attended the annual WSSPA Summer Ball before returning in August to recieve their final exam results.












# 2025 LEAVER'S DESTINATIONS



**OXFORD:** 1
- BIOLOGY

**OXFORD BROOKES:**
- ARCHITECTURE
- BUSINESS & MARKETING MANAGEMENT
- CRIMINOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY
- HISTORY
- PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
- PSYCHOLOGY
- REAL ESTATE

**BIRMINGHAM:**
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WITH MARKETING

**BIRMINGHAM CITY:**
- LAW WITH BUSINESS LAW

**ASTON UNIVERSITY:** 2
- COMPUTER SCIENCE

**BATH:** 4
- INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT
- SPORT MANAGEMENT & COACHING
- SOCIOLOGY

**NOTTINGHAM:**
- ANCIENT HISTORY & HISTORY
- FINANCE, ACCOUNTING & MANAGEMENT
- ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

**NOTTINGHAM TRENT:** 3
- INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
- EVENT MANAGEMENT

**LOUGHBOROUGH:** 6
- SPORT MANAGEMENT
- MANAGEMENT WITH PLACEMENT YEAR
- AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING
- ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT
- NATURAL SCIENCES

**EXETER:** 5
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**LEICESTER:**
- PHYSIOTHERAPY WITH FOUNDATION YEAR
- POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- GENERAL ENGINEERING
- NURSING WITH LEADERSHIP

**LEEDS:**
- GEOGRAPHY
- DENTAL SURGERY

**LEEDS BECKETT:** 9
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WITH MARKETING

**LONDON:**

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON:**
- INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT
- URBAN PLANNING & REAL ESTATE
- LINGUISTICS (INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME)

**KING'S COLLEGE LONDON:**
- MODERN LANGUAGES WITH YEAR ABROAD
- PHYSICS WITH ASTROPHYSICS & COSMOLOGY

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON:**
- CHEMISTRY

**ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE:**
- VETERINARY MEDICINE

**ROYAL HOLLOWAY:** 8
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

**PORTSMOUTH:** 13
- ILLUSTRATION

**SALFORD:** 24
- MUSIC: CREATIVE MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

**HARPER ADAMS:** 25
- RURAL PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

**EAST ANGLIA:** 26
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**PLYMOUTH:** 27
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

**SOUTHAMPTON:** 28
- AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS / AERODYNAMICS

**GEORGIA:**
**TBILISI:** 29
- DENTISTRY

**BEDFORD COLLEGE:** 30
- ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

**LINCOLN:** 10
- BUSINESS & MARKETING
- CHEMISTRY FOR DRUG DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT
- ECONOMICS & FINANCE

**YORK:** 11
- CRIMINOLOGY
- DIGITAL MEDIA, CULTURE & COMMUNICATION
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**DURHAM:** 12
- COMBINED HONOURS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
- HISTORY

**WARWICK:** 14
- INTEGRATED NATURAL SCIENCES
- POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- LAW

**NEWCASTLE:** 15
- COMBINED HONOURS
- ACCOUNTING & FINANCE
- GEOGRAPHY

**SHEFFIELD:** 17
- ARCHITECTURE
- GENERAL ENGINEERING

**LIVERPOOL:** 16
- ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
- AEROSPACE ENGINEERING WITH PILOT STUDIES

**CARDIFF:**
**CARDIFF METROPOLITAN:** 18
- SPORT PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

**EDGE HILL:** 19
- SPORTS & EXERCISE SCIENCE

**READING:** 20
- BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
- REAL ESTATE WITH FOUNDATION YEAR

**BRISTOL:** 21
- RELIGION & THEOLOGY
- COMPUTER SCIENCE

**SURREY:** 22
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

**CAMBRIDGE:**
**ANGLIA RUSKIN:** 23
- CYBER SECURITY & DIGITAL FORENSICS

**THIS IS A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF WHERE THE CLASS OF 2025 HAVE MOVED AWAY TO UNIVERSITY. ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS STUDENTS FROM THIS GROUP CHOOSE TO TAKE A GAP YEAR OR COMPLETE AN APPRENTICESHIP WITH COMPANIES SUCH AS DELOITTE AND TC GROUP, PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION. AS WELL AS IN INDUSTRIES SUCH AS THE POLICE.**

# OW News - Celebrations

## Engagement

Congratulations to OWs Katy White (03-16, W) and Joe Moricca (06-16, F) who recently got engaged.
Joe and Katy have known each other since meeting at Wellingborough School in Year 4.
Joe surprised Katy with the proposal whilst out on a walk, following a relationship of 10 years.







## Wedding

Congratulations to OW Elise Johnson (00-15, W) who got married at the end of August. Elise married, Noah Chinn at Rushton Hall in Northamptonshire. Fellow OW, Kiran Bhavra (08-15, W) was Maid of Honor.

## Wedding

Congratulations to OW Megan Sanders (06-14, W) who married Liam McCarty on the 16th August in Boston, Lincolnshire.
Amongst the wedding guests were many OWs, including Rosie Turner, Holly Sanders, Hannah Underwood, Amelia Rutherford, Susie Parker, Russell H J, Harry Underwood, Thomas Knibbs, Abigail Pittam, Yasmin Dhaliwal.





# From the archives



In October we were contacted by Julian Sproule, the nephew of Old Wellingburian HBL Hillcoat (dates). Julian has developed his uncle's profile as a Battle of Britain pilot as part of a project at the Institute of Historical Research School of Advanced Studies (University of London). Harry Bryan Lillie Hillcoat was born on 19th October 1913 and attended the School as the recipient of a scholarship. During his time here he represented Wellingborough School at shooting competitions at Bisley. After leaving school he enlisted in a Territorial unit, the 6th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment before being employed by the Ford Motor Company. After later developing an interest in flying, he received his Aero certificate 11830 in 1934, before being called to full-time service in 1939.

Following various postings, Hillcoat joined No.1 Squadron in France on 10th May 1940 at Rouen-Boos. Hillcoat failed to return from a squadron patrol on 3rd September 1940 in Hurricane P3044 and was reported 'Missing'.

You can read more about Harry Bryan Lillie Hillcoat here.

Thank you to Julian for sharing this research with us and the donation of items to the School's archives.



Garne's House 1946
Presented in 1983 by DG Ulyatt (1940-8)

Skating on the gravel pits near London Road, Spring 1947.
Photograph presented in 1987 by J.Q. Church , O.W.



# From the archives




The Queen's Golden Jubilee 2002




House Drama 2009



Hockey 2005



Results day 2008



Ardeche Trip 2010

# OW News - Obituaries

## Ian Mellor, (70-78, F)



Ian joined Wellingborough School in 1970, in the Junior School and boarded in Fryers House, in the Senior School, while his family travelled abroad with the Foreign Office. He left in 1979 after completing A Levels.

During his time at school, he excelled in Geography, Art and Music, and developed an early interest in photography. He was also among the first pupils to experience the new computer science room in the mid-1970s, a subject that would later shape his career. Ian's love of art endured long after his schooldays, and he remained in touch with former teacher, Duncan Ellison, for many years.

Ian's education in computing led him to Plessey, the electronics, defence and telecommunications company, where he combined work with a university course in computer programming and coding. After graduating, he joined Lloyds Bank to become a systems analyst project leader, a role that also took him overseas, including to India in the early 2010s.

Outside his professional and family life, photography was Ian's lifelong passion. He became an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society (ARPS) and won several photographic award distinctions. After he took early retirement from Lloyds, in 2019, he became a freelance photographer. His work included portraits, landscapes and more abstract studies, and he earned recognition in numerous competitions.

Music was a major passion for Ian. Shortly after leaving Wellingborough, Ian formed a 3-piece post-punk band called The Void, whose debut single "Into The Void" was played by John Peel on Radio 1 in 1983. Though the band never became a household name, they were well-known in the area for their original songs, many featuring Milton Keynes as the subject, such 'No Bus on Sundays' and 'Urban Cows' until they disbanded at the end of the 1980s. The Void reunited in 2023 to mark their 40th anniversary, with a special performance at The Stables in Milton Keynes.

Ian also developed a deep appreciation for craft beer and was a familiar face at CAMRA festivals and pubs across the country, often in the company of his old bandmates. In a fitting tribute, one of the breweries he frequented even produced a beer named 'Void' in honour of the band.

Above all, Ian was a devoted father, brother and friend. He remained close to his family and kept in touch with many friends from his days at Wellingborough. His two sons, Charles and Tim, both musicians themselves, were inspired by their father's love of music and creativity.

Ian was diagnosed with kidney cancer in June and passed away peacefully on Sunday 20th July after a short but devastating illness. He will be remembered with affection, admiration and gratitude by all who knew him.

## Michael Port, (61-72, C)




We are saddened to announce the unexpected death of OW, Michael Port. Michael, who resided in Wellingborough, was instrumental in the running of the OW Golf Society for many years and was a valuable member of the Halford Hewitt and Cyril Gray teams. He was secretary of the OWGS for numerous years until he retired in 2011, but he would still pop in at events to support. His passion for golf also saw him crowned Club Champion of Wellingborough Golf Club in 1976.

Before retirement Michael was an Assistant Bank Manager, but until his death was still treasurer and secretary of 20 Louisa Lilley Almshouses in Wellingborough and Irthlingborough.

Michael passed away suddenly on Sunday 26th October, 2025 and his survived by his sister, Jackie.

His funeral will take place at 11am on the 26th November at Nene Valley Crematorium, with the wake afterwards at the Stag's Head, Gt Doddington.

Jackie would like to know numbers for the wake so please let her know if you plan to attend jackie@mousewizards.co.uk

# School News

## Headmasters Introduction - Simon Hawkes

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headmaster of Wellingborough School. Since starting in my role this academic year, I have been impressed by the energy, commitment, and pride that define our school, and would like to express my thanks to the many OWs I've already met for your warm and generous welcome.
On a personal note, I am also a parent of three wonderful children who are currently enjoying their experiences in both our Prep and Senior sections. Watching them quickly develop enthusiasm for everything Wellingborough offers has been a genuine pleasure.





This term has been marked by several notable events that highlight our school's strengths. I was lucky enough to spend my first days in post celebrating some of Wellingborough's best ever GCSE and A level results – the result of no small amount of dedication and commitment from the students as well as the staff. And then on the first official day of term it was time for the excellent 'colour-run'. This hilarious community event is now an annual fixture and really is a super way to build excitement and community spirit at the beginning of the school year. And from there the term just seemed to build momentum: trips to the Battlefields in Belgium and then to San Francisco during half term, exciting and entertaining sports fixtures every weekend, the outstanding Endeavour awards evening to mark the achievements of our Duke of Edinburgh awards holders – the list goes on.
And all this takes place against a backdrop (literally) of progress and new horizons. The scaffold on our amazing new building is now down, and when we return at the start of the Lent term classes will begin to be taught in the new and exciting teaching spaces within. This new development is the most significant in Wellingborough's recent history, and we are all very excited about the opportunities it presents for every one of our pupils.
To conclude – I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and for the lasting impact your achievements continue to have on our school community. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and that it helps strengthen our connection, and I'm sure I'll continue to enjoy meeting more of you at future OW events.





# School Careers Service



My name is Finn and I'm the Futures prefect for this school year. It is a new role to the school and it aims to create a greater careers provision throughout Wellingborough. I work closely with the Head of Careers, Miss Hunt, to provide student input on different ideas that she may have, but also to bring forward ideas from myself, or the pupil body. In terms of careers events that I have benefitted from, the Apprenticeship evening gave me a much deeper understanding of how they work, as well as giving me some clarity on my post-18 choices. Wellingborough host many events across the year, and we would be incredibly grateful for OW support at future events, so our students can see the opportunities on offer, upon leaving Wellingborough.

Upcoming events:
Careers Lunches (dates to be agreed) - talk to a small group of interested students about your industry and career journey
Apprenticeships Evening - 19th March 2026 - if you completed an apprenticeship after leaving Wellingborough School, we'd love for you to get involved and share your experience
Year 12 Work Experience - w/c 22nd June - all our Y12 students will be seeking placements in a wide range of industries. If you or your organisation could support, we'd love to hear from you
**If you'd like to support any of the above events, please get in touch with Miss Hunt, Head of Careers via prh@wellingboroughschool.org**



On Tuesday 4th November, the Careers Service hosted the International Universities Roadshow, allowing students in Years 11-13 to speak with representatives of a range of global institutions to find out more about their potential future options.



# Celebrating A Level and GCSE Result Success

Over the summer the School celebrated fantastic results in both GCSE and A Level exams.
In mid-August, the then Year 13s achieved a remarkable 99% pass rate, and more then 35% of grades were awarded at A*-A. Students have now taken up places at universities, apprenticeships, and institutions across the UK, from Exeter to Edinburgh via Oxford, London and Newcastle.
A week later, the then Year 11s received their GCSE results. Over a third of pupils achieved at least one grade per subject over their Year 9 predictions.








# School News

# New promotional video by OW



The School's marketing team recently released a new promotional video, created by OW James Ward (97-07, C). James himself features in the video, which is a celebration of all things Wellingborough School from nursery to Year 13.
You can watch the video here.
You may have also noticed that the School's website has recently received a refresh, and we will soon be launching a new booking system for OW events.

# News from the Foundation Office

**By Graham Papenfus, Foundation and Development Director**

The Michaelmas Term 2025 edition of the OW Newsletter is once again brimming with news from the school as we welcome our new Headmaster, Simon Hawkes. Katie reports on a wide range of events both at the school and around the country as well an ever-increasing section on member news. Please do keep sending in your news so we can share with the wider OW community.

Simon's first Foundation event was to welcome back our very generous benefactors to meet and thank them for their support over the past 12 months. They have not only given financially but also of their time and expertise.

We were thrilled to be able to give our benefactors a 'behind the scenes tour' of the new build before it opens early in 2026. Our Project Manager, Stacey Howell, gave us a guided tour, showing what an incredible addition it will be for our pupils and staff as well as the wider community. Afterwards, we enjoyed drinks and canapes in the Headmaster's home.





# Transformational Bursaries

Thank you to the members of the Wellingborough School community who have so generously donated to the Foundation's Transformational Bursary Fund. Your gifts are currently providing life-changing opportunities for eight pupils in the senior school.
The following are a small selection of quotes from transformational bursary award holders expressing their gratitude to our donors:

*'Receiving this support has truly changed my life. It is not just about the money, but about the belief you have shown in me. Knowing that someone cares and wants to see me succeed gives me so much motivation to keep going and to do my very best.'*

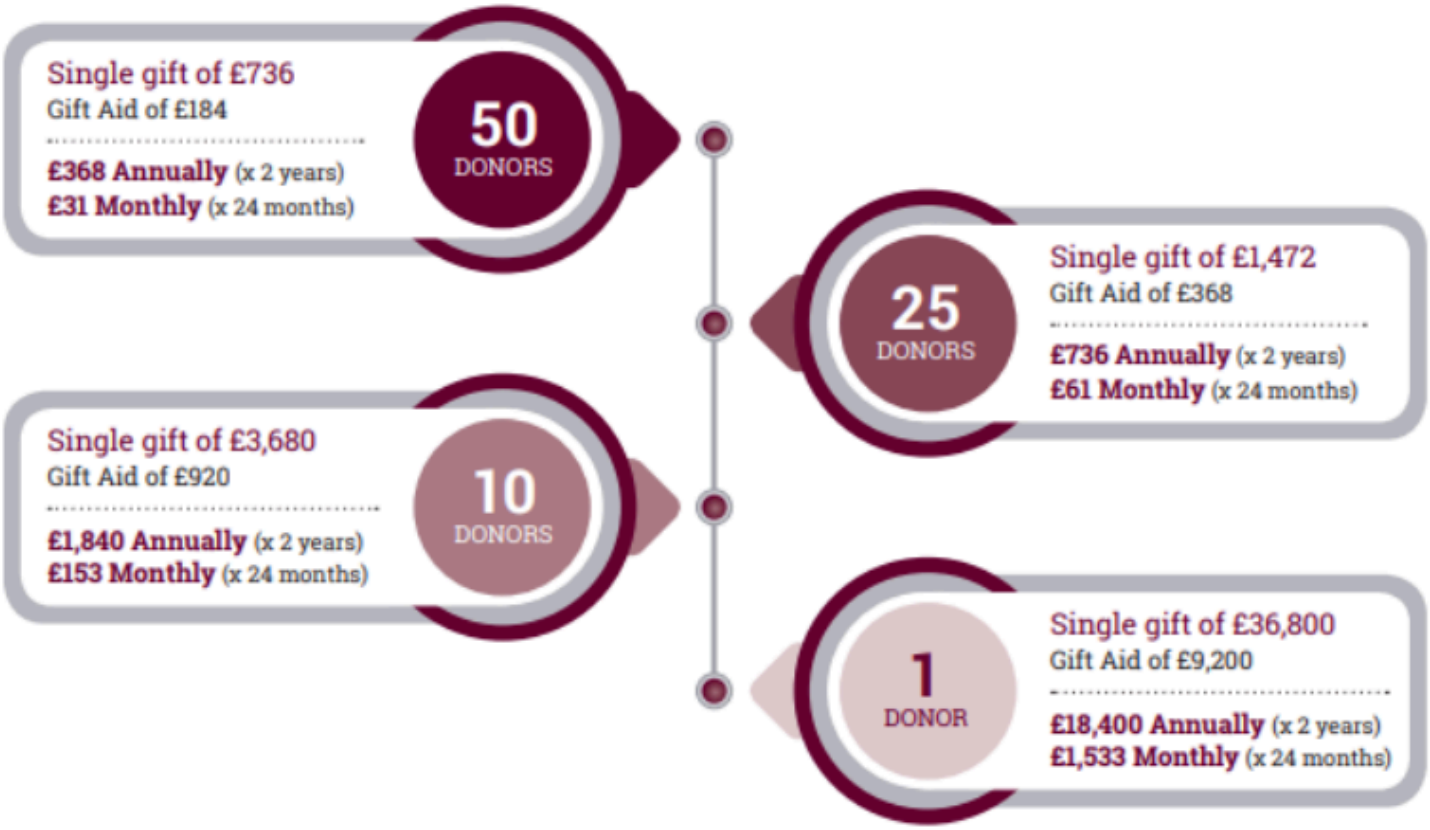
*'Your kindness has taken a huge weight off my shoulders. It reminds me that there are people who want to make a difference in the lives of others. I promise to work hard, to make the most of this opportunity, and to one day give back as you have given to me.'*

*'With your kind donations I have been able to achieve many great things in school.'*

Please have a look at The Wellingborough School Foundation page here where OW Hannah shares how a bursary helped her achieve her goals.

Gifts to the Foundation's Transformational Bursary Fund literally change people's lives. The Fund supports pupils who, without a bursary, would not be able to benefit from all that a Wellingborough School education offers.

**The Power of Collective Giving** below shows that every gift, no matter how large or small, will be life changing. Fifty gifts of £31pm or £368pa, for example, fully fund one pupil each year.



# Sports Sponsorship

Is your business able to sponsor one of our 1st sports teams? For as little as £2 000pa, you will not only provide funds for equipment not available in current budgets but also enjoy exposure on the playing shirts, recognition on all social media platforms and other marketing materials and an invitation to our annual benefactors thank you event.



A huge thank you to our current and past sponsors:





Graham Papenfus
Foundation and Development Director
email: gnp@wellingboroughschool.org Mobile: 07583 682962

# Introducing the 25/26 Gapper

## Charlotte Lambert (18-25, M)



I went to Wellingborough School from the ages of 11-18, and it has been a different experience coming back as staff. I have been settling in well with the help of Katie and Graham, allowing me to fully embrace my new role as Foundation and OW Assistant. I have already enjoyed experiencing multiple OW events and meeting many OWs and hearing about their experiences during their time at Wellingborough as well as what they have been up to since leaving. During my time at Wellingborough, I enjoyed participating within the Arts such as Drama, Photography and Design Technology therefore since taking on my new role I have also been involved in supporting within in lessons as well as co-curricular drama which has given me a new perspective on these subjects. I hope to attend many OW events which I feel are important in order to keep in contact with the school and other OWs. I am looking forward to meeting so many OWs throughout the year.

## Stay in Contact

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