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

Welcome from the OW Club Committee

Dear OWs,
We are delighted to see another newsletter so full of wonderful news and exciting events. Over the last few months, highlights have included the Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by the Autumn Lunch at the school, which were both resounding successes. It was wonderful to see so many of you in attendance and to witness the vibrant discussions and camaraderie that define our community.
We are also thrilled to welcome our new committee member, David Coles [68-70, JS], who brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our team. His addition marks an exciting new chapter for our committee.

It's incredibly encouraging to see the influx of news from OWs coming through and this is in no small part due to the dedication of Graham and Katie in the School Foundation Office who are providing great support and facilitating the Club. As we continue our search for a new President, who will now take on a more ceremonial role, their contributions are invaluable.

We encourage you to explore the newsletter for details on our exciting programme of events lined up for 2025. In the coming weeks, we have the Oxbridge Dinner hosted by Sir Christopher Greenwood GBE CMG KC, the London Dinner, and the OW netball and football fixtures. These events promise to be fantastic opportunities for reconnecting and networking. There feels real momentum of OWs getting together, both formally and informally, and our business networking and social media channels are going from strength to strength, which is great to see.

We are also delighted to hear news of the great success of the school Astronomy Club, which the Club is proud to support. The newsletter also shares less happy news of OWs who are no longer with us. Their family and friends are in our thoughts and we are grateful to them for letting us know so that we can pay tribute to them and reflect on their lives and time at the school.

Finally, we wish everyone well and encourage you to keep in touch. Your continued engagement and support are what make our community so special.

With good wishes from

Your OW Committee

OW COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

- Our Club has run for 127 years and creates a lasting link for members of the Old Wellingburian community to each other and to the school.
- Whilst the Club benefits from the generous support of the School Foundation Office in administering and maintaining the OW database and calendar of school and networking events, it is also served by a wonderful committee of volunteers who give their time to ensuring that the club manages its funds, budget and governance process effectively and that we can host events and sports fixtures and that we communicate the latest news to each other.
- Being a committee member involves attending four virtual meetings each year and one AGM.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to find out more about joining the OW Club committee please contact Graham on gnp@wellingboroughschool.org



Current committee members: Sophie Timms (82-92, W), Peter Crisp (73-83, P), Clive Westley (59-64 F), Simon Marriot (60-71 PS), Julian Amey (57-67, G), Jon Morris-Smith (76-86, PS), Richard Jackson (70-81, PS), Rosie Turner (05-14,N), David Coles (68-70, JS)

Past Events

Autumn Lunch & AGM

Saturday 9th November 2024

A huge thank you to the 50 OWs, guests, staff and our Heads of School who joined us on Saturday 9th November at the annual Autumn Lunch. Drinks followed the AGM in the Senior School Hall before a wonderful lunch provided by our catering team in the Spencer Room. Our thanks to the outgoing OW President, Sophie Timms, who hosted the lunch and Headmaster Andrew Holman who shared an update on an excellent start to the new academic year by our pupils and staff.





Remembrance Service

Sunday 10th November 2024

School Chaplain, Steven Hill writes, 'We spent some time reflecting on the sacrifice of those who paid the highest price for our freedoms on Remembrance Sunday. I challenged our community surrounding the 'what next' in light of what we can learn from the past and their sacrifice. How we can pursue peace in our world and bring hope to the hopeless, honouring God and those who have given their lives.

We also had our whole school Act of Remembrance outside of Chapel on Monday 11th November as the whole school stopped and remembered collectively...lest we forget.





Business Networking

Thursday 14th November 2024

We held our second Business Networking event in the School's Art Department.

Thank you to the OWs, parents, staff and current Year 13 art student, Joseph, who joined us.

Past Events

Carol Service

Saturday 8th December 2024

School Chaplain, Steven Hill writes, 'It was a joy to lead our annual Nine Lessons and Carol Service. We listened to the story unfold from the fall of man to the moment Jesus Christ was born, laced with traditional carols and choir pieces that brought the meaning of the Christmas message to life. This was followed by time after the service enjoying fellowship together with mulled wine and mince pies.'

One Year Out Drinks

Wednesday 18th December 2024

A huge thank you to the class of 2023 who joined us at their One Year Out drinks on the 18th December at The Priory, Wellingborough. It was great to see so many of you.






Business Networking

Thursday 13th February 2025

On Thursday 13th February we were delighted to welcome Wellingborough School for their termly Business Networking meeting. Guests were made up of Old Wellingburians, current parents, staff and students and it was wonderful to see the connections being made around the room - there was a great buzz and positive atmosphere. We were able to showcase our famous family recipe for Jeye's Northamptonshire Sauce serving refreshments including sausages served with Jeyes's Mustard, cheese & chive scones topped with Jeyes's Chutney and fruit scones served with our delicious Jeyes's Jam. Pip Jeyes (Marsh 1985-1991) said, "This networking meeting is the first event in our newly refurbished Garden Room and Wellingborough School did not let us down - a great turn-out with people from across the school."






Future OW Events

OW Annual London Dinner

Friday 28th March 2025

The annual OW London Dinner is being held on Friday 28th March at the National Liberal Club in central London. We are excited to say that, with the help of the OW Club Committee, we have been able to significantly reduce the ticket price of the event from previous years and hope this offer will be enticing for you.

Tickets are now priced as the following:

- OWs and honorary OWs 30 and above - £95
- Spouses and plus ones who are not OWs - £50
- OWs 29 and below not in full-time education/degree apprenticeship - £50
- OWs 29 and below in full-time education/degree apprenticeship - £25

Current Headmaster, Andrew Holman, will be leaving at the end of the academic year and we are pleased that he will be joining us for his last OW London Dinner as Headmaster.

Tickets will be on sale until Friday 7th March 2025. You can book your tickets here or by emailing kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

Oxbridge Dinner

Friday 7th March 2025

The annual OW Oxbridge Dinner is to be held at Magdalene College, Cambridge.
Tickets have now sold out for this event.

OW Summer Sports & House Drinks

Friday 20th June 2025

The annual Summer Sports OW versus the School in hockey and cricket. Join us as a player or a spectator. A delicious BBQ dinner will be provided.
If you would be interested in playing then please contact brb@wellingboroughschool.org
We will also once again be hosting House Drinks - a chance to have a drink and visit your old House before heading down to watch the sport.

Class of 2020 - 5 Year Reunions

Saturday 13th September 2025

The annual 5 Year Reunion returns once again for the Class of 2020. Join us for drinks and a BBQ on the Headmaster's Lawn. Jill Livingstone and other staff members will be there to welcome you back.

OW Winter Sports

Saturday 29th March 2025

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 Lunch

Saturday 28th June 2025

Held onsite at the School - the OW Summer Lunch is open to all OWs. Starting with welcome drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn. Tickets are priced at £25pp and will go on sale in April.

Benefactors Lunch

Late summer 2025 - TBC

Coinciding with the opening of the School's new technology building, we invite those who donate to the School and Foundation to attend a Thank You lunch. Formal invitations to follow later in the year.

Future Events



Wellingborough Senior School Parents' Association has pleasure in inviting you to attend this year's Summer Ball. As in previous years, this very popular function will take place at the School and is open to parents across the whole school, former parents, OWs, staff, governors, friends, family and Year 13 leavers.
The evening will start at 6.30pm with drinks on the lawn followed by a delicious three-course dinner prepared by the Executive Chef, Kirstie and her awesome catering team.
Wine is available to pre-order to save you queuing. It will also be available on the night along with a fully stocked bar for cocktails and beer.
The School Blues Band will start off the evening at 6.30pm with their cool summer vibes.
For the main event we have the magnificent Matt Potter, of Potter Group returning, supporting the incredibly talented local band Six Feet Apart.
In typical ball fashion there will be the 'usual' heads and tails, along with an auction with some amazing prizes and a chance to win other prizes with a raffle.
Click here to purchase your ticket

OW Visits to the School

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

OW Doug Roy (78-85, F) met with current students and staff on their recent visit to New York. Doug and his wife, Emily, joined staff and pupils for a drink outside the Rockefeller Centre in October.
Doug shared that he, 'thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing about the school. The Sixth Formers were truly a delight and wonderful ambassadors.'



OW Nick Thomas (79-86, PS) also visited the School in the autumn. In this photo he can be seen next to the Head Prefect board where his name is displayed from his turn in 1985-86.



OW Keir Mulchaey (12-17, C) visited the School in November as part of his work with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



OW Reunions

OW Reza Ali (85-90, G) has had a particularly busy time reuniting with former classmates on three separate occasions where he resides in Malaysia.
Reza first met up with Mudathir Ariff (85-89, G) and Alex Farrell (85-90, G) in October 2023, then reunited again with Mudathir in October 2024.
Reza then went on to meet with Nor Idzmi Hassim (84-89, P) in November 2024.







Another international reunion happened in the summer of 2024, when four members of the class of 1989 met up in Switzerland. Pictured below are Milan Shah (79-89, PS), Luke Halestrap (84-89, F), Angie Pinner nee Jackson (87-89, M) and Dominic Hein (80-89, G).

There was an 'accidental' reunion in November when Naomi Gibbs (02-07, M) and Apoorva Khajuria (07-12, N) bumped into each other at an orthopaedic surgeon conference. There are so few women in trauma and orthopaedic, with even fewer in lower limb orthopaedics (<7%) so it was really wonderful to have two OWs at the same event and both female!





Share your reunions with us. Email kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

OW News

OW makes his breakthrough in the music industry



Some of you may have seen an article recently on the BBC News website about OW Kishan Thakrar (02-17, P). Kishan is a classically trained musician, having received First Class Honours in Music Composition from the Royal College of Music. Now living in London, he is making his way as a DJ and producer in the electronic music scene.
As well as featuring on BBC News (which can be read here), Kishan has also previously been BBC Introducing Artist of the Week on BBC Asian Network.

Reverand Richard Coles comes runner-up on I'm a Celebrity 2024



Rev Richard Coles (70-78, W) reached the final of the 2024 series of I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!
Richard entered the jungle as one of the late arrivals but proved popular with the British public and finished third in the final. Whilst in the jungle he took part in Bushtucker Trials - one of which included drinking from a fishbowl cocktail that contained blended giant mealworms, surströmming, crocodile anus and vomit fruit!
Now safely out of the jungle, production has begun on 'Murder Before Evensong', a new crime drama based on Richard's novel series. Richard will be serving as an executive producer on the series which will be aired on Channel 5 in the future.

OW completes Britain's most brutal endurance race

OW James Pattison (03-08, P) recently completed the Montane Winter Spine. The non-stop, 268-mile race takes place along the Pennine Way. Runners have a time limit of 168 hours to reach Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Boarders from their starting location in Derybshire.
James started the race at 8am on the 12th January, finishing at 9.30pm on Friday 17th - completing the race in 133 hours.
Thank you to James's wife, Naomi, for keeping us updated on his progress during the race.



OW News

OWs celebrate 20 years in business

Joe Zielinski (96-01, G) and Paul Coverdale (96-01, G) are celebrating the 20th birthday of their digital marketing company - Zinc Digital.
Joe founded the business in 2003 in Little Houghton, Northamptonshire. Paul then joined Zinc seven years later. They are also joined in the Leadership Team by fellow OW Ollie McKeown (95-05, G).
You can read more here in an article published in the Northamptonshire Telegraph last month.
Pictured here are Ollie (L), Paul (M) and Joe (R).



OW elected to the board of trustees for IChemE

Congratulations to OW Tawana Muchatuta (02-04, P) who has been elected to the board of trustees for the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). IChemE is an internationally recognised qualifying body and learned society for chemical, biochemical and process engineers. Tawana joins the trustees as the representative for the rest of the world.



OW takes up promotion in Melbourne, Australia

Congratulations to Dr Neeraj Bhala (90-97, F) who has been promoted to the post of Professor of Gastroenterology, Academic Director and Head of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, Australia.

Neeraj will be moving to Australia with his family and beginning his new role in March.



The Old Wellingburian Golfing Society

The OWGS are once again looking forward to a busy year of golf with three meetings alongside four competitions. All level of golfers are welcome to attend their meetings. If you are interested in attending please save the date and contact Tim Poole at poolet@utileengineering.com who will add you to the database and send the event invitation at the appropriate time.



OW News - Celebrations

Recently engaged, married. had a baby or celebrated an anniversary?
We would love to congratulate you in our next edition. Email Katie at kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

A double celebration

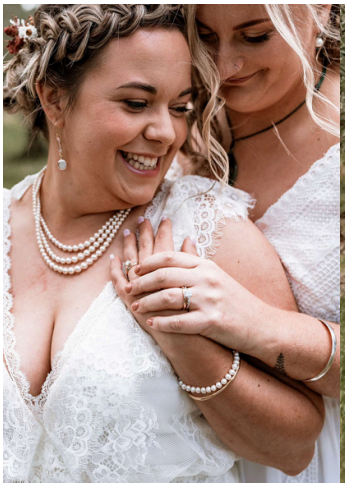
Congratulations to Susie Parker nee Linnell (00-14 W) who has celebrated a very exciting 2024. Susie married husband George Parker in February at Kettering Parish Church. The couple then welcomed a baby daughter, Charlotte Kathryn Parker on the 4th December 2024.





Wedding

Congratulations to Lydia Smart (06-12, W) who married wife Sam earlier this year. Lydia and Sam were married in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.





Engagement

Congratulations to Charlotte Cattell (96-11) and Tom Southern (07-12, P) who became engaged in January.



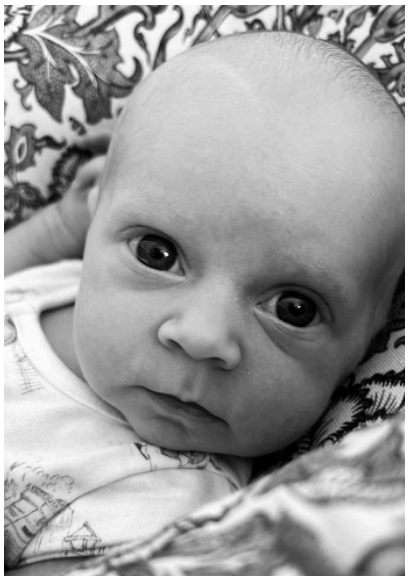
Engagement

Congratulations to Harry Knibbs (04-13, G) on their recent engagement to Beth Mayes. Harry proposed to Beth on the 25th January at the Four Waterfalls Walk in the Brecon Beacons.



Birth

Congratulations to OW Libby Collins on the birth of her first child. Libby and partner, Oliver, welcomed Cecilia Grace Collins-Wicks on the 23rd December 2024.



OW News - Obituaries

Roy Hawkes, 46-57 G

Died 1st December 2024



Obituary written by his close friend, Paul Blunt (51-59, PS)

Roy Hawkes was born in Bedford and after Prep School entered Garnes House in 1954 a year late due to a bout of polio at his Prep School from which he had recovered well. His second cousin David was already established in Garnes. We became friends straight away as we were both taking part in a production of 'A Midsummer Nights Dream'. Roy was involved in productions each year either as a performer or a stage hand usually on the lighting board. He was a keen member of the CCF Band first as a drummer and, in his last 2 years as a most proficient Band Sergeant Major where his imposition of strict discipline raised the standard of drill and playing to a very high standard. In 1958 he was appointed Captain of Garnes and in January 1959 became Head Prefect. On leaving School he joined BTH in Rugby, staying with them through various changes of name and in the early 1970s moved to English Electric in Stafford. He had already taken a degree externally with London University. In the mid 1970s he joined a firm in Warwickshire as a consultant and remained there for the rest of his working life having settled in Stratford-upon-Avon. During the 70s/80s he was a member of the OW Committee. In retirement he devoted much time to the local Rotary Club especially helping in the organisation of the Annual Marathon Race and in Public Speaking Competitions for local Schools. He also organised the local Young Enterprise Scheme encouraging local schools to enable students in the Sixth Form to learn how to run a business for a year by creating a product and then selling to the public through trade fairs. Roy got me interested in this and after helping him with a half day meeting of several local schools it inspired me to become a n Adviser on YE with Wellingborough School for 17 years. We met up regularly for theatre trips both in Stratford at the RSC and in Northampton, Milton Keynes and Oxford as well as celebration meals. After a few years of poor health, Roy suffered a massive stroke at the end of November 2024 and died 2 days later leaving his wife Margaret, daughter Lucille and 3 grandsons to whom we offer deepest sympathy in their loss. After 70 years friendship it has created a gap in my life as rarely a week passed when we spoke on the phone as well as frequent meetings.

Edward Robert Poole, 65-70 G

Died 10th September 2024



It is with great sadness that Hilary and family inform the OW Club of the sudden death of Rob on 10th September 2024, he was aged 72.
Rob joined Wellingborough School from Spratton Hall as a day boy and then moved to board in Garne's House. Rob particularly enjoyed athletics and we understand that he still holds the shotput record for the Shell Year, he launched a shot so far that it rolled down the branch of a tree and through the rear window of a parked car. His love and enjoyment of music was enhanced by being a member of the choir.
In September 1970 the school admitted girls but only into the 6th form, in that year there were only two girls at the school of which Hilary was one. Hilary and Rob met at an OW day, we were married in 1977 and are the first OW couple to be married. We have three daughters and four grandchildren, Rob was first and foremost a family man.
So deeply missed.

OW News - Obituaries

Tim Burkitt, 45-50, PS

Died 25th November 2024



Timothy J.K. Burkitt was born on the 1st of November 1933 in Wellingborough. He attended Wellingborough School from the years 1945 to 1950, after achieving a Foundation Scholarship to attend the school. During his time at the school, he was a keen and avid runner, winning the Junior school steeplechase and 440 yards. As he progressed through the school entering Senior School Timothy won the Geoffrey Lynn Memorial Prize as well as the prize for best School Certificate. Throughout his exams in 1950 Timothy took up cycling and became a fast cycler competing in races and won many short track races as well as hill climbs. Which was nominally an "Olympic Possible".
Timothy worked in Engineers Design offices in Peterborough and Northampton from 1954 to 1956 and passed the Institution of Civil Engineers Parts 1 and 2. Timothy obtained a place at Imperial College London, but however was unable to take up the option as he was called up for National Service in September and joined the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1959.
Before Timothy passed away, he wrote down some of his memories of Wellingborough School.
"It was a privilege to be educated at Wellingborough and the experience has helped me in work, study, sport and play. As a scholarship boy I was expected to produce reasonable academic results, but I remember admiring those easy performers who were always adequate at school without swotting (it was considered very infra dig to swot) and those who achieved effortless results on the sports field.
We were generally instructed by committed and competent masters, but woe betide any teacher who despite his commitment, lost the "fire initiative" over his pupils. School boys can be very cruel, and I recall the surrealistic night of one master's bicycle floating in midair over the rolling early Autumn mists. It had been hauled up the pavilion flagpole and was an object of veneration until brought down and some say dismantled and cast into the swimming pool."

Melvyn Hunter, 74-98, Staff

Melvyn's wife Lesley and family sadly announce, after a short illness, Melvyn died on Wednesday 12th February 2025.
His Funeral Service will be on Friday 14th March at 11am at St Mary's Church Rushden NN10 0QU
Family flowers only.
Donations to www.mariecurie.org.uk or placed in box at back of the church at Funeral Service.
OWs will be most welcome to attend the Funeral Service.

Michael Gent, 48-58 PS

Michael's family sadly announce his unexpected death on Friday 14th February 2025.
The Funeral will take place on Tuesday 11th March at All Saints Church, Midland Road, Wellingborough at midday. Light refreshments and a Celebration of Michael's life will be held after the service at Wellingborough Golf Club.
Family flowers only, but donations in memory of Michael can be made online for The Stroke Association via the website.

Schools News

Retired teacher's running success

Hi, this is Chris Martin-Sims - I was a teacher at the school between 1988 and 2018 and I thought I'd update you on one of the activities I am currently involved with as it may be of a little interest to some of those whom I taught.

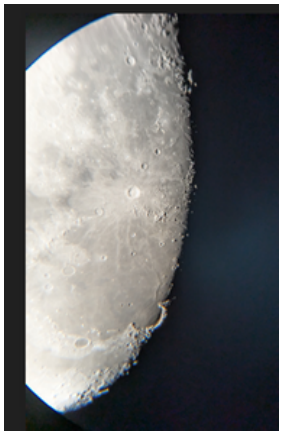
One of the first things to happen to me after I left the school was to have both my knees replaced with total knee replacement surgery. I thought that this would be a life changing event, and it was, but in an unexpected direction. Whilst I recovered, my wife, Lisiane, who worked in the catering department at the school for 20 years, began to undertake Park Runs on a Saturday and progressed to completing her first half marathon in Bedford in 2018. I would accompany her to Wicksteed Park and at first just watched as she and the other runners completed their 5 km. But then I started to walk around the course slowly. After a number of months I progressed to power walking the course and eventually began to jog round slowly. This was the situation until Covid struck and throughout the lockdown months I increased the number of kilometers I would walk or run. With the cessation of lockdown regulations in February 2022 I challenged myself to undertake the Cambridge Boundary Run half marathon. This is a little-known half marathon, organised by the undergraduate students at Cambridge University and takes place in March of each year. I finished last, in 2 hours 55 minutes, but was probably the oldest by about 45 years as most of the participants are undergraduates. Since then I have continued to take part in 10 km and half marathons as well as the Saturday Park Runs. Last year I completed 11 10 km races and 8 half marathons and whilst my times don't get that much quicker I now aim to complete the half marathons in around 2 hours 20 minutes and 10 km in just under the hour. My wife joins me in as many of the races as she can, though being in full time work this is sometimes difficult. Together with my wife I often bump into two other Wellingburians - George Houghton (current Housemaster and teacher) and Joe Ramsden (pupil and ex-teacher). They are in a completely different league to me, over an hour faster then my best efforts, but it is always a pleasure to see them at the start (but not the end!).

This year marks my seventieth year and I am 'celebrating' by taking part in another Cambridge Half Marathon. Not the Boundary Run, but the official TTP half marathon. The half marathon takes place the day after my birthday and on the birthday itself I hope to complete my two hundredth Park Run at Coldham Common. My wife will be joining me and together we will be raising money for a local choir she sings in called 'Dementia Sings Out' which meets every Thursday in Wellingborough to give those with dementia a chance to socialise and sing. The choir has close Wellingborough School connections as both Ruth and Gary Bowe are heavily involved in the organisation and running of the charity.



I hope that this may be of interest to some of the old alumni and an encouragement to those who think that their days of running are over. I thoroughly recommend the camaraderie of the Park Runs. I recently bumped into two Old Wellingburians - Claire Saxby and Isabelle Carter-Mckay (not sure that is right spelling, she left in 2018) at Wicksteed Park.

Astronomy Club



In 2024, the OW Committee were approached by a current student who was keen to start an Astronomy Club at the School but needed support with financing a telescope. Hearing his passion for starting the club and understanding the benefit the telescope would bring, the OW Committee were happy to make a donation.
Headmaster Andrew Holman commented, 'Not least through the considerable support provided by OWs, our Astronomy Club goes from strength to strength. The images shared have all been gathered by members of the Club - everyone will recognise the Moon, and probably Saturn, but we also have an image of Jupiter and some of its moons. The equipment the Club now has has enabled it to extend its reach - not only within the Solar System, but also the student body, where wonderment and awe accompany meetings, some of which take place on School balconies or wherever a good angle can be found.'



School News

School Careers Service



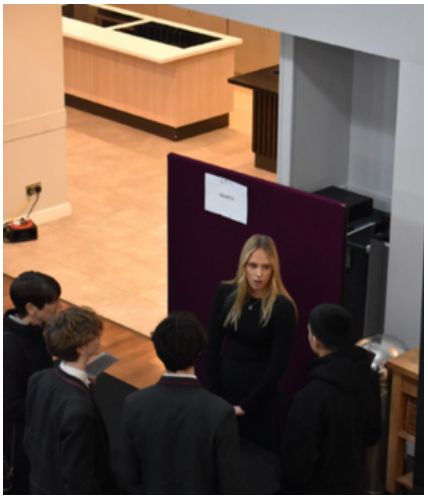
The Careers Department continues to be as busy as ever – striving to give students a rounded understanding of the careers and further education options available.
It was great to see so many OWs at the School's Careers Fair last term. Around 50 universities, colleges and businesses exhibited - with many of those being OWs.
Amongst those were Duncan McKendrick (97-07, P), Marcus Carter (90-05, P), Anna Johnson (21-23, N), Elizabeth Nobes (90-04, N), Tate James (15-22, P), and Joshua Morris (08-23, PS).
OW Charles Ward (67-75, PS) also visited the School this month to chat about his career within the creative industry and offer a few tips of how students might start a career as a professional photographer.
The Careers Department is always grateful for any support that OWs can give. Our annual Wellingborough School Apprenticeship Evening will take place on Thursday 13th March from 6pm - 8pm. We would be delighted to invite OWs whose companies offer Apprenticeship opportunities to attend and have a table.
Our Year 12 cohort are due to be heading off on work experience during the w/c 23rd June 2025. If your company may be willing to welcome a Wellingborough student on placement for the week, then we would love to hear from you.

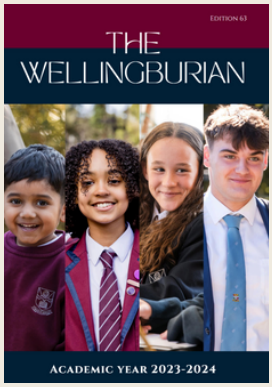


Mrs Alexandra Arber
Head of Careers
aar@wellingboroughschool.org









The Wellingburian 2023-2024

The latest edition of The Wellingburian is now available to read online here. Should you wish for a hard copy, please contact Katie.
The annual publication features news of the 23-24 School year covering the Prep School, Senior School, OW Club and Foundation.

School News

Bursar's Update

Building the future, and keeping the past alive, are one and the same thing.
Hideo Kojima



Readers may recall that I used the above quotation in the 2022 Wellingburian (shortly after we launched Project COPERNICUS) to introduce an article on the School's 30-year master plan for the development of the school site. In many ways however, the quotation is equally applicable to the financial challenges facing Wellingborough School.

You will be very aware that independent schools have been hit hard by the current Government's triple whammy of VAT on fees, loss of charitable business rate reliefs, and increased employer's National Insurance costs.

The first two of these measures were expected; for some time, we have been preparing and implementing measures to mitigate the financial impacts as far as possible. However, phrases from London such as 'schools cutting their cloth' or 'reducing non-essential expenditure' to 'absorb' VAT and other taxes are unhelpful when the School long ago stripped out such in order to ensure we are offering the very best value for money for our parents.

You will not have noticed many of the changes and adaptations the School has put in place over the last couple of years – appropriately so, because they are intended to be sub-surface - which range from corporate and governance restructuring, refining commercial activities, consolidating land ownership, and a host of technical financial mitigations. The net effect is that, at least in the short-term, we have been able to absorb most of the costs of VAT for parents.

Whilst VAT was not a surprise, the subsequent announcement in the Autumn budget statement on the new employer national insurance rates, coupled with a lowering of the thresholds, was unexpected and unwelcome in equal measure. It negates some of our mitigations and adds another £0.25 million to our cost base from April 2025.

In these hostile financial conditions, the role of the School is to continue to deliver a first-class all-round education to the pupils, in the most financially efficient manner. Wellingborough is confident – not complacent – that we have an educational offer and business model that will allow the School to prosper over the next 450 years. It is sadly inevitable however, that some areas – for example, funds the School can make available for bursaries – will inevitably come under pressure in the years ahead…

Foundation News



I hope you enjoy reading the Lent Term edition of the OW newsletter, expertly compiled by Katie Powell. I would like to add my thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter as well as those who supported the range of events detailed on page 2-3. A special word of thanks to the 20+ Class of 2023 OWs who joined us at the first 'One Year Out' drinks on the 18th December.

Please do join us at the events we have planned for the rest of the year and which are profiled on page 5. You are also very welcome to join the Wellingborough Senior School Parents' Association Summer Ball which takes place on Saturday 5th July at the School. Booking details are at the bottom of Page 5.

I shared in the Michaelmas newsletter that the Foundation is seeking philanthropic gifts for:

- Transformational Bursaries
- Project Copernicus (buildings)

Foundation News

Transformational Bursaries

Your gift to the Transformational Bursary Fund literally changes a life by opening the door to all that a Wellingborough School education offers. One of our bursary recipients, Hannah, shares the impact a transformational bursary had for her at The Wellingborough School Foundation - Wellingborough School. Click on 'Transformational Bursaries – changing pupils' lives' to hear her story.

I am working with lead donors across groups of OW leaving years to collectively fund a 100% Transformational Bursary. Pupils of outstanding academic ability and who excel in other areas of the school but whose parents have very limited financial means, enrich the Wellingborough School Community with all that they bring to our community.



Project Copernicus (campus development)

In late 2021, after an extensive review, the Governors decided that the School would remain on its current 55-acre site on London Road. A master planning exercise looked at the physical manifestation to support future ways of teaching and learning as well as better optimising the 'town/field' balance, improving vehicular access, allowing the School to better play its part as a member of the community and achieving a net zero carbon sustainable footprint.

Project Copernicus preserves and enhances the best of Wellingborough School while adopting a strategic approach to developing the facilities. The Technology Centre represents the first building under the masterplan and is on track to open in September 2025. The new Technology Centre and Gatehouse will house the new reception, medical and welfare facilities as well as a lecture theatre and multi-purpose teaching spaces. As the existing Design and Technology Department is currently off site, this was also seen as a priority to bring on to site to sit alongside the IT department so that Technology teaching as a whole can be updated and refreshed.



Foundation News

The sports facilities were also identified as being in need of replacement and consolidation, along with the desire to provide a swimming pool. The new Sports Centre will be located opposite the Gatehouse so a new secure line can be established between the two buildings.
All visitor and most staff parking will be located in the carparks that sit in front of these two buildings so drop-off and general vehicular access will be improved.
The Gatehouse, Sports Centre and new carpark can then be secured separately from the main body of the School, allowing us to maximise sharing these facilities with the wider community.



Please do join us at one or more of our events, share your news and let me know if you have any questions regarding our Transformational Bursary Fund or the Sports Centre. The impact your gift, no matter how large or small, will have will be transformational for our pupils and staff. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sports Sponsorship







A huge thank you to our sports sponsors for supporting our 1st teams in the following sports:

- Rugby and tennis - Roka Dental
- Football - Huxloe Group
- Netball - Case Security
- Hockey - Nineteen Accountants

Opportunities to support sport at Wellingborough School and promote your brand are still available for cricket, athletics, equestrian, badminton and golf.
A £2 000 annual sponsorship fee for three years (£6 000 in total over three years) for a team gives you:

- Branding on the 1st team playing shirts
- Half page advert in the Wellingborough School Business Directory
- Recognition on all of our social media platforms and other marketing materials
- Invitation to the annual donor and sponsor thank you event

I am also happy to discuss other recognition opportunities.

Kind regards
Graham Papenfus CFRE F.IDPE - Foundation and Development Director
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