THE OLD Wellingburian NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026 The Old Wellingburian Club Est. 1897



The Gateway - Opened 2026

In this edition



Five OWs return to School as Guest Speakers p10



Multiple OW win awards at regional food awards p14



Read about past and future events p3-p8

Editor's Welcome

OW Liaison, Katie Powell

The last newsletter was published in June 2026 and, since then, there has been a steady stream of Old Wellingburian visits to the School, alongside plenty of exciting news to share. I am particularly delighted that every guest speaker at the School's awards events this summer was a member of the Old Wellingburian community. It was wonderful not only to welcome these OWs back to School, but also to see our current pupils inspired by people who once sat where they do today.

With so much Old Wellingburian news to celebrate, keeping this newsletter to a reasonable length has been no easy task. From sporting achievements and career milestones to fundraising successes and prestigious awards, this edition truly showcases the breadth of talent, achievement and goodwill within our community. In fact, there was far more content than we could include, and I have already begun collecting stories for the next edition.

There has also been plenty happening around the School, and deciding what to feature was equally challenging. I hope the articles included here capture the spirit, ambition and vibrancy of Wellingborough School today.

For our Class of 2026 OWs, this will be your first Old Wellingburian Newsletter, and I hope it provides a glimpse of the lifelong connection that so many former pupils maintain with the School. I encourage you to stay in touch, share your news and memories, and join us at future events whenever you can.

Speaking of events, we have a packed calendar of Old Wellingburian and School occasions taking place between now and July 2027. Alongside our dedicated OW gatherings, there are many School events to which OWs are warmly invited. I hope there is something to appeal to everyone.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed news, photographs and updates for this edition. I hope you enjoy reading the latest Old Wellingburian Newsletter, and I look forward to hearing more of your stories in the months ahead.

Introducing the Director of Engagement - Katharine Owen



It is a pleasure to be writing for the OW newsletter in my new role as Director of Engagement. Although the role is something different for me, as many of you will know, being at Wellingborough is not a recent move!

I first started at the School in September 2000 as a newly qualified teacher, with a Year 4 class in the Junior School, and later that year became Club President of Bears. The next move was into senior leadership, first as Assistant Head (Pupils' Academic Development) then as Deputy Head (Curriculum). In January 2019 I was honoured to take up the role of Head of Prep and enjoyed the ensuing 7½ years in that role. During the past 26 years, I have seen so many pupils making their journey through the School and have got to know so many parents. It has been a real pleasure to assist in that journey, and I am keen to continue with it as I now work closely with Katie and Fin in the Foundation Office.

Two months into the role, I have already had the opportunity to re-engage with alumni who I first remember as 8 year-olds in my class, as well as meeting other alumni for the first time, hearing their wonderful (and often entertaining) stories of their time at Wellingborough.

I am very keen to further develop these links with OWs, OW parents and former staff. If I knew you during your time here and you would like to reconnect, or if I don't know you yet and you'd like to connect for the first time, I would love to hear from you. As well as the usual events and contact through the Foundation Office, I would welcome any direct communication so, if you would like a conversation, a visit, or just an introduction, please do feel free to email me ko@wellingboroughschool.org at any time.

I look forward to meeting many more of you at our upcoming events over the coming year.

Upcoming OW Events

All OW events can be booked online at www.oldwellingburianclub.org/events or by emailing kpo@wellingboroughschool.org . Booking information for other events can be found below.

Wellingborough School 1st XV v Wellingborough RFC

Friday 6th November, 2026

Come and support our current pupils as the School's 1st XV Rugby team takes on Wellingborough RFC at home.
Kick-off is at 6.00pm on the 1st XV pitch.

OW Autumn Lunch & AGM

Saturday 7th November, 2026

The annual OW Autumn Lunch returns following a 'sold-out' event last year. Join us for drinks and a two-course meal at the School. Arrive early to be involved in the O.W.Club AGM. Bookings must close at 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd November. £25 per person.

Remembrance Service

Sunday 8th November, 2026

Mr Owen would like to invite OWs to the School's annual Remembrance Service. The service will commence at 10.15am in the School's Chapel, with refreshments provided afterwards in the dining hall.

Friday Night Lights

Friday 13th November, 2026

Enjoy a fantastic evening of hockey as the School's 1st XI takes on Leicester Grammar School under the lights.
Refreshments will be available from the Horsebox, while the WSSPA will be serving mulled wine to help keep spectators warm.
Arrive from 5.30pm for a 6.15pm start.

Book online via www.oldwellingburianclub.org using your email address and password. If you have not yet set a password, please select 'Forgot your password?' on the log in page and follow the instructions.

Business Networking Breakfast

Thursday 12th November, 2026

We invite OWs, parents, former parents, staff and members of the wider Wellingborough School community, to connect, share ideas, and promote business interests.
Drinks and breakfast nibbles provided, colleagues welcome.

WSSPA Christmas Wreath Making

Wednesday 25th November, 2026

Get into the festive spirit and join the Wellingborough Senior School Parents Association for their popular Christmas Wreath Making Evening.
The event will take place in the Upper Prep Hall at 7.00pm. More information and booking can be found here.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 6th December, 2026

Mr Owen would like to invite OWs to the School's annual Carol Service. The 9 Lessons & Carols will commence at 4pm in the School's Chapel, with refreshments provided afterwards in the dining hall.

Annual Donor & Legacy Thank You Event

Sunday 6th December, 2026

This special invitation-only event is held in recognition of those whose generosity continues to make a lasting difference to the School.
We look forward to thanking donors and legacy pledgers in person and celebrating the impact of their support over a festive lunch.

Upcoming OW Events

OW Oxbridge Dinner

Friday 12th March, 2027

The annual Oxford and Cambridge dinner returns once again to Magdalene College, Cambridge where OW Sir Christopher Greenwood (65-73, C) currently resides as the 36th Master of Magdalene.
Details are currently being finalised for this event and invites will be sent out soon.

OW v The School, Netball & Football

Saturday 20th March, 2027

The annual OW v The School Netball and Football matches held onsite at the School.
If you would be available to represent the OWs in these fixtures, please contact fgr@wellingboroughschool.org
Refreshments provided, spectators encouraged.

OW London Dinner

Friday 16th April, 2027

SAVE THE DATE
President-Elect, Martin Palmer (74-82, Pa) is delighted to invite you to attend the OW London Dinner 2027 during his year as President.
At the time of publication the venue and OW Liaison were finalising the contract. However we hope to be able to announce very soon the details for the 2027 OW London Dinner which is to be held in an iconic venue.

Business Networking Breakfast

Thursday 10th June, 2027

We invite OWs, parents, former parents, staff and members of the wider Wellingborough School community, to connect, share ideas, and promote business interests.
Drinks and breakfast nibbles provided, colleagues welcome.

OW v The School, Hockey & Cricket

Friday 18th June, 2027

The annual OW v The School Hockey and Cricket matches held onsite at the School.
If you would be available to represent the OWs in these fixtures, please contact fgr@wellingboroughschool.org
Refreshments provided, spectators encouraged.

Class of '67, '77, '87, '97, '07, and '17 Reunions

Saturday 19th June, 2027

Join us at the School where you will enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and enjoy a guided tour of the School.
More information and booking details to follow in Spring 2027.

OW Summer Lunch

Saturday 19th June, 2027

Held at the School, join us for drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn followed by a two-course meal with accompanied wines.
More information and booking to follow in Spring 2027.

WSSPA Summer Ball

Saturday 3rd July, 2027

All Year 13 Leavers, governors, OWs, staff, friends, family and parents of all year groups are invited to attend. Come and enjoy a great evening including a three-course dinner plus dancing to a DJ and live music.

Mark your calendar now! Tickets will be available soon.

Further details and bookings can be found at www.oldwellingburianclub.org

Past Events

OW Summer Sports
Friday 19th June, 2026

OW Summer Sports marked the start of a weekend of OW events at the School – which kicked off with OW v The School summer sports.

In very warm conditions, OWs and pupils competed in both hockey and cricket before enjoying drinks and a BBQ.

It was a clean sweep for the Old Wellingburians – who won their matches in both sports against some tough competition.

OWs from as recently as 2025 and as far back as 1989 took part, highlighting the strength and span of the Wellingborough community. One player even joined while on a family visit from Florida, while another OW visiting from Australia came along to support!

Thank you to the School's sports staff and catering team for their support with this event.

We look forward to more OW v The School sports fixtures in 2027.

A match report from both fixtures can be read here.








Past Events

Decade Reunions and the OW Summer Lunch Saturday 20th June, 2026

On Saturday 20th June, two OW events were hosted at the School, with over sixty OWs, former and current staff in attendance.
The morning began with reunions for the Classes of 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016. They gathered in the Sixth Form Centre, where, over tea and coffee, they enjoyed viewing a collection of items and photographs from their time at the School.
The morning continued with guided tours of the School led by Headmaster Simon Hawkes, Deputy Head of Operations Richard Spiby, and Heads of School Lois and William. Guests were shown both familiar parts of the School and more recent additions.
The reunion concluded with a service in the chapel, conducted by Chris Owen, Head of Modern Languages in the Prep School and Acting Chaplain.
In the afternoon, the annual OW Summer Lunch took place, with guests invited to arrive early to attend the chapel service if they wished.
Despite the warm weather, an unexpected rain shower moved the welcome drinks from the Headmaster's Lawn into the Dining Hall – but the rain failed to dampen the spirits of those in attendance.
A two-course meal was then served in The Spencer Room by the School's catering team. The lunch concluded with a speech from the Headmaster, reflecting on his first year in post at the School.













Past Events

Class of 2021, 5 Year Reunion
Saturday 12th September, 2026





For the first OW event of the school year, we were delighted to welcome back the Class of 2021 for their five-year reunion.

For many, this was their first visit back to the School since leaving in 2021, and it was wonderful to see so many former pupils return.

We were also pleased to be joined by Headmaster Simon Hawkes, alongside current and former members of staff.

Held on the Headmaster's Lawn, the event featured drinks and a fantastic BBQ provided by the School's catering team. There was plenty of time for everyone to catch up with friends and staff and share memories of their time at the School.

School photographs, a leavers' book and copies of The Wellingburian were on display, allowing guests to look back on their younger selves.

The OWs also enjoyed a tour of the School, giving them the opportunity to see the new facilities that have opened since they left, including the Sixth Form Centre and the Gateway Building.

Later in the evening, JJ McManus (16-21, C) and Vivek Dard (06-21, G) organised a gathering at a local pub, allowing the celebrations to continue into the night.

We look forward to welcoming many of those who attended to future OW and School events.



Past Events

OW London Drinks
Thursday 15th October, 2026

A wonderful evening was enjoyed at the Slug & Lettuce, Oxford Circus, as Old Wellingburians gathered in central London for drinks and the opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.
The OW community was well represented, with alumni from every House in attendance and leavers spanning five decades, from 1976 through to our most recent alumni from the Class of 2026.
The evening was filled with reminiscing, laughter, networking and new connections, demonstrating the enduring strength of the Old Wellingburian community. We look forward to welcoming even more OWs to our next London Drinks event in 2027.






The Old Wellingburian Golfing Society
Recent Events

The OWGS's busy season came to a close in early October with the final event of the year, followed by the AGM, at Wellingborough Golf Club.
Following the fixtures reported in the June OW Newsletter, the next event on the calendar was the prestigious Cyril Gray Trophy at Worplesdon Golf Club, a scratch foursomes knockout competition. This year, the OWGS was represented by Richard Jackson (70–81, St), Chris Billson (71–81, C), Malcolm Rowe (75–83, W) and Martyn Allen (63–70, C). Unfortunately, the team was defeated by Chigwell School in the first round.
The Society's Autumn Meeting took place in September at Northamptonshire County Golf Club and was organised by Toby Hemsley (04–09, Pl). Eighteen players enjoyed an excellent day of golf, with David Morgan (00–05, F) retaining the OW Cup and Chris Billson (71–81, C) winning the Wright Cup.
The season concluded with the Long Johns competition at Wellingborough Golf Club, before members gathered for the AGM. OWGS President, John Panter (57–60, Pl), was presented with the Hugh Denton Salver to round off another successful year for the Society.

OW Visits to the School





Several OWs have been back to visit the School in recent months. Michael Philpot (75-84, C) visited from Yorkshire in July, and Kenneth Chan (84-87, Pl) visited from Hawaii in October. Jonny Rimmer (14-22, G) also popped in to visit his former teachers. The Foundation team are always pleased to welcome back Old Wellingburians to the School. Please do get in touch with Katie if you would like to visit.

OW Reunions

Former Headmaster Andrew Holman (17-25, Staff) has had the pleasure of reconnecting with many young OWs over the last year. Among those he has caught up with are Iris Kirk (13-23, N), Hayden Ayres (15-22, PS) and James Elson (08-23, Pl), who is pictured on the left. Andrew was also delighted to cheer on Ben Howard (20-25, C) at the University and Colleges National Rowing Championships at Holme Pierrepont, pictured on the right.







Julian Amey (57-67, G), Michael Fowle (62-67, G) and John Reddy (62-67, G) were reunited in Portsmouth over the summer, where they enjoyed a meal with their partners at Gunwharf Quays.
It is wonderful to celebrate Wellingborough School friendships that have endured for more than 60 years.

OW Guest Speakers





A number of Old Wellingburians returned to School in recent months to share their experiences and inspire current pupils as Guest Speakers and Guests of Honour at a series of School events.

The summer programme began with Senior School Prize Giving in July, where OW Nicola Willis (84-89, W) travelled from her home in Zimbabwe to attend as Guest of Honour. Nicola is Founder and Executive Director of Zvandiri, an organisation that connects children, adolescents and young people living with HIV with peer counsellors to help them survive and thrive. In 2025, Nicola received three honours at the Women Changing the World Awards. She is Co-Chair of the World Health Organisation's Technical Working Group for HIV Service Delivery and a member of WHO's HIV Guidelines Committee.

Nicola delivered an inspiring address to pupils, parents and staff, reflecting on her education, career and the lessons she has learned throughout her journey. She also presented prizes to students during the ceremony.

Earlier in the day, OW Vivek Dard (06-21, G) spoke to the Year 13 leavers as they prepared to join the OW Club. Reflecting on his first five years as an OW, Vivek encouraged students to make the most of the opportunities and connections available through the alumni network.

The following day saw Upper Prep Prize Giving welcome OW Keir Mulcahey (12-17, C) as Guest Speaker. Keir, who is Operations Officer for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Central England, has previously returned to the Prep School as a historical re-enactor.

During his engaging speech, Keir reflected on his time at Wellingborough School, his university experience and his career journey. He encouraged pupils to embrace new opportunities, step outside their comfort zones and recognise the importance of developing strong interpersonal and leadership skills.

The week of celebrations concluded with the annual Sports Awards Evening, where OW David Howells (11-21, G) joined as Guest of Honour. David, a visually impaired cricketer, represents both Northamptonshire and the England Visually Impaired National Team. Alongside presenting awards to recipients, he also took part in a Q&A session with Director of Sport, Carl Harris.



In October, OW Elizabeth Hawkins (14-22, N) returned to School as the Keynote Speaker at the Duke of Edinburgh and Endeavour Awards Evening. Elizabeth was invited back in recognition of her role as the School's first Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador in 2022.

Current staff member Mrs Kathleen Kenney said:

"Elizabeth was our first Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador. I remember her outstanding organisational skills and ability to motivate others. She was a formidable champion for the awards, and I am so pleased that she agreed to return and speak at this special evening."

The evening also celebrated the achievements of 17 OWs who have gone on to attain their Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards since leaving School.

OW News

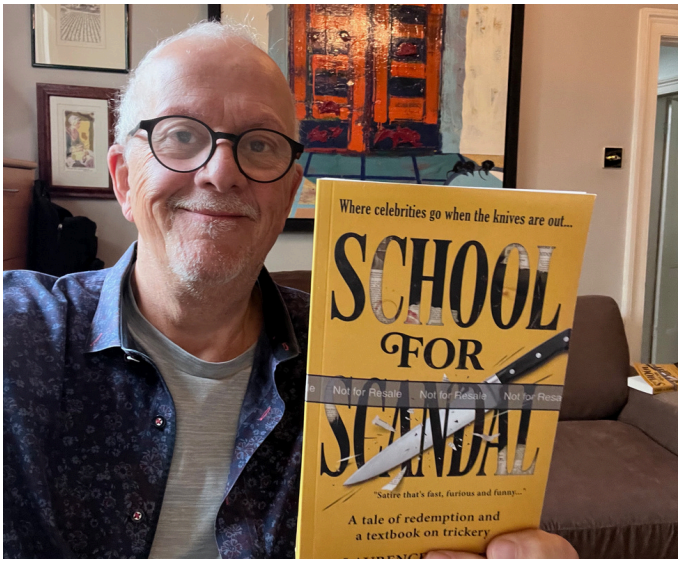
OW awarded the Freedom of the City of London



Congratulations to OW Mark Crooks (07–10, C) on being awarded the Freedom of the City of London.
Mark, who works in the construction industry, received this historic honour in recognition of his professional standing and connection to the City of London through The Worshipful Company of Constructors.
"My admission to the Freedom of the City of London came through a nomination by my Livery Company, The Worshipful Company of Constructors. Livery Companies are among the City's oldest institutions, representing a wide range of trades, professions and industries, while continuing to play an important role in professional development, charitable activities and civic traditions. I was invited to join the Company through an industry connection in February this year and quickly became aware of the important work it undertakes in supporting both the construction profession and the wider community. As a member, I was honoured to be nominated for the Freedom, which recognises an individual's professional standing and connection to the City of London and its historic institutions.
The Freedom of the City of London is one of the oldest surviving traditions in the United Kingdom, dating back many centuries. While it no longer carries the practical privileges it once did, it remains a significant ceremonial honour that celebrates a person's contribution to their profession, community and public life.
The ceremony took place at Guildhall, the historic heart of the City of London, where the origins and significance of the Freedom were explained. Following the formal declaration and signing of the register, I was presented with my Freedom certificate and had the opportunity to learn more about the centuries of history behind the honour.
What made the occasion particularly memorable was being able to share it with my family in such an iconic setting. It was a proud moment, one that connected London's rich history with my own professional journey in the construction industry.
Looking back, it is a reminder that opportunities often arise through professional relationships, involvement in your chosen industry and a willingness to contribute beyond your day-to-day role. I feel privileged to have become part of a tradition that has endured for centuries and am grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout my career."

OW's latest book publication

Congratulations to OW Andrew Laurence (65-76, S) on the publication of his latest fiction book this summer.
Writing under the pen name Laurence Cooper, Andrew's latest novel, School for Scandal, is described as a fast-paced satire in the vein of Tom Wolfe and Sharpe, with a dash of Armando Iannucci.
Andrew's previous novels include George Valentine's Retirement Plan and Death on the Mekong. His short fiction has won or been listed for awards including the Bridport Prize and Fish Publishing Prize.
Both the paperback and eBook are available to purchase on Amazon.



OW News

OW named The Business of Fashion's Head of Client Strategy



Congratulations to OW Alice Givіden (06-13, M) on her promotion at The Business of Fashion (BoF), the leading fashion news, analysis and insights platform.
Alice has been appointed to the newly created role of Head of Client Strategy, having previously served as Director of Content Strategy. In this global position, she will lead BoF's strategic client partnerships across the fashion, luxury and beauty sectors, while also expanding engagement with senior industry leaders.
Alice will additionally play a key role in the continued growth of The Business of Beauty, BoF's platform dedicated to the global beauty industry.
We wish Alice every success in her new role.

International rowing success for OW



Congratulations to OW Ben Howard (20–25, C) on winning gold at the European Universities Sports Association Championships in Zagreb, Croatia.
Representing the University of Reading, Ben competed in the Men's Single Sculls (M1x), producing an impressive performance throughout the competition. After winning his heat and semi-final, he went on to claim gold in the final, crossing the finish line in a time of 7:07.44.
This latest achievement continues an outstanding run of success for Ben. At his first BUCS Rowing Regatta in May, he won gold in the Intermediate Single Sculls (1x), bronze in the Intermediate Double Sculls (2x), and also reached the A Final in the Intermediate Coxless Four (4x).
In July, Ben represented England in the Under-23 Men's Single Sculls (BM1x) at the Home International Rowing Regatta, where he added another gold medal to his growing collection.
Ben's achievements are a testament to his dedication, talent and hard work, and we look forward to following his continued success on the water.

Lifetime Achievement Award in Tennis for OW

Congratulations to OW Mark Taylor (79–87, C), who has been awarded the Northamptonshire County Lifetime Achievement Award at the LTA Awards.
The award recognises Mark's longstanding dedication to tennis and his significant contribution to the sport over many years. Presented as part of the Lawn Tennis Association's annual awards programme, the honour celebrates individuals who have made an exceptional and lasting impact within their local tennis community.
Mark's commitment, enthusiasm and service to the game have earned him this well-deserved recognition, highlighting the difference he has made both on and off the court.



OW News

OW launches new golf and hospitality business in Northamptonshire

Congratulations to OW Noah Kennedy (04–13, PS) and his wife on the successful launch of BAY17 Indoor Golf & Social Club.
Located at The Royal Ordnance Depot in Weedon, Northamptonshire, BAY17 has enjoyed a fantastic start since opening its doors this summer.
Combining innovative golfing technology with a welcoming social atmosphere, the venue offers access to more than 500 world-renowned courses through three state-of-the-art TrackMan simulators. Whether visitors are looking to improve their game, enjoy a friendly competition or simply spend time with friends, BAY17 provides a unique indoor golfing experience for players of all abilities.
Alongside the golf facilities, guests can relax and enjoy coffee, drinks and refreshments in a modern and friendly setting, making BAY17 a destination for both golfers and non-golfers alike.
Due to growing demand, Noah is already recruiting part-time staff. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact admin@bay17golf.co.uk for more information.
We wish Noah and his wife every success as they continue to grow their exciting new venture.



Young OW recognised among Northamptonshire's rising business talent



Congratulations to OW Jessie Cotton (19–24, N), who was shortlisted as a finalist for the Young Business Person of the Year award at the Northamptonshire Business Awards 2026.
Organised by the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, the awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of individuals, businesses and organisations across the county, recognising innovation, leadership and excellence in a wide range of sectors.
Jessie, who is Sales Manager at Eckland Lodge Business Park near Market Harborough, was selected as a finalist in recognition of her ambition, leadership, determination and commitment to making a positive impact through her work.
Being named among the finalists is a significant achievement and reflects the high calibre of young professionals making their mark in Northamptonshire's business community.

OW News

Young OW swims the English Channel for charity

Congratulations to OW Daisy-mai Crossman (08-23, M), who completed a relay swim across the English Channel in October to raise funds for Young Minds Matter.
Daisy-mai was part of a four-strong team of young adults who took on the challenging 21-mile crossing. Completing the swim in 12 hours and 2 minutes, the team recorded the second-fastest relay crossing of 2026.
Reflecting on the experience, Daisy-mai said:
"We started at sunrise at 6.12am from Shakespeare Beach in Dover and finished at sunset at 6.14pm at Cap Gris-Nez. During the swim, I got up close with plenty of wildlife, seeing seals, rare birds and even having a jellyfish hit me right in the face! A little too up close with the wildlife, I'd say!
Although the weather was pleasant, the team and I battled strong currents that worked against us, but we managed to power through. We also had to dodge cargo ships and other large vessels, including P&O ferries. Overall, it was a great swim and the team and I are friends for life."
Alongside the demanding swim, the team set themselves an ambitious fundraising target and, to date, have raised more than £12,000 in support of the charity.
The challenge was not without its setbacks. Despite a warm summer, the swim had to be rescheduled several times due to poor weather conditions in the Channel.
Young Minds Matter is a Warwickshire-based charity that supports young people through free one-to-one mentoring services in schools, helping them to build resilience, self-esteem and confidence.
Congratulations to Daisy-mai and the rest of the team on this remarkable achievement.
If you would like to support Daisy-mai's fundraising efforts, donations can still be made via the fundraising page which can be found here.





OW recognised for remarkable public service



OW Peter Geiringer (61-66, W) recently celebrated his 79th birthday and marked the end of an extraordinary chapter in local government following the London Borough of Sutton elections on 7th May.
While naturally disappointed not to retain his Conservative council seat, Peter had the distinction of being recognised as the longest-serving councillor of any London borough since the boroughs were established in 1965.
Peter's commitment to public service has spanned an impressive 42 years. First elected at the age of just 29, he dedicated much of his adult life to representing and serving his local community. Apart from an eight-year break from office, he remained a prominent and respected figure in Sutton's civic life for more than four decades.
We congratulate Peter on his outstanding contribution to public life.

OW News

OW raises £13,000 for Retina UK



OW Stuart Copeland (75–81, C) successfully organised a charity golf day at Woburn Golf Club, raising more than £13,000 for Retina UK.

Stuart has both supported, and been supported by, Retina UK for several years. The charity is the only UK organisation dedicated to supporting people affected by inherited sight loss, while also funding pioneering research into treatments and potential cures.

Held in May on Woburn Golf Club's renowned Dukes Course, the event attracted 32 teams and 125 golfers. The day was particularly significant as it marked both the 50th anniversary of Retina UK and the 50th anniversary of Woburn Golf Club.

Among those taking part were several Old Wellingburians, helping to make the occasion a memorable gathering as well as a successful fundraiser.

Alongside the golf competition, participants took part in a number of additional fundraising activities designed to raise awareness of inherited sight loss, including a yellow ball challenge and an RP putting challenge. The day also featured a raffle and auction, which contributed to the impressive fundraising total.

You can watch a video with highlights from the day here.

Congratulations to Stuart and everyone involved in organising and supporting such a successful event for an important cause.

OWs and OW Parents win Gold, Silver and Bronze at regional awards

Congratulations to all the Old Wellingburians and OW parents who were winners or finalists at the 2026/27 Weetabix Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards.

Old Wellingburian businesses, venues and products were represented across four categories, with the winners announced at a glittering ceremony at the Royal & Derngate, Northampton, in October.

Taking home Gold in the Healthy Food & Wellbeing Product category was Houghton Hams, the family-run business involving OWs Paul Wagstaff (91-94, PS), Sarah Nicholson (05-10, N) and Julie Blayney (93-98, W).

Gold in the F&B Achiever category was awarded to OW parent Tom McManus, parent of James McManus (16-21, C). Tom's pub, The Red Lion, Brafield-on-the-Green, was also Highly Commended in the Booker Gastro Pub of the Year category.

Thomas White (99-04, PS) secured Silver in the Local Food Hero category for Origin Farm Shop, Rushton, which opened last year.

You can also read on page page 22 about the School's catering team, who were among this year's finalists.

Share your news with us.
Share your news and achievements - kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

Welcome Class of 2026 to the OW Club

We are delighted to welcome the Class of 2026 as the newest members of the Old Wellingburian Club, following the completion of their A Levels at the School this past summer.

Their last term was filled with events and celebrations to mark the students' final days as pupils. Before embarking on study leave, Year 13 enjoyed their last formal days at School, including the much-loved tradition of dressing up in their former Primary or Prep School uniforms and dressing as the first letter of their name.

Many also took part in the annual Lifers' Assembly, which celebrates those who joined the School in Nursery or Reception. During the assembly, Year 13 pupils shared their plans for September and reflected on their favourite Prep School memories with current Prep pupils.

On 1st July, students attended the Welcome to the OW Club event and the Leavers' Service, where Year 13 pupils and their families gathered in the Chapel for a farewell service. This was followed by drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn before joining the rest of the Senior School for Prize Giving. During Prize Giving outgoing Heads of School Monpriya Dhaliwal (12-26, M), and Finley Rendall (16-26, PS) gave a fantastic speech. As is tradition, the Year 13 prefects handed their robes over to Year 12.

Following the ceremony, the new Old Wellingburians were presented with an OW tie or scarf, generously gifted by the OW Club.

The celebrations continued the following Saturday evening with the Summer Ball, held in the School grounds. A formal dinner, drinks reception, live band and disco provided the perfect occasion to celebrate the end of their time at School.

We wish the Class of 2026 every success in the future and look forward to following their journeys, celebrating their achievements, and welcoming them to OW events in the years ahead.











Class of 2026 University Destinations



A small proportion of our students also took gap years to travel or gain work experience, while some went into an apprenticeship or straight into employment

Birmingham City University

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Cardiff University

Durham University

Escape Studios

King's College London

Lancaster University

Loughborough University

Manchester Metropolitan University

Marian University, Indianapolis

Newcastle University

Nottingham Trent University

Oxford Brookes University

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

The University of Edinburgh

University College London

University of Bath

University of Birmingham

University of Brighton

University of Bristol

University of Dundee

University of Exeter

University of Gloucestershire

University of Leicester

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

University of Plymouth

University of Portsmouth

University of Reading

University of Southampton

University of Sunderland

University of the West of England, Bristol

University of Warwick

University of York

Class of 2026 University Courses

Accounting, Finance & Business
- Accounting & Finance
- Business & Management
- Business Management
- Business Management with a Year in Industry
- Economics
- Economics with Placement Year
- Finance & Business (Degree Apprenticeship)
- Finance Apprenticeship
- Marketing Foundation

Architecture, Property & the Built Environment
- Architecture
- Building Surveying
- Maritime Business
- Property Development & Planning
- Real Estate with Foundation

Computer Science & Technology
- Computer Science
- Computer Science with AI
- Computer Science with Cyber Security
- Computer Science with a Year in Industry
- Cyber Security
- Programming for Games & VFX



Creative Arts, Media & Music
- Cultural & Creative Industries
- Digital Media, Culture & Communication
- Media, Communication & Cultural Studies
- Music
- Photography



English, Classics & Languages
- English
- English & Classical Civilisation
- Hispanic Studies & Film Studies

Humanities & Social Sciences
- Ancient History & Archaeology
- Economics & International Relations
- Geography
- History
- History & Economics
- History & Politics
- International Relations
- Philosophy & Theology
- Philosophy, Politics & Economics
- Politics, Philosophy & Law
- Psychology
- Social Policy & Politics

Law
- Law
- Law with European Study

Science
- Aeronautics & Astronautics
- Biology
- Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Mathematics & Physics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechanical with Automotive Engineering
- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Physics

Sport & Exercise

From the archives

Don't forget you can view our digital archives at www.oldwellingburianclub.org/archives. We are always looking to add more to the site and so if you have any photographs from your time at the School which we can share with the community, please do send them to kpo@wellingboroughschool.org

Thank you to Michael Philpot (75-84, C) who donated a number of items to the archive during his visit in July. Along with ties, scarves, reports, certificates and Wellingburians - Michael also donated the below photographs.



Senior School 1st VIII Cross Country Team 1983



Senior School Prefects 1983 - 1984

An anonymous donation of items was received by the Foundation office in October relating to former pupil, William John Leonard. W.J.Leonard attended Wellingborough School as his only school until leaving in 1920 where he was Captain of the School whilst also holding the posts of Football and Cricket Captain and was deservedly awarded double colours.
Tragically, W.J.Leonard's life was cut cruelly short aged just 26 following a horse riding accident in November 1927, he had been due to marry his fiancée the following February.
Received amongst the donations was a cricket fixture list for the 1920 season.



FIXTURES 1920.

WELLINGBOROUGH SCHOOL 1st XI.

Sat. May 22nd	v.	Wellingborough Town	Home
Sat. May 29th	v.	Bedfordshire C. and G.	Home
Mon. June 7th	v.	Cambridge "O.Ws."	Home
Wed. June 9th	v.	Northants. Gentlemen	Home
Wed. June 16th	v.	St. Andrew's	Home
Fri. June 18th	v.	Leicestershire Gentlemen	Home
Sat. June 26th	v.	Bedford School	Home
Sat. July 3rd	v.	M.C.C.	Home
Sat. July 10th	v.	St. Andrew's	Away
Sat. July 17th	v.	Rothwell	Home
Mon. July 26th	v.	Past	Home
Date not fixed	v.	Hunts. Volunteer Regt.	Home

In September, the Northamptonshire Telegraph posted a fantastic photo gallery entitled 'Looking Back: Wellingborough School from 2006-2011.'
The series of photographs included many familiar faces with photographs from the Prep and Senior School. Here we feature just a few that were shared, if you would like to see the whole gallery please click here.







OW News - Obituaries



Dr William Richard Waterfield (Richard) 1936-2026
(46-54, Parker's)

Richard was born in Broughton, Northants in April 1936 and attended Wellingborough School from 1946. He received a state scholarship and became Head Boy. As a member of the CCF, he had the opportunity to fly in a Spitfire at Sywell aerodrome, near Northampton. Although Richard aspired to study Chemistry at Cambridge, priority was given to those having completed National Service, so he applied and was accepted by Imperial College, to study Chemistry in 1954. He was awarded a 1st Class Honours degree in 1957. Subsequently he was accepted for post graduate research at Christ's College, Cambridge University.

Following award of his PhD, Richard was invited to a post-doctoral placement at Yale University, then returned to the UK as a Research Fellow at the Radiochemical Centre, Amersham, Bucks, for a year before accepting a permanent position as a Scientific Officer in 1962. In 1965 he was sent to Chicago to travel to hospitals and universities throughout the USA promoting the use of radioisotopes and obtaining orders. Returning in 1966, he married wife Penny later that year. Subsequent business trips included visiting East Germany, necessitating crossing the no-man's-land of Checkpoint Charlie with its armed sentries; and fascinating visits to Russia, China and Japan. During his early career Richard and Penny welcomed daughters Joanna and Emma.

In his spare time, Richard was an active member of several charitable organisations, including Round Table, Rotary and the Freemasons, enjoying both raising funds and socialising. His favourite hobby was gardening, which he maintained until immobility prevented him.

Since childhood, Richard managed the symptoms of Charcot Marie Tooth disease, although not diagnosed until his fifties. He later faced several cancer diagnoses and eventually required a wheelchair and a move to a care home. He was able to attend both weddings of his twin granddaughters in 2025 but passed away peacefully on 25 March 2026, just over a month shy of his 90th birthday.

He is remembered by his family and friends as a kind and loving man, considerate to others and generous with his time and support.

We are also saddened to be informed of the passing of Connie Watts (Former Staff).

School News

School Careers Service







Old Wellingburians Return to Support Careers Convention

We were delighted to welcome five Old Wellingburians back to Wellingborough School as exhibitors at this year's Careers Convention in October.

Representing a diverse range of industries and career pathways were Duncan McKendrick (97–07, Pl) from Sumo Logic, Harrison Edwards (20–26, G) from Llewellyn Safety Advisors, Will Amos (00–05, F) from Hawsons Chartered Accountants, Iain Tindall (86–91, G) from Belay Rope Access, and Mia Evans (16–21, W) from Break Escape.

The Careers Convention provides pupils with a valuable opportunity to explore future options, speak directly with professionals, and gain insight into a wide variety of careers. It was wonderful to see so many OWs giving back to the Wellingborough community by sharing their experiences, advice and expertise with current students.

Can you support current students?

The School's careers programme offers a number of opportunities throughout the year for Old Wellingburians to become involved. Regular Careers Lunches, held approximately once a month, give pupils the chance to hear from professionals working across a broad range of sectors. These sessions are always particularly enjoyable when led by an OW who can share first-hand experiences of life after Wellingborough.

There are also opportunities to support the annual Apprenticeships Evening in March and Destinations Day for Year 12 students in June. Alumni can contribute in a variety of ways, from delivering talks about their career journey to taking part in mock interviews and networking sessions.

In addition, the School is always grateful for work experience opportunities. From 26 to 30 April 2027, Year 12 students will be seeking placements to help them gain practical insight into the workplace and explore potential career paths.

If you would be interested in supporting the School's careers programme, whether through events, talks, mentoring or work experience opportunities, we would be delighted to hear from you.

School News

Sixth Form Celebrates Outstanding A Level Success



Congratulations to Wellingborough School's Sixth Form students on an outstanding set of A Level results this summer.
The year group achieved the School's second-highest proportion of A*-A grades on record, with 40% of all grades awarded at A*-A and 69% at A*-B. Students also maintained the School's tradition of academic success with a 100% pass rate.
More than a quarter of the cohort achieved grades of A or above in every A Level they studied, while all students holding offers to study Medicine secured the grades required for their places. Those with offers from the University of Oxford also met their entry requirements.
The results translated into excellent university destinations, with more than 90% of students securing places at their first-choice university.
Headmaster Simon Hawkes praised the achievements of the year group, describing them as the School's strongest A Level results for a decade. He highlighted not only the impressive top grades but also the significant progress made across the cohort and the determination shown by students throughout their Sixth Form studies.
We congratulate all members of the year group and wish them every success as they begin the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.
You can read more about the A Level exam results on the School's website here.

School football team reaches national finals



Congratulations to the Under 11 football team, which has secured its place at the IAPS National Finals after a fantastic performance at the Regional Qualifier hosted by Fairfield Prep School on the 14th October.
Alistair Palfrey, Prep Head of Sport, said, 'The whole team demonstrated resilience and teamwork and played some amazing football throughout the tournament.'
The pupils represented Wellingborough brilliantly and supported one another every step of the way. Congratulations to the entire team, and the best of luck at the National Finals which will be held on Saturday 7th November.

Lessons Underway in New Food Technology Room

Lessons are now underway in the School's newest teaching space: a purpose-built Food Technology room, which opened in September 2026.
With the launch of Food and Nutrition GCSE, pupils now have the opportunity to explore nutrition and food science while developing practical culinary skills.
The facility will also be used for extracurricular activities and to help pupils develop valuable life skills.
The wider teaching spaces within The Gateway opened in February 2026, and students have been making full use of the excellent new facilities available to them.

School News

School's catering team take home Bronze at the Food and Drink Awards



Congratulations to the School's catering team, led by Kirstie Brimm, on winning Bronze at the Weetabix Food and Drink Awards 2026/27, held on Thursday 15 October.
The team were finalists in the Healthy Food & Wellbeing Workplace category and attended a glittering awards ceremony at the Royal & Derngate in Northampton to celebrate their achievement.
In addition to preparing breakfast, lunch and match teas for more than 800 people each day during term time, the team also creates the delicious meals enjoyed at OW lunches and reunion events, which consistently receive outstanding feedback from guests.
If you would like to sample the cuisine of our award-winning catering team, be sure to book your place at the OW Autumn Lunch on 7 November.
Congratulations once again to Kirstie and the entire catering team on this well-deserved recognition.

Mr Houghton runs for Lymphoma Action

Well done to Housemaster of Parker Steyne's and PE teacher George Houghton, who has just completed the TCS Amsterdam Marathon to raise funds for Lymphoma Action.
On Sunday 18 October, Mr Houghton took on the international marathon in support of a charity that has become especially meaningful to the Houghton family following the recent diagnosis of a close family member with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
Lymphoma Action is the UK's leading charity dedicated to supporting people affected by lymphoma, the UK's most common blood cancer.
You can donate to Mr Houghton's fundraiser here.



School's Wellbeing Department shortlisted for two awards



Congratulations to the School's Wellbeing Department, which has been recognised on two occasions this year for the outstanding support and services it provides to students.
In October, the team was named a finalist in the Pastoral Development of the Year category at the National Association for Pastoral Care in Education Awards.
More recently, Wellingborough School was shortlisted for the Wellbeing Award at the Northamptonshire Education Awards.
Earlier in the year, the School was also commended in the Independent Schools of the Year 2026 Awards for its commitment to student wellbeing.
Congratulations to Wellbeing Manager Chelsea Buswell and Wellbeing Assistant Lisa Greenough, whose hard work and dedication continue to make a positive difference to the lives of students across the School.

Foundation News





Introducing the 26/27 OW Gap Year Assistant

Finley Rendall (16-26, PS)

Having been a pupil at Wellingborough School from the age of 8 to 18 and having had the privilege of serving as Head of School, returning to Wellingborough as a member of staff has been a very different, but incredibly exciting, experience. I am particularly grateful to Katie and Kath for making me feel so welcome and for all their support as I settle into my new role.

I have already had the opportunity to reconnect with the OWs attending the Class of 2021 Five-Year Reunion and the OW London Drinks. Both were fantastic events, and it was brilliant to see so many familiar faces alongside new members of the OW community.

Alongside my work within the Foundation Department, I have also taken on responsibility for Wellingborough School Sport's Instagram and Facebook pages. Having represented the School across a range of sports throughout my time as a pupil, it is fantastic to now contribute in a different way by showcasing the achievements of our teams, sharing fixture updates and celebrating sporting life across the School. I am looking forward to developing the platforms further and helping to share the success stories of Wellingborough Sport with pupils, parents, alumni and the wider school community.

In my new role as OW Foundation Assistant, I have been working closely with Katie and Kath within the Foundation Department, while also enjoying the opportunity to coach Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 boys' rugby. Coaching has been a real highlight of my role so far, allowing me to pass on some of my own sporting knowledge and experience to the next generation of Wellingborough pupils. The bus journeys to fixtures are always a particular highlight, giving me the chance to share stories from my own time as a Prep School pupil and hopefully give the boys a glimpse of what their own Wellingborough journey might hold!

I am really looking forward to being involved in many more OW events throughout the year, meeting more members of our alumni community and continuing to build connections with both former pupils and staff. It is a real privilege to return to a school that has played such a significant part in my life, and I am excited to see what the year ahead brings.

Stay in Contact

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