

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

January 2021



A warm welcome to you from LRGS.

There is much disappointment at the announcement that schools are closed until at least March – but I am proud of the way that our school community has risen to this new challenge.

It really has been excellent to see and hear that pupils have engaged so well with online lessons since the start of term. I know that teachers have been impressed by the way that lessons have started. There are bound to be a few difficulties along the way – from wifi problems to lost exercise books – but nothing that we won't be able to deal with and we will encourage all pupils to remain positive and continue to work hard!

We are very conscious of the impact of lockdown on our boarding community. Some of our boarders are far from school (some with time zone complications) while others are far from their families in Hong Kong or Nigeria.

School of course remains open to children of critical / key workers and we continue to do everything that we can to support all students.

The latest Headmaster's letter to parents can be found [here](#)

As always, we love to hear from our LRGS community so get in touch with [your news](#), be sure to update us of any [change of details](#)

With best wishes,

Dr CJ Pyle

LRGS Updates

Covid testing

Huge thanks to all those who volunteered to support our Covid testing scheme, the Assembly Hall has an unexpected new use!



Lenten Charity update

NishkamSWAT was one of our Lenten charities last year and have very kindly provided an update on how the money donated has been spent.

Vijay Singh Golhar, a NishkamSWAT volunteer said "I just wanted to let you know that the portion of the Lenten Charities fund paid out to NishkamSWAT last year has started to be used within and for the benefit of, the local community.

Today we were able to deliver pallets of much needed groceries to the Morecambe food bank which were gratefully received by the food bank manager Annette Smith.

We have also been busy continuing to serve the local homeless community in Lancaster with hot fresh food and provide warm clothing and blankets as well as conversation to help make them feel a little more human.

We would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous donation that you provided."

Virtual workshops

Thank you to OL Lewis Gillin (12-19) for his virtual workshop on 25th January, offering advice to current Sixth Formers who are considering going on to Engineering courses. Lewis is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at Bath University and it's always great to catch up with former pupils too!

LRGS History Society

Congratulations to Lower Sixth members of the LRGS History Society on the production of their fantastic promotional video, please [take a look!](#)

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Upper Sixth formers offered places at Oxford University: **Ayomi, Saad, Jake** and **Olivia**.

Congratulations to the Upper Sixth formers offered places at Cambridge University: **Matthew, Jago, Harry, Ben, Ayush and Riddhiman**. Best wishes to all those who are waiting for outcomes of competitive applications.

Well done to 23 Upper Sixth students who have just received excellent **Extended Project Qualification** results. They are particularly impressive as the projects were largely written from home during the first lockdown. Well done!

Alumni News

Douglas Cameron

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Douglas Cameron, who passed away on Sunday 10 January 2021 at home.

Many thanks for all the lovely tributes and memories of Douglas that you have shared with us, by e mail and via social media. All of the comments will be included in a book of condolence, if you would prefer that your comment / tribute is **not** included, please contact the [Development team](#).

Douglas's funeral was held on 27th January and was a lovely service, thank you to all those who attended, whether in person or online.



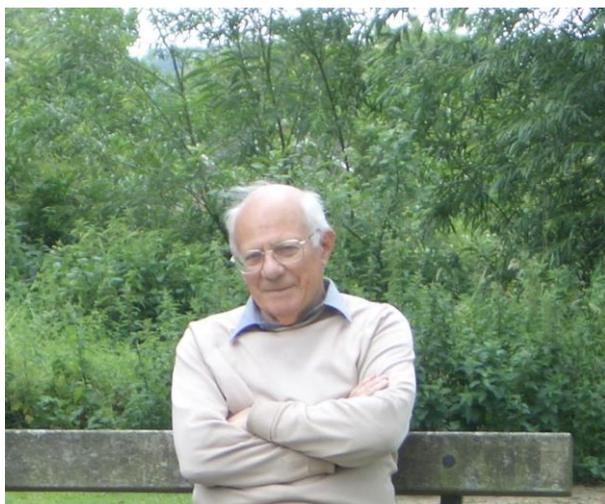
If you weren't able to join the live service, it is currently still available to watch using the details below:

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>

Login / Order ID: 70646

Password: pqykbbds

We will share details of the event to celebrate Douglas's life once they are available and restrictions allow.



Mr David Rundle

We were saddened to hear that OL David Rundle (39-47) passed away on 10th December 2020.

After graduating from Oxford, David enjoyed a 45-year career at GCHQ, including three years heading up the Cyprus office, responsible for Middle and Near East.

David had a happy retirement, filled with grandchildren, gardening, music, travel, compiling cryptic crosswords and composing humorous poems for the

Oldie magazine. He's remembered as a kind and thoughtful man, intelligent and talented with a wicked sense of humour.

David died peacefully at home, survived by his wife Audrey, and daughters Clare and Hilary.



Remembering Richard Furlong Brown

It has now been a few weeks since the passing of our dear friend and colleague RFB.

A Memorial Fund has been set up in his name and we hope that as many people as possible will wish to support it. Amongst other things, RFB was a keystone of Ashton House, on the Douthwaite field and in the Maths department. We feel it appropriate to provide a memorial that reflects his commitment to those particular areas of school life. The Old Lancastrian Club is kindly erecting a plaque in his memory in Ashton House day room.

If you would like to contribute to the RFB Memorial Fund, you can donate [on-line](#)

[here](#) or make a bank transfer to the school charity: Sort code 20-47-61, Account 70798282, using your name as a reference. If you elect to "gift aid" your donation this will add an extra 25% to your gift at no cost to you.

Alumni Updates and Achievements

New Years Honours

HH Philip Sycamore

Congratulations to school governor and OL HH Philip Sycamore (62-67) who has been awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours list for public service.



Tim Ramsey

Congratulations to OL Tim Ramsey (01-08) who has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to education and to LGBTQ equality.

In the news

Did you see OL Mike Barton (68-75) on Question Time on 14th January? If you missed it, there is still time to [watch it on BBC iplayer](#).

OL Dr Ben Allen also made a TV appearance earlier this month. Ben and wife Lauren appeared on BBC Northwest Tonight to discuss life during their first year of marriage whilst Ben worked on the frontline at Arrowe Park Hospital. You can see what Ben and Lauren had to say [here](#).

OL Bill Eaton (56-63) has recently published "Putting the Covid-19 pandemic in perspective" for Lake County News. The article encourages us to reflect on events in London in 1665 and reactions at the time to the plague. Click [here](#) to read Bill's article in full.

OL Tom Gregory (1999-2006) is a Pharmacist with Pier Medical Group and is currently working within a vaccination clinic at Riverside Medical Practice in Somerset. Tom recently featured on Look Southwest, delivering the first of the Pfizer COVID vaccinations in the area.



December Dip fundraising

Congratulations to OL Joel Phillimore (01-08) and his fellow December Dippers who raised more than £1300 for Alive and Kicking by "taking a dip" in an outdoor body of water during December. Alive and Kicking is an award-winning charity that delivers vital health education in sub-Saharan Africa.



OL Club Annual Newsletter

Work has begun to compile the next edition of the OL Club annual newsletter and we would love as many of you as possible to feature in it.

Please get in touch and let us know your news - births, marriages, careers, adventures - anything and everything, we would love you to share your stories with us. Please e mail your news to the [Development team](#).

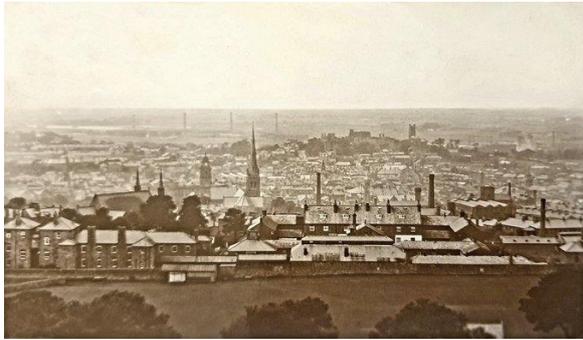
Upcoming Alumni Events

The OL Cotswolds Dinner has been rescheduled this year due to the ongoing situation and will now take place on Friday 10th September at the Royal Agricultural University.

The 2021 OL Manchester Dinner is scheduled to take place at Barca on Friday 8th October.

Further information and details of how to book a place at both the Cotswolds and Manchester Dinners will follow nearer the time.

Please continue to check our website and social media pages to keep up with the latest news.



A step back in time

A view of Lancaster taken in 1934 from the Ashton Memorial, with Lancaster's Work House in the centre of the photo, on ground that is now the upper school site.

Photo courtesy of Phil Martin (Historygeek26) via Twitter

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We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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