

## LRGS Alumni Newsletter

April 2021



A warm welcome to you from LRGS at the beginning of our summer term.

It is great to have the school full again, including some boarders who have travelled long distances and had to quarantine to return.

Life is not quite back to normal! Our students are still in their year group zones and continue to wear face masks throughout the day. I am very grateful to staff, pupils and the extended family of the school for their ongoing support.

This is the final term for our first group of Sixth Form girls. They have been excellent trailblazers and ambassadors despite all the obstacles of the past year!

Congratulations to three of our students, Daruk in Year 9 and Will and Annabel from the Upper Sixth who were all recently highly commended in the High Sheriff's Awards for service to the community during lockdown. Very well done to them all.

It's been wonderful to see our rowers back out on the river, cricket practices beginning again on the Douthwaite and Memorial Fields, and the CCF back out on parade. We are very much looking forward to enjoying music and drama performances later on in the term.

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

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### Testing times

Huge thanks to our COVID testing team of staff and volunteers. At the start of January they transformed our Assembly Hall into a lateral flow testing facility – with immense professionalism, from a standing start.

It is amazing what energy and goodwill can conjure out of thin air!

The first phase of around 2000 tests for staff, keyworkers' children and boarders who stayed in school was completed at the beginning of March, and the operation was then scaled up for the next 3600.

This allowed all our pupils to be tested before they returned to lessons, with two further tests in the following days. The school then moved on to the joys of self-testing and registering tests at home.

Along with the existing measures in place, and the change to masks in classrooms, the school can gain a further measure of reassurance from these tests.

Testing times indeed. Thank you to the team!





### **"Quiet excitement and huge relief"**

Dr Pyle spoke to the Lancaster Guardian as pupils began to return to school and thanked staff and volunteers for all the hard work and testing which made returning possible. You can read the full article [here](#)

### **Thank you to the Old Lancastrian Club**

It's great to see wonderful photography from our students on display in the Art Department - thank you to the Old Lancastrian club for their support



### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Ashwin in Year 10 for being awarded Young Photographer of the Year by the Royal Society of Biology. His photograph taken in Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka is entitled "Waiting": It shows Indian cormorants patiently waiting on a structure made by sticks that was set up by humans for fishing.

Well done to Nate from Year 8, who recently starred in CBBC's [Step Up To The Plate](#) programme. Use the link to watch Nate creating his culinary delights.



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### **Sixth Form research - Lancaster Black History**

Over the last few months some of our Lower Sixth Form students, with the Lancaster Black History Group and academics from Lancaster University have been researching and writing blogs looking at Lancaster Quay street names and more recently, the Gregson Family. The [Lancaster Slavery Family Trees Community History Project](#) page credits the group's findings in several of their blog posts, the group have also produced two videos for the "[Memorial to](#)

[Zong](#)" exhibition by the Turner Prize winning artist Lubaina Himid, which will be on display at the Lancaster Maritime Museum until September 2021.

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### **Fundraising news**

The Own Clothes Day, organised by the senior Prefects raised over £2000 for our Lenten charities. Well done to everyone involved!

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### **Current vacancies**

We currently have a number of vacancies which may be of interest to you or somebody that you know. For details on all current vacancies, please visit our [website](#)

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## Alumni News

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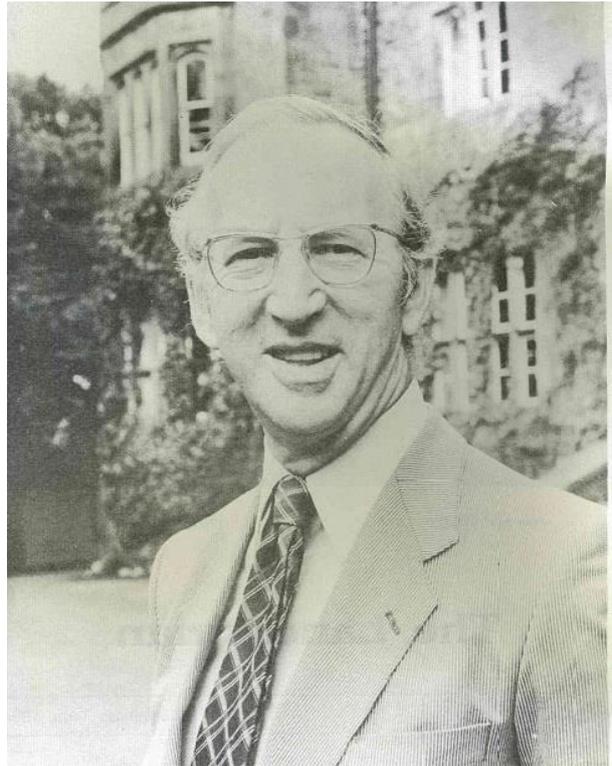
### **Sad news**

#### **Bob Satchwell**

It was with great sadness that we learned that OL and former OL Club President, Bob Satchwell (59-66) passed away on 3rd March after contracting pneumonia and then Covid-19. Bob started his career as a local journalist for the Lancaster Evening Post in 1970, going on to become a successful and award winning editor of both local and national publications. [Tributes](#) from across the industry have been paid to Bob and our thoughts are with Bob's family and friends at this sad time.

### **Michael Hansen**

We were sad to learn that former LRGS Second Master, Michael Hansen, passed away on 17th March. Michael taught Economics at LRGS from 1950 - 1984, becoming Second Master in 1968. He was a well loved and respected teacher, known for his quiet and calm demeanour and no nonsense approach. Michael's funeral was held on 6th April at the Priory before a short service at the Crematorium, many thanks to all those who attended to pay their respects.



### **Hugh Hornby**

We were saddened to hear the news that OL Hugh Hornby (82-87) had passed away suddenly. Hugh attended LRGS as a boarder before going on to study Modern History at Oxford University, he returned home after university and helped to establish the National Football Museum in Preston, where he served as curator until the museum's move to Manchester. Hugh was also well known on the crown green bowls circuit and was chairman of the North Lancs and Fylde Association. Our thoughts are with Hugh's family and

friends at this sad time.

## **Last Man Stands Cricket Club**

The London Old Lancastrians Last Man Stands Cricket Club needs you! Recently formed by a group of 15 OLs who all left the school between 2013 and 2016, the team are open to any ability, commitment level or age. LMS cricket is an adaptation on T20 cricket with unique rules in place to ensure each game lasts no longer than 2 hours. With league fixtures taking place on Tuesdays in Regents Park they're ideally suited for both the more experienced player and those just interested in the social. There are many suitable watering holes a slog sweep away from Regent's Park...



You can find out more about LMS cricket [here](#)

And if you're keen to get involved or just want to find out more, please go to the team's [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) pages or contact [Sam Letcher](#).

### **Reunion booklets - Class of 2011 and Class of 2016**

Class of 2011 and Class of 2016, as you know from your e mail, we are in the process of putting together reunion booklets for our five and ten year leavers. There is still time to [send your photos and updates](#) through to us, we will send the booklets out as soon as we are sure that all those who want to contribute have had the opportunity to do so.

We have sent e mails to those whom we have e mail addresses for, if you are in touch with your former peers, please let them know about the booklet and encourage them to get involved. We would love to include as many of you as possible!

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## Alumni in the media

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### University Challenge champions!

Congratulations to OL Owain Burrell (10-17) and the team from Warwick University who were crowned University Challenge champions on 5th April. The team performed brilliantly throughout the competition, getting to the final without losing a match. Poet Laureate Simon Armitage presented the team with their trophy. The grand final is a must see - if you missed it, you can catch up on [BBC iplayer](#)

### Lancashire people

OL Charlie Robb (06-13) spoke to Lucy Baxter for her podcast, "From a Lancashire Lass", where Lucy discusses Lancashire people. Hear what inspired Charlie to take up art [here](#)

### Congratulations

Congratulations to OL James Beet who has recently been appointed as the new senior recruitment analyst for Preston North End, making the move from Barnsley FC where he has performed a similar role for the past three years.

### 10 questions with Matt Hood

OL and founder of Oak National Academy, Matt Hood OBE (97-04) spoke to Tes reporter, Amy Gibbons for an article that was published on 19th March 2021. Matt discusses some of his experiences at school and provides his views on the current state school system. You can read the article in full [here](#).

### Start the week

Join OL Tom Sutcliffe (67-74) and guests on Radio 4's [Start the Week programme](#), broadcast on 22nd March, for a discussion regarding Isaac Newton, scientific breakthroughs and the pursuit of knowledge.

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## Dates for your diary

OL Hong Kong Dinner - Thursday 29th April at the [USRC Club, Jordan](#)

OL Founders' Day Golf and Dinner - Friday 2nd July, dinner will be at the Midland Hotel, Morecambe. Further details to follow

OL Cotswolds Dinner - Friday 10th September at the Royal Agricultural University.

OL Manchester Dinner - Friday 8th October at Barca.

OL London Dinner - Thursday 4th November at the Royal Air Force Club

Further information and details of how to book a place at both this year's dinners will be available nearer the time.

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

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We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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