



LRGS Alumni Newsletter

January 2024

A warm welcome and Happy New Year to you from LRGS.

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](#) and be sure to update us of any [change of details](#)

With best wishes,

Lorna and the Development team



LRGS Updates

An insight into acting....



We were delighted to welcome former Head Boy, OL Joel Phillimore (01-08), back to school on 22 January. After studying the History of Art at the University of Oxford, Joel continued his professional acting and performing journey.

His recent film, 'The Boys in the Boat' is currently in cinemas. Joel plays Gordy Adam, one of the eight-man crew who were part of the Washington University team who went on to compete in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Although Joel didn't row whilst at school, he joined the University rowing team in his Fresher year, not knowing at the time that this experience would pay off 14 years down the line!

Head of Art, Mr Bagnold, taught Joel when he was at LRGS and he presented Joel with an honorary Expressive Arts tie.

Many thanks to Joel for generously sharing his experiences and knowledge with our pupils, we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Lemon, Head of DT on being awarded the prestigious Arkwright Engineering tie. Presented by two of our Arkwright Engineering Scholarships students Matthew and Tom





Loyne School visit

Our Sixth Form product designers enjoyed a visit to the Loyne School recently. Our L6 pupils will be getting stuck into designing products to help students' development through play, they will then make the items and give them to the Loyne School. We can't wait to see your designs come to life!

2024 Lenten Charities

Pupils put forward a range of local, national and international charities that they would like to support in 2024 and they were then put to the vote.

The votes have been counted and the winners are:

[@britishredcross](#) **[Cancer Research UK](#) **[North West Children's Support Group - NWCSG](#) **[Money for Madagascar](#) and **[Team Reece Children's Brain Tumour and Cancer Charity](#) **[#teamreece](#)**********

Our pupils have their thinking caps on, here's to a fantastic year of fundraising!



Alumni News

The Boys in the Boat



We were absolutely thrilled when OL Joel Phillimore (01-08) got in touch last year to let us know about both his and fellow OL Andrew McMahon's (06-13) involvement in George Clooney's latest film, *The Boys in the Boat*. Joel plays Gordy Adam, a member of the University of Washington's rowing team. Andrew was a rowing double and heavily involved in training the team. The film documents the team's journey which started during the Great Depression through to the 1936 Olympic Games.

Despite the glitz and glamour of the movie world, Joel continues to keep in contact and support school in a variety of ways. Joel has also very kindly written an article about his experiences during filming of *The Boys in the Boat*, an extract of which, can be read below.

Joel writes, "***One thing to know about being a professional actor is that you have to handle a lot of rejection. On a daily basis. Since the start of the pandemic, most of the audition process has moved online with 'self-tapes' being the first step on the road to potentially landing a role. Self-tapes involve setting up a camera, lighting and a backdrop in our own home, roping in a friend, partner or family member to read in lines with you; then sending the tape off into the cloud to be watched, assessed and judged by a whole series of individuals. Sometimes you book a job from your tape. Sometimes you book a 're-call' from your tape. Most of the time you hear nothing at all.....***"

"I'm grateful for my fellow boys in the boat. If you speak to anyone that has rowed crew they'll tell you the bond between oarsmen and oarswomen are forged in sweat, exhaustion and blisters. It's a bond that you can only really comprehend when you feel it...."

"This bond is clear to be seen in the film. I think it's one of the elements that gives the film so much of the heart and soul that audiences have loved (as evidenced by the 96% audience rating on Rotten Tomatoes).

I'd love it if you had chance to support your local cinema and watch this film on a big screen, where it belongs. I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it."

Learn about the highs and challenges that Joel overcame to secure his role in this fantastic film, which is based on a true story, by reading the [full article](#) which is available on the school website and also in the next edition of the OL Club newsletter.

We shared the link to the film's trailer in our October newsletter but it's too good not to share again <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfEA-udzjQ&t=5s>

Joel also featured on Radio Lancashire recently, if you weren't able to catch it live, you can hear the interview via BBC Sounds here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0h5h5yy>



OL Dinner in Hong Kong

Thank you to all OLs who attended the recent dinner in Hong Kong, special thanks to the guest speaker, a prominent Private Equity Investor, Mr Samuel Tang and to OL Patrick Dransfield (75-80) for organising a fantastic evening.



Countess Eleanor Peel Awards

Postgraduate study awards – Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust

Former students of LRGS who are considering postgraduate study are entitled to apply for financial assistance from the Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust. This trust exists to help fund the costs of postgraduate study in the UK or abroad, including costs of study and travel, art or music scholarships. It makes grants of up to £600 per year per student. Please see the details on our [website](#).

Sad News

Dennis Glen

We were sad to learn that OL Dennis Glen (41-44) passed away on 3rd December 2023, surrounded by his family. Dennis' son, Dr Nigel Glen writes "After a mischievous childhood, Dennis ran away to sea in the second world war, being slightly economical with the truth about his age, and served on oil tankers (because the pay and rations were better). He somehow survived being torpedoed and sunk off Halifax, Nova Scotia, courtesy of U-1232. After the war he was selected to join the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot, but having studied metallurgy at Kings College he instead chose to remain with Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), becoming their youngest ever Sales Manager. He thoroughly enjoyed his business career, collecting a wealth of anecdotes over the years. He retired as General Sales Manager, Pacific, based in Tokyo. Much to the delight of the Taxman he returned to the UK, settling in Devon with his devoted wife, Beryl, who survives him. As do his two sons, Gary and Nigel and his Grandchildren, Lauren and Oliver." Our thoughts are with Beryl, Gary and Nigel at this sad time.



Ian Park, CBE

We were saddened to learn that newspaper executive, OL Ian Park CBE (49-53), passed away in December 2023 at the age of 88, following a lengthy illness. Upon leaving LRGS, Ian attended Queens College, Cambridge becoming a reporter at the Aberdeen Press & Journal when he graduated in 1959. Ian later became assistant literary editor at The Sunday Time and then managing director and editor-in-chief of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo. In 1982, Ian was invited to become the managing director of the regional news giant Northcliffe Newspapers Group. Ian was awarded a CBE in 1995 for his services to journalism and the newspaper industry. Our thoughts are with Ian's wife, Anne, son Adam and their family at this sad time.

Neil Douglas Walker

We were saddened to learn that OL Neil Walker (76-83) passed away in October 2023 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with Neil's family at this sad time.



2024 Event updates

[Durham](#) drinks on Monday 5 February at the renowned Victoria Inn on Hallgarth Street

[Leeds](#) OL Dinner on Friday 9 February at Castle Grove, Headingley

East Lancs Dinner on Friday 26 April 2024 at Turf Moor, Burnley FC

Oxford Dinner on Tuesday 30 April 2024

OL **Golf Day** on Friday 28 June at Lancaster Golf Club

Cotswolds OL Dinner on Friday 13 September at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

London OL Dinner on Thursday 7 November at the RAF Club, Piccadilly

Links to book a place at the dinners will become 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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