

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2025

A warm welcome 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



Founders' Day

It is known that a school existed in Lancaster in the thirteenth century, but the first definite mention of the old Grammar School is found in a deed dated the 4th August 1469, when the Abbess of Syon granted to John Gardyner of Bailrigg, near Lancaster, a lease of a water-mill on the River Lune and some land nearby for two hundred years to maintain a chaplain to celebrate worship in the Church of S. Mary, Lancaster and to instruct boys in grammar freely, "unless perchance something shall be voluntarily offered by

their friends".

In 1472, John Gardyner's will made further provision for the endowment of the school, and also for William Baxstonden to "keep the said school" so long as he should be able to teach the boys. In 1682 the school was rebuilt and in 1851 was removed from the old site on the slopes by the Priory to the outskirts of the city, where it now stands. The title "Royal" was granted by Queen Victoria in the same year.

Thank you to Year 7 pupils, LRGS staff and OLS for joining us in Lancaster Priory on Saturday 5 July to celebrate the history of our school.

Thank you to the brilliant choir, organist Andrew Plowman and to readers and performers and to Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders, Vicar of Lancaster, for hosting our annual service in Lancaster Priory.

Special thanks to OL Reverend Chris Anderton (98-05), Vicar of the Benefice of the Redeemer, Blackburn for giving the Address.

Y7 Annual battle

On Friday 4 July, our Year 7s charged the Memos for the annual Battle of Hastings re-enactment.

The weather was torrential but spirits were not dampened and the Saxons emerged victorious!





Tennis update

You may remember in the June edition of the newsletter that four of our boys had qualified for the U16s National Schools Tennis Championship. Ms Doswell writes, "What a day of tennis for LRGS! In the semi-finals against Whitgift School, Kjell (Y10) and Dan (Y9) came out strong, winning both their singles and doubles matches to put LRGS 3-0 up. Ben and Andrea had some tough singles losses, but bounced back with a brilliant doubles win (7-5) to send LRGS into the final.

Semi-final score: LRGS 4 - 2 Whitgift.

stepped up a notch.

In the final, the heat and the tennis both

Kjell took a great win (6-1) while Dan battled hard in a close match (5-7). Andrea lost a tough one (1-6), but Ben served his way to a win in a testing encounter (6-4). Going into the doubles, everything was still to play for. Doubles scores: Ben and Andrea (1-6), Kjell and Dan (6-4).

With 3 sets each, it all came down to games - and we just missed out, 25-28.

Huge congratulations to Kjell, Dan, Ben and Andrea. Incredible effort and some amazing tennis. To finish 2nd in the whole country is an amazing achievement.

Strolling with Shakespeare



Well done to all pupils who performed in and supported our Strolling with Shakespeare event, it was a truly magical evening with some incredible talent on display.

Wild camping

Our Gold Duke of Edinburgh pupils completed their first wild camp earlier this month, it was incredibly hot but they coped brilliantly and were rewarded with the most amazing scenery!



Sixth Form Leavers' Ball

The Class of 2025 celebrated the end of their A level exams in style at Lancaster Town Hall



Alumni news

OL Founders' celebrations

Thank you to everyone who joined our OL Founders' celebrations at Lancaster Golf Club on Friday 4 July, by either competing in OL Golf Day or dining at the OL Founders' Dinner in the evening. Many thanks to Andrew Jarman, OL Luke Kettlewell and OL Martin Alexander for organising these fabulous events.

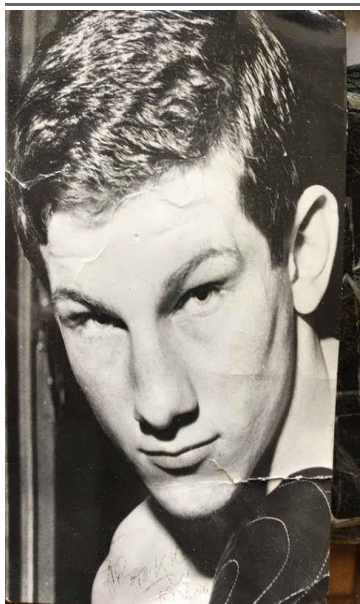
Photographs for the OL Golf Day and photographs kindly taken by Stephen Clarke at the Founders' Dinner can be found using this link
<https://www.lrgs.org.uk/alumni/gallery/2025/2025>

OL publication

OL The Reverend David Atkinson (60-67) has recently published a second book of sermons called "God is our Sanctuary". It contains 34 sermons covering a wide variety of subjects and Biblical passages. The subjects include prayer, suffering and doubt. The book costs £10 and all proceeds from the sale will go to St John's Hospice, Lancaster.

Copies can be purchased from David Atkinson, 13 Ashford Close, Lancaster, LA1 4QH.
Tel: 01524 572702. email: davidatkinson437@gmail.com

Sad News



Francis (Frankie) Taylor

We were saddened to learn that former Olympic boxer and renowned sports journalist OL Francis (Frankie) Taylor (53-58) passed away on 17th July. During his time at LRGS, Frankie won the School-boys' Boxing Championship of Great Britain at the Empress Hall, London two years running. He began his professional boxing career in 1962, proudly wearing the red rose of Lancashire on his robe. After retiring from boxing professionally, Frankie became a boxing correspondent for a national newspaper, a career that spanned an incredible 35 years. Beyond Radio published a tribute to Frankie recently, it can be found using the link below. Our thoughts are with Frankie's family at this sad time.

<https://www.beyond.radio/news/local-news/tribute-to-frankie-taylor-the-man-muhammad-ali-said-was-robbed-of-olympic-gold/>

Mrs Gillian Jenkinson

We were saddened to learn that former LRGS teacher, Mrs Gillian Jenkinson, passed away on 25th June. Mrs Jenkinson taught Biology here at school in the late 1960s / early 1970s. Mrs Jenkinson's funeral was held on 14th July at Lancaster Priory. Our thoughts are with Miriam and family at this sad time.

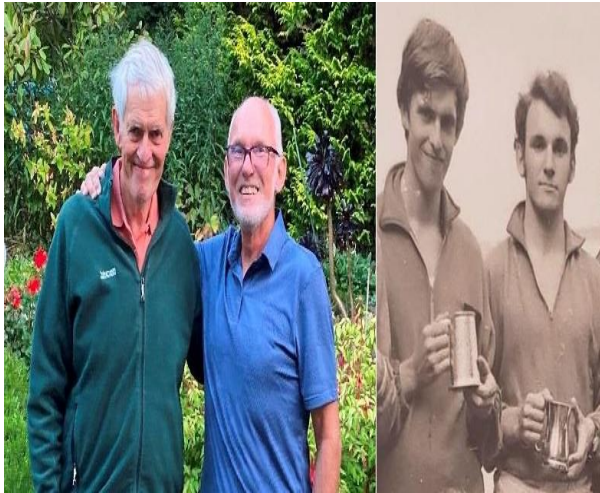
Thank you

Many thanks to OL Patrick Dransfield (75-80) who kindly hosted a Teams session with photography pupils from Y9, Y10 and L6 recently. Patrick shared his memories of his time here at LRGS before inviting pupils to discuss artists that were sources of inspiration to them.

Mr Bagnold writes, " Patrick outlined some of the most salient parts of his paths in life, concentrating on his photographic pursuits. He began by hearkening back to his time as a schoolboy at LRGS, sprinkling the narrative with entertaining anecdotes. His visual presentation began with some splendidly selected photographs from his **China, 1986** portfolio. Patrick was keen to talk about his experiences, but also pictorial/photographic devices, for instance how to use leading lines effectively in a composition, as in the photograph *Datong Boys, Summer 1986*, featured in the accompanying pdf. Images were usually a gateway to a rich range of influences and contexts, although a key feature was the importance of artistic and intellectual mentors. Patrick showed his audience how artists such as Piero della Francesca, Vermeer and Manet, and photographers such as Bill Brandt have influenced his photographic work. He also highlighted the ideas of academics such as John Berger and Clayton M Christensen. Patrick also introduced his audience to the idea that success is likely to derive from a blend of desirable personal attributes: a true and well-informed moral compass, the nurturing of curiosity and humility, and determination and resilience. These, of course, accompanied by perception and insight, and the knack of selling one's vision. Finally, Patrick showed us his twin-lens periscope camera and talked about its non-threatening ethos - one does not hold such a camera up to the face and aim it like a gun, but holds it gently against the abdomen, and so it seems more like a kindly observer than an image hunter. Patrick took questions from the floor, always responding with warmth and the benefits of his experiences. Finally, he engaged his audience by asking each person who some of their favourite artists/photographers were. 'We all need heroes', he said. Quite so, Patrick - it takes one to know one. Our sincere thanks to Patrick, our photographic OL hero."



Now and then



OLs Barry Wild and Chris Bell (62-69) recently met up after many years apart and have kindly allowed me to share these fantastic photographs. The first photograph shows Barry and Chris at their recent get together, the second shows the pair celebrating, having won the Lancaster Regatta.

We would love to share similar photographs and stories with our alumni community, if you have had a get together with former classmates recently, and are happy to share a photograph, we would love to see it. If you also have a photograph taken when you were both / all

at school together, it would be fantastic to see that too!

If you have stories and / or photographs that you would be happy to share, please send them to the Development Office so that they can be included in the next Alumni Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Future Event updates

[Cotswolds OL Dinner](#) on Friday 12 September 2025 at RAU, Cirencester

Leeds OL Dinner on Friday 3 October 2025 at Masonic Hall, Castle Grove (TBC)

London OL Dinner on Thursday 6 November at the RAF Club, Piccadilly

Links to book a place at future 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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