

Stephen – may thanks for presenting all the prizes.

Now, Stephen was born in Lancaster and went to Moorside Primary School and then in 1979 he attended LRGS as a day boy until 1986 gaining 11 O levels, as they were called back then, plus three A-levels in Economics, English and Geography. He was in the thirds cricket team but in the first team for tennis and badminton as well as the bridge team.

He then went to Durham University from 1986 until 1989 and gained a 2:1 in Politics and Economics and whilst there was in the cricket second team where he met Nasser Hussain who was to become Captain of England's cricket team. Stephen also played golf, tennis and football whilst at Durham.

Aged 25, in 1990, he joined the accountants KPMG and passed all his exams first time to become an associate chartered accountant (ACA) of the institute of chartered accountants. During his time at KPMG, he was sent to Russia (I'm not sure, what he had been up to, to get such a posting) but he progressed to become the senior auditor for KPMG in Russia dealing of course with Russian clients. He then left KPMG and joined Credit Suisse/First Boston the Investment banks whilst still in Moscow.

In 1997, Stephen co-founded a brewery in St. Petersburg called Bochkarev brewery by raising money from London and it became the largest brewery in Russia, but after five years in 2002 they sold it to The Heineken brewery company.

During this time in Russia, he set up the first vegan café business in St. Petersburg and ran it for five years until he sold it to the Management team and it is still going to this day.

In 2001 he joined Lenta Hypermarkets in St. Petersburg as a board member dealing with investments but in 2009 he became their Executive Chairman and Lenta became the third largest grocer in Russia with 150 hypermarkets about 11,000 employees with sales now at 10 billion.

In 2004 until 2006 Stephen was an elected local councillor for the Conservative party in Altrincham as a finance deputy.

In 2005 he was the founder and managing partner in a small real estate fund in Montenegro, the former Yugoslavia, called The First Montenegro Stone Property Fund where he was responsible for raising finance, property acquisitions on a part time basis until 2015.

During 2007 he was appointed as a non-executive director of Volga Gas plc which was a drilling and exploration company in south Russia. Stephen was responsible for securing

an initial public offering called an “IPO” and raised \$125 million, he was there until 2021 when it was sold just before the Ukraine war broke out.

In February 2014, Stephen became a non-executive director of the fast growing property and retail company in Nigeria called the Persianas group who constructed the Palms shopping mall in Lagos and has since opened three more shopping malls in Nigeria.

In July 2011 Stephen became co-founder and board member of the Rwanda cricket stadium foundation in Kigali Rwanda. Its aim was to build a cricket ground and other sports facilities, which they did. Honorary patrons included our prime minister at the time David Cameron and Andrew Mitchell, a former chief whip for the Conservative party and by March 2014, £365,000 had been raised which finally reached £1,000,000 through several fund-raising events to build the cricket stadium.

As you can see, Stephen during his career, he has been a Non-Executive Director in Russia - Montenegro – Nigeria and the former Yugoslavia as an emerging markets investor.

But in 2013 and to this day Stephen became self-employed and set up Thogden Ltd and Stephen is better known as **thogdad**, a side kick to his son Theo, a successful football youtuber who aged 13 set up Thogden – a youtuber channel - which now has about 2.25million subscribers, which started out going to football matches around the country or the world and also to F1 the motor sports events and making predictive videos with thogden and thogdad.

In Stephen’s spare time he plays tennis, padel tennis and plays football, travels to distant lands and both son and dad are passionate about Bolton Wanderers Football Club.

Stephen has been back to school a couple of times to speak to sixth formers and recently for a careers fair – so thanks Stephen for coming into school and now I think it’s about time for all of us to hear from you.

So boys and girls and everyone here today – Mr Stephen Ogden – **THOGDAD!**