



The Old Pocklingtonian Association



OP for Life

Lifetime membership of the OPA

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INTRODUCTION

The Old Pocklingtonian Association (OPA) was established by Sir Percy Simner over 100 years ago for former pupils of Pocklington School. The OPA has traditionally provided a link back to the school once pupils have left through long-standing sporting and social events and in more recent years through careers support. The main aims of the Association are:

- **To facilitate contact between former pupils and the school**
- **To promote and support the school**
- **To promote and support its members**

OP FOR LIFE

As a member of the OPA, when a pupil leaves Pocklington School he/she will become an OP for Life. Not only will they continue to have the support and friendship of their peers but they will instantly gain access to generations that have gone before, both in the spirit of tradition and achievement and also in the tangible of social and career networking,

support and advice. The OPA commits to delivering the benefits of choosing a private education long after a pupil has left the school.

MEMBERSHIP

OPA membership is open to all day and boarding boys and girls when they leave school. Lifetime membership is £390 paid via the school bill in equal termly instalments in the senior school until the end of the 5th year, or within the 6th form for those that join only for those two years. Membership benefits include:

- **Regular social reunions and dinners both at school and at other locations around the country**

Annual and biennial events are held throughout the year and around the country including a black tie dinner in London. There is also an annual summer OP day which is held at school and includes a reunion lunch. The OP Office also helps former pupils to organise reunions for specific year groups and other special interest groups.



Membership

“Not only does the OP network provide a great insight to

- **Annual sporting events including rugby, rugby 7s, hockey, cricket, golf and tennis**

There is an annual Boxing Day rugby match for OPs against Pocklington Town and the OPs traditionally enter a team in the Good Friday Pock 7s. Ladies' and men's hockey matches against the school take place in March. Cricket and tennis matches, also against the school, are played during the annual summer OP day in June. The OP golf team is actively involved in a number of former pupil association tournaments including the prestigious Birkdale Bucket which the OPs have won on a number of occasions. The sporting events also offer another opportunity to catch up with school friends and for that reason they often attract a good number of OP spectators.

- **Assistance with organising year group reunions and reconnecting with contemporaries**

The OP Office maintains a secure database of OPs and can help and advise with regard to organising reunions and contacting contemporaries.

- **Monthly e-mail news bulletin**
The OP e-mail bulletin is a monthly digest of OP news and events, careers help, notices and school news to keep OPs up to date.

- **Annual 'Old Pocklingtonian' magazine**

The OP magazine is produced annually and is sent to all OP members. It includes a wide range of interesting news items, feature articles, reports and photos on OP activities and school developments to keep our former pupils in touch.

- **OP careers network**

The OP careers network provides access to OPs for advice and support in a range of business areas and professions. This might include insight visits, placements, work experience, shadowing, or mentoring and is available to OPs at any stage of their career from undergraduate, postgraduate or



careers but also provides great links to help in later life.”

– Recent OP

throughout later life. The facility can also be accessed by sixth formers who need advice or experience to assist with their personal statements and university applications.

- **Mentoring programme**

This new scheme gives younger OPs the opportunity to have a one to one connection with an older, more experienced OP in a relevant career sector. It is a great way to access the knowledge of someone who has experience, insight and hindsight. The mentors are all OPs who wish to give something back to current university students and recent graduates, and share their experiences of opportunities after graduation. They can help younger OPs to develop their

skills and make decisions about their future in an encouraging and supportive way.

- **Social media groups**   

The OPA has official alumni groups on Facebook and LinkedIn to keep former pupils in touch with OP and school activity as well as each other. The OPA is also on Twitter: @PocklingtonOPs to follow.

- **OPA website**

The website, www.oldpocklingtonians.com, is the place to go to find out more about the OPA and includes information about forthcoming events and sporting activities as well as OP news, careers and back issues of the magazine.

CONTACT

If you require further information about the OPA or you would like to request a copy of the OP magazine which gives a more complete overview of OP activity, please contact:

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OP Careers Network

At the end of the upper sixth **Lucy Snowden (06-13)** was unsure about which career direction to take but knew she enjoyed writing and communication. The OP network helped her find a placement at the London office of PR company Waggener Edstrom through OP **Chris Talago (84-86)**.

“I have really enjoyed my time here and now have a good insight on where I want to be in the future. I feel I could seriously consider a career in PR. The biggest lesson I will take away with me is that experience is invaluable.”

To help her decide if law was the right career for her, **Rocio Mondaca (04-11)** did an insight visit with OP barrister, **Andrew Wilson (89-99)**, during her lower sixth year.

“This helped not only to cement my conviction that I would like to study law at university, but also helped me with my university application, in particular my personal statement. It enabled me to write passionately and include first-hand experience. I think this is why my application was so successful and I received offers from all my chosen universities.”

During the upper sixth, **Guy Harland (07-12)** secured a paid engineering work placement for his gap year through an OP.

“The OP network helped me every step of the way, offering frank and thoughtful discussion on which career was best for me and connecting me to OPs in engineering. OPs advised me through the application process which resulted in an offer of paid work experience with Babcock Engineering in Plymouth. I have nothing but praise for the OP network, and I hope others will take full advantage of the services it provides.”

A fifth form student visited OP **Max Los (98-09)** at Tata Steel to discuss routes into architecture. This helped her to make an informed decision in regard to her A-level subject choices. Max was also able to arrange a few days' work experience over the summer.

“I am very grateful to Max for giving up his time for me and giving me first hand advice about architecture. I think the OP network is a great idea; not only does it provide a great insight to careers but also provides great links to help in later life.”



What our Members say

“The reunion weekend was all hugely enjoyable and poignant with all sorts of emotions experienced in different ways, I guess, by us all there – but you must have seen how the years instantly rolled away and we all gelled back into a 50-year-old mob again, quite amazing I thought!”

(1958 leaver)

“Thank you for the OP reunion at St John’s on Saturday. It was a really enjoyable evening and everyone I spoke to said that they would be keen to come again. It was really good to see everyone; staff, former staff and friends that live in Cambridge but that I never get to see!”

(2006 leaver)

“We had a fabulous weekend and my sincere thanks for all your help organising this for us. For anyone who is thinking it would be good to have a year group reunion my advice is to get in touch with the OP Office and go for it!”

(1970 leaver)

“Brian had been looking forward to the reunion with excitement and a little trepidation: the weekend was marvellous and he hasn’t stopped talking about it!”

(1958 leaver)

“This was my first reunion dinner and I am sure it won’t be my last. My father, brother and I enjoyed meeting so many people from the past and seeing familiar names and also faces – it is a strange feeling to talk to people you haven’t met in my case for over 40 years.”

(1967 leaver)

“Thank you so much for your help both with the organisation of the reunion and the tour round the school. It was like we’d all been away for the Summer holidays; 30 years long, granted, but everyone just slotted back in where they left off.”

(1980 leaver)

What our Parents say

Parent of James Pratt (2001-2009)

“We are so grateful for your help in finding a work placement for James. Television and radio broadcasting is a difficult industry to break into, particularly when you have no connections. Thanks to the OPA he has struck gold with a placement with Tidy Productions. David Peet ‘old boy’ and now MD of Tidy gave James a challenging phone interview, which James followed up by sending some of his own ideas for a programme. It appears to be a match made in heaven for our son, who has some very alternative ideas and loves comedy. Thank you again, we will happily continue to pay our OP subscriptions with two more children still in school.”

Parent of James Reckitt (2010-2012)

“Our son James, aged 17, has spent time over the summer gaining valuable work experience through the OP network. His aim is to read Law at University and he eventually hopes to become a barrister. The OP network provided us with offers of help and contact details of OPs to follow up. James has since had a fantastic time shadowing these incredibly helpful and supportive OPs who have given their time and shared their expertise with him so willingly. We should like to urge all parents to use the OP network as it is a huge asset to Pocklington School. Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity for your son or daughter!”