
TASIS England Alumni Newsletter - July 2024



Welcome to our Summer 2024 Alumni Newsletter



Our Newest Alumni Walk the Red Carpet

July 2024

We love to hear from you!

Please keep telling us what you are doing and send us pictures of you and your family, along with old treasured TASIS pictures too. Our email is alumni@tasisengland.org.

We are delighted to share some exciting updates in this edition.

Remember to visit us when you are in the area – just complete our simple booking form so that we are ready to welcome you. It can be found in the [Alumni section of our website](#) or by clicking on the button below.

Plan your next visit to campus

Congratulations to the Class of 2024



Saturday, June 8, proved to be another beautiful day for Commencement! We celebrated the achievements of our seniors, reflected upon their TASIS England learning journey, and encouraged the class to make their future mark as principled, open-minded, and compassionate members of a global community.

We look forward to celebrating our AP and IB program examination results later this summer.

Class of 2024 Alumni Representatives



Our recent graduates voted for Clara E. and Will S. to serve as representatives of the Class of 2024. Congratulations!

Celebration of the Life of Lyle D. Rigg



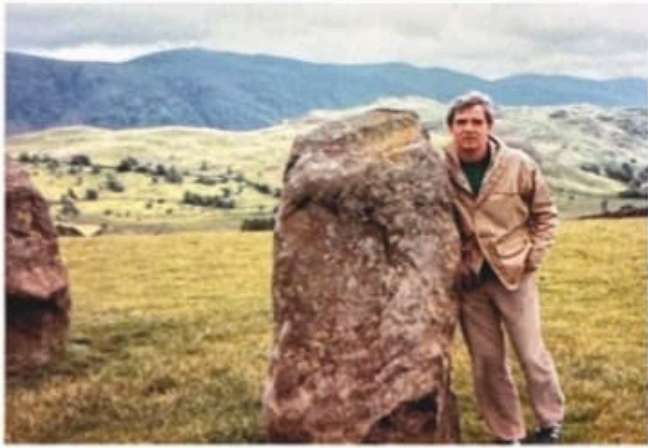
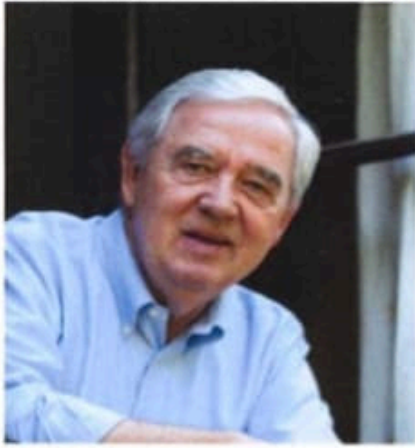
On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, over 150 members of our TASIS England community came together to celebrate the life of our longest-serving and beloved Headmaster.

Lyle's family members were moved to see so many alumni join this special occasion and they send their appreciation for all of the wonderful messages of support.

We are pleased to attach the video link of the church service [here](#). Password: ieNk5zqMTn



Following a beautiful church service, current and former colleagues, classmates and friends enjoyed sharing fond memories of Lyle over afternoon tea in the Fleming Garden.



Lyle's wisdom didn't just extend to the academic realm, he instinctively understood the importance of people and mission-led leadership.

We love this list of "44 Important Things" created by Lyle. Which ones resonate with you?

LYLE RIGG'S

44

Important Things

Be empathetic. Don't be defensive.
Admit when you're wrong.
Be courteous. Be punctual. Be honest.

SUPPORT YOUR COLLEAGUES. REMAIN CALM. ACKNOWLEDGE GOOD WORK.

Communicate effectively.

Exude confidence.

Use humor. Work hard.

INSPIRE

LISTEN. GET AWAY. TAKE A STAND

Be friendly. Be approachable. Believe in the mission.
Have humility. Use eye contact. Be sincere.

BE KIND.

BE FIRM.

BE LOYAL.

BE FAIR.

TRUST
CARE

Regularly send
handwritten notes
of appreciation &
gratitude. **Be loyal.**

USE TIME WISELY. KEEP CONFIDENCES. DON'T RUSH TO JUDGEMENT.

Don't view yourself as indispensable.

Sleep well. Treat everyone with respect. Show patience.

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH CAPABLE AND CARING PEOPLE.

Get to know ALL your colleagues and their families.

Don't show favoritism. Keep a positive attitude.

TASIS England Fundraising News – from Bryan Nixon, Head of School

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our generous community who has contributed to our first full year of fundraising for the Financial Aid and Lyle Rigg Scholarship Funds.

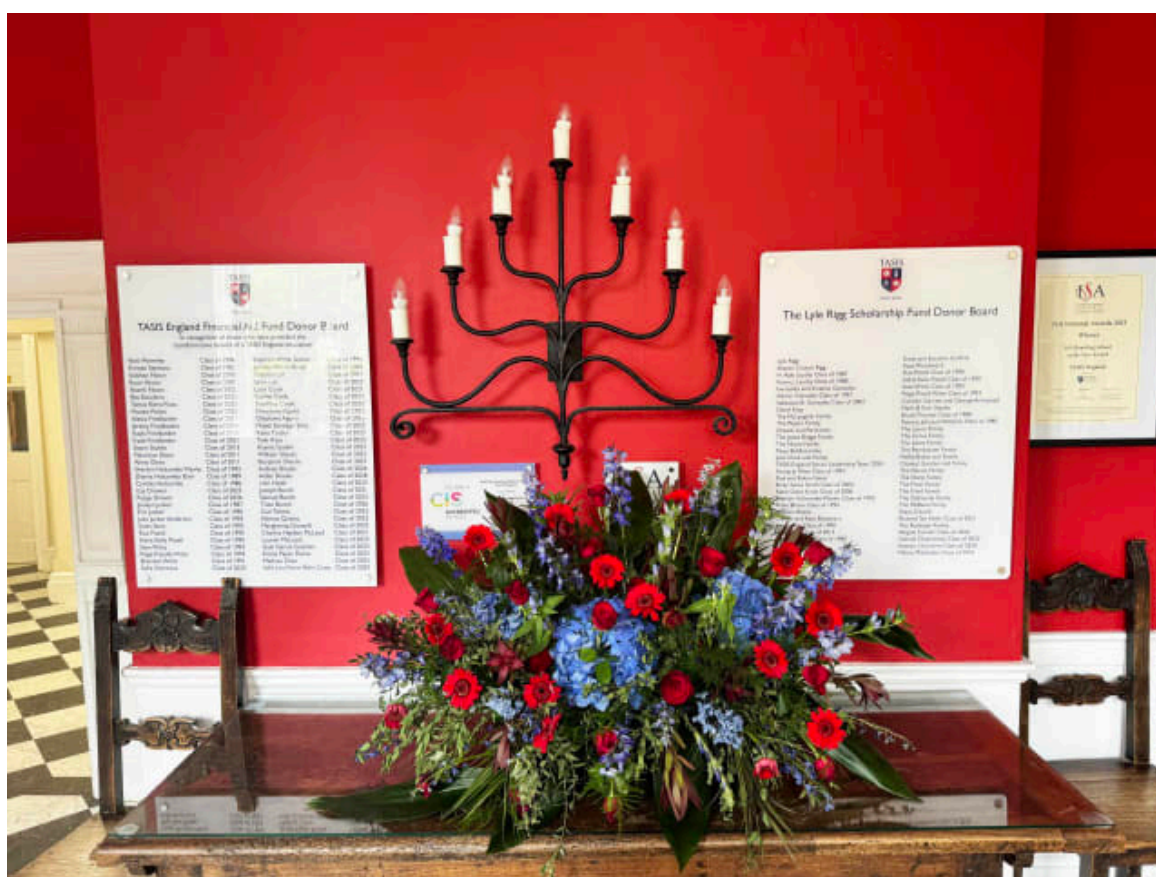


During the 2023-24 school year, we received individual donations ranging from £2 to £80,000 leading to an amazing total of £227,000!

Our TPA Fundraising Gala in February raised almost £38,000. Further alumni donations of £16,000 means that £54,000 will be added to the School's Financial Aid Fund in August 2024 to support numerous students who require financial assistance with their tuition fees.

The Lyle Rigg Scholarship Fund has received donations totaling £173,000 and we are delighted to show the donor boards in the photos below. We will be selecting the Lyle Rigg Scholar in August and look forward to sharing more news with you in our next newsletter.

Donations can be made via our [website](https://www.tasisengland.org). If you require any additional information or have donation questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Executive Director of Development Mary Biddlecombe at mbiddlecombe@tasisengland.org.





The Class of 2024 Scholarship Fund Donor Board. All donations have been allocated to the Lyle Rigg Scholarship Fund.

Another Awesome Award to Close the Year



Head of School Bryan Nixon and Executive Director of Development & External Relations Mary Biddlecombe were delighted to receive this prestigious award last month on behalf of the School.

Not only has TASIS England been named the Independent Schools Association Boarding School of the Year for our outstanding residential program, but we have now been acclaimed for the excellent support we provide to our day student families relocating from across the world to join our community.

Some Exciting News From You



Thanks to Fraser Churchill (Class of 2009) for sharing this inspirational update. Congratulations on the new album!

T I M E S A R E C H A N G I N ' ,



F R A S E R C H U R C H I L L

Hey TASIS Alumni!

My name is Fraser Churchill. I was a TASIS student for 14 years, all the way from Pre-K to 12th grade! After TASIS, I decided to study music at LIPA (Paul McCartney's music school in Liverpool). I'm now living in Nashville, TN as a full time singer-songwriter.

I was lucky enough to land a 1 on 1 songwriting class with Paul McCartney in my final year at LIPA. After playing him some of my music and asking what I should do next, he said to me 'do what the Beatles did, go play 5 nights a week and hone your craft!', so that's exactly what I did!

After 5 years of playing 3-5 gigs a week in London, I had a meeting with Decca records. They told me my songs weren't good enough, so I decided to head to Nashville and learn how to write songs.

I've now been writing songs in Nashville for close to 10 years. My international breakthrough as a songwriter came with the Charlie Puth song 'Patient' off the Voicenotes album. Voicenotes has just passed 1m sales in the US and is a certified platinum record! This release led to a global publishing deal with Warner Chappell. Some other notable releases include Michael Bublé's 'Baby I'll Wait' from his Grammy Award winning album 'Higher', Mickey Guyton's Grammy-nominated song 'Black Like Me', Flo.Rida's 'High Heels', Ft. Walker Hayes, Lukas Graham's single 'Call My Name'. I've also been lucky enough to achieve my second platinum record with K-pop band 'WayV'. I've recently had my songs recorded by Keith Urban, One Republic, Brett Young and Calum Scott, so watch this space! In a cool full circle moment, Decca released two of my songs as singles for their artists 'Emeli Sandé' and Ronan Keating'. You can check out my full 'written by' Spotify playlist here:

<https://artists.spotify.com/songwriter/69CFKidkQGww2wbyQ2DCbm>

I've just released my debut EP 'Times Are Changin'. Here's a link!

<https://imperial.lnk.to/TimesAreChangin>

It's been out since May 17th and has landed on a few notable Spotify and Apple's playlists including 'Fresh Finds', 'Next Gen Songwriters', and Apples 'Relationship Goals'. I decided to title my EP 'Times are Changin' because of my shift from a songwriter to back to an artist, where my journey began. Thank you for sharing my EP!

I will always be thankful for my time at TASIS. TASIS taught me how to make friends with people from all over the world, work hard and dream big. My friends from TASIS are still my best friends today. If anyone's ever passing through Nashville, feel free to reach out or come and catch a show. I post all updates on socials!

Best,

Fraser



Congratulations to Andrea Sartorius (Class of 2012) following the recent media and parliamentary interest in her impressive research on Lead Mining Pollution in Wales.



Andrea is currently working as a research fellow at the University of Nottingham. Her impressive PhD thesis contains environmental research on the subject of metal mining pollution in Wales that has recently hit the news. Please click the links below to read more.

- In the FT.com [Welsh communities grapple with toxic legacy of metal](#)
- Andrea is quoted in this BBC article: [Metal mines pollution raises health worries](#)
- She has also written an article about her research: [Abandoned lead mines are leaving a toxic legacy on Wales's farmland, wildlife and rivers](#)

Finally, in May, Andrea attended a Parliament inquiry to provide academic evidence on this subject:
<https://committees.parliament.uk/event/21449/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>

Congratulations to entrepreneurial twin brothers Alberto and Arian Zandi (Class of 2014) on the growth of their luxury London-based restaurant enterprise!



Photo of Arian (left) and Alberto (right) taken by Jack Hardy Studios at the opening of their Riviera restaurant in London.

First listed by Forbes 30 under 30 in 2023, the dynamic Zandi brothers have just had their company, Emerald Hospitality Group, listed by the Sunday Times (on June 30) as one of the 100 fastest-growing companies in the UK the article reads as follows:

"Riviera, the fourth restaurant from the 28-year-old Spanish twin brothers Arian and Alberto Zandi, caters to diners seeking a taste of the Côte d'Azur in the heart of London. The pair started the group six years ago with their Latin American fusion restaurant, Zuaya. Their Italian concept, Como Garden, and a Spanish eatery, El Norte, soon followed. Having achieved sales of £8.4 million last year, they are planning two more London openings, supported by investment from an unnamed Middle Eastern fund."

Feature from Joanne Churchill on Meditation & Mindfulness Courses



Greetings Former Students and Colleagues!

I just celebrated my retirement after joining TASIS in 1985 and enjoying many wonderful and very fulfilling years as a teacher. I thrived in the caring community of students, faculty and staff, and have much gratitude for the many rich and rewarding experiences that I still treasure. Ten years ago, however, I became very ill with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, a mysterious, frightening and untreatable illness which forced me out of work and put me in bed for several years and housebound for several more. This last decade has been extremely difficult but one in which I learned the most about myself, about health, and about the way in which our bodies speak to us, if we are willing to listen. We live in stressful times, we live in a culture which is not supportive of mental and physical health, and more and more of us are becoming sick with chronic illnesses for which there is no definitive cure. I am delighted to say that I am slowly recovering and have recently retrained as a meditation teacher after finding meditation extremely helpful in calming my nervous system, becoming more aware of my unhelpful thinking patterns and behaviour patterns, and in repairing the relationship I have with myself.

Meditation or Mindfulness has exploded in the last few decades from being a fringe practice to becoming quite mainstream. The benefits are now very well researched and numerous. It can help with stress by regulating the nervous system, and there is increasing evidence that nervous system dis-regulation is a key factor in 'dis-ease' as well as disease. Research shows that just 10 minutes of daily practice for 8 weeks rewires the brain, making it less reactive. Longer-term meditators report more happiness and less anxiety and depression. In fact, research shows meditation is as good as or *better than* medication for mild to moderate anxiety and depression. It can also help with attention, pain management, focus and impulse control, lower blood pressure, strengthen the immune system and improve sleep. It is an invaluable tool for meeting the challenges of ageing and illness, as well as coping with the normal stresses of life. And, it is SO much more than that; it is also a way of knowing yourself deeply. As we learn to make space for and bring compassion to our sensations, thoughts and feelings, we begin to see and accept ourselves as we are. Resting in the present moment with acceptance teaches us to relate differently to our experiences. We also grow a stronger sense of embodied presence and resilience.

If you would like to get in touch about online or in person classes, I would love to hear from you! My email is jomaychurchill@gmail.com. I would equally love to hear from you if you just want to say hello! I hope you are all thriving and happy!

Joanne Churchill

Former Middle School English and Health Teacher

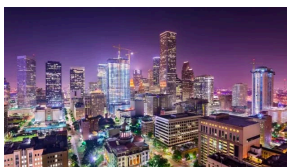
Middle School Animal Magic



We truly enjoy hearing your stories when you visit campus. Former Lower and Middle school alumni (and their parents) regularly recall the wonderful Ms. Wendy Gediman and her animals which have inspired a life-long love of nature. Ms. Gediman has taught with us for over 34 years now.

We are thrilled to share these adorable pictures of the ducklings which hatched at school this spring and Ms. Gediman's rabbits - which are now based at home!

Reunion News



Our all-class reunion in Houston, Texas, in March was fantastic - you can enjoy the photos in our [Flickr album](#).



While we were celebrating in Houston, the Class of 1986 were enjoying their own special reunion in Florida.

Take a look at the photos [here](#).

Upcoming TASIS England All-Class Reunion



Watch this space for news of our all-class reunion in NYC in late January 2025.

Your Visits to TASIS

PLANNING TO VISIT TASIS ENGLAND? Please complete this [FORM](#).

Check out our TASIS Spiritwear Online Store!*



[DISCOVER THE ONLINE STORE](#)

**International shipping available*

Stay connected!

Our email address: alumni@tasisengland.org

Contact person: Mary Biddlecombe - Executive Director, Development & External Relations

Join our Alumni [Facebook Page](#).

Do you wish to update your data?

We know our Alumni often move around the world and experience new professional adventures. We would like to have your up-to-date contact details so we can keep communicating with you. Please also let us know what you are doing professionally, and whether you would be willing to advise our current students about their future career paths. **If you have moved recently or think that your details may be outdated**, please fill in [this form](#) and send it to us. We will update your details on our database.

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