TASIS

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# Welcome to our Winter 2024 Alumni Newsletter

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**Wishing your family peace and happiness this holiday season.**
**May all the dreams you dare to dream come true.**

## Happy Holidays!

We hope that you like our 2024 Holiday Card!
The campus is sparkling with festive decorations provided by our wonderful TPA.

See more heartwarming festive photos

**December 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 England pictures too. Our email is alumni@tasisengland.org.

Remember to visit us when you are in the area – just complete our simple booking **simple booking form** so we are ready to welcome you to campus.

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

## Summer Program Recognized for a National Award

British Youth Travel Awards 2024
BEST EDUCATION PROVIDER
WINNER
tasisengland.org/summer-program

If you are feeling the chill of winter and long for the summer months, you will be pleased to hear that our TASIS England Summer Program has been honored as the **winner of Best Education Provider** by the British Educational Travel Association (BETA) at British Youth Travel Awards 2024.

Registrations for young people aged 11-17 are open for the 2025 Summer Program with discounts for the children of our alumni. To learn more, contact uksummer@tasisengland.org.

A big shout-out to Lauren (Class of 2023) who did an amazing job working in the 2024 Summer Program as a Counselor. We look forward to sharing a video in our next newsletter as we encourage others to consider working in the 2025 Summer Program.

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## Reunion News

**Upcoming TASIS England All-Class Reunion in New York**

Please join us on the evening of Friday, February 28, 2025 at Little Ways restaurant in the heart of Soho. Alumni faculty and parents welcome too!

Register here

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## Calling Back Alumni from the Classes of 2020-2024

**Will you be in the area on Wednesday, December 11, 2024?**

If so, please come back to campus to meet your friends and share advice and insights with our juniors and seniors who may be considering applying to your current college or planning a gap year. They would love to hear from you!

The informal chat will take place in Magna Carta Hall from noon to 12:40 p.m. and will be followed by a special lunch.

**Sign up** by Wednesday, December 4.

Sign up here

We also need your help with the following dates:

- In person or virtually: Alumni Panel for Grade 12 Future Pathways Course, Tuesday, March 18, 12:05 - 12:55 p.m.
- In person or virtually: Alumni Panel for Grade 11 Future Pathways Course, Tuesday, May 20, 12:05 - 12:55 p.m.
- In person only: Alumni Uni Chat, Wednesday, May 28, 12 - 12:40 p.m.

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## News from Across the Classes

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**New year, new job? If you are seeking a new executive tech role for 2025, read on...**

Anthony (Tony) Batchelor graduated in 1983 and has been a Partner at Odgers Berndtson Canada for over 12 years. Odgers Berndtson is the sixth largest executive search and leadership advisory firm in the world.

Tony specializes in recruiting Chief Information and Chief Technology Officers and states: "My recent 12+ years have been the best of my now 35+ year career overall!"

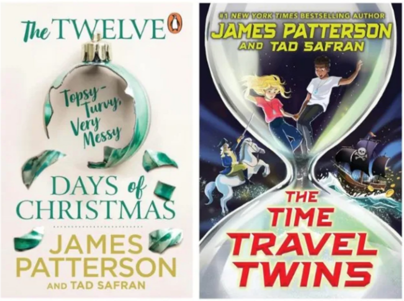
We are very excited to welcome Tony back to campus after 40 years in January!

*Tony with his wife and one of his three children (Duncan) and his girlfriend at his birthday dinner at one of Toronto's best Italian restaurants*

**Celebrating the Days of Christmas with Twins!**

We are thrilled to share this news from our talented alumnus, Tad Safran:

After years of writing film and TV, I've now turned to novels. I co-write with best-selling author James Patterson. Our first collaboration – "The Twelve Topsy Turvy Very Messy Days of Christmas" – was a best seller and can be found everywhere that sells books. Our second collaboration kicks off a new Middle Grade series (similar to "Lemony Snicket" or "Harry Potter"). It's called "The Time Travel Twins." The first book in the series was released in September 2024.



*Family photo of Tad with his wife (Lexa) and twin boys (Marco and Ollie)*

### Cherishing Life-long Friendships

We are excited to share an update from Erin Woodside who has also made a career from writing and would love to reconnect with former alumni:

*Erin with her husband (Eric)*

2024 is flying by. My husband, Eric, and I are enjoying all that San Diego has to offer. We have a cat, Cupid, and I have now lived in San Diego for the past 32 years. I continue to work as a consultant grant writer for nonprofit organizations and am going on my 17th year of doing so. I cherish my friendships from my TASIS England days of 1982-1987, Class of 1988, and am in touch with quite a few alumni. I hope everyone is doing well, and if you'd like to reconnect, I can be found on Facebook and Instagram under Erin Leeper Woodside.

### TASIS Teacher Sparks Philipp's Passion for Pricing!

We are delighted to share some news and an invitation to connect from Philipp Kaupke who graduated in 2008 having spent his senior years at TASIS completing the IB Programme.

Philipp's updates include:

- Fond memories of meeting people from all over the world, which shaped my openness and adaptability
- Now work in consulting specializing in pricing, in part might be inspired by economics teacher Liam Canny (he really did drill down on Keynesian and neoclassical economics and the effect of pricing and demand...)
- Lived in Singapore and now settled in Switzerland becoming a Swiss citizen a few months ago
- Living in Zurich with my wife Katharina and our one-year-old daughter Sophie
- Open to connecting – happy to host for coffee or drinks if you're in the area

Reach out on **LinkedIn** if you would like to connect.

*Philipp taken at a family wedding with his wife (Katharina) and their daughter (Sophie)*

GREENE KING
THE RED LION
Restaurant

*Philipp was welcomed to campus this month and struck a pose by this nostalgic pub with Mr. Canny!*

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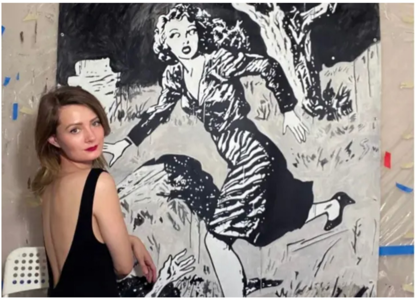
**Awesome Artistic Talent!**

Prepare to be impressed as you read this wonderful update from Rachel O'Donnell:



I attended TASIS England during my last two years of high school from 2007-09. After graduation, I went to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, as a presidential scholar and received a BFA in painting. Today, I am a successful artist with two current museums, one at the Asheville Art Museum in North Carolina and the other at the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles (which was covered by **The Hollywood Reporter**). I also released an illustrated version of Washington Irving's classic ghost story, Sleepy Hollow in September 2023. **"The Illustrated Legend of Sleepy Hollow"** is sold in stores, including at the Sleepy Hollow Bookshop and worldwide on Amazon.

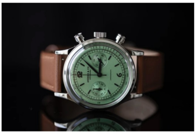
I am so grateful for the support and guidance I received from many of the teachers of TASIS England, including Mr. Smalley, Dr. Whitted, Monsieur de Lannoy, and especially, Melanie Taylor who went out of her way to help me create a portfolio for when I applied to art school in my senior year. They made a huge difference in my life and helped nurture my talents and interests. I also made so many life-long friends while at TASIS England. In fact, Daniel Crooke (also class of 2009) officiated my wedding in California this fall!

To keep up with my upcoming shows and see my work, follow me on **Instagram** or check out my **website**!

*A photo from Rachel's recent wedding with Daniel officiating*

**Watch out for this New Entrepreneur!**

Congratulations and good luck to Alex Larsson as he launches his new timepiece business.



See Alex's **Instagram** and **impressive website**.

**A Very Happy Thanksgiving!**

Alumni mum and TASIS England School Counselor Maria Vazquez hosted a special Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends.

*From left to right: Niruk De Alwis and Brigitte Andersen (Class of 2017), Lavinia Fasano, Sofia Gomez Vazquez, and Paul Griffith (Class of 2015) with their fabulous host, Maria Vazquez*

**Congratulations to the Bride and Groom!**

In July, our Head of School Bryan Nixon was the proud father of the bride, Siobhan Nixon (Class of 2018), who married Sam Johnston at the Clandeboye Lodge in Ireland. Siobhan is currently a Primary 1 (Kindergarten) teacher at a primary school in Belfast.

*A beautiful wedding day photograph, July 17, 2024*

**The Logical Reporter!**

Congratulations to Aimee Look as she embarks on a promising career in journalism.

Aimee recently started working as a reporter at "The Logic", a Canadian business and technology news startup backed by the Financial Times' venture arm. Before joining "The Logic", Aimee interned at Bloomberg and CNN.

Reflecting on her positive learning journey at TASIS England, Aimee says: "The IB diploma programme at TASIS taught me to write under tight deadlines and critically evaluate multiple perspectives – skills I now use daily as a journalist."

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## In Memoriam

On Tuesday, October 14, we received the very sad news that our much-loved former Head of Lower School Debbie Faasee had passed away in the United States. Debbie was surrounded by love from her husband and her family as she passed.

Debbie served our community with care and compassion for 12 years and she will be sadly missed by so many. Lower School colleagues are helping us decide on the best way to honor Debbie's memory in our school.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie's family at this time.

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## Planning a Visit to TASIS England?

Complete this form

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## Check out our TASIS Spiritwear Online Store*

TASIS
ENGLAND
ROYALS
PRIDE

Discover the online store

**International shipping available*

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## Stay Connected

Our email address: **alumni@tasisengland.org**
Contact person: Mary Biddlecombe, Executive Director, Development & External Relations
Join our TASIS England 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.

We would love to stay in contact with you but if, for any reason, you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please use the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page.

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