ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL

ALUMNI OFFICE



ALUMNI POST

ALUMNI TERMLY E-NEWSLETTER

EDITION THREE: MAY 2026

WELCOME

We're excited to bring you another half-term update packed with stories, achievements and opportunities to stay connected with the alumni community.

This edition includes a variety of updates, from highlights of our latest events and news from around the School to a round up of recent alumni news and achievements. Plus, you can read a memoir from Chris Sims (St Vincent, 1973) who reflects on his time as a teacher and his journey to a determined late-life runner.

Happy reading!

HERITAGE TOUR & AFTERNOON TEA

On Saturday 16 May, we hosted a new event which invited guests to join us for a tour of the School, sharing our rich history and heritage, followed by an afternoon tea in the Jellicoe Room.

It was a wonderful event and it was great to see a wide variety of people come along and join the RHS community, including alumni, former staff, current parents and members of the public, it was lovely to share our school with everyone. Guests enjoyed a history tour of the school, celebrating our heritage as well as a demonstration of the Grand Organ by our Director of Music, Ed Allen.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a success and to the guests for coming and helping us to raise funds for the Centennial Bursary Campaign. The event raised £1,043, all of which will be going to the RHSCT (no. 1157146).





















SCHOOL NEWS

HEADMASTER ANNOUNCMENT

The Royal Hospital School is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Steve Dixon as Headmaster. A respected and highly experienced senior leader, Steve has been at the heart of RHS since 2013, serving as Second Master before stepping into the role of Acting Headmaster earlier this year.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/headmasterannoucement

CHARITY GALA CONCERT

The Gala Concert in March was a wonderful evening which showcased the outstanding musical talent of our pupils, while raising money for a great cause. Guests enjoyed a fantastic programme of music from several of the school's ensembles, including "Finlandia" by Sibelius, Vivaldi's "Concerto for Strings", "Happy" by Pharrell Williams, music from "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Groovy Kind of Love", "Highlights from Wicked" and "Over the Rainbow". We raised over £4,000 for the Centennial Bursary Campaign through ticket sales, the raffle, and generous donations on the night. This money will go directly the Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust (Charity no. 1157146).

HMS TRUMPETER

In April, alongside two RHS Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, pupils had the fantastic opportunity to spend time on board HMS Trumpeter, sailing down the River Orwell, and learning about teamwork, responsibility and life at sea. They even had the chance to take the helm, steering the vessel under the guidance of the crew. The visit also offered pupils a valuable insight into the wide range of careers and roles available in the military, helping them explore future pathways while experiencing naval life first-hand.

SAILING WORLD RECORD

Toby S, Year 13 sailor, has once again made waves in the sailing world, setting a new Waszp speed world record of 31 knots. This latest achievement comes just two weeks after Toby previously set the record at 30.4 knots. The title was briefly taken at the Australian Championships, but Toby has now reclaimed it, pushing the benchmark even higher.

D OF E GOLD EXPEDITION

Our Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold Expedition pupils were immediately put to the test as they set off for their four-day, three-night expedition at the start of the Easter holidays. On the first day, they were met with challenging conditions, including winds of up to 40mph, along with rain, snow and hail. Prioritising safety, the decision was made in the morning to revise the planned route. The teams adapted quickly and demonstrated resilience, making their way to a lower altitude where they continued the expedition. Over the following days, they hiked through some of the most breathtaking and remote landscapes in the Scottish Highlands. This resulted in one team successfully passing their assessment, while the training team gained valuable experience and essential knowledge in preparation for their own.



TOURS

We love welcoming alumni back to RHS so we can share the school with you. Your visits are an important part of maintaining strong connections to our alumni community. To provide the best experience for our visitors, we encourage tours during the school week and term time, allowing you to see RHS at its best and most active. If you'd like to visit, just email us, our contact details are on page 6.



Oxford Regional Reunion



Mark Richards (St Vincent, 1975)



Andrew Young (Drake, 1973)



Dan Walton (Blake, 1971) & Alan Divers (Blake, 1963)



David Richards (Drake, 1971), Monty Callow (Drake, 1974) and Michael Vertue (Drake, 1971)

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SHARE?

We love sharing your news and stories with alumni and the wider RHS Community. If you have something you would like us to share email us, we love hearing from you.

- New business start-up
- Memories from school days eg. school photos: you in your number ones, groups of friends, plays/musicals you took part in, memories of sports matches etc.
- Raising money for charity
- Reunions with school friends
- Events you are planning
- What you have been up to since leaving RHS eg. careers to date, retirement adventures
- AND anything else you would like to share with the RHS Community



ALUMNI NEWS

We love sharing news with the RHS Community. In case you missed it, here is a round-up of some of the recent alumni stories and achievements we have shared:

JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR

As part of the Junior Science Fair we welcomed Rev. Andrew Dotchin (Collingwood, 1974) and Monty Callow (Collingwood, 1974) who came back to be part of the judging panel. Both Andrew and Monty were in the same science classes all though their O Levels and A Levels!
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/junior-science-fair

FULL CIRCLE EXPEDITION

Mark Thorburn (Cornwallis, 1995) took part in Full Circle, an ambitious sailing expedition led by Turn to Starboard supporting the road to the Invictus Games which will be hosted in Birmingham in 2027. The first leg of the expedition started on Tuesday 17 March and saw two traditionally rigged tall ships, Pellew and Spirit of Falmouth, depart from Falmouth and will circumnavigate 2,000 nautical miles around the UK.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/full-circle-expedition
Follow up Q&A: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/full-circle-expedition-followup

GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

Nick May (Anson, 1980) took part in the Great Tommy Sleep Out on the night of 29 March, raising money for homeless veterans.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/great-tommy-sleep-out

MULLIGAN BROS

Cameron Beaton (Collingwood, 2011) and his friend George have recently launched their new business, Mulligan Bros, which is more than just a golf brand; it's a conversation starter. After their own personal experiences of suicide and mental health struggles, the idea behind the business uses golf as a space where men feel able to talk, open up and support one another. We caught up with Cameron to find out more about the business and plans for the future.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/mulligan-bros

MARATHON STORIES

We shared some of the alumni and wider RHS community who have taken part or will be taking part in a marathon this year.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/marathon-stories

ALUMNI COLLABORATION

Genevieve Agyemang-Badu (Hood, 2022) recently connected with fellow alumnus Andrew Young (Drake, 1973) for a university policy event focused on democracy and political development.
Read more here: https://www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni/alumni-collaboration

MEMOIRS

CHRIS SIMS (ST VINCENT, 1973)

After leaving RHS in 1973 I became a teacher and taught for 32 years before retiring aged 63. During my teaching career I took pupils on many expeditions to all parts of the world - the more remote the better (including a memorable, if fraught, school expedition to Papua New Guinea where we walked the Kokoda Trail in memory of the soldiers who lost their lives fighting the Japanese during WW2). Trekking and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions took their toll and in 2017 I had my first full knee replacement; quickly followed a year later by the other knee. I lapsed into your typical couch potato and it wasn't until I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes and borderline obesity that I decided it was time to take charge of my life.

My wife had just started to participate in Park Runs and I would walk round very slowly to offer my support. Gradually I began to walk faster, then to power-walk and finally I started to run the 5km distance. A strict regime of dieting, weight training and walking/running saw me lose nearly five stone and I set myself the challenge of a 10km run. I accomplished this in 2022 and took part in a wonderful small half marathon - the Cambridge Boundary Run. Organised by undergraduate students, this lovely event caters for both half and full marathon runners. By many a year I was the oldest to take part and came in last but was happy to have completed the half marathon distance.

In the last four years I have competed in over 70 10km and half marathons, including both the Oxford and Cambridge half marathons annually. I take part with my wife and we raise money for the local Dementia Choir she sings in. I am not fast but get a great deal of pleasure from racing all over the East Midlands meeting a whole range of people of differing abilities. I have come to realise that for some their goal is to win but for most it is enough simply to take part and to share the pleasure in still being able to be active in old age. I hope I encourage others with disabilities or who are older to know there is hope. I am grateful to my surgeon for giving me a new lease of walking/running life.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are excited to share a new initiative launched in February: the RHS Business Directory, a new digital publication designed to showcase and support businesses run by RHS alumni, parents, friends of the School and local businesses. Hosted on the school website and shared directly with our parent, alumni and supporter community of over 4,000 contacts, it provides businesses with long-term visibility within a trusted and engaged audience.

The directory is open to all types of businesses, whether you're a sole trader, run a small or medium-sized business, or are part of a larger organisation. Advertising is offered as a one-off cost (with no ongoing fees), unless you choose to update your advert in the future.

Most importantly, every advert placed in the directory supports the Centennial Bursary Campaign (Royal Hospital School Charitable Trust, charity no.1157146).

1. Review the Business Directory rate card for full instructions: https://tinyurl.com/DirectoryRateCard
2. Complete the advertising form: https://forms.office.com/e/2UrJ1VCnsZ
3. Email your artwork/advert to businessdirectory@royalhospitalschool.org

Here is a link to the current directory: https://tinyurl.com/BusinessDirectoryIssue1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

LONDON NETWORKING DRINKS - WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE
FULLY BOOKED - Join the waiting list: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FUXT

SUMMER REUNION - SUNDAY 21 JUNE
Book here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GFES

CLASS OF 2024 REUNION - THURSDAY 25 JUNE
Book here: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCZL

SAVE THE DATE
REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND - 8 & 9 NOVEMBER 2026
Booking will open in September

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