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Editors' Note

This year's Old Worksopian Magazine has been an absolute joy to put together. Once again, the OW community has had a remarkable year, and pulling together your stories, achievements, and updates is always a reminder of how fortunate we are to play a small role in celebrating your journeys.

It's been wonderful seeing so many of you in person at events throughout the year. We've thoroughly enjoyed the classic events, such as the 50s and 60s Christmas Luncheon, OW Dorm Run and the Stay Connected Drinks. In addition to these favourites, we've also introduced exciting new events, including the Queen by Chapel Candlelight evening and the Old Ranbrian Reunion. We're looking forward to expanding our offerings even further in 2025 – keep an eye out on oldworksopians.co.uk for information on these.

One of the highlights of our role is taking Old Worksopian tours. Walking with you through the cloisters, hearing your fond memories and anecdotes, is a real privilege. If you'd like to arrange a visit to your old stomping grounds, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd also love for you to connect with us on Instagram [@oldworksopians](https://www.instagram.com/oldworksopians), where you can catch up on who's been popping in for a trip down Memory Lane.

This year marks a significant milestone in the history of Worksop College, as it is the final full year for Dr John Price, our 15th Headmaster. John leaves us to take on a part-time role with the Independent Schools Association, and we wish him every success in this next chapter. His legacy will be honoured with a portrait, soon to hang proudly in the Great Hall alongside those of his predecessors. The artist behind this work, Andrew James, gave us an incredible preview during a workshop with our pupils, where he shared his creative process. We're thrilled to feature the results of that session as the cover artwork for this issue, but do bear in mind that this isn't this final portrait.



We wish you all the best for 2025 and hope to see many of you in the near future.

With best wishes,
Lucy and Hannah
Development Team

School year in review

Dr John Price
Headmaster



This year at Worksop College has certainly been a poignant one for me. As I write this, it is with a deep sense of gratitude and reflection, as this year also marks my final year as Headmaster of Worksop College and Ranby House.

The Old Worksopian community has been central to our celebrations, from OW Conor McGovern's spellbinding Freddie Mercury performance at the Queen by Chapel Candlelight fundraising event supporting our Chapel Appeal, to the cherished 50s and 60s Christmas Luncheon, London Reunion Drinks, and countless other gatherings where OWs were able to reconnect and reminisce.

The achievements of our pupils lie at the very heart of our school. From securing outstanding individual and team results in sports, to inspiring performances in the arts, the talent and enthusiasm of our young people never ceases to amaze. Academically, the results speak for themselves, with the best GCSE and A Level results in many years, but it's the growth in confidence, character and curiosity that truly sets our pupils apart.

Looking back, I am naturally proud of the achievements of our pupils across all areas. However, it is the relationships forged here that resonate with me most deeply. It's the moments of pride shared between teachers and their pupils, the smiles exchanged between a Sixth Former and their Housekeeper and the laughter among Year 7s that I will carry with me long after I leave.

It is the people of this community that have made my time here unforgettable – a family that I will cherish forever and that, although challenging, it has been a privilege to lead.

So, with heartfelt gratitude and immense pride, I write this for the final time – Semper ad Coelestia!

John Price
Headmaster, Worksop College and Ranby House



—————
“It is the people of this community that have made my time here truly unforgettable – a family that I will cherish forever.”
—————

School year in review

This year at Ranby House has been filled with remarkable moments and achievements that highlight the vibrancy of our school community. It's been a year of growth and courage, with our pupils and staff embracing challenges and celebrating successes.

Our performing arts programme has continued to inspire and empower our pupils. From our youngest children to Year 6, the stage has been alive with energy, resilience and talent. A standout moment was their studio-recorded song, Our Special Story, which was performed live for the community and which embodies the creative spirit at Ranby House.

Sport continues to be a cornerstone of life at Ranby House. This year, we celebrated outstanding team and individual achievements, with 15 teams across all age groups remaining undefeated.

Across all year groups, we've seen significant progress academically. Clubs and activities have provided further opportunities for growth, with 93% of pupils taking part in at least one extracurricular activity, from cheerleading to fishing.

This year also saw the return of the Old Ranbian reunion, where we welcomed alumni from the 50s and 60s back to their old stomping ground for a special dinner. It was a joy to see former pupils reminiscing about their time at Ranby, sharing stories, and reconnecting with friends and the school.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to providing opportunities that push boundaries, nurture courage and instil a love of learning. At Ranby House, our goal is to ensure every child can be their very best, embracing risks and rising to challenges.

Take care and best wishes,

David Thorpe
Headmaster, Ranby House



Mr David Thorpe
Headmaster



“At Ranby House,
our goal is to
ensure every child
can be their very
best, embracing
risks and rising to
challenges.”



Thank you, Farewell

SAYING GOODBYE TO MEL CHRISTODOULOU AFTER 24 YEARS

After an incredible 24 years at Worksop College, the wonderful Mel Christodoulou is saying goodbye as she embarks on an exciting new chapter as a children's counsellor.

From establishing our Food and Nutrition Department, to serving as Assistant Houseparent in Shirley House, Mel has touched countless lives, acting as a second mother to many pupils with her warmth, care and willingness to listen. Her compassionate nature and unwavering support have left an indelible mark on all of us, and while her presence will be deeply missed, her legacy will undoubtedly live on within the college.

We sat down with Mel to reflect on her time here, the memories she holds dear, and her hopes for the future.



"The most caring, hard-working and professional member of staff Worksop College has had."
Colin Paton,
Former Housemaster

What drew you to this role?

I was ready for the challenge of a new role as Head of Department, and with brand new facilities I had a clear vision in mind. Snow had fallen before my interview day which made the College look magical, and staying for so long is easy when the rewards are so great; it really is a very special place.

What were some of the challenges and rewards?

The challenges were immediate as there were a few who questioned the value and relevance of this new subject. Dedication and passion fostered engagement and enthusiasm from the students, and for many an appreciation that the subject is a vital life skill and not a casual elective.



What will you miss the most about Worksop College?

The family spirit, the sense of belonging, House Song, Chapel and its collective sense of peace. The conversation over the dining table and the grapevine working its magic whether the news is good, funny or outrageous; 'they did what?!'



What does Shirley House mean to you?

The sense of belonging was immediate and profound; quality time with pupils and House staff, driven by a hectic schedule of inter-house events was a source of blood, sweat and tears and so much laughter. House Song was by far my favourite event, dancing, singing and wearing outfits and make up that literally stretched the rules, 'you can't wear that, it's way too tight!'. The practices were raucous events, assembling students in formation, House Captains yelling instructions, and the house tutor team having a well-needed cuppa.

How have the pupils and staff enriched your own life and career?

It was a privilege to work with such talented students. They each had their own unique challenges and stories, and it taught me to be flexible in my approach to teaching and tutoring. I realised that by listening, empathising and nurturing, those in need felt seen and heard. I am grateful for those colleagues who offered their time and wisdom to challenge me and inspire my personal growth.

What advice would you give to the next generation of educators?

Continue to be the healthy adult and listen to their narrative, model the behaviour you wish to see in them, lean in when it is difficult, and find a solution, for now. Keep teaching perspective and how to step back, step up, and step in.

In what ways has your time at Worksop College prepared you for your next chapter as a Children's Counsellor?

An Inset theme of spiritual, moral and cultural values helped me to understand the spiritual aspect of every conversation, and we can make a profound impact through this alone. The pastoral moments have given so much time to practice patience, kindness and compassion.

Finally, is there anything you'd like to say to the pupils, staff and OWs as you move on to this new phase of your career?

As I step into a new chapter, I take with me all the memories, lessons, and love that this community has given me. Thank you for making this journey so remarkable. Worksop College will always hold a special place in my heart.

"The college is losing a wonderful member of staff and human being"
Chris Waddington (S 84-87)



Thank you, Mel, for everything - you'll always be part of the Worksop College family.

Goodbye, Andy Hawkins



After 35 years at Worksop College and Ranby House, Andy Hawkins, teacher of Maths at both Ranby House and Worksop College, is stepping into a well-earned retirement.

Andy started his journey at Ranby House, where he spent 16 years shaping young minds and laying the foundation for academic success. It was during his time there that he met Helen, who would become the mother of his children. Their two children, Paige and James, are true credits to Andy – they both navigated their way through the entire school, with Paige recently finishing her time at the College as Captain of School.



In 2016, Andy made the move to Worksop College, where his love for teaching maths continued. Beyond the classroom, he was a familiar face on school trips and tours, whether it was hitting the slopes on a ski trip, experiencing the thrill of indoor skydiving, or gliding across the ice during skating excursions, Andy's enthusiasm was infectious.

Many will remember Andy not just for his mathematical prowess, but for his trademark 'Mr Grumpy' mug – a tongue-in-cheek nod to his occasional gruff exterior. However, those who know him well understand that beneath that façade lies a heart full of warmth, genuine care, and a sharp sense of humour. His colleagues and pupils will certainly miss his friendship, his guidance, and his unwavering support.

As Andy embarks on this new chapter, we wish him nothing but the best. Retirement is a time for new adventures, and we hope that he now has the opportunity to pursue all the hobbies and dreams he may have set aside during his years of dedicated service. Andy, thank you for your tremendous contribution to Worksop College and Ranby House. You leave behind a legacy of excellence, kindness, and a lasting impact on everyone who was fortunate enough to know you.

Best of luck, Andy – may your retirement be filled with joy, relaxation, and the many adventures you deserve.



“Dad spent 22 years at the school, making himself at home with his classroom kettle (which he wouldn't be afraid to use in class when he fancied a cup of tea).

I was taught by him for four years, enduring awful dad jokes alongside odd-yet-useful problem-solving techniques, including the 'Fish and Chip Method,' 'Chairs,' and 'Eyebrows.' Despite his Mr Grumpy mug, he truly loved his time at the school - teaching, coaching sports, and leading trips, most memorably his ski trips.

He'll go into retirement with the same old dad jokes and Mr Grumpy mug, looking back over the fond memories made there.”

Paige Hawkins (D 16-23)

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Obituaries

Our thoughts and condolences are with friends and families of the following OWs who sadly passed away in 2024.

Isaac Teal, S 18 - 20

It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news of the passing of Isaac Teal, a recent leaver. Isaac was a cherished member of Shirley House from 2018 to 2020, fully embracing both school and house life. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Isaac's family, as well as with all of his friends and staff who held him in such high regard.



Isaac's former house parents, Richard Baker and Mel Christodoulou, have expressed the following words:

"Our first impression of Isaac was of an immaculately dressed young man who wore his house tie with pride from the very first day. It was clear he set high standards for himself and engendered this in others too. In Shirley and around the College he made friends easily and developed strong relationships with fellow students and staff. He was kind and thoughtful, and always gave people time.

When gently nudged to read in Chapel, his initial apprehension gave way to determination and he read with absolute clarity and confidence.

This was testament to his resilience; 'challenge accepted, now how will I succeed?' He was curious, inquisitive, a deep thinker and impressed us with his willingness to develop his understanding of life.

It was a privilege to have him in our lives."

John Waller, Chief Joiner

John Waller, who served as Worksop College's Chief Joiner for many years, passed away recently. Known for his exceptional craftsmanship and dedication, John was a vital part of the college community, ensuring the maintenance and care of its historic buildings.

His skill, attention to detail, and commitment left a lasting mark on the college, and his work will continue to be appreciated by generations to come. John was respected and well-liked by colleagues and students alike, and his contributions to the college are fondly remembered.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of the following Old Worksopians - our deepest sympathies go to their families and to all those who knew them.

Clive Tinson, T 61 - 65

Peter Kaye, S 49 - 54

George Michael Benson, SH 43 - 46

Alan Dyson Moorhouse, Mg 46 - 50



With deep sadness we share the passing of Alan Moorhouse, who died peacefully on December 14. He is survived by his wife, Audrey, his sons, Robert and Simon, and his beloved grandchildren.

Alan began his journey at Worksop College in the prep school and later became a valued member of the House cricket 1st XI. Despite his smaller stature, he was known for his impressive fast bowling. One of his favourite memories was clean-bowling a young Phil Sharpe, who later played for Yorkshire and England - a feat he often recounted with pride.

After leaving school, Alan was called up for National Service and served in the RAF at Coningsby in Lincolnshire. He then joined the family engineering company, where he rose to the roles of director and works manager. Outside of work, he found joy in photography and golf.

Peter Huddleston, SH 61 - 66

Peter dedicated his career to the family farming business, where his passion for the land was evident. A gifted sportsman, Peter excelled in cricket during his school years and continued to play for the local club and Castleford in the Yorkshire League. He was also a keen golfer, representing the Leeds and District Union, then Yorkshire County Seniors.

A valued member of the OW Golf Society, Peter made countless friends and enjoyed decades of camaraderie.

During 50 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Mary, they raised two sons, Adam and Toby. The family extends heartfelt thanks to the OWs who attended the funeral and to everyone who sent kind messages of support.



Stephen Broadbent, Housemaster of Portland

It is with sadness that we have to announce the passing of former Housemaster of Portland, Stephen Broadbent, at the age of 88.

Stephen taught at the College for nearly 20 years encompassing the 1970s and 1980s. He was Head of History and the master in charge of cricket.

His wife Judith, who died in 2021, worked as secretary in the Enquiry Office, while their sons James and Andrew were in School House (78 - 83 and 80 - 85 respectively).

Our thoughts are with Stephen's family at this sad time.



John Edmund Hill, P 64 - 67

After leaving Worksop College at age 16, John had sales jobs in Mansfield and Leeds before finding his financial feet at the Alliance Building Society and later for many years with HSBC. He married Helen in 1974 and in due course they settled in Boston Spa. They have two successful sons, one of whom to John's particular delight has a PhD in chemistry, and four grandchildren.



John was always a keen golfer and became a longstanding member of Wetherby Golf Club. Devoted to his family, he was sadly diagnosed in 2021 with marrow myeloma. He fought back and he and Helen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August 2024. He also returned to the golf course only four days before he died on 21st November 2024.

He will be greatly missed.

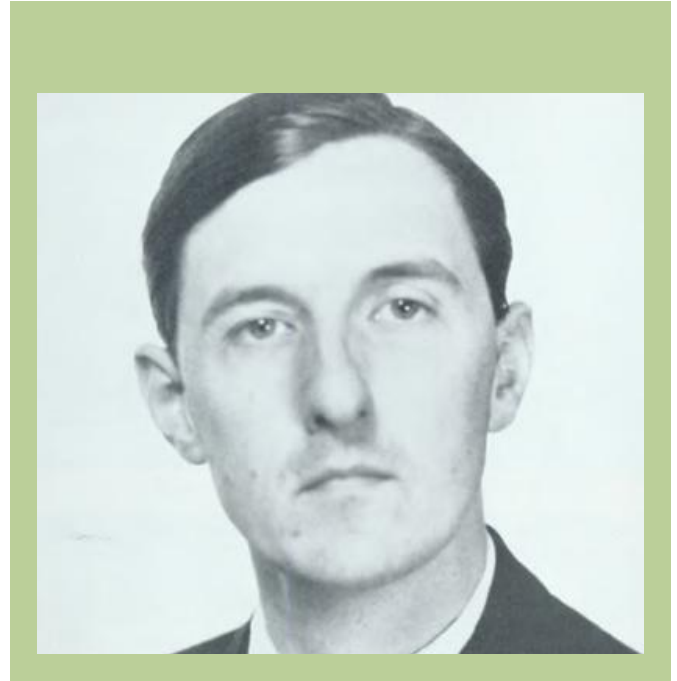
Obituaries

Christopher Everett CBE. Headmaster 70 - 75

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Christopher Everett CBE, Headmaster from 1970 to 1975.

Appointed at the age of 36, Mr Everett brought fresh energy and vision to Worksop after a distinguished career in the diplomatic service. His five years as Headmaster were marked by transformative growth, blending academic excellence with all-round personal development. He introduced a broader Sixth Form curriculum, restructured the scholars' programme, and revitalised the College's arts scene with the reopening of the theatre.

Mr Everett's success at Worksop was shared with his wife, Billie, whose tireless dedication to the school community left a lasting impact. Known as a gracious hostess, a valued member of the English Department, and a Divisional Commissioner for the Girl Guides, Mrs Everett was a steadfast partner in his achievements. Together, they enriched the College in countless ways.



The student experience was enhanced by the introduction of Thursday activities, societies, and hobbies, as well as a more diverse sports programme. Mr Everett's tenure also saw the completion of Churchill Hall and other major building projects, alongside improvements to classrooms, houses, and catering facilities.

“Known for his intellect, warmth, and accessibility, Mr Everett was a respected figure.”

Known for his intellect, warmth, and accessibility, Mr Everett was a respected figure who nurtured strong relationships with staff, parents, and students. Beyond Worksop, he contributed significantly to educational committees and was active in civic life as a Justice of the Peace.

Our thoughts are with Christopher's family at this sad time.



Robert Roberts, Headmaster 75 – 86

We regretfully announce the passing of Robert Roberts, Headmaster of Worksop College from 1975 to 1986.

Before joining Worksop, Roberts spent 21 years at Fettes College, mastering a variety of roles, from Housemaster to Head of English. At Worksop, he brought this breadth of experience, wearing many hats: schoolmaster, administrator, diplomat, and innovator. He was known for his meticulous attention to detail, remarkable memory, and passion for academics, evident in rising exam results. Despite his traditionalist reputation, his tenure ushered in transformative changes, including the introduction of girls to the school, the founding of two girls' houses, and the appointment of Elizabeth Wilks as the first female Captain of School in 1983.

Roberts' faith was central to his vision, with the chapel as the community's spiritual hub. Yet, his practicality and determination to modernise were equally impactful, seen in improvements to living accommodation, catering, and the introduction of the Northcote-Green Centre for Craft, Design, and Technology. While he eschewed gadgets, he embraced progress, establishing a new computer centre and advancing classroom technology.

Despite his stern demeanour and Scottish-influenced pragmatism, Roberts had a flair for public speaking, often shining on Speech Days. His wife, Patricia, complemented his efforts with her hospitality, community work, and chapel involvement. Together, they navigated challenging times for public schools, leaving Worksop modernised, resilient, and optimistic.

Mr Roberts announced his retirement in 1985, surprising many who associated him with unrelenting energy and dedication. Tributes poured in as his tenure came to a close: heartfelt speeches by John Millican for the Old Worksopian Society, Mr Winn for the M.C.R., and Captain of School Richard Darwin, each highlighting his uncompromising commitment to the College.



Obituaries

Nathan Gooney, RH 11-14, M 14-17



“Nathan’s association with Ranby and Worksop stretched back to 2011 and all colleagues who remember Nathan were stunned and saddened to hear of his passing. My own interactions with Nathan were mainly in the History classroom and the rugby pitches for 3 years, with the occasional interaction at the bottom of the School House stairway. I do not think it would be wrong to surmise that we both got more out of our time together on the

rugby pitch, much as he did enjoy talking about History, and contributed to the ‘War Walks’ clips created by the pupils whilst out on an expedition, which became legendary in the History department at the time.

Nathan’s best qualities came to the fore on the rugby field, where his commitment, passion and comradeship made him a leader out on the field, and he was a key member of the leadership group of our successful U15 team. He always enjoyed the physical side of the game, and one dominant clearout of a ruck at a key moment in a 7s tournament against LGS remains an abiding memory.

I had the privilege of attending his funeral, where three things struck me. The long journey undertaken to rural Norfolk made by his friends and fellow OWs to say farewell, for one; and the turnout, en masse, of his new teammates and club members from Beccles RFC for another. The most poignant, however, was the image on the order of service of Nathan, now a grown man, in action for Beccles RFC, making a typically Gooney-esque tackle – physically uncompromising, all-encompassing, borderline legal – still sporting his Worksop College shorts.”

Andrew Axelby, Deputy Head Academic

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OW NEWS



Delighted to hear from OW Sarah Hill (Holme) who had a college catch-up with her fellow Gibbs girls. Having left in 1988, these ladies have maintained their friendship over the past 30 years. Time may pass, but the bond remains!

January



We were over the moon to hear that OWs Tom Sorsby (Pt 13 - 15), Sam Ward (T 04 - 05) and the Men's GB Hockey team came second in the Olympic qualifiers in Oman.

February

Lucy was grateful to have shared a meal with these lovely chaps in Hong Kong at Rocky's own restaurant, Fab Kitchen. The food was lovely. Pictured left to right with Lucy; Rocky Yip (P 92-97), Kevin Liu (Pt 95-97), Karson Ho (T 95-97) and Mark Cowley (P 74-79).



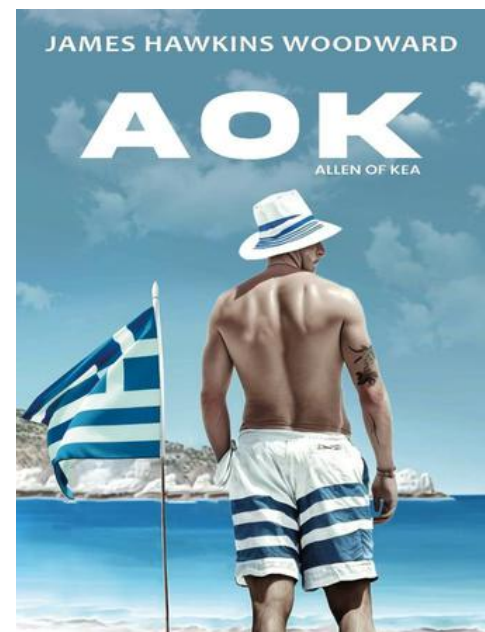
Lovely reunion between Kristy Wildon (G 93 - 97) and her former Housemistress, Wendy Bain - always so heartwarming to see the bond Wendy has with 'her girls'. Kristy was at the college with her daughter Lottie for a netball match.



Huge congratulations to Joe Dean, friend of College Pines Golf Club, who fought his way onto the DP World Tour. He finished joint second in Nairobi, right behind Darius van Driel! By his side through the whole thing was OW Max Beahan (T16-21) who played a crucial role as Joe's caddy, ensuring Joe's head was clear through the whole thing!

March saw the release of OW James Hawkins Woodward's (S 74-78) new book, *Allen of Kea*. It is available to buy in Waterstones, Amazon and WHSmith! James says, "It will make you laugh - it's rude, loving, blasphemous, but full of life truths.

Scan the QR code to order the book and show support to a fellow OW!



March

Look at this for a nineties reunion – friendships spanning over 28 years! Mattie Brouwer (P 95 – 99), Tom Morris (P 99 – 00), Nick Hollings (S 95 – 00), Pete Scholey (S 95 – 00), Alistair Skinner (P 95 – 00), Phillip White (P 95 – 00) and James Durdy (P 95 – 00).



An exciting month for OW George Durdy (D 04-09) as she saw her designs worn at Cheltenham Races! ITV Pundit Megan Nicholls was in a custom made 'MIRA' headpiece presenting at the races - a velour felt base trimmed with black feathers and quills. OWs continue to make their mark in the best places.



In March, OWs flocked back to Worksop College in pursuit of a victory against our current 1st XI boys and girls. The OWs proved why age and experience often win, as the matches finished 4-2 for the OWs on the boys' pitch and 1-0 to the OWs on the girls' pitch.



A huge thank you to Gibbs girl Harriet Grace (01 - 03) who came in to support our Find Your Future event in March! Harriet spoke to our Year 11 pupils about her exciting career in events, from

organising festivals, to Olympic ceremonies, to the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. It's wonderful to see Worksopians of today being inspired by OWs - such valuable connections being made.

Different generations of Pelham boys – Karanjit Bansal (P 06-09) at the Pelham Dinner in March with his cricket student, Tom, and his stepson, Max!



It was fantastic to bump into OW Lee Rose (Mg/T 92-96) and his daughter Allegra, who competed in the ISA Cross Country National Finals hosted here at the college in March.



Lovely visit from Justin Gilbert (M 76 - 81) and his wife Bernie. So many tales from his time here, including moving a teacher's Citroen 2CV into the ante hall(!), as well as a big petition to change the food under his Headmaster Robert Roberts.

April



Brilliant to see that Cole Hewitt (S 15-20) is continuing to thrive in the water, as in April, he competed in his second Olympic Trials. In 2021, Cole was selected for trials as he was among the top 23 swimmers in the UK and met the qualifying time. By 2024, he successfully qualified again, this time for the 100m and 200m butterfly events!

Lovely to hear from Abbie Zehetmayr (G 15-22) who is currently at Leeds Beckett University training to be a nurse. She is working in oncology, which is what inspired her to get into the industry in the first place!



In April, James Hallas (Pt 99-04) was made partner at Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP! James started as a Penningtons trainee in 2012, and there is a lovely little story behind this. Worksoop legend Will Robinson met James at an OW reunion back in 2011. He was looking to start a career in

a law firm; and by chance, Will's sister-in law, who happened to be a lawyer, popped in to say hello! Luckily her firm was hiring, so she gave him the details. This firm was subsequently bought out by Penningtons.

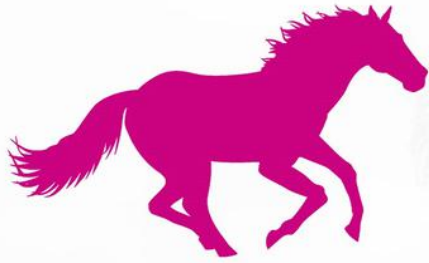


In April, OW Peter Scholey (S 95 - 00) took on the London Marathon in memory of his late friend, OW James Lowe (T 95 - 00). James, affectionately known as Jud, sadly passed away from a brain tumour in June 2022, leaving a significant void in many lives. All funds raised from Pete's 26.2 miles went to support the crucial work of Brain Tumour Research.

In a clash between XL Club's veterans and Worksoop College's young talent, victory eluded the college's first team. OW Samit Patel (T 98 - 03) and fellow OW Alistair Skinner (P 95 - 00) outperformed Worksoop, with the XL Club's spin attack proving too strong on a tough pitch. Worksoop, despite some promising moments, returned stronger with Tom Giles and Louie Owens back from County 2nd team cricket.

Congratulations to Bill Foster (Pt 71-75), one of the UK's top distance running coaches, who celebrated success at the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Belgrade. His athletes, Bethan Morley and Alexandra Millard, helped secure Great Britain's first medal since 2013 with a bronze in the mixed relay.





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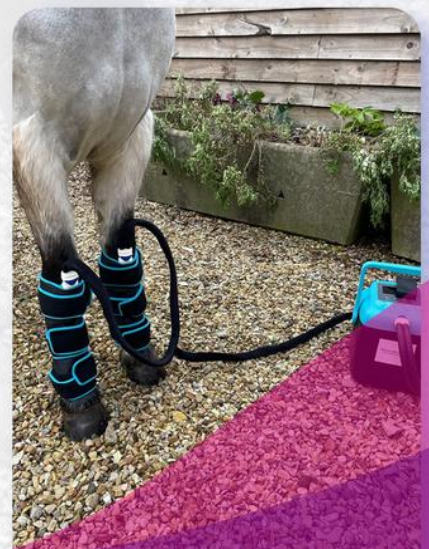
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May



Wonderful to hear that Ollie Kaiper-Leach (T 08-14) made his West End debut in Choir of Man in May. Ollie had been on standby a few weekends prior but hadn't received any updates until he got a last-minute text from the stage manager on

Saturday morning, asking if he could perform that afternoon. He ended up performing three shows over the weekend, with the Saturday evening show being one of his best performances ever.

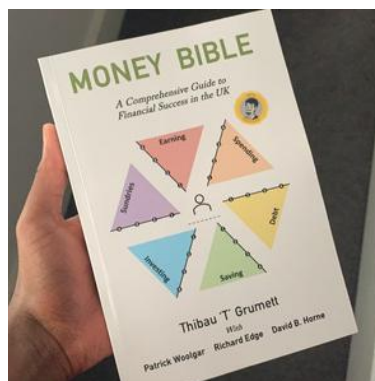


Such a special moment as we welcomed lifelong best friends back to the college in June – Sally Ann Mannering (D 87-89) and Rachel Cundy (G 86-89) returned to their old stomping ground 35 years on. Even better, they were joined by schoolmate Richard Slack (Pt 87-91), who they hadn't actually seen since their school days! It was so lovely to hear them catching up after so much time.



In May we heard from Simon Styles (S 71-76) who has recently retired to his new home in Turkey with his wife and 2 rescued street dogs. He now lives in a small town called Akbük on the Aegean coast between Bodrum and Kuşadası, and continues with his musical hobby, making Irish 'penny whistles' in his workshop!

OW Thibau Grumett (S 14-16) released his book in June! Tackling the 6 core areas of money, the book provides tangible tips and interaction to help everyone get more from their money. Readers should come away with a strong knowledge base of personal finance and be able to apply new concepts to their own money lives.



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June



In June, Joe Harper (M 01-06) tied the knot with his beautiful wife. Better still, they chose St Cuthbert's Chapel for their special day! Joe told us, 'It was THE most amazing day. Everyone commented on how amazing and perfect the college was.'

Lovely visit from OW Phil Jones (Ranby 72 - 74 and SH 74 - 77) and his daughter Georgina - pictured here with Headmaster Dr John Price. It was great to hear him recount tales from his time here to his daughter (who was just fresh from finishing her GCSEs) and see exactly where her Dad was at school.



July

OW David Bates (T 12 - 17) married his lovely bride Sophie, at the start of June in the beautiful surroundings of North Devon. Congratulations to the newlyweds - don't they look fabulous!



Wonderful reunion visit organised by Martin Lunnon (Mg 79-84) and his friends, some of whom hadn't seen each other since they left school, including some of our first ever girls to join the college! So many stories to be told!



We love this photo of OW Philipp Graf von Hahn (P 22-24), celebrating his 18th birthday in style over in Germany. The occasion was made even more special with a huge gathering of fellow OWs, showing the enduring friendships formed at the college!

August



In August, Josh Porter (S 12-19) and Elliot Stephenson (M 12-19) absolutely smashed it performing at YNOT? festival with their band, The Publics.



Alex Simpson (Ranby 82 - 88 / T 88 - 93) came back to Ranby for a visit with his son Brook - his first time back since he left in 1988! Loved hearing about Alex's time as a young full-time boarder from the age of 7 and seeing all the different rooms he stayed in. You can see the memories come flooding back and great for his son to see exactly where his Dad went to school!

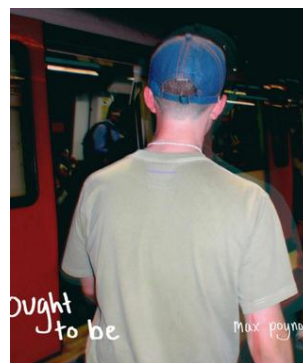


Wonderful visit from Rocky Yip (P 93 - 97), his wife Adeline and children Christy and Thomas in August. So lovely to see Rocky again after spending time with him and his

family in Hong Kong earlier in the year. A real joy to be able to show Rocky's children all of their Dad's old haunts, including his old dorm in Pelham! Interesting fact about Rocky; he was the first person to be awarded school colours for chess! During his time at the college Rocky played 120 games with a success rate of 80%.



While driving from Hereford Cathedral to Worcester Cathedral, James Pacey (Pt 97 - 02) unexpectedly spotted Fr. Paul Finlinson, his former school chaplain, walking down the street. Paul and his wife Rosemary were on holiday in Herefordshire. Paul had officiated James and his wife Rachael's wedding 18 years ago.



September saw OW Max Poyner release his debut single! Max is 17 and is studying for A Levels, alongside a commercial music course, and is working really hard to carve a path for himself in the music industry!

Great time catching up with OW David King (S 69 - 72) who brought his friend Rachel for a tour of the grounds. David is a photographer based in Nottingham and was kind enough to take a few photographs of the college in the sunshine, while recounting some tales from his time here, including the time he refused to receive a caning from Northcote-Green!



The new school year meant we welcomed a new fleet of staff, and within them were two OWs. Josh Porter (S 12-19) and Summer Davis (SH 13-17). The pair have joined us as Graduate Assistants – Josh in Music and Sport, and Summer in Art.



In September, six OWs took to Warter Priory for a spot of shooting. From left to right: Tom Meghinson, Andrew Baxter, Jason Barnsdale, Chris Cummings, Matthew Barnsdale and Matthew Squire.



September



Love this photo of James Evers (P 86-91), who has been living in Australia since 1996. Pictured with him is one of his closest friends from school, Simon Turner (Pt 86-91), who, in September, took his family over for a visit. The pair have remained such close friends - they are even godparents to each other's children!



Another OW meetup in September – Stuart Kinch, Nick Bradshaw, Nigel Demkiw, Jason Barnsdale and Chris Dewhurst, all reuniting in Lincoln.

Rain might have prevented play at Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club in September, but that didn't dampen the spirits of Headmaster Dr John Price, as he met with the Root brothers, Joe and Billy.

John enjoyed a lovely catch-up with Joe, who was there watching Billy play for Glamorgan, about his memories of the college and of course, cricket!



October

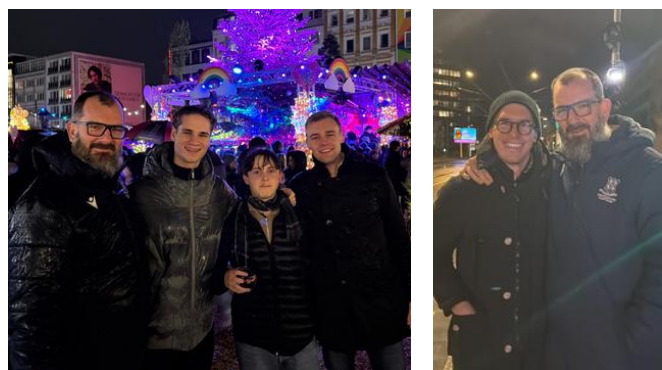


In October, Isaac Parkin, photographer at Manchester City, bumped into fellow OW Harry Dunn, who is one of the first team analysts at the club. The two had a great time catching up. They even managed to snap a picture together at a previous away game at Newcastle. Though they were both in Bratislava for the Champions League match, the Newcastle memory will have to do for now!



It was lovely to catch up with OW John Taylor in October. John was in School House between 47 - 51 and has many memories of his time here – it was wonderful to hear a few of them.

November



In November, Trevor Franse, Pelham Housemaster, and Will Hearne, Head of Hockey, went out to Germany to catch up with some of our international agents.

While they were out there, they caught up with Moritz Schmees (P 16-20), Niklas Cleve (P 18-19), Jonah Semmelmann (P 22-23), Nikolaus Wenzler (T 22-23), Per Pink (Pt 7-09), and Constantin Maier (P 22-23).



In November, we were proud to see OW Huw Ab Jones T 09 - 14 land a role in British drama film, *The Miner's Son*! This is available to watch today.

It was a pleasure to see OW Amelia Wells (SH 13 - 17) from Little Brunette Bakery at our Christmas Market in November. Amelia, along with her sister Jessica (SH, 11-13), has launched an exciting new venture at Mill Farm. In December, they hosted an Artisan Christmas Market!





It was wonderful to see OWs Tim Lumley (Mg 69-72) and Brodie Wolstenholme (Mg 68-73) in November and give them a little tour while Brodie was visiting from the States! They had such funny stories to share from their days at the college. Brodie especially recalls some memorable moments from his youth – like the time he hurt his ankle while messing around with friends. Too scared to admit it, he ended up driving to the care home with his mum instead of coming clean! Lovely to catch up, chaps!

December

Lovely photo of OW Thomas Cannon (P 97-02) at the Chad Varah Garden in Baysgarth Park, Barton upon Humber, after his Parkrun there in December! Chad Varah, founder of The Samaritans, was at the college in Pelham House from 1925 to 1930.



A huge moment in December as OW Joe Root came third at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards.

It has been a mammoth year for him, with 2024 seeing him score 1,556 Test runs at a healthy average of 55.57.

He also struck six Test centuries, his joint-most alongside 2021, which was also the only other year where he scored over 1,500 runs.

Joe also produced his highest ever Test score in 2024, scoring 262 in a win against Pakistan.

It was such a pleasure to welcome OW Darren Birch (P 97-02) back to Worksop College for a visit with his lovely children, Evelyn and Louie.

It was fantastic to catch up and hear about his latest ventures, including the exciting opening of his own gym, Bodywize, in Leicestershire - do check it out if you live in the area!



A YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

Looking back at some of the highlights of 2024 from both Worksop College and Ranby House.



The year began on a high note with Ebony, Albert, and Evangeline delivering stunning performances in the final round of the ISA Young Musician Competition. Their talent really did set the tone for the year ahead.



History was made at Worksop College with the first-ever girls' football match. The team's journey to the ISFA Finals ended in a nail-biting penalty shootout – a proud moment for the College.



The Worksop College U18 Hockey Team became National Runners-Up after a thrilling final match. Despite narrowly missing out on victory, their performance was brilliant.



Year 11 pupil, Max, excelled at the British Olympic trials, finishing as the fastest in his S8 classification. A proud moment for Max and his coach, Giannis.



Ranby House bid a fond farewell to Miss Sue, the catering manager of 28 years. The community came together to thank her for her dedicated service and wish her a happy retirement.



Athletics at Worksop College reached new heights, with 10 students selected for Sheffield City Region, 8 for Notts County Champs, and the Sheffield City 4x100m relay champions crowned.

School year in review



Ranby House said a heartfelt goodbye to their Year 6 leavers as they prepared for the next stage of their journey.



Founders Day united the Worksop and Ranby House communities to honour Nathaniel Woodard, the school's founder. The choirs delivered a stunning performance.



The A-Level results this year saw record top grades and exceptional value-added scores. Meanwhile, the GCSE results were the best in over a decade, featuring a 100% pass rate in English and record-breaking value-added scores.



The U18 boys put in a brilliant performance in November, reaching the Hockey finals at Regionals. Although they lost 4-1 to Repton, the boys played brilliantly. It was great to see Adam Dixon, OW and hockey international, now coaching Repton.



Ranby House released an original single, 'Our Special Story', reflecting the school's values. Available on major platforms, all proceeds go to Neuroblastoma UK.



The swimming team put in an incredible performance at the ISA Swimming Finals! With standout results across junior and senior categories, including first-place finishes by Jake in the 100m backstroke and Max in the 50m freestyle, they made us proud.

Georgie Durdy: CRAFTING TIMELESS ELEGANCE

Meet Georgie Durdy (D 04-09), a talented milliner renowned for her bespoke creations that are making waves in the fashion world. We had the opportunity to speak with Georgie as she shared fascinating insights into her journey, inspirations, and the craft of designing timeless headwear.



How did training with milliner Gina Foster shape your career?

Working with Gina Foster was invaluable. She threw me straight in at the deep end, without even knowing my skill level. I was nervous but thought, go for it – what's the worst that can happen? Worst case, she'd throw the hat in the bin. However, I remember making my first hat for her, and it ended up in her shop window in Kensington priced at £565 – crazy!

She taught me all the traditional skills of millinery and shared insider tricks of the trade. We had Channel 4 Racing TV presenters drop by for fittings (before it became ITV Racing), and we delivered lookbooks to Kensington Palace for the Princess of Wales. Her client base and knowledge opened up a whole new world for me, and she played a big role in getting me where I am today. Her advice was simple: practise and develop your unique style.

Can you describe the transition from working in New York and London to establishing your own practice in Yorkshire?

Working in New York was an incredible experience. Even though it had Devil Wears Prada vibes, it prepared me to be thorough, organised, detail-oriented, and capable of working in a fast-paced fashion environment. It was a pretty cool thing to do at 21! That said, I knew it wasn't somewhere I wanted to work long-term.

Setting up my own business in Yorkshire was exciting because I was back in familiar surroundings, but it was tough at times. I relied on word of mouth to advertise and worked part-time at French Connection in York. I wasn't a well-known designer, but after attending various shows, I began gaining clients. The more hats I made, the more people heard about me.

How do you approach creating a custom piece for a client?

Clients visit my studio in Doncaster for one-to-one appointments, or we can arrange Zoom calls or email consultations instead. We start by discussing the look they want to achieve, or if they're open to ideas, we'll try on different base shapes to see what suits them. It's essential they feel comfortable and confident - the hat must complement them, not overshadow them.

Once we decide on a base shape, we explore colours and trimmings. Everything is handmade, starting from raw materials, and no two hats are ever identical. Each piece is truly unique.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing my designs being worn is incredibly rewarding. It's a joy to see them at special events - whether it's a wedding, an investiture, or the races. One highlight was seeing my hat worn at the Breeders' Cup in the United States. I've also worked with Megan Nicholls and it's always exciting to see her wearing my designs.

A standout moment was spotting my hat in the King's Christmas speech on ITV - it had been made for a client years earlier. Another pinch-me moment was Charlotte Hawkins wearing my "Camellia" hat at the Ebor Festival at York Races. My ultimate dream? To see the Princess of Wales wearing one of my designs.

For those considering a bespoke piece, what advice would you give?

A bespoke hat is an investment. Think about how often you'd like to wear it. You can opt for a versatile design that complements several outfits or have me update the trimmings to refresh its look over time.

Finally, what do you hope people feel when they wear one of your creations?

I want people to feel amazing, confident, and at their very best. The process of having a hat made should be enjoyable, and most importantly, the wearer should own the hat - it should never overshadow them.





OWs on the Olympic Stage

This summer, the world turned its attention to Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games, where history was made, dreams were realised, and sporting excellence was on full display. Among the passionate fans in the stands was Old Worksopian and hockey enthusiast James Hinchliffe (P 17-22), who had the incredible opportunity to witness the action firsthand.

After a spontaneous call from my cousin just five days before the opening ceremony, I found myself with a spare ticket for the Australia vs. Great Britain group stage session in hockey.

I swiftly made plans to get to Paris, and after further organisation, I managed to secure tickets for a total of eight group-stage sessions, including three GB games for both the men's and women's teams.

During my stay, I was in contact with former first-team hockey coach Keith Taylor, who provided great insights into the players and coaching teams at the event. Three of the players – Tom Sorsby (Pt 13-15), Sam Ward (T 05-06), and Teo Hinrichs (M 14-15) – had all been coached by him during their time at Worksop College.

The highlight was undoubtedly the Germany vs. India semi-final. It was an end-to-end game that finished 3-2, with OW Teo advancing to the final with Germany. He went on to win a silver medal, becoming Worksop's first Olympic medallist.

“Wherever you are in the world, you're never too far from a fellow OW.”

On the way out from that game, I caught up with OW Cai Fabian (M 17-18), who was there supporting Germany. With brilliant, high-scoring hockey on display - a total of 83 goals across 20 fixtures - and the consistent hot weather, it was truly a joy to be there. This experience just goes to show: wherever you are in the world, you're never too far from a fellow OW.”





OW Tom Sorsby (Pt 13-15)

Tom Sorsby is a key defender for the Great Britain senior hockey squad, renowned for his defensive skills and strategic game sense. A standout in British hockey, he has been instrumental in major tournaments like the FIH Hockey Pro League and European Championships, playing a vital role in the team's success and legacy.



OW Sam Ward (T 05-06)

Sam Ward's hockey journey is a testament to resilience. After losing sight in one eye due to a 2019 injury, he defied the odds to compete in his third Olympics in Paris. A key player in Team GB's fifth-place finish at Tokyo, where he played with a broken hand, Ward is celebrated for his goal-scoring prowess and remains a formidable attacking force in open play and penalty corners.



OW Teo Hinrichs (M 14-15)

Teo Hinrichs is a German field hockey player renowned for his defensive skill and versatility. A standout in both field and indoor hockey, he represented Germany at the 2024 Paris Olympics, fulfilling his long-held ambition and being the first ever Old Worksopian to gain an Olympic medal.





THE LAYOVER LIFE: ADVENTURES OF A FLIGHT ATTENDANT

I have always loved to travel and was so fortunate to see some great places during my childhood and school holidays.

I "fell" into working a seasonal contract at Thomson Airways whilst at university and stayed there until September 2021. I moved from TUI to Virgin Atlantic in April 2022 and have been there since.

For as long as I can remember, I have always loved the whole process around travelling, from the excitement of packing for a trip to the hustle and bustle of the airport, being in awe of how airplanes fly and that warm, palm-tree smell that hits you when you get off the airplane somewhere hot. I'm still amazed by the fact that I get on an airplane in London Heathrow and a matter of hours later I'm somewhere else. The sunrise and sunset views from 39,000ft are pretty special, too.

My advice to anyone wanting to fly as a career would be to do your research. If you're wanting short haul then airlines like TUI, Jet2 or easyJet could be the way to go. You will often find these airlines at your regional airports, so no commute! If you're wanting to see the world then you'll need to apply to airlines like British Airways or Virgin Atlantic, based out of London Heathrow.



That being said, don't believe everything you see on social media. Remember that people only ever post their "best bits". Behind that trip to Barbados there is a 14+ hour duty day either side. We play hard but we definitely work harder!

Harry's Top 5 Travel Destinations

Rhodes, Greece

Greece has some of the most beautiful places I have seen. Whether you're wanting to explore the Island's history by visiting the Old Town or fancy some picturesque views at Anthony Quinn Bay.

Reykjavik, Iceland

Iceland should be on everyone's travel bucket list. From a visit to the famous Blue Lagoon to heading out at night to see the Northern Lights. If you're wanting to head out for dinner, the Grillmarkadurinn have an amazing evening menu. Don't forget to pack layers as temperatures can dip to a "cool" -6 degrees.

St Lucia, Caribbean

St Lucia is a lot less commercialised than its sister islands, Barbados and Jamaica. Think beautiful beaches and spending all day floating around the sea on a boat. If you love chocolate, it's the home of the Rabot Hotel owned by Hotel Chocolat.

San Francisco, USA

From the Golden Gate Bridge to Mrs Doubtfire's House and my favourite pizza place, Dellarosa. If you're wanting to get out of the city, Yosemite National Park is an absolute must.

Johannesburg, South Africa

If you want a holiday or travel experience with the WOW factor, then South Africa needs to be on your list. Whether you're wanting to head out on a Safari or see South Africa from the air in a hot air balloon, they have it all and so much more. South Africa also has some of the best steak I have ever eaten.



I have been so lucky to visit the majority of the wonderful planet we get to call home from USA to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and India. I would love to head back to Australia at some point and I still have Thailand on the list. The Great Wall of China is on my "to do" list, too!

My advice for people wanting to see every corner of the world would be to do your research, make a plan and think about your priorities and why you want to see all these places. You'll need to save a considerable amount of money and take a lot of time off work. Be strategic in your planning and maximise your time in each location.

My top three travel tips are:

1. Get organised - make lists and take hand luggage and suitcases that help you stay organised and keep things accessible.
2. Do your research - from making sure you have the correct insurance and visas to looking up journey times between your itinerary plans. It pays to be well-informed!
3. Don't let the pressure of travel get too much - remember that you can't control everything and just enjoy the experience.



Bridging Football and Education

A MEMORABLE JOURNEY TO HONG KONG

In February 2024, as Chinese New Year approached, I headed to Hong Kong on a trip that combined football and education. The purpose was to showcase Worksop College's Girls' Football Academy and strengthen relationships with educational agents. Now in its third year, the Girls Football Academy offers young female athletes elite coaching, pathways to professional clubs, and a top-class education.

Along with Academy Coach and former pro footballer Paul Wilkinson, Head of Strength and Conditioning Harriet Talbot, and Laurie Griffin from Worksop Town's Academy, we ran sessions with the talented female players at Hong Kong Football Club. The facilities were outstanding, and the level of football was genuinely impressive – a big thanks to current parent Chris Vale for pulling everything together.

In between football commitments, I navigated my way around Hong Kong (which, I must admit, I was quite impressed I managed to do!) to meet with as many educational agents as possible. It was a pleasure to connect with such welcoming and knowledgeable people, and it gave me the chance to promote Worksop College and share the exciting developments that have taken place since our last visit. Growing our international community is a top priority for the school. As many of you will recall from your own time at Worksop, having a vibrant international community enhances school life immeasurably.

The trip wrapped up with two fantastic Old Worksopian events. A huge thank you to Rocky Yip for hosting an incredible dinner at his restaurant, Fab Kitchen, in Lai Chi Kok. We were truly spoilt with an incredible menu and private dining experience.



The Worksop College team at Hong Kong Football Club.



(L-R) Rocky Yip, Kevin Liu, Karson Ho and Mark Cowley with Lucy.



OW Irene Cheng (G 95 - 99) treating Lucy to a traditional Chinese breakfast.

The evening was made even more memorable with a pre-dinner archery lesson at Rocky's archery centre, Golden Trust Archery Training Centre. We also had a wonderful evening hosting a drinks reception at Cruise Restaurant and Bar, which offered spectacular views of Victoria Harbour.

Lastly, a big thank you to the lovely Irene Cheng for her warmth and hospitality. We enjoyed a traditional Chinese breakfast together, which was a lovely way to start the day.

Hong Kong is an extraordinary city – vibrant, energetic, and full of opportunity. I'm already looking forward to returning and building on the strong foundations we laid during this visit.

Lucy Smithson,
Head of External Relations

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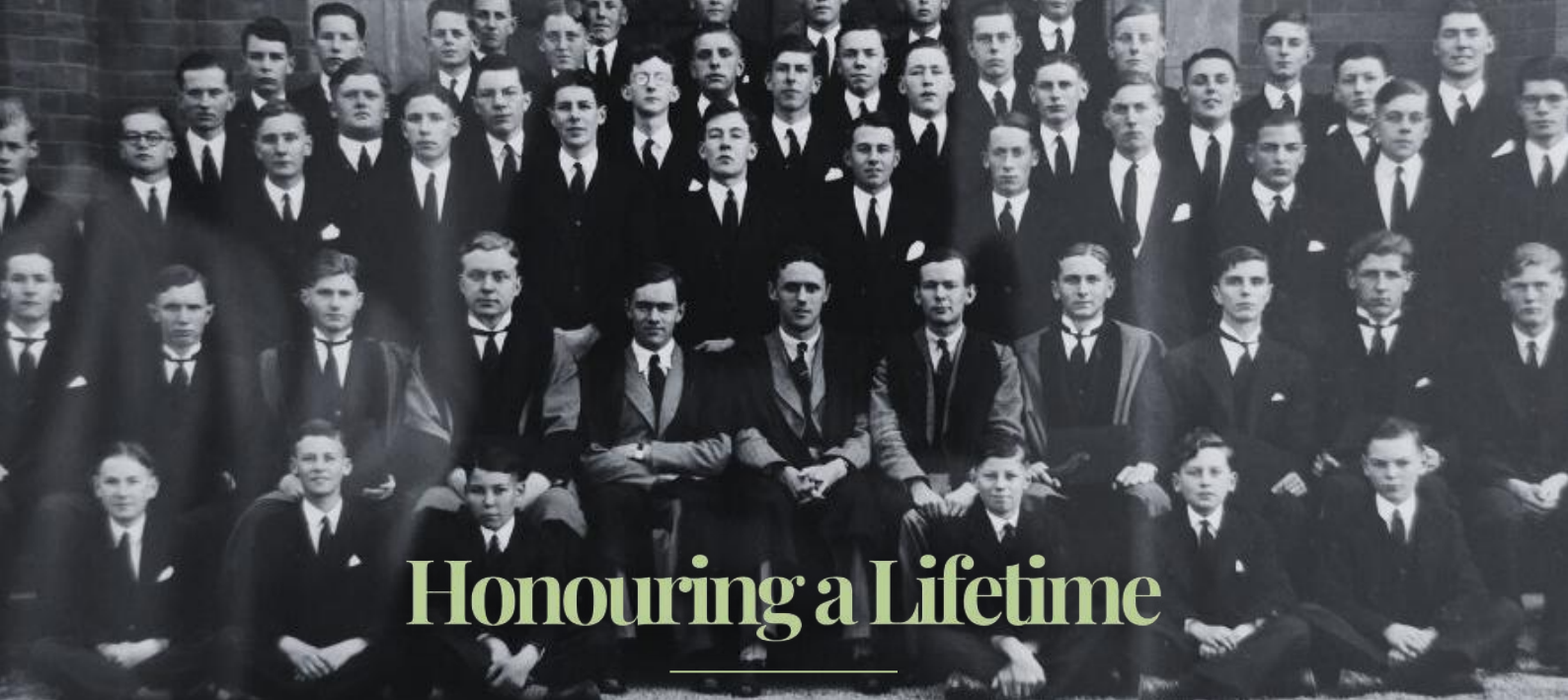
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Honouring a Lifetime



Alan Clive Marks, born on July 30, 1924, in Manchester, England, celebrated an incredible milestone this year as he turned 100! A proud Worksopian, Alan attended Worksop College until 1939, when his education was interrupted by the call to serve during World War II. At just 18 years old, Alan joined the Royal Air Force, bravely fighting for the Allied forces.

During his service, Alan was stationed in India with the 356 Squadron, undertaking numerous missions over Axis territories. His dedication and courage exemplified the resilience and determination that embody the Worksopian spirit.

After the war, Alan embarked on a new journey, emigrating to the United States aboard the Britannic. He built a successful life both personally and professionally, yet always carried a sense of unfinished business for not having been able to complete his education at Worksop College.

To honour Alan's remarkable life and his enduring connection to the college, we were delighted to send him an honorary diploma this year. Recognising his lifetime of achievements and his embodiment of Worksopian values, this gesture aimed to bridge the gap left by circumstances beyond his control so many years ago.

Alan's son, Tony, shared how deeply moved Alan was by this recognition. In fact, he was so touched that he requested a new pair of glasses to continue reading and re-reading his certificate.



Elevate Your Corporate Retreat

THE CROWN HOTEL & BAWTRY HALL

At Worksop College, we're proud partners with The Crown Hotel and Bawtry Hall, two venues renowned for consistently delivering outstanding experiences – owned by Craig Dowie, father of OWs Antonia (D 10-12) and Alex (M 08-10), alongside his business partner, Jason Cooper. Recently, Lucy and I attended a Corporate Away Day to get a snapshot of why they're the perfect choice for your next corporate event.

The day began with team-building activities hosted by Wildfire Experience Agency, setting the tone with 'Master of Tasks' (not at all affiliated with the TV show of a similar name!). The game had us racing to create balloon figures and tackle memory-based drawings – we didn't win, but who really knows the National Rail logo or Noel Edmonds' face from memory anyway?

Next came the escape room challenge, where we worked to unlock a treasure chest. Using light pens to reveal hidden messages, solving riddles, cracking maths problems, and navigating time zone puzzles tested our patience and problem-solving skills. Many of you might not know that Lucy has an incredibly competitive side, and leaving without cracking the code didn't sit well with her – I could've sworn I saw her eye start to twitch...

Then, it was time for The Chamber, a challenge that tested our precision and focus. We faced the final challenges inside the inflatable chamber, working together to stack cubes, swap coloured balls, and earn points – it sounds easy, but I can assure you it is not.

The last game, 'The Faithfuls', brought the strategy game show of trust and treachery to life. Participants were secretly assigned roles as *Traitors* or *Faithfuls* and had to navigate different challenges while guessing who the traitors were. Lucy, ever full of surprises, emerged as a standout Traitor, outwitting everyone with her tactics – this was our favourite activity of the day, although I was slightly worried by how easily she took to the role.



As always, The Crown Hotel and Bawtry Hall exceeded with their food offerings. Whether it's a hot and cold buffet, an afternoon tea, or a three-course dinner, the food is consistently delicious.

In terms of facilities, the venues cater to all sizes. The Hogarth Suite accommodates up to 200 people, with access to a private garden – ideal for breakout sessions or post-meeting gatherings. For smaller events, the Leger Suite offers an intimate setting.



Day Delegate Package

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Price: £60 per person plus VAT



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Minimum numbers: 50 people

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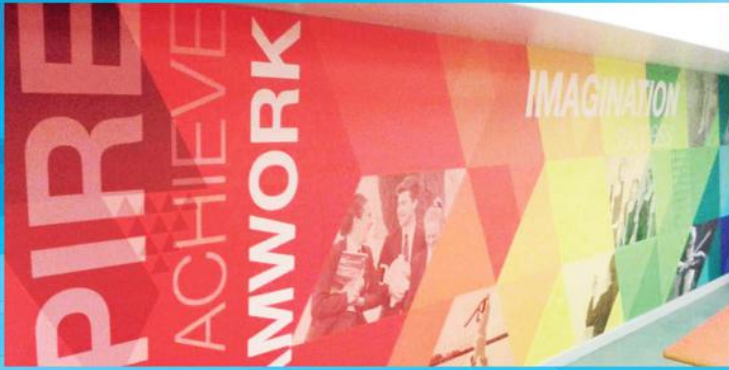
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Farewell to Dr John Price

As we head towards the spring term, the community prepares to say goodbye to Dr John Price, who is stepping down after six impactful years as Headmaster.

During his tenure, Dr Price has led the school through a period of unprecedented growth, bringing it from a challenging position to a time of prosperity. He will take on a new part-time role as a Regional Ambassador for the Independent Schools Association, supporting and advising up to 108 ISA Heads.

Reflecting on his time at the school, Dr Price expressed pride in the collective progress made, noting the school's growth from around 490 to a projected 770 pupils, the highest in its history. His strategic leadership and dedication to fostering an environment where students can excel both academically and personally have been key to this success.

Dr Price's educational philosophy, shaped by his state-school background and his 33 years in education, emphasises a holistic approach to student development. He encourages the nurturing of emotional intelligence and self-esteem, skills vital for future workplace success.

John's leadership at Worksop has focused on creating opportunities for both pupils and staff, and his wife Jane, a well-respected history teacher, has also made significant contributions to the school.



As Dr Price moves on, Worksop College is well-positioned to continue its upward trajectory. The school community deeply appreciates his dedication and leadership, and he leaves behind a strong foundation for his successor. His legacy of growth and excellence will undoubtedly inspire the school for years to come.

Farewell to Dr John Price

“As Dr John Price departs after six transformative years, I feel compelled to share a tribute to his extraordinary tenure. When John first stepped into the role of Headmaster, he inherited a school facing significant financial challenges, with declining pupil numbers and uncertain prospects. Many would have walked away, but John didn't.

Instead, he faced these challenges head-on, becoming a fighter when the school needed him most. He restructured, sold assets, stabilised finances, and grew pupil numbers from 490 to 770 – an all-time high. Beyond this, he led Worksop College to its best-ever GCSE results and strongest A-Level outcomes in 15 years.

John's tenure wasn't just about survival; it was about renewal. He reinvigorated the Old Worksopian Society, enhanced sporting partnerships, and launched the highly successful initiatives. Under his leadership, the school's academic and sporting achievements have soared.

John's legacy is one of resilience, vision, and dedication. He and his wife, Jane, have given everything to ensure the school's future shines brighter than ever. As he moves on to a new role with the ISA, I encourage all Old Worksopians to reflect on his remarkable contributions and keep his legacy alive.

Let's celebrate John Price and beat the drum loudly for the future he has shaped.”

David Griffiths (M 54–60)

England athlete, former CEO of Wembley Stadium Complex, and proud Old Worksopian



OLD RANBIANS REUNITE

On 24th of May, Ranby House opened its doors, for the first time in over 25 years, to a reunion of former pupils from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Despite the lapse, some 31 of those attended from across the years.

I attended Ranby from 1951 to 1955 before moving on to Worksop, Shirley House, from 1955 to 1959. I was very pleased to meet again those who similarly attended: David Harris, Nicholas Morrison, David Campy, and William Ingle. We missed the attendance of David Smith (1948–1953), who was the very first Ranbian to enter the school gates when it first opened in 1948. He promises that he will attend the next reunion on 13th March 2025 – diaries, please!

The reunion took place in the Old Library, which faces the Front Terrace. The tables were set across the room, and in one corner was a video collage of school activities across the years.

Everyone mingled well, with loud chatter and laughter. Thereafter, we were given a fully guided tour of the school by David Thorpe, the Headmaster; Jude, Head Boy, and Sneha, Head Girl.

I observed a music lesson being given in the New Chapel. A pupil was having a piano lesson with the Director of Music, Ashley Thompson. During a break, the pupil burst into a jazz number, encouraged by the Director – a very refreshing change in attitude. My previous music master, Mr Martin, excluded me from the music school for playing Basin Street Blues on my trumpet.

Right in the middle of the classroom block was the good old Quadrangle. I reflected on the many games of British Bulldog we played – seniors versus juniors.



The grand old cedar has gone, together with the pet graves underneath. So has the old cricket pavilion, now replaced by a sturdier and more modern one.

I remember an annual cricket feature: the match between the school First XI and parent fathers. The fathers were required to bat with drastically reduced bats, the blades of which had been cut back on each side to a width of 3 to 3¼ inches. They still usually won. Our games master was the Deputy Headmaster, John "Spud" Widdowson.

A photograph was taken at such a match, showing Spud Widdowson standing with the parents of David Turner (recently deceased). David and I are sitting at their feet.



Well, what a wonderful reunion day that was – meeting old and making new friends. I enjoyed a delicious meal sat next to Ranby's Headmaster, who was equally as happy to have us all there.

Ranby has completely transformed into a vibrant, modernised establishment, supplying every facility for all ages. The overall view: a happy school, with pupils behaving in an orderly fashion and with total respect for authority and each other. How refreshing.

QUEEN BY CHAPEL CANDLELIGHT

On 16th November, St Cuthbert's Chapel presented a quiet atmosphere with hundreds of candles lit.

As all the guests filed in and took their places, they waited in silence for the evening to begin. Suddenly, the silence was broken by the sound of an amplified guitar resonating with the music of Queen, creating an amazing echo shaped by the height and length of the Chapel.

We were being entertained by "Magic Queen," one of the top ten "Queen" tribute bands and OW Connor McGovern (S 06-08), representing Freddie Mercury, and Rafa Diaz as Brian May, the guitarist.

What followed was a medley of Queen favourites, including Don't Stop Me Now, We Are the Champions, We Will Rock You, and more.

In a humorous moment, "Freddie" asked, "What shall we sing?". A single brave voice shouted, "Jerusalem!". "Go on, then," was Freddie's retort, after which a young female voice courageously began singing the hymn. Gradually, the entire audience joined in. It was a moving moment.

All in all, the performances by "Freddie" and "Brian" were outstanding – so professionally and faithfully executed that it was difficult to tell them apart from the real thing.

Queen in a religious setting? Absolutely! Religion is with us in whatever form, and it rightly evolves with the times. Let us have more!

With thanks to Bertie Mather (Ranby House 51-55, S 55-59) for his recounts.



At the latest Old Worksopian reunion, I had the pleasure of interviewing Elizabeth (Liz) Wilks about her time as a pupil at Worksop College (1979–1984).

Liz (photographed below with her school friends, farthest on the left) grew up on the school grounds, with her father serving as the head of CCF and the housemaster of Mason House. Although she grew up on the Worksop College estate, Liz didn't become a student until 1979. It wasn't until 1972 that the school became co-educational, initially admitting girls as day pupils, before Derry House opened in 1978.

Not only was Liz a proud member of Derry House, but she also went on to become the first-ever female captain of school. Currently, at Worksop College, upper sixth formers can take on the role of prefects (blue gowns) or one of four selected heads of school (purple gowns): head boy, head girl, deputy head boy, and deputy head girl. Liz Wilks' time as captain of school was particularly impressive, as she was selected for the position at a time when the role of "head girl" did not exist. Back then, the system consisted of one captain of school and a team of prefects.

When I asked Liz how she became the first female captain of school, she said something especially inspiring: "Don't try and be the best woman. Just simply be the best." This statement reflects the college's motto, *Semper ad Coelestia* ("Always to the Heavens"), which inspires young people to strive for greatness even when it seems impossible. Liz's time as captain of school continues to impact students at Worksop College to this day.

In 1984, Liz's final year at school, the Dorm Run - first introduced in 1897 - became a mixed-gender event for the first time in the college's history. Although this was already a significant step toward the full co-education of the school, Liz believed Worksop College was capable of even more. She recalled marching to the office of the headmaster at the time and declaring, "If you're going to make me run, you're going to have to let me shoot as well." This led to the college allowing girls to join the CCF and learn to shoot, fulfilling Liz's vision.



Liz's time as Captain of School contributed to many developments for the girls at Worksop College. Like many of the Old Worksopians I had the opportunity to speak with, I agree that Worksop College is a truly special place, offering experiences unlike any other environment.

To this day, Liz remains connected to her roots as the co-chair of the Old Worksopian Society, continuing her work toward the development and betterment of the Worksop College community.

Suri May (D U6)





Myth-Busting and Making a Difference

A Conversation on Freemasonry

As a proud member of the Worksop College community, I've always been fascinated by the traditions that unite us as Worksopians. So, when I discovered that Roger Pegg (M 69-73) was an active member of the Old Worksopian Masonic Lodge, I was intrigued to learn more about Freemasonry. Often shrouded in mystery, Freemasonry is a subject many are curious about but rarely understand. Roger kindly agreed to sit down with me to shed light on the organisation, its charitable work, and to dispel some of the myths surrounding it.

David: Roger, thank you for taking the time to talk with me today. To start, what drew you to Freemasonry after leaving Worksop College?

Roger: My time at Worksop instilled a strong sense of respect, humility, and the importance of community – values that align closely with Freemasonry. Joining the Old Worksopian Lodge felt like a natural progression. The ethos of the College – where senior pupils lead by example and everyone treats each other with kindness – prepared me well for the non-boasting confidence that's central to Freemasonry.

David: Freemasonry is often viewed as secretive. Is that a fair assessment?

Roger: Not at all. The idea of secrecy is one of the biggest misconceptions. In my entire Masonic career, outside of the ceremonies within the lodge, I have never been involved with anybody who uses a secret handshake or anything equivalent. Our traditions aren't about exclusion – they're about encouraging a sense of shared purpose. At its core, Freemasonry is about self-improvement, integrity, and giving back to the community.

David: Speaking of giving back, can you tell me more about the charitable work Freemasonry is involved in?



Roger: Absolutely. Charity is a cornerstone of Freemasonry.

In Nottinghamshire, where our lodge is based, members aim to raise millions of pounds over a six-year festival period to support national and local charities. What sets us apart is that we don't solicit funds from the general public; all donations come from our members.

David: How do lodges typically raise these funds?

Roger: It's a mix of personal contributions and organised events. At every lodge meeting, we collect donations, often through raffles or collections in the temple. We also host events like the 'Last Night of the Proms,' where members, their families, and friends come together to support good causes. The emphasis is always on giving within one's means – there's no pressure to contribute beyond what's comfortable.

David: That's interesting. So, Freemasonry isn't just about rituals and ceremonies?

Roger: While our rituals are an important part of our identity, they're just one aspect. Lodge meetings often include educational lectures on Freemasonry's history or values, which help newer members deepen their understanding. It's a blend of tradition, learning, and friendship.

David: Are there many Old Worksopians in the Masonic Lodge?

Roger: There's a strong connection between Worksop College and the Old Worksopian Lodge. The school's ethos naturally aligns with Freemasonry's values, so it's not surprising that many former pupils choose to join. In fact, we've recently seen an influx of new members, including several joining from other lodges.

David: Is it true that women aren't allowed to become Freemasons?

Roger: Another myth! Women absolutely can become Freemasons. While they traditionally belong to separate lodges, these lodges operate under the same principles and are increasingly collaborating with male lodges. The idea that Freemasonry excludes women is outdated and simply not true.



David: What about other forms of inclusivity? Are Freemasons welcoming to people from all backgrounds?

Roger: Very much so. Freemasonry is open to anyone who meets the criteria of believing in a supreme being and living an upright life. It's inclusive of all races, religions, belief and orientations.

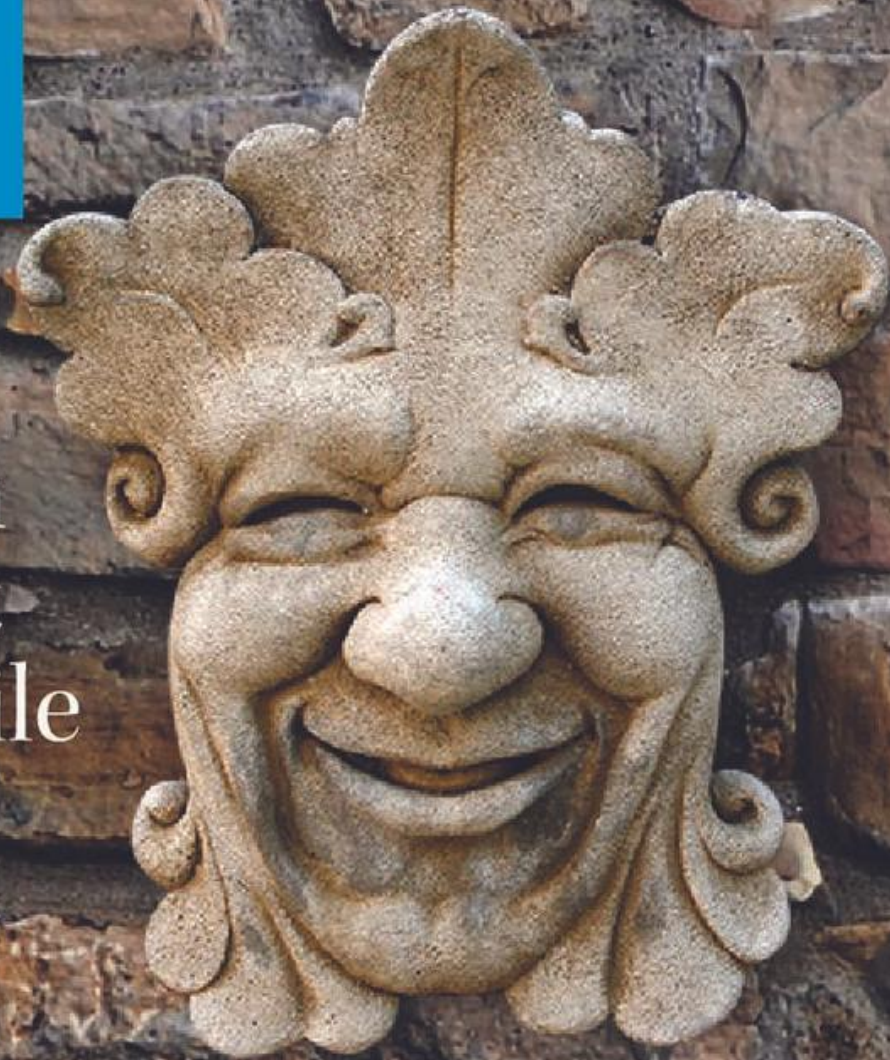
David: It's great to hear how inclusive Freemasonry is. What would you say is the biggest benefit of being a Freemason?

Roger: For me, it's the sense of belonging to a community that encourages personal growth while making a positive impact on the world. Freemasonry provides a structure to support others and a platform to learn from people with diverse experiences.

David: Thank you, Roger, for sharing your insights. It's clear that Freemasonry is about community, charity, and values that resonate deeply with the Worksop spirit.

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The Entrepreneurial Spirit

Something I've discovered over the last seven years at Worksop College is that we're encouraged to tread our own paths and pursue what we're truly passionate about. Riecko Parker-Cole (T 13-18) founded Astrotex Productions, a video production company, and I was curious about the challenges entrepreneurship brings at a young age, as well as how his time at Worksop has helped him along the way.

What is the main vision for Astrotex?

To work alongside brands to create content they never thought possible, pushing creative boundaries and helping them achieve goals they hadn't even envisioned.

What have been the toughest challenges?

Balancing expectations - both my own and those of others. At times, I found myself wanting people to believe we were further along than we really were. There's also been the learning curve of managing everything, from client relationships to financial planning. Those challenges have shaped how we've grown as a business.

Many people believe video production to be fiercely competitive. Is this true?

It's definitely competitive, but I've learned not to try and do everything all at once. Instead, we focus on one project at a time, making sure to deliver something truly exceptional before moving to the next. The competition has actually been a motivator!

What advice would you give to similarly young people looking to make their way in video production?

Confidence comes from practice, so take on as many projects as you can - even if they're unpaid or small-scale.

What sort of skills did you gain during your time at Worksop College?

Being House Captain taught me the importance of understanding personality types. Getting to know the boys in House - whether they were new to the school, away from home, or adjusting to a new environment - helped me to develop my communication skills. Those experiences have been invaluable, especially when building relationships with clients.

One last thing, I'd love to hear about your favourite memory from Worksop College.

It's hard to pick just one, so I'll cheat and mention two. The first is walking around the college for the very first time. I was completely in awe of the environment and knew instantly that I wanted to belong to it. The second is my last day at the college - it was emotional but also a moment of immense pride and belonging - a full-circle experience that I'll always treasure.

Thank you, Riecko, for highlighting these aspects of business. I couldn't agree more about the privilege of school Houses!

Christian Aldridge (P U6)



Old Worksopian Golf Day A DAY OF CAMARADERIE



On Monday, 22nd April, 19 Old Worksopians gathered at the prestigious Lindrick Golf Club for the annual Old Worksopian Golf Day.

Lindrick Golf Club is one of England's most prestigious and historic golf courses, located on the border of South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire - did you know it's best known for hosting the 1957 Ryder Cup?

Winners and highlights

Blake Cup:

Winner – Peter Wheatcroft, gross score of 78.

Butlin Cup:

Winner – Phil Doxey, net score of 67.

Wilks Cup:

Winner – William Bircumshaw, 36 points.

Drake Cup:

Winner – Tim Reaney, 33 points.

Portland Cup:

Winner – Atholl Taylor, 32 points.

With glorious weather and a course in pristine condition, the event provided the perfect setting for a fun-filled day of friendly competition!

The day was however, about more than just competition. Reflecting on the event, OW Cole Hewitt (S 15–20) shared, “The highlight was meeting past students and swapping stories from different eras. It made for a fantastic day, bringing people together in a way that only sport can.”

Cole also spoke about what makes this event so special – a great chance for past and present students to meet, play some golf, and make memories along the way. “This isn't just any golf day. It's a chance to test yourself, catch up with others, and enjoy the competitive but friendly spirit that makes Worksop College so unique.”

“The highlight was meeting past students and swapping stories from different eras.”

Whether players were out to win or just there for the fun, everyone had a great time on the course before rounding off the day with a few drinks, a good meal, and a few laughs.

Make sure to save the date for next year - Monday 19th May - it's your chance to take on the course and reconnect with old friends – the more the merrier! Register your interest with l.smithson@wsnl.co.uk.

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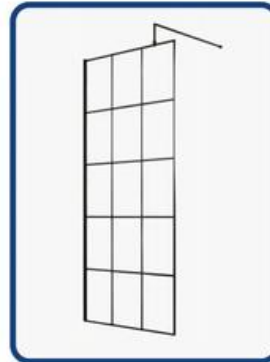
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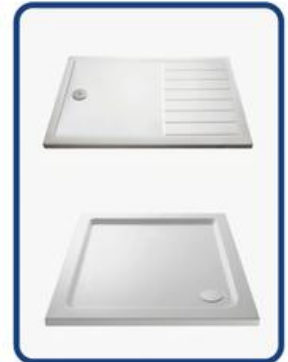
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FIXTURES 2025

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp
Fri 04 Apr	Hampshire	Utilita Bowl	CC 1
Fri 11 Apr	Worcestershire	Headingley	CC 1
Fri 18 Apr	Durham Cricket	Seat Unique Riverside	CC 1
Sat 19 Apr	Worcestershire Rapids	Headingley	50 W2
Sat 26 Apr	Sussex Sharks	1st Central County Ground, Hove	50 W2
Fri 02 May	Warwickshire	Headingley	CC 1
Sat 03 May	Derbyshire Falcons	County Ground, Derby	50 W2
Mon 05 May	Derbyshire	TBC	WCC
Fri 09 May	Essex	Cloud County Ground	CC 1
Thu 15 May	Leicestershire	York	50 W2
Fri 16 May	Surrey	Kia Oval	CC 1
Fri 23 May	Nottinghamshire	Headingley	CC 1
Mon 26 May	TBC	CA County Ground	WCC F
Fri 30 May	Northamptonshire Steelbacks	Headingley	T20 M
Sun 01 Jun	Worcestershire Rapids	Visit Worcestershire New Road	T20 M
Sun 01 Jun	Derbyshire Falcons	Headingley	T20 W2
Fri 06 Jun	Birmingham Bears	Edgbaston	T20 M
Sun 08 Jun	Leicestershire	Headingley	T20 W2
Sun 08 Jun	Leicestershire Foxes	Headingley	T20 M
Wed 11 Jun	Notts Outlaws	Trent Bridge	T20 M
Fri 13 Jun	Birmingham Bears	Headingley	T20 M
Sun 15 Jun	Durham Cricket	York	T20 M
Fri 20 Jun	England v India Men	Headingley	MTM
Fri 20 Jun	Durham Cricket	Seat Unique Riverside	T20 M
Sat 21 Jun	Derbyshire Falcons	County Ground, Derby	T20 W2
Sun 22 Jun	Nottinghamshire	Trent Bridge	CC 1
Fri 27 Jun	Worcestershire Rapids	Headingley	T20 W2
Sun 29 Jun	Essex	York	CC 1
Sun 29 Jun	Northamptonshire Steelbacks	County Ground Northampton	T20 W2
Fri 04 Jul	Worcestershire Rapids	Headingley	T20 M
Sun 06 Jul	Derbyshire Falcons	Chesterfield	T20 M
Fri 11 Jul	Lancashire Lightning	Emirates Old Trafford	T20 M
Sun 13 Jul	Northamptonshire Steelbacks	Headingley	T20 W2
Sun 13 Jul	Derbyshire Falcons	Headingley	T20 M
Thu 17 Jul	Lancashire Lightning	Headingley	T20 M
Fri 18 Jul	Leicestershire	Uptonsteel County Ground	T20 W2
Fri 18 Jul	Leicestershire Foxes	Uptonsteel County Ground	T20 M
Sun 20 Jul	Worcestershire Rapids	Visit Worcestershire New Road	T20 W2

Date	Opponent	Venue	Comp
Tue 22 Jul	Surrey	Scarborough	CC 1
Sat 26 Jul	TBC	County Ground Northampton	T20 W2 F
Tue 29 Jul	Sussex	Scarborough	CC 1
Sat 02 Aug	Middlesex	Headingley	50 W2
Tue 05 Aug	Warwickshire	Scarborough	50 M
Thu 07 Aug	Welsh Fire	Headingley	HUN
Fri 08 Aug	Northamptonshire Steelbacks	County Ground Northampton	50 M
Sat 09 Aug	Glamorgan	Weetwood, Leeds	50 W2
Tue 12 Aug	Lancashire	York	50 M
Sun 10 Aug	Trent Rockets	Trent Bridge	HUN
Thu 14 Aug	Somerset	York	50 M
Wed 13 Aug	Southern Brave	Utilita Bowl	HUN
Sat 16 Aug	Gloucestershire	Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol	50 W2
Sun 17 Aug	Middlesex	TBC	50 M
Fri 15 Aug	Birmingham Phoenix	Headingley	HUN
Sun 17 Aug	Manchester Originals	Emirates Old Trafford	HUN
Wed 20 Aug	London Spirit	Lord's	HUN
Fri 22 Aug	Durham Cricket	Scarborough	50 M
Sat 23 Aug	Oval Invincibles	Headingley	HUN
Sun 24 Aug	Sussex Sharks	1st Central County Ground, Hove	50 M
Mon 25 Aug	Northamptonshire Steelbacks	County Ground Northampton	50 W2
Tue 26 Aug	Kent Spitfires	Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence	50 M
Tues 26 Aug	Manchester Originals	Headingley	HUN
Thu 28 Aug	TBC	TBC	50 M QF
Sat 30 Aug	Kent	Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence	50 W2
Sat 30 Aug	TBC	Kia Oval	HUN E
Sun 31 Aug	TBC	TBC	50 M SF
Sun 31 Aug	TBC	Lord's	HUN F
Tue 02 Sep	England v South Africa Men	Headingley	MODI
3/5 Sep	TBC	TBC	T20 M QF
Sat 06 Sep	TBC	TBC	50 W2 SF
Sat 06 Sep	TBC	TBC	T20 M QF
Mon 08 Sep	Somerset	CA County Ground	CC 1
Sat 13 Sep	TBC	Edgbaston	T20 M F
Sun 14 Sep	TBC	Visit Worcestershire New Road	50 W2 F
Mon 15 Sep	Sussex	1st Central County Ground, Hove	CC 1
Sat 20 Sep	TBC	Trent Bridge	50 M F
Wed 24 Sep	Durham Cricket	Headingley	CC 1

- CC 1 | Rothesay County Championship Division One
- WCC | Women's Vitality T20 County Cup
- T20 M | Men's Vitality Blast
- T20 W2 | Women's Vitality Blast League 2
- 50 M | Men's Metro Bank One-Day Cup
- 50 W2 | Women's Metro Bank One-Day Cup League 2
- HUN | The Hundred Double-Headers
- MTM | Men's Rothesay Test Match
- MODI | Men's Metro Bank One-Day International



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