



CHARTERS
ALUMNI

December 2024

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Welcome



Welcome to the December 2024 edition of our Alumni Newsletter.

With the Christmas break fast approaching, we wanted to bring our past students and staff up to date with what has been happening at Charters School since the summer.

We've tried to include a range of articles and would love to share with our community even more about our former students' news in future publications.

If you would like to reconnect with your classmates or colleagues, tell us about something that you've taken part in, or could help inspire a current student, please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

Click on the icons below to choose how you would like to connect with us:

The Alumni Facebook



Email our Marketing Team



Presentation Evening

A WONDRFUL CELEBRATORY EVENING

It was a joy to welcome so many of our former students back to Charters School for our annual Presentation Evening. This year, we celebrated the outstanding achievements of both our A Level and GCSE students in a night filled with pride and inspiration. The evening featured an exceptional guest speaker, Molly Miles. The former Head Girl delivered an inspiring speech, sharing her journey of resilience and self-discovery. She encouraged students to follow their passions, embrace unexpected opportunities, and forge their own unique paths to success.

The event highlighted the academic and personal accomplishments of our students, with subject prizes and cups awarded to those who excelled in various fields. It was truly heart warming to celebrate the dedication, talent, and hard work of our school community. One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of the prestigious Peyton Cup to Josh, which you can read more about further in this newsletter.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students recognised during the evening and would like to thank K J Smith Solicitors for sponsoring the event.



Sixth Form News

WHAT HAVE OUR CURRENT STUDENTS BEEN GETTING UP TO THIS TERM?

FESTIVE SOCIAL

Students visited the Vincent Van Gogh Immersive Experience where VR brought the Dutch artist's work to life. They also got into the festive mood at Spitalfields Christmas market!



Students Awarded Gold

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

57 A Level Mathematicians successfully participated in this year's UK Maths Trust's Senior Mathematics Challenge. 4 students achieved the prestigious Gold Award.

LEADERSHIP

The Senior Student Team took part in a moving service on Remembrance Day to honour the service & sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms.



EXTENDED LEARNING

Year 12 & 13 Physics students attended the "A Level Live" conference and met Dr Jessica Wade, a Royal Society Research Fellow at Imperial College London.

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

Year 12 Applied Science and Biology students took part in a workshop delivered by the University of Reading Healthreach team on topics linked to the respiratory system.





Sixth Form News

WHAT HAVE OUR CURRENT STUDENTS BEEN GETTING UP TO THIS TERM?



OXBRIDGE LINKS

Students studying English Language were treated to a 2-hour workshop with University of Oxford Creative Writing lecturer & playwright Barney Norris.

WIDER COMMUNITY

Students wore yellow on World Mental Health Day and red to Show Racism the Red Card. Sixth Formers promoted both these campaigns to the rest of Charters.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Policy Analyst, Allen Wessen, spoke to Year 13 Economics students about his work at the Bank of England. Industry-specific insights deepen understanding of A Level subjects & widen knowledge.



ROLE MODELS

sixth Form students set a good example too younger students by taking on roles around the school to benefit the collective such as assisting in the Library.



COMMONROOM FESTIVITIES

A Christmas Quiz written and run by Senior Students brought Years 12 & 13 together to have some fun and spread a little holiday spirit. Tutors even gave it a go!





Alumna Sophie Announces Retirement

REFLECTING ON AN OUTSTANDING SPORTING CAREER

Following a 20 year career, past student and eight-time Paralympic equestrian champion Sophie Christiansen announced her retirement from Paralympic sport earlier this month.

Sophie was born prematurely with cerebral palsy and was one of the first group of students to benefit from our school's Learning Support Centre. Her illustrious Paralympic journey began in 2004 at the age of 16, when she made her debut at the Athens games. Although she was the youngest member of the Paralympics GB squad and still a student at Charters Sixth Form, Sophie won a Grade 1 individual bronze medal and was fourth in the freestyle.



Over the next few years she became one of the most decorated Para equestrian athletes of all time, securing two golds and a silver at Beijing in 2008, three golds at London in 2012 and three golds in Rio in 2016.

Royal Mail created a set of gold stamps for Sophie following her achievements at the London 2012 Olympics, and the post box outside Farrow and Ball in Sunningdale was painted gold in her honour.

Two frames featuring Sophie's stamps are on display in the LSC as a wonderful nod to her achievements.



Sophie was awarded an MBE for services to disabled sport in the 2009 News Year Honours, and an OBE in 2013 for her services to equestrianism. Away from her athletic career, Sophie has a first class Masters degree in mathematics, which she utilises as part of her role as a software developer for Goldman Sachs investment bank.

Charters is incredibly proud of Sophie, and she is an inspiration to current and past students. Our entire school community wishes her well for whatever new projects await.

You can listen to Mrs Hartwell's BBC Radio 4 interview with Sophie which was recorded in 2023 below. It focuses on Sophie's Paralympic experience and how Charters helped foster her love of sport.



Charters Chronicle

STUDENT VOICES STILL LOUD AND STRONG AT CHARTERS

Welcome to the first edition of Charters Chronicle for the 2024/25 school year.

Created by a team of 11 students, you can click on the image below for a fantastic read!

Autumn Term Edition | December 2024

Charters Chronicle



EXCLUSIVE



From Charters to Olympic podium

Also in this edition:

- **Stories straight from our Community**
- **Behind the scenes of trips to Berlin and Japan**
- **The best of our Library**
- **Diwali and Remembrance Day**
- **Sports extra - our latest successes**



Image drawn by Jibril Maki



Fantastic Community Spirit Still Thriving

FESTIVE SUPPORT

Businesses in the local community spread a little festive cheer again by sponsoring two of our annual events this term. Berks County FC sponsored the ever-popular Sports Presentation Evening, whilst KJ Smith Solicitors sponsored our A Level and GCSE Presentation Evening.

A huge thank you to these and all the other businesses that have shown us support throughout the year. If you have a business that would like to be involved with sponsorship at Charters, please email Marketing@chartersschool.org.uk as we would love to hear from you.



Each Christmas we run a Wish List that provides parents/carers the opportunity to grant wishes for our school departments, enriching learning and joy for our students.

We've already received over £3000 of donations and we are grateful for each and every one.

If you had a favourite subject back in the day that meant a lot to you, may have set you on your current career path perhaps, and would like to give something back, then you can [view the 'wishes' here](#). If you would like to grant one, donations can be made via [CAF Donate](#)

Once you have done this, please email our [Marketing Team](#) so that they can order your 'wish' and deliver to the department in the new year.

Take a look at this fun video which shows how much your support means to us.





Some things never change

COMPETITIVE COOKING CHALLENGES

Looking through our archives, we came across this clipping about some budding chefs taking part in a school cookery competition.



Wind the clock forward and Year 8 student Amelia proudly represented Charters School at this year's Rotary Club Young Chefs Competition, held at Kings Academy, Easthampstead School.

Amelia competed against students from Years 8–11, making her the youngest participant in the competition. Despite the tough challenge, she performed exceptionally well, earning the Runner-Up position! The judging panel, made up of professional chefs from Bluebells Restaurant in Ascot, was highly impressed by Amelia's creativity and culinary skills, particularly her delicious two-course menu:

Main course: Prawn & Chorizo Paella

Dessert: Fruit Meringue Sandwich

With just a one-point difference between Amelia and the Year 11 winner from Easthampstead Park School, Amelia's achievement is remarkable. Her outstanding performance may also qualify her for the next round, scheduled for February 8th at Newbury Catering College. We are incredibly proud of Amelia's dedication and talent.

It would seem that culinary creativity is still alive and kicking at Charters.



The Peyton Cup

THEN AND NOW



The Peyton Cup originates from a visit made by Her Majesty The Queen to the school in 1962 and is awarded to the student who has shown all those things which we wish to instil in all our students – our aims, our values and aspirations for the future.

The winner of this cup personifies Charters School.

In the photo above, Nicolas Harmston was presented with this prestigious prize, zoom forward to 2024 and our most recent recipient is Josh, whose contributions and character stood out in an exceptional year group. He can be seen below with the Peyton Cup alongside alumna Molly Miles, who was our guest speaker.

