

ON

MAGAZINE WINTER 2022/23



NOTTINGHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

#Educate, Empower, Encourage

ON

MAGAZINE WINTER 2022/23



Kevin Fear (Headmaster), Sam Ellis, Kamala Newton, Deborah Penney (clockwise)

Kamala Newton

Manager of Development & Events
newton.ka@nottinghamhigh.co.uk

Sam Ellis

Fundraising Manager
ellis.s@nottinghamhigh.co.uk

Deborah Penney

Development Officer
penney.d@nottinghamhigh.co.uk

Welcome to the 2022 winter edition of the ON magazine, keeping you up to date with news and events from within the School and the wider ON community.

2022 has been a very successful year for the School and we were thrilled recently to hear that in the Independent School of the Year Awards we won the accolade of Co-Educational School of the Year. This national recognition of the success of the move we made in 2015 to become co-educational confirms just how well this move has gone and the strength it has given to the School. We do not, though, rest on these laurels and we now start to look forward. As part of this we are looking to open some branches of the High School overseas and the first of these, subject to regulatory approval, will be in Dubai. With the loss of charitable status and VAT on school fees likely to happen under a future Labour government we need to protect the School's finances and we hope that these branch schools will provide a useful income for years ahead.

In this edition we interview **Lisa Gritti, Deputy Head (Individuals)** and learn more about the School's proposed Wellbeing Centre. We also hear from **Navdeep Sethi (ON 1990-1997, Governor & parent)** and about his values and contributions to the School community.

We catch up with **Geri Thomas (Former Staff)** and hear how philanthropy has shaped the fabric of the School and its buildings and how his work, over the years, has created a lasting legacy to Nottingham High School.

Due to popular demand, the **School's Head Librarian and Archivist Yvette Gunther** will regularly feature in future publications, sharing stories and pictures from The School's archive. Please do get in touch if there's anything of personal interest you would like to know more about.

Our ReflectiONs project is proving to be a popular way for ONs to share your own experiences of your time at the School, as well as providing value insights into economic, social and national history. If you are interested in taking part in the project, please let us know.

Canada-based Old Nottinghamian **John Proctor (ON 1975-1985)** shares some stories of his time serving on board HMY Britannia and we speak to **Sophie Brown (ON 2017-2022)** who left the School this summer and has just finished her first term at university. We enjoyed hearing how she is getting on.

There's also a very interesting article featuring **Peter Moorhouse (ON 1974-1981)** and **Charlie**



Hind (ON 2011-2018) demonstrating the value of Nottingham High School relationships and the School network.

We know we are living in challenging times, but through the conversations and engagement we have with you all it's heartening to see so many of you supporting our work and efforts to ensure the future success and progression of Nottingham High School.

You are helping in so many ways; volunteering, mentoring and attending our events, as well as giving gifts and legacies to the School's Bursary Fund.

I am incredibly proud to lead the whole school community and thank each and every one of you for the part that you play. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year.

Kevin Fear, Headmaster

Please join our Nottingham High Connect platform, set up specifically for our ON community.

On the platform you can join ON groups, advertise or view job vacancies, seek or offer career advice and view our events calendar.

We currently have 1380 members!

Connect now:



nottinghamhighconnect.co.uk

Please follow us, scan our QR codes:



@Nottinghamians



@Nottinghamians



@oldnottinghamians

Contents

2-3		Welcome & Contents
4		Speech Day
5		Notice Board/ ON Reunions
6		Mentoring within our community
7		Careers Week
8		Remembrance Service
9		From the Archive
10-11		Events Calendar
12-13		Meet: Lisa Gritti
14-15		ReflectiONS
16		Fundraising
17-18		Donation Form
19		Where are you now?
20-21		Our Overseas Community
22-23		ReflectiONS
24-27		Where are you now?
26-29		ReflectiONS
30		Where are you now?
31		Recipes
32		In Memoriam



NOTTINGHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Educate, Empower and Encourage

Speech Day

We were delighted to have **Dr Henry Nwume (ON 1988-1995)** as our guest speaker at this year's Speech Day and Prizegiving Ceremony. It was also wonderful to see so many of the Class of 1995 in the audience.

On leaving the School, Henry read Medicine at Brasenose College, Oxford, before going on to complete his training at Guy's and St Thomas' Medical School in London. He returned to Oxford to study an MSc where he won three Blues in Rugby. Whilst at Oxford he was recruited to play professional rugby for London Wasps, being part of the match day squad that won both the Premiership Final and European Cup in 2004.

In 2006 he attended Sandhurst and in 2007 he deployed to Afghanistan for the first time. His subsequent military career has seen him deploy several times across the Middle East and Africa. He continued his athletic endeavours with the Army and in 2010 he competed in the Vancouver Olympic Games as part of Team GB's 4-man bobsleigh team.

In 2014-15 he deployed with the UK Med response programme to treat Ebola patients during the crisis in Sierra Leone. He now continues to work for the British Army as a Medical Officer supporting frontline combat units and is about to deploy again to East Africa.

Dr Henry Nwume
(ON 1988-1995)



Sophie Brown (ON 2017-2022)

On Saturday 17 September we welcomed back the Class of 1972.



Left picture: visiting the Food and Nutrition Department

Right picture: A reunion photo on the front steps





Neil Darby (ON 1999-2006)



Back in May Neil was appointed as the Mayor of Preston, becoming 694th Mayor of the city and the youngest to hold the post since 1850.



It has been so wonderful to be able to hold events in person during this year. We have met ONs in Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham and London. Thank you to everyone who has supported the events and we hope to see many more of you in the next year. See our upcoming events for 2023 on pages 10-11.



This year the ON London event was held at Daly's Wine Bar on the Strand. We changed the format to a drinks event due to the rising costs of a seated dinner. It was wonderful to see many ONs catching up and making new acquaintances. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



Notices



Matt 'Don' Duck (ON 1977-1984)

On 10 December 2022 it was 42 years since the band Factual Lifetime Mode held its first concert in the Nottingham High School Drama Room. Matt is still making music as Factual Lifetime Mode and you can hear his latest 2022 album Organometallic on all digital platforms.



Here is the Spotify link:

Educate, Empower and Encourage

Mentoring within our Community

Peter Moorhouse (ON 1974-1981) and Charlie Hind (ON 2011-2018)

Peter Moorhouse

I studied at the High School from 1974 to 1981, read law and then moved to London to start my career in financial services as a corporate finance analyst at the London Stock Exchange (via a lucky interview with my new boss who was a Forest fan – and to follow my love of music and opera, instilled by Kendrick Partington, the High School's Head of Music). I joined Smith New Court corporate finance, then Merrill Lynch and finally Morgan Stanley, where I helped to build a leading UK investment banking business, specialising in the pharmaceutical sector.

After 32 years in investment banking, I retired from Morgan Stanley in 2021 and now have interests in the wine industry, am Vice Chair of Governors at Framlingham College and spend much of my time at our home in Italy. I also started mentoring and coaching several undergraduates and graduates on many aspects of career choice, CV prep, networking and interview training. My coaching activity was largely prompted by contact from the school via Nottingham High Connect asking if I would welcome an approach from ON Charlie Hind for some career advice.

I now mentor 10 young men and women, including Charlie, and thoroughly enjoy getting insights into how the young generation of relatively recent school leavers tackle the steps of choosing and making their way forward – and hopefully sharing some wisdom and experience and using my network to make connections and seek opportunities. It's a very rewarding experience and I recommend it to my fellow ONs. (I am helping to organise a Class of 1981 reunion at school in 2023 – so 1981ers, please get in touch via the school!)

Charlie Hind

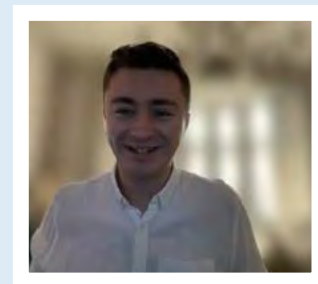
In 2011 I joined the School and became the fourth generation of my family to study there. Having taken Economics, Geography and German at A-Level, I wanted to combine a language with business management, so went on to read International Management and Modern Languages at the University of Bath, a four-year course with a year abroad in the third year.

In January 2020 I secured an industrial placement at Morgan Stanley in Frankfurt, where I would spend a year applying my language to a business environment with the aim of reaching fluency. As the pandemic hit in March I was soon back in Nottingham with my parents, hoping that I could still go to Germany for my year abroad as planned.

I started my placement from home in the UK, and made it to Frankfurt in September, soon realising that remote working is not an ideal way to start a career. Not only does the learning curve require additional effort, but meeting colleagues and expanding your network is limited by your commitment to Zoom.

I chose to use Nottingham High Connect to find out which ONs were working in my industry, and sent Peter an email asking for some time to talk (over Zoom!). It won't be a surprise to other ONs reading this that we immediately found common ground: the School, memories of Nottingham, cricket at Trent Bridge, an interest in wine, financial services, and of course that Forest and Burnley were about to swap places in the Premier League (sorry, Peter!).

More than two years later, now a graduate, I am back at Morgan Stanley in London as a junior investment Banker. Thankful for the invaluable mentorship and support which Peter has afforded, we are now good friends and I am looking forward to meeting other ONs of all generations.



Careers Week

We were delighted to welcome over 70 people to Nottingham High School as part of our 2022 Careers Week, including Old Nottinghamians, parents, local professionals and representatives from UK and overseas universities. Students in Years 10-13 (age 14-18) enjoyed the chance to engage with people working in a wide variety of roles in healthcare, tech, legal, civil and public services, creative and finance industries as well as meeting entrepreneurs and inspirational sports professionals.

It was fascinating to hear individual stories and understand the importance of seizing opportunities, both at school and later, which then lead on to unforeseen, but incredibly rewarding careers. The students were also delighted to realise that many of the areas of study in their school subjects have direct applications to the world of work. The speakers were keen to point out that many relevant skills are learned through extra-curricular activities – adaptability, resilience, discipline for example - and that these often assume much greater importance once you have left school.

At each event, there has been an immediate connection between Old Nottinghamians and current students. Those still at school truly appreciate the chance to hear from people a few years further along the road; it gives them more confidence to approach their own decision-making in a positive way. We are really grateful to all of you who came in to support the current students last week.

Rebecca Auterson, Head of Careers

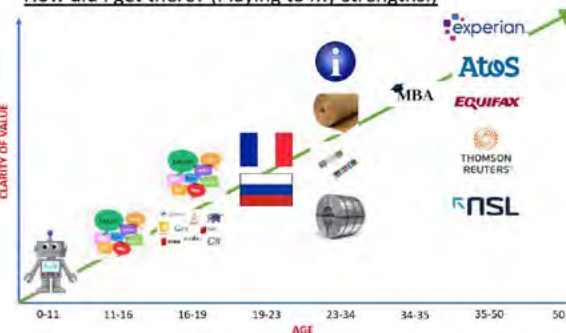
Thank you very much to the following Old Nottinghamians who volunteered their time to support the Careers Week

Nick Armstrong (ON 1992-1999)
Gavin Daw (ON 1986-1996)
Mark Dillon (ON 1973-1980)
Adam Fear (ON 2008-2019)
James Harrison (ON 2003-2010)
Peter Horton (ON 2006-2013)
Manpreet Mann (ON 1996-2003)

Tom Marks (ON 2002-2009)
Richard Mee (ON 1990-1997)
Thomas Moore (ON 1997-2004)
Alex Navarro (ON 1988-1996)
Ashhad Noor (ON 2009-2016)
Phil Webster (ON 1978-1983)



How did I get there? (Playing to my strengths.)



Please join our Nottingham High Connect platform, set up specifically for our ON community.

Here you can join ON groups, seek or offer career advice and become a mentor, advertise or view job vacancies and view our events calendar. We currently have 1380 members!

Connect now:



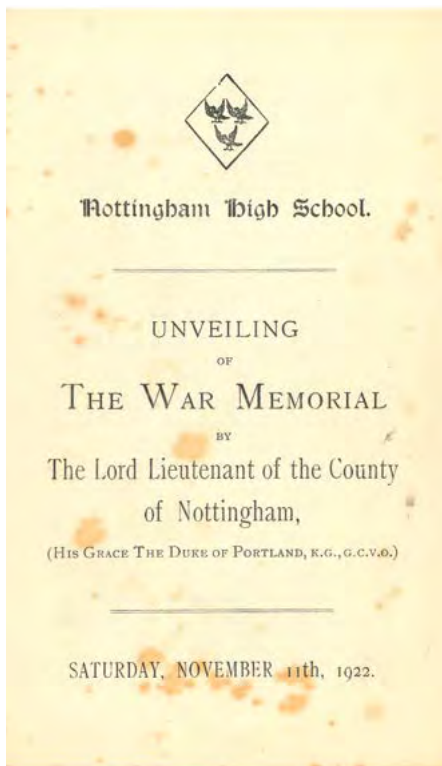
nottinghamhighconnect.co.uk

Winter

Educate, Empower and Encourage

Remembrance Service

This year's Remembrance Service also marked the 100-year anniversary of the unveiling of the War Memorial Statue. Thank you to the ONs who joined the service and to the School's Archivist for displaying the original documents from 11 November 1922.



The War Memorial Statue was designed by Old Nottinghamian **Colonel AW Brewill DSO (ON 1870-1872)**, who commanded the 7th Battalion (Robin Hoods) Sherwood Foresters Notts and Derby Regiment during the Great War. The sculptor was Henry Poole ARA (1873-1928) who also sculpted the memorial to Albert Ball which is in the grounds of Nottingham Castle. The stonework was by John Burton, mason of Nottingham, and the bronze figure was cast at the foundry of Messrs JW Singer & Sons Ltd, Frome, Somerset. The memorial cost approximately £2,500 and was funded by Old Nottinghamians, parents and governors.

The memorial was unveiled on Saturday 11 November 1922 by The Duke of Portland KG GCV (Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire) and dedicated by the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, Dr HL Wild.

A Roll of Honour, designed and inscribed by Mr EM Betts, the school's art master, was unveiled in the school by the Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman EL Manning, on 12 July 1923. The ROH was updated in 2016 and lists the names of 333 Old Nottinghamians and masters; 226 who died in WWI and 107 who died in WWII.



The War Memorial Statue in the grounds of Nottingham High School.



ON guests at the Remembrance Service

From the Archive



Aerial View of the School



Building of the Player Hall 1935-1936

In Orange's History of Nottingham of 1840, the want of "a large room in which scholars might be assembled for hearing lectures, was much to be regretted in an establishment so important as this". When the building of Nottingham High School commenced in 1867, the plan was for two large double height classrooms, the Classical School and the English School, separated by an entrance hall with two offices. Despite several valiant efforts to raise the funds to provide one, the want of a large room to hold the whole school remained for over ninety years.

Shortly after the Great War, it was proposed that a Great Hall be erected on Arboretum Street as a memorial to the pupils and staff who were killed. The plan was very ambitious and two key aspects, the inclusion of a gymnasium and a swimming pool, were quickly dropped. In 1919 a special committee estimated that £7,500 would be required for the slimmed-down plan and optimistically predicted that this could be funded by memorial subscriptions from the school community, Old

Nottinghamians and the Governors. Unfortunately, by 1921, the amount collected had not yet reached a third of the amount required, so pragmatically the committee commissioned our very fine War Memorial which stands today.

In 1931 the Board of Education Inspection, while generally satisfied with the school, expressed concern at the age of the teachers and criticised the state of the school buildings. This precipitated a turning point for the school made possible by the generosity of local tobacco manufacturer JD Player, Governor since 1909 and his brother WG Player, who attended the School from 1877-1880. His gifts, alongside those of other benefactors, had been behind the money raised for the acquisition of the Valley Road playing fields in 1928. He went on to support the building of a four-room fourth form block, the well-equipped gymnasium with stage, the large west block, a new central block with underground air-raid shelter, a cycle shed, an enlargement of the Dining Hall and, of course, what we call today the Player Hall.

In 1934 JD Player offered £10,000, later raised to £12,000, to build a new Assembly Hall, and participated fully in all aspects of the planning. Opened on 10 February 1936, Headmaster CL Reynolds had wanted to name it after the benefactor, but John Player wanted a Worker's Hall, not a Player Hall, and most Old Nottinghamians still know it as the Assembly Hall.

In 1988 as a tribute to the man who had done more to secure the future of Nottingham High School in its present form than anyone else, the Governors renamed it The John Player Hall.



Opening of the Player Hall 1936

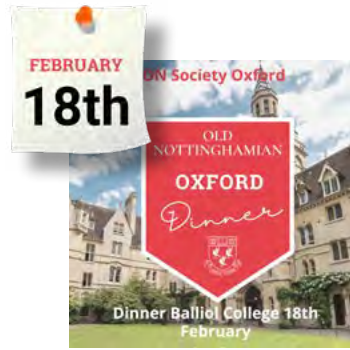
Events Calendar **Dates for your diary**



ON Society Beeston Fields Lunch



Former Staff Reunion



ON Society Oxford Dinner Balliol College



Business Club



ON Sheffield Event



ON Cambridge Dinner Downing College



ON Leeds Event



ON Newcastle Event



Class of 2012 Reunion, Nottingham High School.



ON Hockey Matches – The Opening Cup



ON Society Nottingham Dinner, University of Nottingham



Golf Day



**Class of 1945-1955 Reunion,
Nottingham High School.**



**ON Society Beeston
Fields Lunch**



Business Club



**We are delighted to
launch our monthly
Connections.**

If you would like to meet
up with other ONs, make
new connections, enjoy
some company in the
surroundings of your old
School, please come along
to our monthly gatherings.

Please email
development@
nottinghamhigh.co.uk or
call 0115 8452285 to book
your place.

Connections Dates:

- 4th January**
- 1st February**
- 1st March**
- 3rd May**
- 7th June**



Founder's Day



**Class of 1980 Reunion,
Nottingham High School.**



**Nottingham High School
Leavers' BBQ**



150 years of Cricket



**Class of 2013 Reunion,
Nottingham High School.**



**Class of 1972-1977 Reunion,
Nottingham High School.**

Winter

Educate, Empower and Encourage

Meet: Lisa Gritti

Deputy Head (Individuals)

Career History

Studied Physics and Astronomy MSci at Durham University Graduated 2003 – 4 year course and “MSci”

In January 2007 began at Nottingham High School as a teacher of Physics following 2 years at The Becket School

Held positions: Head of Year 10, 12, Coordinator of GEP

In September 2013 appointed Assistant Head (Pastoral) In November 2016 appointed Deputy Head (Individuals)

Qualified Mental Health first aider



What are the main responsibilities in your current role?

I have a wide range of responsibilities all of which concern the safety, academic progress, pastoral care and wellbeing of all individual students within the Senior School. Thus I am:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (“DSL”) for the School and train all staff on Safeguarding
- Responsible for all pastoral care and managing the tutor system
- The lead on welfare and academic progress of all students in the senior School, supported by Michaela Smith (Assistant Deputy Head, Individuals) and David Gillett (Head of Year 11-13).
- Line manager for the School’s Counsellor and School Nurse
- Line manager of the Admissions and Marketing teams.
- Liaison with the professional

Association HMC (the Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference) –in helping deliver pastoral qualifications and supporting aspiring pastoral leaders.

How has the landscape for safeguarding and pastoral care changed over the years?

Safeguarding is a relatively new concept deriving from the Children Act 2004 which sought to establish for the first time a more all-encompassing approach to child wellbeing and protection.

The “Every Child Matters” Programme established five key areas of focus for each child “staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic wellbeing” (often referred to together as the Wellbeing Agenda).

In the years since, schools have

been given responsibility for the delivery of much of that agenda with legal duties set out in the document “Keeping Children Safe in Education” (statutory guidance updated every year by the Department for Education).

A critical part of my role is to understand and assimilate that document each year (it currently runs to some 179 pages!) and then present it in a format which is accessible to all members of teaching and support staff.

What sort of practical day-to-day safeguarding issues might arise in the School?

- Anxiety
- Issues at home
- Self harm
- Negative/Suicidal thoughts
- Eating disorders

- Friendship issues
- Inappropriate use of technology/ social media/online safety
- Peer-on-Peer abuse
- Ensuring safe recruitment processes
- Ensuring staff training and record keeping on safeguarding is up-to-date
- Ensuring safe procedures are in place for all visitors to School
- Working with relevant external agencies, such as the Local Authorities where our students live and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

Adolescent Mental Health Services)

What effect have Covid-19 and lockdown had on the safeguarding landscape?

They have changed the way children's relationships now develop significantly. Most students now have a much more significant online life - hence online safety has become more important.

Since the pandemic, we have seen an increased incidence of mental health issues amongst young people but because the threshold for accessing CAMHS support is so high (and local/national resources are so stretched) the onus falls increasingly upon schools to provide appropriate support.

Turning to the wellbeing aspect of your role, what is the School's approach to embedding the concept?

As a School we are committed to us delivering an individual and bespoke path for each student focused on reaching potential whilst

assuring broader wellbeing.

Therefore, we look at each student holistically and recognise that their academic, pastoral and extra-curricular lives are all intertwined and that, for them to succeed, they need to feel encouraged and supported in each area.

The support network of tutors, senior tutors and teachers plays a crucial role in providing this assurance and so the organisation and management of that network (and ensuring staff wellbeing as well) is another central part of my role.

Which is your most important project currently?

Every aspect of my work is important but leading the Wellbeing Centre is a particular focus. Successful delivery of the project will mark a real step-change in our approach to wellbeing.

Tell me more about the Wellbeing Centre

On one level it can be seen as an exciting new physical space created by refurbishing the White House - an historic old building on the School's main site (at the junction of Balmoral Road and Arboretum Street).

However, we hope that it be a focal point for the whole school community and a physical representation of how we are seeking to embed student wellbeing at the centre of each student's school experience.

The aim is to provide a warm and welcoming facility featuring a mix

of flexible spaces which can cater for a wide variety of needs under the general banner of wellbeing. There will be both **Medical and Counselling Suites**, a **Spirituality Space** (for religious observance and spiritual reflection) and an **Oasis Room** for staff, parent and student use to name a few.

The Centre will be different in look and feel to other areas of the School to aid in its perception as somewhere relaxing and special. By hosting a wide range of activities in the Wellbeing Centre (such as daily calm and mindfulness sessions, diversity groups such as LGBTQ+ groups and cultural activities such as art therapy and music appreciation), stigma around its use should be reduced as it is assimilated into the regular day-to-day working of the School.

Rooms will also be available for the local community when appropriate, either as a letting or part of the charitable function of the School.

You clearly have a busy and often unpredictable role. How do you relax outside work?

Well, I must admit that I do really value holiday time to recuperate and for me there is no better way to do that than watching Formula 1 racing from the comfort of my couch. Ferrari are my team.

I love good food and like to attend new restaurant openings whenever I have the opportunity.

ReflectiONs - Geri Thomas

Geri worked at the School from 1957-1977 and 1983-2000



Nottingham High School has been blessed with many popular characters over the years but there's always a certain warmth when we mention the name Geri Thomas.

Whilst he has many interesting stories, Geri is a modest individual who took a little persuading when we approached him. We explained that we would like to take a closer look at how, through his work, he has created a legacy to the School and how his efforts continue to benefit the School community. We were delighted when he accepted our invitation to feature in this edition of the ON magazine.

His first experience of the School was in 1957 when he arrived on teaching practice (against his will!),

it can't have been that bad as he officially joined the body of staff in 1958 teaching PE and Biology. He was also Head of Games and coached the Rugby 1st XV and was i/c Athletics.

He first left the School in 1977 for a sales and marketing role in business only to return in 1983 as the Director of Marketing and Development, joining the School's Senior Management Team. It was one of the first such commercial appointments in the Independent Day School Sector.

Geri told us;

'The School was at the stage where much needed to be done, especially in terms of facilities. Through a combination of a willingness to

support the challenge and financial management of the governors and with the support of two forward-thinking Headmasters, Dennis Witcombe and Chris Parker, ambitious major projects and extensive refurbishments were embarked upon over a period of many years.

Despite the big sums of money involved, I was encouraged to work towards the best possible, highly technical facilities, with the aim of having Nottingham High School at the forefront of such activities,' - a vision that is still shared today. 'I travelled the country to view similar facilities and gained from that experience e.g. viewed 30 sports halls'.

During his time here, the projects included:

The Sports Hall in 1989. For many years the gymnasium had been inadequate to meet the demands made of it. Courageous Governors helped secure the funding although the project ended up coming in under budget thanks to the long-term planning and savings effected by the Governors.

The Sports Hall was opened on 16 October 1989 by Lord Hunt.

Geri had met Lord Hunt in 1959. Lord Hunt was leader of the first successful ascent of Mount Everest. He was involved with D of E from the initial stages and became Director of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Design Technology Building in 1992. Thanks to foresight in the planning stages they incorporated extra steel work to later allow for

another floor where the **Art Block** has resided since 2004.

The Music School in 1997. The roof contains an aero-chocolate-like thick concrete structure in order to effect the best possible sound. The doors have treble thickness layers to help with noise cancellation.

Geri continued to tell us 'much of the older part of the School was given a major refurbishment including the Junior School, a massive overhaul of the swimming pool and an extension of the Pavilion and athletics facilities at Valley Road Sports Ground.

Nottingham High School has always and still is an important part of my life and it continues to be such a pleasure to have continued contact with so many ONs worldwide and having the opportunity of taking them on a tour of the School. Also, of importance to me are the close

relationships with so many former colleagues and the Nottingham High School community at large.

It's wonderful to see how the School is thriving and the added dimension that girls have given to the School.

It was so good to have the



opportunity of project managing so many of the improved facilities which hopefully have helped attract a good standard entry of pupils. Effective teaching and pastoral care are the most important aspects for the pupils but the enhanced facilities have, I believe, been an additional positive factor.

In closing, on my frequent visits to the School I equally have pleasure in seeing how much has been done on site since I retired in 2000'.

Geri continues to support Nottingham High School. He also volunteers as a tour guide for the Class ReuniONs.

We are incredibly grateful for his huge contribution to securing the future and ensuring the progression of Nottingham High School.

We value the special relationships that we all have the great privilege of sharing with Geri and his ongoing support of us, our work and of the School.



Geri Thomas & Lord Hunt

Fundraising



“I truly believe I have flourished at the High School, so I can’t urge you enough to consider helping the School to provide others with the chance to do the same”

Ethan Huntley

Deputy Head Boy 2022-2023

Dear Old Nottinghamian,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to share my story with you all and to thank you for the opportunities people like you create for children like me.

I live at home with my mum, it’s always been this way. Private education and higher education were not an option in my family until a teacher at my primary school suggested that I sat the entrance exam for Nottingham High School. Without this encouragement it wouldn’t have been possible.

Sitting the entrance exam was very interesting as it was so different to what I was used to, different in style. My primary school bought the books to show me what to do and held workshops to prepare me, this support helped enormously.

On the day, by pure coincidence we were tested on Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo and, luckily for me, we had been studying this at school.

From the very beginning, I’ve always known I had been awarded a bursary place, as a High School education would not have been possible without one and I’ve always felt very comfortable with this.

At school we are all treated the same, there is a positive atmosphere and we are surrounded by people aspiring to do things. If I hadn’t studied here I don’t believe I would have the same encouragement to do the things I do and to achieve the same things.

My interests alongside my academic work include Drama and Rugby and I love to do these things both in and outside of school.

I want to study History and Politics at university and I’m proud to share that I have already secured offers from Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield University.

I believe this is a way I can use my experience and opportunity to make a difference on other people’s lives. I realise that others will not be as fortunate and being involved in politics gives me a chance to change this.

I am very optimistic about my future. And who knows . . . maybe one day I’ll end up being Prime Minister!



Donation Form



NOTTINGHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Please complete and return to: The Development Office,
Nottingham High School, Waverley Mount, Nottingham, NG7 4ED



Designating your gift

I would like my gift to be allocated to: (please indicate)

- Bursary Fund
 Capital/Infrastructure
 Area of greatest need

Regular Gift by Direct Debit

I wish to make a Regular Gift and have completed the Direct Debit instruction overleaf.

£..... per month per quarter per year

(Please allow at least one month between the starting date for payments and the date you sign the Direct Debit instruction overleaf)

Additional information

- I would be happy for my name to be included in the Nottingham High School 'Roll of Honour'
 I would like my gift to remain anonymous
 I am interested in leaving a legacy to Nottingham High School. Please send me more information

Single Gift

- I enclose a cheque/CAF cheque for
£.....
Made payable to 'Nottingham High School'
 I am making a donation of £.....
by Bank transfer.

Nottingham Smiths Bank,
16 South Parade, Nottingham NG12JX
Account Name: Nottingham High School
Sort Code: 56-00-61
Account Number: 00865656

Gift Aid it

If you are a UK taxpayer and choose to give using Gift Aid we can reclaim 25p for every £1 that you give, at no extra cost.

I would like Nottingham High School to treat this donation (and any other donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise) as a Gift Aid donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: Date:.....



NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL



Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send it to:

Nottingham High School
Waverley Mount
Nottingham
NG7 4ED

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To The Manager
Bank/Building Society.....

Address

..... Postcode.....

Service User number

8	5	6	2	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

Reference (office use only)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Nottingham High School Direct Debits from the account in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Nottingham High School and, if so, details will be passed electronically

Signature(s)

Date

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Nottingham High School will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Nottingham High School to collect payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Nottingham High School or your Bank or Building Society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your Bank or Building Society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Nottingham High School ask you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your Bank or Building Society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



Nottingham High School is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1104251)



Where are you now?

Sophie Brown (ON 2017-2022)

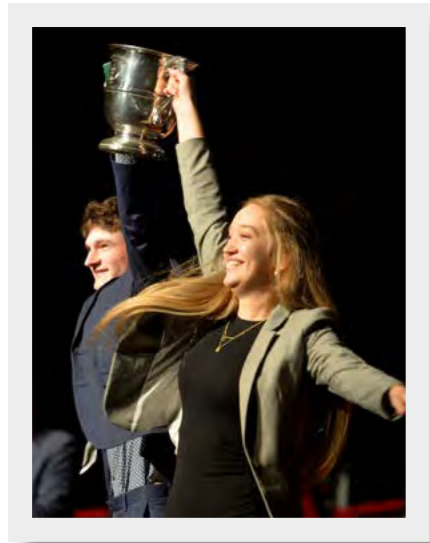
I joined Nottingham High School in 2017, halfway through Year 9, and eighteen months after the school became co-educational. After attending a taster day, I realised how high and ambitious standards are at NHS - and I immediately wanted to be a part of it. I thought the facilities were amazing and the staff were very passionate about their subjects. After completing my GCSEs, I decided to study Geography, Economics and Maths at A-Level, which helped to inform my decision to study Economics and Global Sustainable Development (GSD) at the University of Warwick, where I am currently in my first year.

I thoroughly enjoyed the areas of human geography and macroeconomics at A-Level, especially the overlap and intersection between the two subjects. This inspired my choice of study at university. During my time at the school, I was Maples' House Captain, and a member of the 1st Netball, Athletics, Rounders and Tennis teams. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in these teams as I am extremely competitive and I am excited to return to Valley Road to play in the ON netball game in December. I was incredibly pleased to receive an offer from Warwick University because it is highly regarded and has a very

high ranking for Economics and Global Sustainable Development. The course is very relevant and addresses topical economic, social and environmental issues challenging societies today, as well as considering their implications for the future.

Prior to starting university, I worked for a month in the amazing Development Office (they didn't pay me to say this) and Student Services Office at school. This gave me a new perspective regarding how the school is organised and helped me to develop new professional skills. I was made to feel incredibly welcome by both teams and I learned a lot, for which I am grateful.

The first half of my first term at Warwick has been very 'full on' but enjoyable. I have joined the women's Netball club and GSD society. I am due to go on a mystery UK netball tour very soon. Economics at university is slightly different compared to A-Level, having involved a lot of maths so far. My advice to anyone in the Sixth Form is to be mindful of this before you apply to study Economics at a higher level. I enjoy GSD because my studies



involve applying theory to real life situations in different countries. The campus at Warwick is beautiful; the convenient location of my halls of residence means I can walk to all my lectures in under ten minutes. This is a big bonus as I can enjoy those extra important minutes in bed before a 9am lecture or seminar! My advice to current NHS students is to make the most of the support at school and to ask for help or advice when you need it as there are fewer opportunities to do so at university. Say yes to as many opportunities as you can, but make sure you have time for yourself too as it can get a bit overwhelming very quickly. Finally, try and have the best Year 13 summer as you will create lifelong memories.

Winter

Educate, Empower and Encourage





Our Overseas Community

Our ON Community is spread far and wide and we would like to add more faces to our international map.




ON





1



Alan Betts
(ON 1957-1964)
Lives: Pittsford VT, USA

I have been a self-employed Vermont Climate Scientist for fifty years, working on the climate crisis and creative response of the Earth to save the planet

2



Keith Lawrence
won DC, USA

I work at the Pew Charitable Trusts global projects developing policy and financing solutions for climate change, plastic pollution, and safeguarding nature.

3



Paul Loasby
(ON 1983-1990)
Lives: Whidbey Island, USA

Currently at TLG Aerospace, Seattle, after 25 years of aerospace engineering for various manufacturers.

4



Stephen Richards (ON 1961-1968)
Lives: Frankfurt Am Main, Germany

Retired but teaches at Frankfurt U3A and translate in the art & culture field. Married, with two kids, now in their thirties, and one grandchild.

5



Adrian Veale
(ON 1970-1980)
Lives: Antwerp, Belgium

International Policy Officer, European Commission, Education & Culture. Working on the worldwide opportunities under the EU's Erasmus+ Programme.

Over the last 18 months we have spoken to many of our international ONs via video call and the warmth towards the School and our community radiates through the screen. Please send us your details for the next ON magazine.

6



James Abell
(ON 1976-1983)
Lives: Christchurch, New Zealand

An Estate Agent with Australasian company First National Real Estate.

7



Mike Jewell
(ON 1966-1973)
Lives: Taipei, Taiwan

Retired, after 40 years working in market research. Now taking on freelance work and active in the Taiwan business community, with the European and British Chambers of Commerce.

8



Francis Cole
(ON 1966-1975)
Lives: Saint Denis, Namur, Belgium

Retired after career as senior interpreter for the EU, with French, Spanish, Danish, Swedish and Italian, then 10 years in the Foreign Affairs Dept, European Parliament.

9



Alastair Holland
(ON 1985-1992)
Lives: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Joint Managing Partner of Ince, Dubai (Ince is an international shipping law firm).


10



David Leadbetter (ON 1982-1989)
Lives: Melbourne, Australia

Owner/director of Special Assembly Services, (commercial furniture assembly & installation/fit outs). Proud dad of 2 great teenagers.


11



Brad O'Brien
(ON 1981-1991)
Lives: New York, USA

Partner, Baringa Partners, Financial Services Consulting.

12



Ian Percival
(ON 1970-1977)
Lives: Clyde NC, USA

Principal Learning Consultant for Axway. Remotely train people worldwide on our middleware software products. Living between the Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains in NC.


13



Andrew Mitchell
(ON 1998-2001)
Lives: Dublin, Ireland

Professor of Theoretical Physics at University College Dublin, and Director of a Quantum Technologies research centre.

14



Andrew Harrison (ON 1960-1969 (1971)
Lives: South Africa

Initially worked in Botswana as a de Beers diamond geologist. Married to Judy I have two daughters. Currently living in the Free State where my latest interest is bird photography.



Christchurch



ReflectiONs

Navdeep Sethi

ON 1990-1997; Governor
2012-2022 current Special
Advisor to the School and
COO at BatFast

Nottingham High School is still as intrinsic a part of my life today as when I first stepped through the doors of the School as a pupil back in 1990.

Like most parents, mine wanted the best for my sister and I, and in particular, they wished for us to have the best possible education. For them there was no question that the Boys' and Girls' High Schools were where we should study and, like most first-generation immigrants, they were determined to work as hard as possible and make whatever sacrifices were necessary to provide us with the best possible opportunities.

The Nottingham High School that I attended in the 1990s was a very different place to the School of today, but the staff have always believed in supporting the pupils to achieve the very highest of their ability.

I was privileged to be taught by some legendary teachers such as Mr FMP ("Martin") Jones and Mr Driver. The Design Technology teachers Mr Hancock and Mr Thomas were also particularly influential, not least because they encouraged an early interest in design and engineering and supported me to be the school's first entrant in a national competition, sponsored by IBM, to find the "Young Engineer of the Year."

I was fortunate enough to do very well in the competition and this proved to be very significant in my future career as I subsequently went on to work for IBM for the next 18 years!

Whilst I was one of the first from my local community to study at Cambridge, I was very lucky to have many friends from both the High School and my

gap year with me. The Cambridge College which I attended (Kings) was full of tradition, but liberal and diverse in outlook. It is here that I really appreciated the importance of diversity and equality of access to education.

After College, I held a variety of Executive positions around the world for IBM, before leaving to establish and scale two FinTech companies. I am now very fortunate to combine two of my most-cherished passions (cricket and technology) with my



profession and am thoroughly enjoying developing an exciting SportsTech company.

My work is important to me but not as important as my family and my Sikh faith. Central to Sikhism is the concept of performing SEWA (meaning "selfless service") which demonstrates belief in equality and the importance of all people. It's always been important to me to "give back" – both to the community from which I come, to those in need and to those institutions which have played the most important part in my life.

In that spirit, I became a School Governor ten years ago and in this time have advised on a variety of topics and helped oversee both the delivery of a new Junior School and our successful transformation into a thriving co-educational School.

am delighted to have been able to interlock the High School with other outreach programmes I am involved in. For example, the High School have been fantastic in supporting Guru Nanak's Mission in arranging for Food Technology classes to cook food as well as helping provide toiletries, toys and donations for the homeless and those in need across Nottingham.

We have also helped re-establish a Punjabi School in Nottingham which meets at the High School every Saturday and provides a location for over a hundred children to learn their heritage language.

My ten years as Governor is now up, but I have been asked by the Chair of Governors to stay on in a advisory role to help support the School on various projects aimed at

using some of our existing assets to increase the sums available to fund the School's extensive bursary programme; something very close to my heart.

Last, but certainly not least, my family are central to my life and it seems appropriate that both my wife Gunmeet and our two children are involved with the High School. Gunmeet has been a teacher for 17 years at the Junior School and my children are current pupils at the School.

I am thankful that both my children have the opportunity to flourish in the same institution which has given me so much and that we can continue to give back in different ways so the High School remains a leading school for generations to come.



Where are you now?

John Proctor (ON 1975-1985)



I left the Nottingham High School in 1985, I was not the best student (Dr Slack was my tutor and I should still apologise). However, I was surrounded by a number of characters who I still call friends. I threw myself into everything else the school had to offer; orchestra (nowhere near the calibre of Richard May), choir (Manager and won the choir competition), D of E (did get my Gold, with



Julian Henry and others), Hockey (Captain in my final year, though definitely not the best player....Jon Hammond, Nige Mills, Tony Bryne, David Ellcock being four of the team stalwarts), Naval Cadet (thanks to Roger Kilby for the guidance and Nick Kidd for always going to the pub with me....and still doing that 30 years later!) and swimming every morning when I decided I was joining the military and wanted to be as fit as possible. After graduation in 1985, I joined the Royal Navy who supported me in attending university to get an Engineering degree. Over the coming years I served in a number of ships, and was asked if I wanted to interview to serve in HMY Britannia, the Royal Yacht. It wasn't something a young lad from Beeston had considered. But I interviewed and was selected and appointed as HMY the Q's Royal

Barge Officer. My duties involved commanding the Royal Barge from A to B, Bridge Watchkeeping on the Royal Yacht itself, routine security on a daily basis and then a few others that surprised me. I also had the job as quiz master on board. When the Yacht was on passage I broadcast a quiz for the whole ship; having your answers questioned by the Royal Household, compared to the answer they gave, was.....interesting. I also, along with two others, was asked to provide entertainment to the Royal Family and we ended up attempting to replicate the "Gerald the Gorilla" sketch, to an audience that has seen the best the world has to offer. We were not that, however the Royal Family graciously laughed at the right spots and showed genuine appreciation for our attempt to entertain them. The next morning the Queen, while boarding the barge,



John on the Bridge of HMY Britannia as the Officer of the Watch

looked me in the face and said that she had a side bet that I would break the chair I was bouncing on.....as I was the one playing the gorilla. She often displayed glimmers of a strong sense of humour.

I had a number of interactions with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh who were onboard the most, during my year of service. A few memories that come to mind are having dinner with the two of them and just five other people. One morning when the Duke of Edinburgh came up on the bridge and asked to take over command of the ship, and overall, simply having seen them in close proximity as they executed their day-to-day duties. My abiding memories of the Queen are of someone who was kind and personable to a very young and intimidated naval officer but who treated everyone around her, from the most junior upwards, with a sense of interest and kindness; a leadership style that I have tried to emulate.

During my time with the Royal Navy, I completed flying training and flew Lynx helicopters off the back of ships. I got to visit fabulous places like Somalia, the Persian Gulf, Northern Ireland and the West Coast of Africa (the latter one, got my late mother the call of "we are medivacking your son home when we know where he is"). In 1997 I transferred to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for a skill set I picked up along the way in HUMINT. I spent most of my time in the CAF working in the special forces world and visited Afghanistan a couple of times. I finally left the military in 2010 and made the not so easy transition into the business world, which has culminated in taking the helm of a tech company which I took public in 2018. My wife, Daina, and I now live on the Ottawa River and would be delighted to meet up with any ON travelling in the Ottawa area. The Nottingham High School still represents almost 20% of my life. I was always grateful for the very rounded education it gave me that allowed me to serve Her Majesty and see class and grace up close and personal.



State visit to Malta - May 1992

Winter

Educate, Empower and Encourage



ReflectiONs - Steve Shepherd

(ON 1959-1969)



When Kamala Newton gave me a guided tour of the school in 2017 it was my first contact since leaving in 1969. It was great to see that the classic buildings remained, such as the old gym, bringing back many happy memories.

My wife Jill and I then attended the school 50-year re-union in 2019 organised by **John Cooper (ON 1962-1969)** and met some old friends. I strongly recommend taking up these opportunities to relive your youth. I have also attended some of the Old Nottinghamian Society events and recommend it to anyone who wants to socialise with other ONs.

I remain eternally grateful to the sacrifices my parents made to give me and my brother, **Andy (ON 1962-1972)**, a High School education. I was the first from Grosvenor School to achieve a place at the High School. I took the entrance exam on 8 May 1959 which was my 8th birthday and the day that Nottingham Forest won the FA Cup.

I started in the Prep in Balls House with



Mr Allen as Headmaster and remember particularly the '10 word tests' but more pleasantly the great sporting opportunities of football and cricket.

In the Main School I was in Coopers House with Mr Imeson as Headmaster. I was never in the top stream at NHS but once I could concentrate on Science I made great strides forward winning the Dr Turpin's Prize for Science, '67 - '68. In the 6th form I was part of the first year to study Physical Science which gave me the opportunity to broaden my outlook by taking Economics in addition to Maths.

I was able to play a lot of sport, in particular cricket and rugby. I loved rugby but was very small and slight until the age of 18 so struggled to be successful. I was part of the start of the soccer team under Mr Eastwood and played

in the first two seasons. I also learned to play golf at Radcliffe with my partner, **Nick True (ON 1962-1970)**. I was very happy throughout my time, particularly spending many hours playing football with a tennis ball in the large yard before school and at breaks.

I loved the CCF and became CSM REME. I recall two memorable events linked to CCF camps. In 1966 the camp was at Thetford and we were allowed to watch the World Cup Final on a very small black and white TV in a Nissen hut with about 30 chairs grouped around the TV. As one of the smallest I was sitting on the concrete floor. Close to the end I started singing 'we've won the cup' only for Germany to equalize. 30 people fell on top of me. In 1969 the camp was at Cultybraggan, an ex-POW camp. We were sent out on



a 'Night Op' and then returned to watch the first man land on the moon. I also attended the Arduous Training Camp in Wales twice which was great fun on 'Tin Ops' and cooking rations from unmarked tins of dubious vintage.

I also remember the school holidays where a group of NHS students gathered for informal West Bridgford v Rest of the World football and cricket matches. A group of us also became regulars on the terraces at Meadow Lane and this led to a lifetime of support for Notts County FC.

In the Prep I attended a trip to London where we stayed in Russell Square. We toured the Houses of Parliament which included a photo on the terrace which seems to show me pushing **Steven O'Kane** over – I deny it.

I was the first member of the family to travel abroad when I went skiing in Pontresina near St Moritz. On Day Three I came down with Chicken Pox and missed one day but surprisingly learnt to ski sufficiently to complete the mountain run.

I also went to Italy which included a classical tour but also some days in Rimini where we played football on the beach against a team of waiters.

I cannot claim a lot of musical skills but was recruited by Mr Partington to be a choirboy at St Peter's Church in Nottingham. I enjoyed the experience even though the pay did not cover the

bus fare home.

Going into the 6th Form I remember the establishment of a 6th Form Centre on Waverley Mount. It had lots of quiet space for study but also a large space for table tennis and a lounge for coffee with a record player. People would bring in LPs and I my interests in music was shaped here. It was at the 6th Form Disco here that I met my future wife.

After receiving my A Level results and achieving higher grades than expected I was advised to stay on and take the Oxford Entrance Exam resulting in a place at St Peter's College to study Engineering Science. I was particularly helped by Ian Parker and Peter Horril. Peter encouraged me to apply to his college at Oxford.

My father required me to get an undergraduate apprenticeship that would reduce his contribution to my university education. After several applications I attended a full day's assessment at Rolls-Royce and they offered me a position. This resulted in a bursary of £100 per year at university which did little to cover the beer and LPs.

I worked in Advanced Engineering at Rolls-Royce (Turbine Blade Aerodynamics and Blade Cooling) for 7 years but then progressively broadened my career through Product Support, Marketing, Purchasing,

Project Management, Quality, Business Improvement and IT finishing my career as Managing Director of a company in Bristol in the Defence Sector.

Rolls-Royce offered me the opportunity to build many different careers within one company but also to tour the world on someone else's budget. This included three years in Amsterdam with Fokker Aircraft. This time also included the birth of our twins.

I am still a Consultant with Team Defence Information and a Director of Fedden Village Management Limited but we are now trying to spend more time with our three children and six grandchildren.

I apologise if my memory has let me down in some of the facts above but it was a lifetime ago. I do support the School Bursary Programme and the 500 Club to help future children get the great education that I had.



Where are you now? - Tuan Nguyen

(ON 1985-1992)



Following his recent cameo appearance as Professor Jonathan Van Tam (aka JVT) in the recent Sky series This England (directed by Michael Winterbottom (Jude, The Trip, Welcome to me to Sarajevo fame... and starring BAFTA and Academy Award-winner Sir Kenneth Branagh), Kamala Newton caught up with Tuan Nguyen (ON 1985-1992, Mellers') to reflect on his dizzy foray into television drama.

Where did life take you after school in 1992?

Thanks to my Latin and Ancient History teachers (Chris Curtis and Tony Bird), I studied Classics at university and then returned to Nottingham to start my vocational legal studies at Nottingham Law School. On qualification and with an ardent desire to travel, live and work overseas, I specialised as a banking and finance law solicitor and remained with an international law firm Lovell White Durrant in London. Life seem to then imitated art as my Russian



language skills (this time thanks to John Knifton's spell binding Russian General Studies sessions on Lermontov (A Hero of Our Time) led to an exciting year in the firm's new Moscow office. I then had the opportunity to join a larger firm Clifford Chance and spent another 6 years in Russia spear-heading the growth of our banking practice during the oil, gas and commodities boom. After the financial crisis of 2008 and with my father's failing health, I joined Standard Chartered as general counsel for ASEAN and got to spend more time with frequent trips to South East Asia. In 2016 (and following Brexit), with a young family, I have since settled in Luxembourg and work as in-house legal counsel for the European Investment Bank financing projects in the UK and Ireland.

So how did a lawyer at an investment bank in Luxembourg ended up being cast as the colourful Professor JVT in a major TV series?

A casting agent friend Peter sent me a jokey

Whatsapp message right in the middle of the 2021 Covid lockdown lamenting the struggle (in the age of zero cultural appropriation) to find a suitable actor to play JVT, who was partially of Vietnamese heritage. Without any acting experience or aspiration, I naturally ignored his plight. Months passed and his search remained fruitless. Out of a sense of opportunism and humour, my wife suggested that I should throw my hat in the ring. A week later, I found myself in front of the director Michael Winterbottom and his production team on a Teams audition. He asked if I had any acting experience and I remember facetiously confessing to doing a decent Harry Enfield impressions. Their decision to give me a shot at fame never quite sank in until I found myself in front of the highly acclaimed costume designer Anthony Unwin with a shaved head.

Give us a brief insight into the world of television drama. What was it like on set working alongside so many well-known actors?

Incredibly daunting but a total blast from start to end, never felt so intimidated by so many talented actors and the cast of thousands. In fact, far worse than any job interviews I had ever faced. The hours were quite brutal too – we started at 8am on most days and wrap-ups well past mid-night with most scenes requiring at least 40 takes. Even as a lawyer working on may all-nighters and weekends, nothing prepared me for this exhausting life. The logistics were mind-boggling all the more so during Covid tests and quarantines.

The only saving grace was that in terms of character study, I had some insight to the man himself through my sister who worked with him at the QMC.

Yes, Sir Kenneth was inspiring and awesome as were the cast of 200 plus actors. Due to non-disclosures agreements still in place, I cannot divulge too much beyond this.

What are your memories of school days and did those experience help in later life and on set?

To be part of the School at the time felt an immense sense of pride, achievement and privilege. The entrance exam and surrounding architecture were imposing and daunting memories. I vividly remember being grilled by Chris Curtis and Peter Horrell followed by an intense chat with Dr Witcombe. These austere impressions were in reality tempered by a large degree of compassion from certain teachers who truly realised the horrors and legacy of the Vietnam war from which (like JVT's father) I had escaped from.

French and Russian classes with John Knifton were unforgettable as were the Saturday mornings rugby rivalry with Trent College and Summer cricket net practice with TA Willcox. I certainly embraced the school's spirit of mens sana in corpore sano then and



I certainly strive to work hard and play hard still to this day. Being given the form prize in 1986 by Tim Dibdin and then the Dame Agnes Mellers prize in the sixth-form were proud highlights - getting detention from Tony Holding for skipping rugby training during a terrible cold was not.

What does the future hold now that you have been granted an equity card by the Actors' Union?

Shortly after the series went on air, I dropped JVT an email who by now was both knighted and returned to Nottingham University as Vice-Chancellor. To my surprise he replied and shared the news that a film production was being made about his life and asked if I was interested. We agreed to catch up over lunch when he next travels to Luxembourg and discuss this opportunity further but other than this I have not yet (mercifully) been approached to appear on any Deliveroo or Uber Eats commercials. In truth, I am really enjoying my day job and won't be looking to exceed the 15 minutes of fame.

Where are you now? - Andrew Whitman (ON 1962-1971) Life in Al Jazeera, Qatar

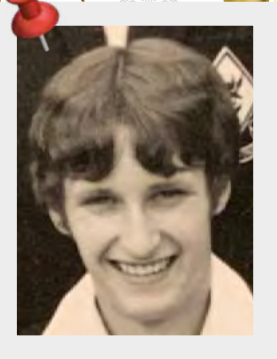


I'm writing this in my apartment at the Pearl in Doha. The man-made island is normally a quiet place but in the past three weeks it's exploded into a vibrant venue for fans from all over the world to watch matches in bars, restaurants and public spaces in a friendly, carnival atmosphere. When I was in the huge crowd at Al Bayt Stadium watching England's win over Senegal the other night, I had to pinch myself to check this was all really happening - as it was a world away from my life and career in the UK and certainly from my early life at school in Nottingham. If you'd told me when I was doing my 'A' Levels in 1970 that 52 years later I'd be working at a global broadcaster in the Gulf and attending the first World Cup in the Middle East, I wouldn't have believed you.

I left school in March 1971 and did English at Cambridge. I spent two years in Paris and acted there - and then joined BBC Drama in 1977. Opting to work in television in the 1970s wasn't straightforward. There was never going to be a career path to follow and there'd always be an element of risk and insecurity. Yes, I worked for

the BBC for 13 years but eventually you have to branch out if you want to get where you want to be. It was an amazing time in Drama and I worked with some now famous names, before becoming a Producer/Director in Children's Programmes. But it was only when I left the Corporation and worked for an indie company on current affairs for Channel Four, that I got a real idea of what I wanted to do.

In 1991, I helped launch the BBC's international news channel, BBC World, and worked with journalists from BBC World Service Radio - which gave me a sense of the difference between domestic and international coverage. As did being assigned to the BBC's first Arabic channel which took me on trips to Jordan, Lebanon and Cairo. When the Saudis pulled the financial plug on the channel, many of the Arab staff came to Doha to launch Al Jazeera Arabic in 1996 - although Qatar was completely unknown to me then. I was Commissioning Exec for Factual at the BBC's commercials channels, UKTV, for ten years - and then as a freelancer in 2012, was offered six months work in the Gulf on the 2012 Doha-Tribeca Film Festival. I got hired by Al Jazeera English in 2013 and nine years later I'm still an Exec Producer



in Programmes, responsible for the weekly 'Al Jazeera World' and other documentaries. And I'm still doing it in my 71st year because it's a great job, Al Jazeera is an excellent global channel and my whole ten-year experience in the Middle East has changed my life.

It's given me the chance to "see the world from a different angle", as any of my former Nottingham schoolmates who've spent periods outside the UK will appreciate. Al Jazeera's news and documentaries come from the East, Middle East and global South, as well obviously from Europe and the Americas - but reflect the lives of the people at the heart of the story. British TV has largely abandoned a global perspective and it's been a revelation, at my time of life, to be able to tell human and political stories in a different way and bring them to a wider audience. There's definitely more than one perspective on the world - a thought I will keep firmly in mind as I watch the final rounds of the first World Cup in the Middle East unfold.

Bertie King (ON 2016-2019)

Chestnut Cheesecake With Mulled Wine Jelly

Ingredients:

Mulled Wine Jelly:

- 250ml Red wine
- 250ml Port
- 1 Orange, cut into quarters
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- 3 Star anise
- 2 Cardamom
- 8 Cloves
- 150g Caster sugar
- 5 Gelatine leaves

Ginger Sablé:

- 180g Butter
- 110g Icing sugar
- 60g Whole eggs
- 337g Plain flour
- 1tsp Vanilla extract
- 2g Salt
- 4g Ginger - fresh, grated

Chestnut Cheesecake:

- 120g Egg yolk
- 100g Sugar
- 330g Cream cheese
- 100g Chestnut purée
- 80g Candied chestnuts
- 12g Gelatine leaves
- 140g Whipping cream, soft peak
- White Cocoa Butter Spray (or icing sugar)
- Candied orange peel



Method:

Mulled Wine Jelly:

Put the wine, port, spices and sugar in a saucepan and bring to boil, then simmer for thirty minutes over a low heat. Take off from the heat and add the gelatine leaves and mix. Pour a fine layer onto acetate paper and leave to set.

Ginger Sablé:

Cream the sugar and butter with the ginger, vanilla extract and salt. Slowly add the eggs. Scrape the side of the bowl and add all the flour. Mix with the paddle attachment in a mixer until combined. Roll to 4mm thickness and cut into rectangles/circles to fit below the cheesecake mould. Also cut some of the sablé with a snowflake cutter for decoration. Place on greaseproof paper on a baking tray. Cover with another sheet of greaseproof paper and then place another baking tray on top. Place in oven at 160° for approximately ten minutes.

Chestnut Cheesecake:

Whisk the egg yolks until pale and frothy. In a pan, bring the sugar and water to 112° then slowly pour this into the egg yolks while continuing to whisk until the mix has cooled down. Soak the gelatine in cold



water. Gently warm up half of the cream cheese. Combine the cream cheese with the gelatine. Fold the second half of the cream cheese very gently into the egg yolk mix. Fold in the chestnut purée, followed by the crushed candied chestnuts. Finally fold in the cream cheese and gelatine mix. Pipe into 6 to 8 individual moulds of choice (rectangles or cylinders) and freeze.

To Serve:

Take the cheesecakes out of the moulds and spray with white cocoa butter spray (optional) or dust with icing sugar. Cut strips of mulled wine jelly using a hot knife. Wrap a strip of mulled wine jelly around the cheesecake and then place on a sablé biscuit.

Dust the snowflake sablé biscuits in icing sugar. Decorate the cheesecakes with the ginger sablé snowflakes and candied orange peel.

This could also be made into a larger cheesecake with a longer setting time in the freezer.

Queen's Memorial Service



On the 15 September the school gathered to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II with a short service and two-minute silence.



Queen Elizabeth II on a previous visit to Valley Road

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of the following members of the Nottingham High School Community.

Mr Raymond Chambers (ON 1956-1961)
Mr Malcolm Dillingham (ON 1946-1947)
Professor Raymond Freeman (ON 1943-1950)
Mr Rick Gardiner (Former Head of Art (1982-2003)
Mr Adrian Lloyd (ON 1959-1966)
Mr Ronald Morrell (ON 1936-1943)
Dr Duncan Murray (ON 1975-1985)
Dr John Page (ON 1947-1953)
Mr Stephen Russon (ON 1952-1960)
Mr Robert Spray (ON 1953-1961)
Mr Bryan Stone (ON 1947-1957)
Mr John Sullivan (ON 1955-1961)
Mr Ian Turner (ON 1950-1960)
Mr Michael Warburton Wood (ON 1942-1952)
Mr Douglas Widdowson (ON 1947-1955)
Mr Donald Wild (ON 1941-1949)



NOTTINGHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

ON
MAGAZINE WINTER 2022/23

For more information about our work, please contact the Development Team

0115 845 2285 | development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk | oldnottinghamians.co.uk