

# ONT



MAGAZINE SUMMER 2023



NOTTINGHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

#SoMuchMore



# ON

MAGAZINE SUMMER 2023

## Welcome to the 2023 summer edition of the ON magazine, keeping you up to date with news and events from within the School and the wider ON community

You will be as pleased as I am to hear that Nottingham High School is thriving at present – last year we were awarded the title of co-educational school of the year, a national award, and the School now has more students than ever before in its history with almost 1200 attending from ages 4-18.

Only a few weeks ago, we passed our material change inspection and are fully compliant in all of the areas that were checked.

This has been an excellent preparation for our next full inspection which will come at some point in the next academic year.

This inspection allows us to take up to 100 more students in the future should we ever need to do so as this year we were just two short of our maximum licensed number.

The results have been excellent, consistently the best in the region and placing us in the top 50 schools in the UK. We do though, also place a huge emphasis on treating each child as an individual and with this in mind we are converting the White House – the building on the corner of Balmoral Road and Arboretum Street - into our Wellbeing Centre which will be the heart of all we do to build resilience in children and care for their wider needs.

Throughout the coming pages you'll get an overwhelming sense of the spirit of our community, one which has been valued and appreciated for generations of ONs and one which will endeavour to serve generations of future ONs.

Clearly, it's a privilege to be the Headmaster of a school like ours. As you would expect, a role like this one brings a huge amount of responsibility, but quite possibly none greater than ensuring its future.

We do this in many ways but most importantly by upholding the commitment made by Dame Agnes Mellers in 1513 and the Foundation Deed, particularly



Kevin Fear, Headmaster



Deborah Penney, Sam Ellis (L-R)





through our values: excellence, individuality, respect, curiosity and empathy. There are many potential threats on the horizon and lots of uncertainty, now and ahead; a change in Government, VAT on fees which a Labour government will introduce, loss of charitable status (to name but a few).

I have no doubt a fundamental part of mitigating any of the potential threats is by continuing to deliver our bursary programme, which currently supports one in eight students in the School today.

If you are interested in learning more about this or any other aspect of our work please do arrange to come and have lunch with me when I can expand on this further. I strongly believe that it's what we can do together that will have the greatest impact.

I am writing this introduction on the morning of the last day of the School year and it is brilliant to hear all the excited voices around me. This has been another very successful year for the School. We would love to show more ONs around next year and do get in touch if you would like to come and see both all those things that have changed since you left the School but also those things that have remained the same. The School has always reflected the age in which it sits and we are proud of our diversity, our social mix, our traditions, but always have a clear vision of our future.

Lauda Finem,

Kevin Fear (Headmaster)



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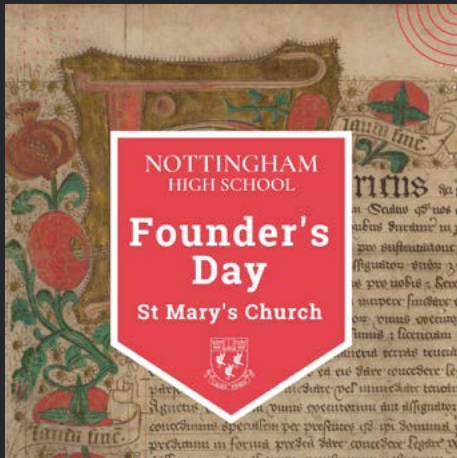
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**NOTTINGHAM**  
HIGH SCHOOL



# Founder's Day and Cheese and Ale Ceremony 17th June 2023



**"It was so nice to attend a Founder's Day service after all this time. It brought back many memories."**

**Robert Hurt (ON 1970-1980)**



More photographs from the day can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nottshigh/albums>



**Founder's Day took place at St Mary's Church in Nottingham on Saturday 17th June.**

The event was attended by Old Nottinghamians, Governors, staff, parents and all students. We were pleased to welcome the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Edward Attenborough and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Carole McCulloch.

After the service, many joined us for the Cheese and Ale Ceremony, where the chosen Representative Scholars, Ebu and Hattie, were awarded a Foundation Tie and a framed certificate with a traditional groat coin.



# ON v School Sports



## ONs V School Netball - 17th December 2022

It was a win for the school with a score of 34-15.



## ONs V School Cross Country - 17th December 2022

Well done! to Jake from the school team for coming first place in the ON v school cross-country run at Wollaton Park, setting a new course record of 14.41!



## ONs v School Hockey - 25th March 2023

It was a 4-1 win for the school against the ON team.



## ONs v School Cricket - 17th June 2023

A great day of cricket between the school and Old Nottinghamian teams. Two competitive T20s, with the current school 1st XI coming out victorious in both.

## ONs v School Tennis - 17th June 2023

The annual match 'Old Nottinghamians versus the school' took place at Valley Road on Saturday 17th June.

Played on the new courts by the pavilion (with netball posts removed!), a most enjoyable afternoon was had by all. The school's team, led by Heidi Bray (Head of Girls' PE and Games), congratulated the ONs who won the tennis 6 matches to 3.

The ONs were:  
Alex Corman (ON 1991-2001), Rachael Alvey (ON 2018-2020), Peter Gauntley (ON 1963-1970), Gareth Dunn (ON 1979-1989), Malcolm Saperia (Staff 1991-2016) and Rick Britton - Captain (ON 1961-1971).





# Events



(L-R) Paul Dawson, Phil Pallant and Les Wilkinson



(L-R) Paul Sibly and Andrew Winter

## Former Staff Reunion Saturday 28th January 2023



(L-R) Gill Hunter and Richard Nicolle

## ON Edinburgh Dinner Monday 24th April 2023



(L-R clockwise) Sam Ellis (ON 1951-1962), Roger Benson (ON Former Teacher 1985-2001), Simon Maxwell (ON 1970-1980), Jane, Peter Hawkins (ON 1948-1958), Peter Kendrick (ON 1941-1948), Irene Kendrick, Jeremy Roebuck (ON 1967-1977), Harvey Ellis (ON 2011-2016)



(L-R) Robert Marshall (ON 1972-1982) and Simon Maxwell (ON 1970-1980)

## ON Cambridge Dinner Saturday 25th February 2023



Back row (L-R) Jane Jackson, Simon Jackson (ON 1964-1974), Nick Jackson (ON 1966-1976), Janet McGee, Grace Forward (ON 2017-2022), Isabella McKeever (ON 2017-2022), Jessica Brown (ON 2016-2022), Linxin Chen (ON 2018-2020), Nihit Batra (ON 2012-2020), Mark Dillon (ON 1973-1980), Jeffrey Lu (ON 2013-2020). Front Row (L-R) Pat Jackson, Kevin Fear (Headmaster), John Moore (ON 1962-1969)

## ON Newcastle Dinner Wednesday 19th April 2023



(L-R clockwise) Sam Ellis, Jeremy Proctor (ON 1964-1974), Tim Watkinson (ON 1962-1972), Neil Barker (ON 1960-1967), Stephen Naylor (ON 1980-1987), Fraser Johnson (ON 2005-2009)

If you would like us to help arrange a reunion for your class year, please get in touch [development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk)

# ReuniONs



## Class of 1963-64 Reunion Friday 26th May 2023



The Class of 1963-64 and their partners at the Doubletree Hotel

.....and so it came to pass, after several months of discussion and many emails between Nottingham and Australia, the third Class of '63 (otherwise known as the Likely Lads) Reunion finally took place on Friday 26th May at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Nottingham.

Despite it being 60 years since the original group photograph, we were still able to muster nine of the lads plus wives for a most entertaining evening of food and drinks but more importantly, reminiscences of our time at the Nottingham High School.

After a toast to absent friends we were regaled by Geri Thomas of all the problems this group had given him over the years, in particular when a group of us, engaged in a Duke of Edinburgh's Award two-day hike, managed to go missing, causing Geri all manner of anxiety and worry. Nonetheless the group turned up, probably having been in a nearby pub, anyway all ended well. Geri has a phenomenal memory of the events which included this group of lads and it was very entertaining to hear what we had done that long ago.

It was a great reunion and much enjoyed by all. The attendees were Les Raynor, Chris Aylett, John Britten, Ian Tyler, Nick Ofield, John Lipton, Nigel Walker, Paul Beard and Barry Hillier, together with their wives.

It has already been suggested that we organise another Reunion, sooner than the ten-year gap since the previous one, so that those who were unable to attend this time will be able to next time. We will see what develops.

**Barry Hillier (ON 1958-1964) and Les Raynor (ON 1954-1964)**

## Class of 1971 Reunion Friday 30th June 2023

A small group from the Class of 1971 came back to school for lunch and a tour.

Lawson Main and Len Burdell even managed to find their names on a wall under the stage in the Player Hall. Still there over 50 years later!



"Many thanks to you and Sam for your hospitality today - it was great to be back and to reminisce as well as seeing all the great new additions to the school."

**Nick Barnes (ON 1961-1971)**

"It was a great experience to see the school in all its glory. I was glad I went along and thank you for entertaining us so well with stories, history & refreshments."

**Rick Britton (ON 1961-1971)**





# ReuniONs

## Class of 1945-1955 Reunion Saturday 22nd April 2023



(L-R) Alan Trease (ON 1948-1954), Tony Brecknock (ON 1945 -1954), Robert Allen (ON 1949-1954), Tony Haines (ON 1946-1955)



(L-R) Richard Brooksbank (ON 1936-1943) and Andrew Fawcett (ON 1943-1951)



Yvette Gunther talking to Basil Rollinson (ON 1942-1948) and Tony Haines (ON 1946-1955)

On Saturday the 22nd April we welcomed back the Class of 1945-1955. During lunch our guests were able to look at photographs and the Admission Register and Ms Yvette Gunther, our Head Librarian and Archivist, kindly gave a talk about the school archive. We then headed on a tour of the school, guided perfectly by Geri Thomas. It was a very special day and we enjoyed listening to all their memories of their time here at school.



Yvette Gunther, Head Librarian and Archivist, talking about the school archives



# Peter Kendrick (ON 1941-1948) and Peter Harkness (ON 1937-1948)



**We enjoyed catching up with the two Peters at the Class of 1945-1955 reunion.**

**They hadn't seen each other since they left Nottingham High School in 1948.**

Peter Harkness shared this story of his time during the war, shortly before joining Nottingham High School.



(L-R) Peter Kendrick (ON 1941-1948), Peter Harkness (ON 1937-1948)

I actually missed the Autumn term of 1939 at NHS due to the fact that I had been staying with my grandmother that summer, and when war was declared the family thought a North Yorkshire village would be safer than an industrial city. I was therefore officially counted as an evacuee, and spent that term in the village school, where two teachers did their best to cope with an age mix of boys and girls from 5 to 13 in two classrooms. I well remember a girl named Carol who one morning came in but did not take her place in class. Miss Dodds told us to

wish Carol a happy birthday, as today she was 14 and would therefore be leaving school. And off she went.

The school soon received dozens more children from Gateshead, and as it did not have enough exercise books we all had to make do with slates. I found this irksome, but when given sixpence for helping with something I called at the village shop, bought two exercise books at a penny ha'penny each, and treated myself to a twopenny bar of chocolate and two sticks of nougat. Grandma was very cross with me. 'Fancy spending

all your money at once. You must learn to be provident. You won't have any pocket money for two weeks!'

I thought this unfair but later in life I learned that Grandma's father had been lost at sea aged 39 in 1876, leaving a wife and six young children. Her mother ran a shop from home to make ends meet. It follows that to indications of a spendthrift nature she was understandably sensitive. For me, the lesson was not to tell grown ups what you were about.

Peter Kendrick has been working with the Development Team to create a digital archive- more on this to come later on in the year!



# ReuniONs

## Class of 1980 and 1981 Reunions

In June we had the pleasure of welcoming the Class of 1980 and Class of 1981 back to the school.



### Class of 1980 Reunion 17th June 2023

"I just wanted to write to thank yourself, Kamala and Geri for such a wonderful afternoon in the presence of former school friends on Saturday. It was both inspirational and very informative. It was a memory box day for me which I shall reflect on very fondly in the future."  
**Jeremy Smith (ON 1970-1980)**



"The 35 or so 'old boys' who attended the various events over the weekend were hugely impressed - not just by the facilities and status of the school but also by the professionalism of the Development operation and by the efforts which had been made to make them feel welcome and remind them that they are part of a 'community for life.'"

**Mark Dillon (ON 1973-1980)**



"Our Reunion was just a delight, from start to finish. So nice to see all the old places and all the old (or at least slightly older) faces, many of whom I had not seen since we left the School in May 1980."  
**Robert Hurt (ON 1970-1980)**



"The reunion organisation was a credit to you and the School and possibly the best tribute that I can offer for the day was that my wife, who has no connection to Nottingham or the school, commented what a thoroughly enjoyable time she had. Geri was a fantastic host and it meant so much to have someone from the staff we remember to be part of the day. I was left regretting that we had not done this before but hopeful that we might be able to do it again in a few years!"  
**Simon Maxwell (ON 1970-1980)**



### Class of 1981 Reunion 24th June 2023

"It was a wonderful event and I really enjoyed seeing so many old classmates. It's amazing that I haven't seen many of them since the last day of school in 1981 but we all reconnected quickly and were soon exchanging our stories from days of old!"  
**Andrew Dillon (ON 1974-1981)**



"Many thanks again for organising such a great event. It was very special indeed."  
**Peter Lanyon (ON 1974-1981)**

Further photographs from these reunion can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nottshigh/albums/>

# Class of 2023 - Leavers' BBQ



On Friday 23rd June we held our annual Leavers' BBQ on the front lawns, basking in the glorious sunshine.

This special occasion gave the Class of 2023 a chance to celebrate their time at the school as a student along with their tutors, teachers and parents and to welcome them to the Old Nottinghamian Community.

**It's not goodbye!**

We look forward to keeping in touch with them in the years to come and hope to see them at some of our forthcoming events.

More photographs can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nottshigh/albums>





# 150 Years of Cricket

Old Nottinghamians, parents, former parents, staff, former staff, students came together to celebrate 150 years of cricket at Nottingham High School. As well as boys and girls from the school playing we also had a group of ONs who came together to play in an ON match.

“Thank you very much for the cricket event on Sunday at Valley Road. I enjoyed it immensely, seeing old friends and people.”

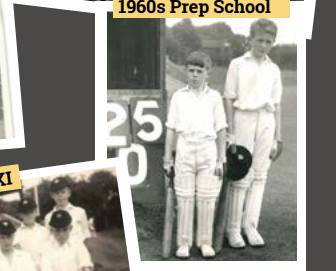
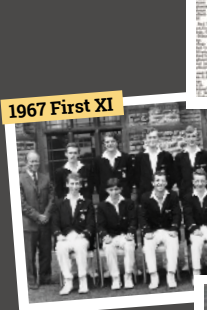
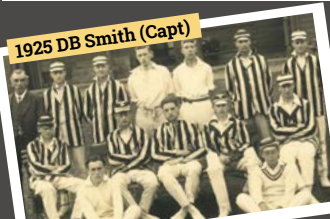
David Lipman (ON 1943-1955)



“Many thanks for all your hard work in organising such a lovely morning at Valley Road! It was very much appreciated by everyone.”

Phil Renshaw (ON 1967-1974 and Governor)

12 | Nottingham High School



More photographs from the day can be found here  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nottshigh/albums/>

# 150 Years of Cricket



Under 14 Cricket 2018-2019



Y2 & Y4



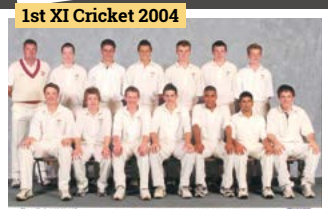
2nd XI Cricket 2007



Under 12 Cricket 2021-2022



Y7 Cricket



1st XI Cricket 2004



1st XI Anuj



Junior School Sport



1st XI Cricket 2005



1st XI Cricket 2006



Huddle



2nd XI Bateman Appealing



1st XI Cricket 2007



U12A



Wicket Keeping

“Thank you very much for organising today’s cricket celebrations and for inviting myself and my partner along. We both had a lovely time meeting old faces from the past.”  
Simon Turrill (ON 1972-1980 and a former member of staff)



“I would like to thank you personally and your team for organising what was an incredible weekend of nostalgia, sporting excellence and all accompanied by wonderful old friends. The events over the past two days will remain in my memory bank forever, and without your professional dedication and your teams’ efforts events like this would not be realised, let alone be successful.”  
Chris Ford (ON 1970-1980)



We would like to say a special thank you to Yvette Gunther who collated the memorabilia available on show and to Ian Jones (Head Groundsman) who looks after Valley Road.



# Events Calendar 2023-24



**ON Society Beeston Field Lunch**  
Beeston Fields Golf Club  
To book email:

[secretary@old-nottinghamians-society.org](mailto:secretary@old-nottinghamians-society.org)



**Speech Day**  
Royal Concert Hall



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

To book you place:  
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CEGY>



**ON Sports v School**  
Valley Road (Rugby, Netball)  
Wollaton Park (Cross Country)



**Carol Service**  
St Mary's Church,  
Lace Market, Nottingham



**ON London Dinner**  
The Lansdowne Club, Mayfair  
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CNXI>



**ON Cambridge Dinner**  
St Catharine's College  
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CNQT>

## We look forward to seeing you there!

# Events Calendar 2023-24



We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of you at our events. With this in mind, we are introducing new-style reunions from 2024. We'll be hosting reunions to celebrate the decades since you left Nottingham High School - 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60+ years - that way it'll never be too long until we meet up again!



## Regional Dinners

Following on from the success of our Regional Dinners, we are planning to host more, up and down the country in 2024 including:

Cambridge  
Newcastle  
Edinburgh  
Bristol  
Manchester  
Sheffield

Do let us know if you would like us to visit you!

Please email [development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk](mailto:development@nottinghamhigh.co.uk) or call 0115 8452208 to book your place.

So if you're celebrating an anniversary year in 2024 we'll be in touch with a Save the Date(s).



# Governor Spotlight



## Peter Munro (Governor 2013-2023)

**My time as a High School governor ends in July. Time for a brief reflection! High School governors are drawn from a wide range of professional backgrounds and it is this combined mix that makes them an effective team. Not running the school, but supporting and challenging the school leadership to fulfil the school aims.**

My background is in primary education in maintained sector schools.

At times it is hard to recognise the school that our son left 25 years ago! Externally many of the buildings are unchanged. The Sixth Form Centre, Dining Hall, the new Junior School building, new hockey pitches and much more, show the school's ambition to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, and to develop an extensive range of co-curricular activities. Academic standards remain high and the School has won awards that acknowledge both academic achievement and involvement in the wider community.

New buildings and the maintenance of existing buildings are essential but for me, the most exciting changes have been those that lie under the skin of the School and underpin academic success. Quite correctly governors must rely on visits, written and verbal reports, and conversations with staff, students and parents for their information about the school. Governors who have children in the School will also glean

opinions and inside information (maybe not always totally accurate!) from them.

I have been fortunate to visit a large number of schools and to work in a few. They are all different. I sometimes say schools have a 'smell'. That's something you pick up and feel when you walk round any school and it tells you about its ethos and values. It might be on the walls or in a conversation with a child or teacher, in a smile on a child or adult's face, or in a newsletter. You don't have to be a teacher to pick up the 'smell' of a school; it's in the relationships and how people treat each other.

A key moment for me was at a governors' committee meeting when we heard about the introduction of Mindfulness in the Infant and Junior School. Mindfulness was then in its infancy in schools and the Infant and Junior School were early adopters. This has now become part of the exciting Infant and Junior School Pastoral Roadmap. A few years later, governors agreed plans to develop the Wellbeing Centre to work with and support everyone

in the school community. The tutor system has developed to increase the consistent support and guidance for each individual student. The need to grow the Bursary Fund has become more intense to enable students from a wider variety of social backgrounds to join the school.

The 'smell' is good and will continue to adapt and change as society and the pressures on young people change. There will always be exciting times ahead!





# Infographics



**115**  
ATTENDEES  
**at 6**  
REUNIONS  
NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**943**  
**ONs**  
are 'willing to help'  
with careers advice

**5**  
Event  
Ambassadors

The e-Newsletter  
is sent to over  
**3,700**  
members  
of the ON  
community

No. of  
LinkedIn  
members  
**816**

We are in  
contact with over  
**200**  
ONs living  
overseas

**100**  
**ONs**  
ATTENDED  
SCHOOL  
EVENTS  
NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

No. of  
Facebook  
Followers  
**1,100**

The ON  
magazine  
is sent to  
**5,000**  
members of the  
ON community

No. of  
Twitter  
Followers  
**1,125**

No. of  
NHC members  
**1,381**

**39**  
**ONs**  
CAME BACK  
TO SCHOOL  
FOR A VISIT  
NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**1**  
PATRON

**55**  
**ONs**  
ATTENDED  
REGIONAL  
EVENTS  
NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

**49**  
**ONs**  
delivered talks,  
workshops and  
interviews in school

No. of  
Instagram  
Followers  
**620**

Excellence, Individuality,  
Respect, Curiosity, Empathy



# Where Are You Now?

Theo, Edmund [with dog Otto], Martin and Guy



## Generations of the Knight-Jones family at the High School

(ONs1946 - 1995) By Theo Knight-Jones

“I joined the High School prep from a rural primary school in 1985; it was a welcome change. Unfortunately I caught the tail-end of corporal punishment at my previous school, so coming to a school with kind, pleasant teachers who didn't see children as urchins was a breath of fresh air. The youngest of four boys, Edmund, Guy, Martin and myself, Theo (High School leavers in 1988, 1989, 1992 and 1995 respectively), my older brothers had all made the same journey before me. In fact my father, David Knight-Jones, and

his younger brother, Godfrey had both attended the High School for a few years themselves in the late 1940s, when they returned to Nottingham after the war, before they were sent off to boarding school, to their dismay.

My first teacher was Miss Smith (later Mrs Harrison), who seemed an ideal teacher for young children, considerate and motherly, I think in her first job. This new environment was fun, and I came out of myself and became a bit cheeky; in fact, given the outward personality change I

remember a teacher asking if anything had changed at home; it hadn't but I had suddenly been airlifted from a Victorian schooling environment and finally landed in the 1980s.

As a “Prep” the main school appeared intimidating, like a jungle, which we would occasionally step into when going to tuck-shop at break; run by the lovely Mrs Tuckshop Lady. We didn't know her real name, but she seemed happy with the one we gave her. There must be few jobs with more grateful customers; although when I was later given the responsibility of buying my own lunch, I proved that this trust in my ability to make good choices was misplaced, spending it on chocolate and Chelsea buns, resulting in a mouthful of fillings in my late teens.

Main school was a step up; even more genius kids, high academic and sporting standards, and a bit of a sink or swim atmosphere. But on the whole, we were a sporty-family which went a long way then. A key member of Clem Lee and Geri Thomas' unbeaten 1st XV (year 1985/86 ) my eldest brother Edmund, a “man-mountain” as Geri Thomas called him, was a star athlete, and at one point senior county champion in 110m and 400m hurdles, and discus, I don't know if he still has the school discus record. Maturing a year or two before everyone else gave me a couple of years as the Jonah Lomu of the East Midlands schoolboy rugby circuit, which was fun, I remember scoring seven tries against arch-rivals Trent College (with another disallowed), which was about as good as it could get (in adulthood or as a child). The later Olympian and

# Where Are You Now?



1991 VSU Scouts – Martin (3rd row, 6th from left)

Wasp rugby player, Dr Henry Nwume, once bet he would score more points than me in the U-14 inter-house rugby tournament; he didn't and had to kiss my boots; all his idea. A wintery, Valley Road 3-0 victory (Ian Rose, penalty I think) against an until then never beaten Bradford Grammar side also stands out. There were some great moments but if I am honest, as a year we never quite had the application to achieve what we should have in a rugby season, possibly personified by myself (I even remember feigning a back injury to get out of playing prop forward). Nevertheless, we owe a lot to Martin Smith and Colin Sedgewick, and many other teachers, for their tolerance and commitment.



First XV Rugby 1986 – Edmund (middle row, 4th left)

Both my brother Martin and I were in the school scout troop run by Denis Usher. This formed a central part of our school years, and a massive part of our memories. In fact most of the school friends we are still in touch with were in school scouts. It was old school but, on the whole, emphasised the good side of old school, giving boys the responsibility and freedom to do things they never realised they could do; although with this freedom there was an element of Lord of the Flies to navigate. Yes, this was part of growing up, but it was not for everyone. Although there was a big emphasis on scout patrols sticking together, a High School characteristic was that when on a hike, if one person had to stop to tie a shoe-lace or respond to a call of nature, we wouldn't stop and wait for them and they had to catch everyone else up – in terms of lessons for life I am still not sure if this is good or bad. Another odd High School characteristic was when told to collect paper for an exercise we would all grab as much as we could get hold of, even though we only needed one or two sheets; budding little capitalists I guess. I was only in scouts for three years, but the strange thing about memories is that the size of the memory doesn't relate to duration of the experience; with big, lifelong memories coming from the briefest of moments.

Academic results mattered at Nottingham High School, creating a competitive, peer-pressure driven atmosphere. Examination results were often read out in order of first to last place, and everyone knew where people came. This started when we were 8 years old; in fact pupils would frantically write down what everyone in the class got as they were being read out, to see where they, and their peers came. In one class, at the start of a new term whoever came first then sat in the far back-corner and whoever came last sat at the front by teacher's desk. There was no escaping the order of merit, again, it wasn't for everyone.

Despite both parents and grandfathers being doctors, and the High School then essentially being a medic student production line, none of us



# Where Are You Now?



**3rd & 4th XV Rugby 1986-87 – Guy (front row 3rd right)**



**First XV Rugby 1994-5 – Theo (front row, 1st left)**

went into medicine. We grew up to be a very international family, all marrying non-Brits, with Knight-Jones wives coming from India, Germany, South Africa and Norway, and three of the four now living outside the UK. I don't know where this came from, our upbringing was very settled and local, with my parents still living in the house we grew up in in North Notts. In fact my school bus used to go past the house where my dad was born in Carlton. Despite starting my school career as a bit of a dunce, the High School did its job, and I became a vet, now working in agricultural research in Tanzania. Martin is a commercial director at Kimberly Clark North America based in Chicago. He has worked and lived in a number of interesting places, South Africa, Russia and the US. Guy, the second eldest, developed an interest in languages at school and has lived most of his adult life in Germany working as a translator for Volkswagen. Edmund is the only one living in the UK, working as a finance manager for the NHS, not an easy task.

Your time at school plays a central role in determining who you will grow up to be; and the Knight-Jones boys have all turned out well; at least in my opinion. Personally, I thrived at the High School. There is one view that children will find their own place regardless of where they go to school. I am not so sure. For me as a parent of young children, I struggle when playing the role of the Hogwarts sorting hat, and deciding what will be the right choice for your child. But perhaps this is all part of my High School mentality, trying to outdo the competition and get the best!

# Where Are You Now?



I joined Year 7 at Nottingham High School in 2013, following my brother who was a few years ahead of me. There was a great range of opportunities and experiences the school allowed me to have through my teenage years. The part of school life where I always felt most comfortable was in the Music Department. A lot of the experiences I had through the Music Department have helped to shape who I have become as a musician, leading up until now having just finished my undergraduate music degree at the University of Birmingham. Particular highlights include: the House Singing Competition, which I took part in every year as a member of the Choir then led Coopers' House to victory in sixth form; the countless times we played Doxy in the school jazz bands; terrifying piano masterclasses with Peter Donohoe and Tim Horton and playing all the descants in the Carol Service brass ensemble.

I have played piano and trumpet from a young age and thoroughly enjoyed playing in ensembles throughout my school career alongside being in Nottingham Youth Jazz Orchestra outside of school. The encouragement and passion from all of the teaching staff in the High School Music Department really helped to let my love of music thrive. Sean Pepper was an excellent trumpet teacher, Stefan Reid (former Director of Music) somehow always brought the topic back to food which made for some

very engaging music lessons and Emma Soulsby (Director of Music) and Phil Wantling (Teacher of Music) really respected and supported me in my final year of A-Levels.

Last year, Emma and Phil invited me back to adjudicate the school's Young Composer of the Year competition. It was great to go back and see how everything was going and spend an afternoon listening to the competition submissions. Composition has been my main focus in my degree so it was fun to go back to school and hear their pieces. I composed fanfares for the Speech Day services from 2019-2021 and this year was asked to adapt one of my fanfares for this year's Founder's Day service. I was grateful to be asked and as with any artist I am happy for my piece to be showcased in public.

At university I have kept busy, not only with my music degree, but also wider commitments including playing in the university jazz orchestra and brass band and accompanying one of the university's choirs and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society on piano. I have also been doing gigs across Birmingham and the West Midlands with Melts the Band, a jazz fusion, brass rock band set up with some university friends. We released our first EP Jam Jar Sessions to Spotify at the end of last year. I look back fondly on my years at Nottingham High School and hope to be asked to compose more for the school in years to come!



Check out Jam Jar Sessions by The Melts Band on Spotify.

## Dom Chivers (ON 2013-2020)





# Giving Back

There are many ways our ONs can help the Development Office in its aims to support students at the school and fellow members of the ON Community. Here are just a few Old Nottinghamians who have given their time to give support us in different ways.

**Sean Hill (ON 2009-2016)** gave a lunchtime talk to Psychology Club about a career in psychology.

**Seb Hardy (ON 1994-2000)** talked to current student Sarah. Seb is a Senior Legal Counsel for WebMD and is currently working in AI.

**Simon Bromwich (ON 1975-1985)** hosted a Lawyers' Breakfast at his Ashurst offices in London.

**Gail Walton (Governor and Parent of former students)** helped a student with medical interview practise.

**Peter Moorhouse (ON 1974-1981)** judged the Young Composer of Year competition.



**Catherine Abercrombie, Jess Brown, Grace Forward, Tomos Davies, Ben Staniforth, Adam Bennett and Dan Wattis all left in 2022.**

They came back to talk to the current Year 13 students. Great advice was given about accommodation, budgeting, lectures, making friends, and on those last few months in the 6th Form.



**Shruthi Madhusudan (ON 2017-2019)** and currently an LPC student in London and future trainee at White & Case and **Michael Hunting (ON 1963-1969)** formerly of Eversheds came in to help our aspiring law students with interview techniques, advice and support.



**Dave Thomson (ON 1974-1981)** gave a talk online to our Year 6 students about AI and how it is impacting the workplace.

The students are working on a project in AI where they are designing a machine and thinking about whether it is trustworthy. Part of the project requirements (for the British Science Association Crest Award Scheme) is that they engage with a professional who knows a bit more about the subject.



**Joe McNamara (ON 2008-2018)** gave a talk to CCF.



**David French (ON 1974-1981)** gave an interesting insight into the opportunities available using languages and more specifically working in translation.



## Staff Farewell

This summer we say goodbye to Peter Cramp (Teacher of Economics) who is leaving after 30 years!



## Boehm Cup for Drama

In March, **Stefan Boehm (ON 1983-1993)** came back to school to award the Boehm Cup for Drama. He also spent time with the students talking about a career in acting.

# Notices



**This could be you!?**  
Send us your news! A wedding, retirement, a catch-up with former school friends, your holiday snaps, your achievements and special events.

## Connecting ONs around the world

In January this year **Matt Sutton (ON 2007-2014)** contacted the Development Office after seeing the International Map in the magazine. Matt was traveling to Taipei and wanted to get in touch with **Mike Jewell (ON 1966-1973)** who lives there. We put them in contact with each other and in March they met up. They chatted about living in Taipei, their time at Nottingham High School and what led them both to Taipei. They are planning to meet again soon.



## Music Masterclass

In February, **Nic McGegan (ON 1958-1968)** came back to school to visit the Music Department where he gave a Masterclass to students.



# Jonathan Allen CMG (ON 1982-1992)

## Director General in the Foreign Office



Jonathan at his investiture in 2020 where he received his CMG

**I went to the High School from 1982 (when I entered the Prep School) to 1992. The signs weren't there for a career in science. I remember once asking Mr Brierley in a GCSE chemistry mock exam whether it was important that I'd spilled "Substance B" down my trousers. He told me to go and rinse my legs with water in the loos. There were apparently more Nobel-approved ways of testing for hydrochloric acid!**

I studied English, French and Medieval History (with the wonderful Mr Sparrow and his "Wally Alphabet") at A-Level. I am still close to **Ben Stapleton (ON 1982-1992)** and **Simon Holliday (ON 1985-1992)**, alumni of Clem Lee's tutor set in the Small Lecture Theatre.

History was my favourite subject throughout school and, after a year out travelling and teaching English in a small southern French town, I went on to read it at St Catharine's College Cambridge. At the end of my third year, faced with two competing lucrative commercial law contracts, I realised that I didn't want to be a commercial lawyer and that I was motivated by public service. A hastily-arranged M.Phil in Medieval History kept me occupied while I rethought my career options.

In 1997, I started at the Foreign Office as a newly-minted Diplomatic Service Fast Streamer. I began in the EU department, before learning Greek and undertaking my first posting - to Cyprus. My role was to deal with Greek Cypriot politics, the UK's military Sovereign Base Areas and be press spokesperson, which – combined with British tourists in Ayia Napa – got me quoted colourfully in the tabloids. After three years, I came back to head up the Cyprus Section during the Kofi Annan-led talks to resolve the Cyprus stalemate. A year later in 2003 I moved to the UK's former EU mission in Brussels to be Government Spokesperson, which was an enthralling 24/7/365 role, most memorably running

the media operation through the UK's final EU Presidency in 2005 (not that we knew it at the time).

I wanted to do something different and in 2006 moved on secondment to the Home Office, which turned out to be life-changing. I was promoted to the Senior Civil Service and set up a unit that used strategic communication techniques to undermine support for terrorism. That started a career strand in national security. More importantly, I met my wife, Liz when our eyes met across a crowded counter-terrorism meeting room (like all the best romances). We married in 2010 and have two children, Lucy (2011) and Benedict (2013).

I returned to the Foreign Office as Deputy Director for Africa in 2009 and was then appointed Ambassador to Bulgaria from 2012-2015. This was my favourite job. I learned Bulgarian and we arrived as a young family in this wonderful, beautiful country. I lived with a family in Plovdiv for a month, for immersion language training, and they remain friends to this day. Our son is very proud that he was born in Bulgaria, to which he attributes to not feeling the cold.

I returned on promotion to Director National Security in the Foreign Office, responsible for our diplomatic and programme efforts to strengthen counter-terrorism overseas and in charge of crisis responses involving British nationals, whether terrorist incidents or hostage situations. Sadly there were too many of each from 2015-17. I also supported the Foreign





**Jonathan at the Security Council**

Secretary of the day in their oversight of the two international intelligence agencies – SIS (or MI6) and GCHQ – helping them to ensure that all the political and legal risks of some cutting-edge operational work were properly considered.

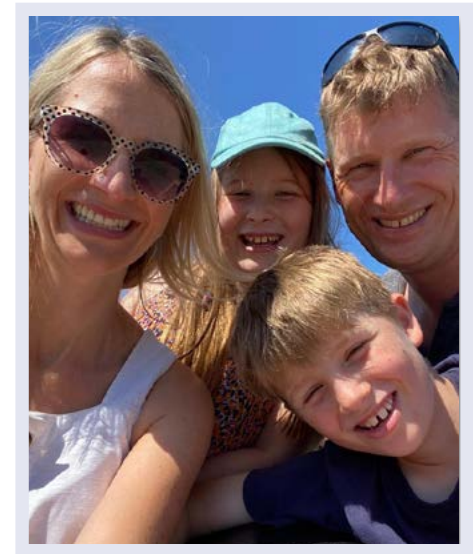
After a brief period up a Swiss mountain in 2017 leading the UK delegation to (another) failed attempt to solve the Cyprus Problem, I became the UK's Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. This was an amazing job: from New York, you see the whole waterfront of British international policy, from the UN Security Council, to the General Assembly committees on human rights, economic development, disarmament, to the major UN Development Agencies

headquartered there. My tour coincided with three years of President Trump, at a time when allegiances and old certainties were being tested by China's growth and Russian muscular action in Syria. I was in the Security Council seat when we discussed the Salisbury attacks for the first time, going head to head with the Russian Ambassador. In March 2020, I took over as Acting Permanent Representative for nine months, in charge of the embassy and leading for the UK on Covid-19 at the UN.

We returned to the UK in summer 2021, where I took up a new role in the now Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in the national security area. 25 years after I started, I love the job as much as ever. I love the variety: 11 jobs across multilateral

institutions like the EU and UN; bilateral roles in Cyprus and Bulgaria; and mainstream foreign policy and development jobs on Africa and in New York. I love living in different countries and understanding the culture, language and history of a place and its people. Pompous as it might sound, I am as motivated as ever by public service and national duty.

In the New Year's Honours List at the end of 2020, I was made Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George or CMG for services to British foreign policy. I went with my wife, my mother and my sister to receive the award from Prince William at Windsor Castle in November 2022.



**Jonathan with his wife Liz and children Lucy and Benedict**



# National 3 Peaks Challenge

Simon Wilkinson, Joe Jackson, Dave Peachey, Pete Boultyby, Matt Perkins



**Did you know that suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50, and that three-quarters of all suicides in the UK are men? It happens over 5,000 times a year.**

I think we've all seen statistics like that. They roll off the tongue, they cause a moment of surprise, and then they're forgotten. I'll confess, I had to google the figures, just to make sure they were correct. It was impossible to understand what these numbers actually mean. 5,000 lives, such a big number.

That is until a very dear friend, **James Gelsthorpe ON (1998-2005)**, took his own life in December of 2022. We'd lost touch – and for that I will always be deeply sorry – but when his brother Jack told me the news I felt as though someone had hollowed me out. I couldn't process it. Not him, anyone but him.

Only God knows how his family must have felt.

On paper we were similar kids, and it was no surprise we were mates. We lived in the same village. Supported Forest, despite them being garbage. Academically, there wasn't a cigarette paper between us. We were both into music (both playing in the

Snowdon, Pete Boultyby, Matt Perkins, Joe Jackson, Dave Peachey, Simon Wilkinson



Concert and Big Bands), the Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh awards. We spent so much time on the Lakeland Fells together with Ben Thomas that it became our second home.

In honour of his memory, I felt compelled to do something. His unbelievably brave family had decided to raise money for the mental health charity Mind, rather than accept flowers for his funeral. In short order they'd raised over £35,000. An incredible achievement.

James loved the hills, it's where we had our best times together. So it made sense to me to attempt something ridiculous. That's when someone mentioned the National 3 Peaks Challenge. Ascent and descent of the highest mountains in Scotland (Ben Nevis), England (Scafell Pike) and Wales (Snowdon), all within 24 hours.

I rallied the troops and our final group numbered nine in total - four ONs and five others who just fancied a couple of days of abject misery. And off we went.

11th June, we met in the car park at the foot of Ben Nevis, and at 4pm we set off. All 1,345m of it (4,412ft). Up and down in 5 hours... and we did it. Back down by 9pm, straight in the car to Wasdale Head (5.5 hour drive).

Scafell Pike Summit, Joe Jackson, Matt Perkins, Simon Wilkinson, Pete Boultyby



With headtorches on we began our ascent of Scafell Pike (978m, 3,208ft) at 3am, and we summited to see the sunrise at 5am. By 7, we were back in the cars, tag-teaming the driving and grabbing any sleep we could.

At 12:10pm, Snowdon (1,085m, 3560ft). By now we had injury, muscle pulls and heart spasms in the group. But six of our nine completed the challenge within the 24 hours. A magnificent achievement.

We managed to raise £10,247 for Mind (correct at the time of writing), which will make a huge difference to somebody, somewhere. Please, if you can and feel so inclined, donate by following the QR code following the link below.

It would be massively appreciated.

"I need help". These are the words that can save your life. A struggle with mental health does not make you weak.

**Joe Jackson  
ON (1997-2005)**





## Mouth-watering Mediterranean Tart by Julie Stafford

Julie Stafford is the Head of Food and Nutrition with responsibilities for KS2-KS4 curriculum and all extracurricular clubs and activities within Food and Nutrition. Julie is also the Food and Nutrition coordinator for Community Action, providing meals for local homeless charities Guru Nanak and Emmanuel House.

Julie has given us a lovely summer recipe. Why not try it for yourselves and if you do, take a photo and send it in to us.



### Ingredients:

280g ready-rolled light puff pastry

One red, yellow or green pepper, finely sliced

1 small red onion, very finely chopped or sliced

1-2 garlic cloves, finely sliced or grated

8 cherry or sun-dried tomatoes, halved

1 small jar of sundried tomato paste or tomato puree

200g mozzarella, cheddar or goats' cheese, crumbled

Fresh basil

Olive oil

### Optional extra toppings:

Black olives, sundried tomatoes, chorizo, pancetta, Quorn

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/gas mark 6.
2. Add a tablespoon of olive oil to a frying pan and cook the onion and peppers over a medium heat for 5 minutes until slightly softened.
3. Prepare any vegetable or cheese toppings on the correct chopping board.
4. Roll out the pastry to the same size and shape as your baking tray. Mark out a crust about 2cm wide. Fork the base gently to stop the middle of the pastry ballooning up.
5. Using a spatula spread the tomato or sundried tomato paste thinly over the inside of the pastry base, taking care not to go over the 2cm outer crust.
6. Add the cheese and any extra topping you have chosen.
7. Put in the oven to bake for 20-22 minutes, check it is cooked and leave it for a little longer if necessary. The bottom needs to be cooked, and the crusts browned and puffed up.
8. Remove from the oven and place on a presentation plate or board.
9. Garnish with fresh basil and drizzle over a little olive oil before serving.



# Mike Stewart (ON 1949-1958)

## Mike Stewart (ON 1949-58) reminisces about his schooldays at Nottingham High School...



Mike Stewart in 1947

"I must start off by saying I was thoroughly happy at school. I hesitate to say they were the happiest days of my life, as I am always happy. I think it's an attitude of mind.

I was at primary school in Beeston with (Sir) Neil Cossons; his father was the headmaster. At the Entrance Exam, I was fascinated by the entrant next to me printing in ink while I was doing joined up

writing in pencil. I think they initially thought I was copying, but we were doing different questions. For my Interview I remember going up the front steps, but not the interview itself. Before I started at NHS I was page to Lord Trent at the first degree ceremony for Nottingham University in 1948 - there was a photo in the Evening Post.

For the first few weeks my elder sister, now Baroness Whitaker (for merit you understand, not by accident of birth or marriage), who was at NGHS, had to take me, much to her annoyance. We caught the Barton 5X from Queens Road to Canning Circus and walked through down Raleigh Street. I was given 3d for the bus fare, but talked conductors into giving me half a workman's return for 1 1/2d and spent 3d on comics every other day from the newsagent on Raleigh Street.

I started in the Prep in B2 with Mr Horlick, who always wore a gown. The long sleeves had a knot at the end with which he would occasionally flick people, and sometimes he threw the board rubber, never actually hitting anyone. One day in B2 I had my father sat at the back of the class monitoring a student on teaching practice. My father was Senior Lecturer in the Education Department at Nottingham University and several of the teachers were family friends who would occasionally appear at my parents' dinner parties.

After A2 with Mr Horner I was given a Raleigh Lenton Sports 4 speed hub for entering Senior School. I was in White's House and in Eric Tarry's tutor set. 2L with Oswald Lush meant the interminable two parallel lines crossed by a transversal and French in an Irish accent. I remember

Michael Watts, later a journalist and contributor to the William Hickey gossip column, being called up for singing outside when coming out of late lunch. I got a Detention Ticket for putting the classroom lights on with my foot. When I broke my arm cycling, I used to read comics hidden in the sling. My Latin never recovered.

In 3Green with 'Fred' (Alec John) Walker, we sat at iron-framed desks on a stone/concrete floor. Someone at the back would slide across, then the whole row would move back, one at the front slide across into the space, and the other row would move forward, leaving a space at the back. Then repeat. Each stage of this had to be done, of course, while Fred was writing on the board. I'm sure he knew really, but he did sometimes get confused as to where people were.

6Sc1 were based in the Woodwork Room. We used to play darts down the full length of the room (perhaps 30ft). Jackie Mells worried about it. Cy Jackson took me into the chemistry room between the labs to tell me off for not doing any of three homeworks. We talked for ten minutes about inert gases and then he told me to look shamefaced as I came out. I got a Detention in





**Back Row - David Whitmore; Tom Hammond; Bill Lamin; Dick Hallam, Mike Stewart; Mike Richards; Dave Cooper; Tim Lawrence; Mike Mott; Bob Brownlow; John Chambers; Neil Hollingworth; Peter Newton**  
**Middle Row - Tom Whitmore; Nigel Bishop; Oswald Lush; John Bish; Tony Arnold**  
**Front Row - Stewart Banks; Dick Nunn; John Hill; Julian Hamilton; A Stevenson; John Fawcett**

the 6th form - which was unheard of - but I forget for what.

I took 'A' levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, plus a general paper ('O' level), then went off to university and eventually Rolls-Royce forever (42 years). I am still continuing with Rolls-Royce now as Archivist to the Heritage Trust.

I was in the CCF Basic Section. In Budby one day we had eaten lunch by 10 o'clock and several of us drank from a stream. I was the only one who came to school the next day.

Regular swimming in the Trent when even the fish didn't had made me immune to everything. In my whole school career the only time I ever had off was for a broken arm, appendicitis, and

when my parents poached the first few days of September for late (cheaper) holidays. I had a similar record at work: only 28 days in total in 42 years, despite 18 days' off for one incident of severe leg damage.

In the Air Force Section I had a flight in an Anson from Gainsborough. In the Naval Section there were three annual camps in one year! One in Lossiemouth, one on board the Aircraft Carrier HMS Albion doing working up trials in the Channel, we had cabins under the flight deck during touch-and-go night practice. The thumps all night kept others awake, but I had been brought up during WWII between the main Nottingham to London railway line and the main road out of Chilwell Depot with all

the tank convoys. Things that go bump in the night did not wake me up.

Cycling to school became automatic; I often didn't really remember which route I had come, and it varied according to wind and rain. One time cycling up Denman Street a small child fired a brass stair rod through my front wheel, causing me to be catapulted through the butcher's window. Not worrying about me the butcher set off chasing after the child, implements in hand. The bike was relatively undamaged; the spokes were a bit bent, but it was rideable.

My school friends included Bob Brownlow (we had the same birthday), Dave Torrance, Sid Banks, Dick Hallam, Dave Cox, Bob Salkeld, Neil Mitchell, Bob Halford and Barry Wardman. In 2nd Beeston Sea Scouts the school connections were Nick Stephens, Dave Lambert, Mike Morley, Tim Melton and Ian Strecker (whose sister Judith ran the Cubs). Other High School boys were the sons of Nottingham University staff: Dick Roberts, Jeffery Flower, Edward Sumner, Frazer Alexander and Charles Chesters. I had some sympathy with Reg Thimann and David Towers: pupils in a similar position to me as the sons of school staff. At Rolls-Royce I met Charles Chesters and David Towers again, as well as Graham Pilkington (also from Beeston, near the station) and John Sadler. In amateur drama I met David Nightingale and Peter Gurd from school. At the library, through my wife, there was Stephen Best, John Davies and the wife of Eric Tarry."

# SPONSOR A STONE



Since its launch in 2017 our Sponsor a Stone campaign has raised over £50,000 for the school's Bursary Fund. Waverley Walkway is lined with personalised stones, a permanent feature of the school, celebrating our shared history. Order yours now [www.oldnottinghamians.co.uk/product/sponsor-a-stone/](http://www.oldnottinghamians.co.uk/product/sponsor-a-stone/)

# In Memoriam



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

Mr Gerald Bembridge (ON 1943-1950)  
Mr John Brown (ON 1948-1955)  
Mr Walter Bugden (ON 1953-1960)  
Reverend Dr David Clark (ON 1942-1953)  
Mr Barrie Clay (ON 1948-1954)  
Mr Neil Combe (ON 1960-1967)  
Mr Malcolm Cook (ON 1942-1946)  
Mr Neil Darroch (ON 1954-1960)  
Mr Rexford Dawson (ON 1946-1958)  
Mr David Denton (ON 1946-1951)  
Mr James Gelsthorpe (ON 1998-2005)  
Mr Peter Hermon (ON 1939-1947)  
Mr Calvin Jackson (ON 1978-1985)  
Mr Richard Leman (Former Governor)  
Mr George Murfet (ON 1949-1955)  
Mr Andrew Nickolds (ON 1961-1968)  
Mr Andrew Pickerell (ON 1969-1978)  
Mr Michael Rowen DL (ON 1952-1960)  
Reverend Philip Saywell (ON 1945-1950)  
Mr Michael Williams (ON 1942-1947)



## **John Brown (ON 1948-1955)**

John was a Foundation Scholar of the School and was in Cooper's House.

The positions of responsibility he held were Prefect, House Captain, Captain of Boats. He was also in the CCF (Army section), a member of the choir and was awarded the West Memorial Prize in 1955.

As President of the Friends of Nottingham High School (US) from 2010-2020 many of you living in the US will know John. He was hugely passionate about Nottingham High School and in gratitude for the education he received, and the opportunities his education afforded him, he coordinated the US donations each year, for 10 years, to the School's Bursary Fund. During his tenure an incredible **£148K** was gifted to the school. We are incredibly grateful to him for supporting us in this way.

We featured John in the ON Magazine Summer 2017 which gave a fascinating insight into his time at Nottingham High School. You can find the article on pages 24 and 25 of the ON Magazine - Summer 2017. Previous copies can be found at <https://oldnottinghamians.co.uk/on-news/>





# Class of 2023

Welcome to the Old Nottinghamian community

Please keep in touch! To follow us, scan our QR codes:



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