

Alumni et Amicitia Association



for former pupils and staff of Leehurst, Swan, La Retraite,
La Retraite Swan, and Leehurst Swan Schools

Newsletter 18
Spring 2019

Dear Alumni

I have now spent just over half a term getting to know Leehurst Swan. This is my 14th year in Headship with my experience spanning a range of schools: a 3 to 13 prep school; a 3 to 18 all through school; and a 2 to 11 prep school. I have taught maths and P.E. in both the secondary and prep environments and am thoroughly enjoying leading a school that spans the two. My family home is just north of Norwich and I weekly commute with the governors kindly agreeing to me leaving after lunch on a Friday. My two boys have now left school so my wife and I are adjusting to the change in lifestyle – I think she is enjoying some individual space during the week!

Having arrived at the school in such unfortunate circumstances for all concerned, I have been made to feel very welcome by the school community. The school calendar has continued unabated and I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of the pupils to 'have a go' at everything on offer be it presenting projects, public speaking, music concerts, residential trips, sports fixtures or drama productions. I am sure you'll all have fond memories of similar from your days at the school. Please remember that you can access the school's calendar on-line and you would be more than welcome to attend school functions throughout the year.

Developments at the school are on-going and I have been surprised at the quantity of work that our estates team get through. The refurbishment of the buildings and creation of new facilities such as the year 11 common room are of a high quality. There are exciting times ahead for the school with a new Headmaster lined up for September, a new Chair of Governors taking over next term and some fresh faces joining the governing body. I am sure that you will be kept abreast of news and developments and will have the opportunity to meet the new Head, Terence Ayres, at some point in the near future.

There is also change afoot in the alumni. Trudi Cotton is relinquishing her role and I am sure that you will join me in thanking Trudi Cotton for all her hard work in organising the alumni over the years. The work will now be covered by our school marketing department who this year have produced a splendid new school video, a new prospectus and other marketing material which we are very proud of and think clearly show Leehurst Swan's core ethos. Our marketing department also co-ordinate our social media and on-line news so you are able to keep up with school events wherever in the world you may be.



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I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend the lunch on Saturday 22nd June and enjoy the school's art exhibition which will show case our GCSE portfolios and other inspirational works. Having mentioned GCSEs, our year 11s have only a few weeks left before study the exams begin. For many, I am sure that your experience of these times are far behind you, however we can all remember the stress that exams bring on. We hope that our nurturing support and some fun activities will provide the opportunities for successful outcomes when the dreaded envelopes arrive in August.

With very best wishes,

Philip Oldroyd
Acting Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Alumni Lunch June 22nd 2019

This is our fifth annual lunch and all alumni and friends are very welcome. There is also a chance to see the art produced by our GCSE pupils. We will be arranging a two course meal this year and details will soon be available. The invitation is attached.

School Fete July 6th 2019

The annual school fete will be held a little later than usual this year, on Saturday July 6th. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Alumni and their families.

Cathedral Service December 12th 2019

This will be held on Thursday 12th December at 9.30am. All Alumni are very welcome to attend and we would love to see you there.

Work Experience

This is an appeal for help! We are finding it increasingly difficult to place our Year 11s as so many employers now just want Sixth Formers for work experience. If any Alumni could help with a week's placement we would be very grateful. For further details, please contact t.cotton@leehurstswan.org.uk.

The 2108 prize for Work Experience was won by Archie Mould, who arranged a place with Air Traffic Control at RAF Odiham. The RAF were delighted with his attitude and the placement has confirmed Archie in his career choice.

Staff Leavers 2018



This Summer we said goodbye to a number of staff from all parts of the school. They will all be missed. From left to right

John Gibbons (prep) has moved from teaching Music to History in another school.

Kathryn Kazali (temporary PA to Mr Leake) is studying for her financial adviser examinations.



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Katharine Lever (pre-prep) has a post In St Peter's primary school.

Pip Slater is enjoying retirement after a very busy life as head of our Pre Prep department.

Roger Leake is training for ordination (see below).

James Steward has had a change of career within teaching. He is now Deputy Head and Year 6 teacher at Harnham Junior School.

Will Appelbee is enjoying his retirement and particularly the extra time he can devote to his band, 'The Songsmiths'. He has also restored two pianos.

Paul Harrison has retired after nearly ten years of redecorating the school. He said he does not want any more decorating work!

News from Roger Leake

After twelve years as Head of Leehurst Swan, you would imagine that Roger would be enjoying a peaceful retirement. However, he is working hard training for ordination and he would be pleased to see Alumni at his Ordination Service **at 10.30 am on 30th June at Salisbury Cathedral**. The following day he will taking up a part time curacy in the Chalke Valley. He has also spent time travelling around the UK visiting grandchildren and taken on a governorship at St David's College Landudno. This is the site for ISA school holiday camps and there Roger has a slightly more unexpected role as Senior Zorber. For the uninitiated, zorbing is travelling down a hill in a large transparent ball. No comparisons with the role of a headteacher should be drawn!



School News

Terence Ayres Appointed as New Headmaster

The Governors of Leehurst Swan are delighted to announce the appointment of Terence Ayres as the new Headmaster, starting in September 2019.



Terence joins us from Thorpe House School in Gerrards Cross where he has been the Headmaster for five years. During his time at Thorpe House he has made changes to the school which have vastly improved the school's facilities, staffing, creative arts, sport and extra-curricular life. Terence remarked that he is 'driven by a desire to provide young people with the very best learning opportunities.'

Terence is an English and Religious Studies graduate and his career has spanned over 22 years. He has taught in the state system and independent sector and before becoming the Headmaster at Thorpe House School was the Deputy Head at Saint Nicholas School, a co-educational independent school, in Essex. He is an enthusiastic sportsman and enjoys playing football (he is a passionate

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Arsenal supporter), tennis and cricket in his spare time; he also enjoys skiing, swimming and surfing when he gets the opportunity. Terence is passionate about the arts, music, cinema and literature and organises regular trips to the West End for students at his current school.

Terence said that he is very excited about leading Leehurst Swan into the next decade and added that he was 'attracted by the school's warmth and commitment to each individual it educates.' He is a visible and child-centred Headmaster so Leehurst Swan's ethos is very much in-line with his own. Terence said that he is 'looking forward to building on the strong foundations laid by Stuart Morgan-Nash and interim headmaster Philip Oldroyd and driving the school forward so that it fulfils its great potential.'

Wassail December 2019

After the death of Mr Morgan Nash the school needed cheering up. The annual Wassail event put on in the Senior School provided just such a distraction. Aably led by Miss Tyrell and Mrs Oliver, the maternity leave replacement for Mrs Boddy, and now compered by Mr David Gamble, we were treated to a very varied programme of musical items, drama and poetry. In keeping with the anniversary of the end of the war the Senior Drama group put together a lively sketch on the theme of the Christmas Truce of 1914.



John Glen MP visits Leehurst Swan

On Friday 25th January, John Glen MP, the member of parliament for Salisbury visited Leehurst Swan. Year 10 and 11 pupils were treated to a description of what it is like to be both a constituency MP and a minister in parliament. He explained that being an MP is generally not a stable job or career but a vocation. As part of his speech he reminded pupils that you can never take anything for granted and have to work hard if you are to succeed. Afterwards, pupils were given the opportunity to ask him questions. John remarked that he 'enjoyed engaging with some very thoughtful and well-articulated questions on a wide range of issues; they had done their homework!'



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News from the PE Department

Our swimmers continue to enjoy excellent success at the ISA championships. We had a record 16 swimmers qualify in both individual races and for the South West regional relay teams. All of the pupils had a fantastic day in an iconic venue, the London Aquatic Centre in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Special mention should go to Ethan Hemming in Year 5 who swam an incredible 50m Freestyle individual race to land himself a silver medal, and to Faye Vincent in Year 8 who was pipped (quite literally by a whisker) into a silver medal position in the 50m Butterfly!

At the ISA South West Cross Country championships we had some amazing results across the board. Our youngest Year 3 and 4 children showed admirable determination at their first event. A particular mention should go to Immy (Y10) who won her race in great style and managed to accumulate a 5 minute lead over her opponents over the 2.5 mile course! Congratulations to the eight athletes who have qualified for the ISA National Champs. These are Libby (Y4), Oli (Y5), Imogen (Y9), Immy (Y10), Ben (Y9), Laurence (Y10) Rosie (Y11) and James (Y11).

A new sport is now available at Leehurst Swan. A fencing club started in January and was a big hit with all the children who attended. It is run by Stuart Smart, who teaches fencing across Berkshire and Wiltshire and coached the bronze medal winner at the British Youth Championships.



Romeo & Juliet by the Young Shakespeare Company, March

Pupils from Years 9 and 10 alongside Year 11 drama students were treated to a vibrant, modern and passionate performance of Romeo and Juliet in 'the round' at the Globe by the Young Shakespeare Company.

Students joined in the dancing at the Capulet Ball and Year 10 boys showed they could do the conga line with some style! Thanks also to Lucy who made an excellent servant, Peter, and to Leo who played an excellent Paris. They both joined the actors on the stage to move the performance along.

The acting troupe commented on what a lovely and intelligent group of young people our students are and they were so grateful for their input as a hugely appreciative audience.



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Alumni News

As promised, we are including some news of more recent Alumni.

Senan Richmond (2015) is attending The London College of Music and undertaking a BA in Acting. He is loving the course and the opportunities to attend shows and theatres in London. This Summer he is off to New York to teach drama at a summer camp. He comments 'I loved my time at Leehurst and I am so grateful that I got to follow my dreams.'

James Herring (2016) is studying Criminology at the University of West England and very much enjoying it. He is a member of their OTC and hopes eventually to become an Army officer.

Abi Eagles (2015) has been offered a place at Clare College Cambridge to study History. Well done Abi!

Another Oxbridge History Graduate, **Alice Yevko (2011)** was a speaker at the Centre for Medieval Studies Postgraduate Conference in June. The Centre was celebrating 50 years and so Alice was heard by a very large number of graduates of all ages. Her topic was Theophilus, the compiler of a manual on artistic crafts, and how his religious beliefs shaped his art.

Matthew Parker (2006)

Matthew has been living in Oxford for the past seven years and has made a career as a public speaker and public speaking coach. He is director of Oxford Toastmasters and has written two books on public speaking. The second, 'Empowering your Public Speaking by

'Jagged Matt Parker' was published in December and is available from Amazon. Matt says he loved our Year 11 Debating Club and learned to think critically through History lessons. He also discovered his 'inner rock star' thanks to Mrs Chaldecott. Well done and good luck in all your endeavours, Matt.

Lewis Commons (2014) has also achieved considerable success in his chosen field. He gained a First Class Honours degree in TV Post Production at Southampton Solent. Congratulations, Lewis, and best wishes for your future career.

Tom Groves and Chris Phillips (2015) are in their final year of undergraduate study. Tom is studying English Language and Literature at King's College London and Chris is reading Politics at Birmingham. Chris could hardly have picked a more interesting three years for this subject! Good luck to both of them and to any other alumni facing finals or other important life events this year.

Email Addresses Please!

The November edition of the newsletter is just an email update and can only be sent to you if we have an email address. So, if you have an email address, please could you send it to us at alumni@leehurstswan.org.uk Thank you.

New Arrangements for Alumni Administration

As Phil stated, the task will now be taken over by our Registrar, Mrs Beverley Smith, whom many of you have met though our lunches. As a result, the best way to contact us is the alumni address given above. Thank you very much for all the support I have enjoyed from Alumni over the past four years. Trudi Cotton.



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