THE QUEEN'S SCHOOL
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

2024

Introduction

We have enjoyed another splendid year at The Queen's School and our strong relationships with our alumni continue. Every year we say goodbye to our Year 13 students whilst welcoming them straight back as part of this community. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you at reunions and other events and it has been a pleasure to speak on the phone, reconnect lost friends and correspond by email too as I continue to nurture this network knowing there is so much willingness to offer support, be involved to remain in touch with other and of course Queen's. I know this 'family of alumni' is living the mantra once a Queen's girl always a Queen's girl (or boy)!

Hayley McDonnell Alumni Relations Manager.

Prize Giving 2023

Our Prize Giving ceremony in September 2023 welcomed back Alumna Janine Turner (Flamank) Class of 1975 as our guest speaker. Janine is a huge advocate of learning foreign languages. She believes that decision to learn foreign languages in an act of friendship, holding our hand, and the decision to teach a language is an act of generosity, a promise to kindle a flame that you hope will never go out. Janine shared that her love for languages started here at The Queen's School and she has never forgotten her French teacher June Hargreaves or her German teacher Ruth Hinde.

Janine presented the prizes and reminded us all to never pass up an opportunity to be inspired, as raising positive emotions will help you on your way to success.

Commemorating Queen's

Ruth Waring Class of '81

The Queen's School 2024 Commemoration Service celebrated 146 years of education. This year, we enjoyed a speech from Ruth Waring (Williams) Class of 1985, who shared her four features of being a Queen's girl, and when these features work together how all girls can thrive. The four include how all Queen's students are clever, know how to learn, can use their Queen's School network and have confidence. Her career pioneering women in logistics inspired tall to know that they too, as a Queen's girls, can have great success in their chosen path whatever that might be.

Our newest alumnae return to school

The academic year began with the traditional Michaelmas supper, where we celebrated the leavers of 2023 who returned for the first time as alumnae of Queen's. Held in the School Dining Hall, the evening ensured the students could spend time together, with some teachers, before heading off to university or their gap year. We enjoyed some delicious food and speeches from Mr Wilson and Mrs Wallace-Woodroffe before raising a glass to students past present and future. We can't wait to hear all your successes.

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Once '4, Always '4: Celebrating Decades of Alumni Reunions

Class of 1973, 1974, 2004, 2014 and more.....

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome alumnae from the Class of 1973 at the beginning of the academic year, and then in the Spring term the class of 1974 back to The Queen's School for their special reunions. For some members of the 1974 class, it was the first time they bad been back to Queen's for 50 years.

A selection of archives was available, and all ladies enjoyed looking for an identifying their name in the original school register, later they enjoyed a tour discovering parts of the school that hadn't changed and exploring new additions too. It was a chance to share memories and hear interesting stories too.

On a much sunnier afternoon, towards the end of the summer term, the class of 2004 arrived back and were keen to see the staff room, dining hall, music room and art room with a special request to visit geography too.

The Annual Alumni Reunion took place in late June and this time leavers from years '62, '74', '76, '80, '84, '85, '02,'14 joined us. It was fabulous to welcome the ladies back to the Senior School and it was a super afternoon for all who attended.

The cohort was so large I needed to take two tours around the school, looking for old haunts and finding out about changes too.

Our Headmistress Mrs Joanne Keville warmly welcomed our guests, sharing what makes The Queen's School so special and introducing our two fundraising initiatives, the 150 for 150 Bursary and the Astroturf 1m2 campaigns. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful buffet and drinks in our Dining Hall as well as tours around the school.

The traditional back lawn photo opportunity is always a favourite.

It was a pleasure to host everyone and you are very welcome to return anytime.

Class of 1973 (September 2023)

Class of 1974 (February 2024)

Class of 2004 (June 2024)

Class of 2014 (June 2024)

Class of 1974 and 1962 (June 2024)

Class of 1984 (June 2024)

More photographs from these events are available on TQN – The Queen's Network. If you are not a member of TQN or haven't visited for a while and cannot remember your password please email alumni@thequeenschool.co.uk and we can help you gain access. A new password will automatically be generated, and you can change it to something you will remember.

Whilst there you may wish to add anything to your own personal details. For example you can opt to receive information about supporting the school through your time and talents by giving careers or university application advice, offering work placements, mentoring current pupils of volunteering in the archives.

Annual Reunion (June 2024)

Role models to inspire

We were delighted to invite back alumnae to present their career paths to Year 12 with distance proving no barrier. **Deanna Coleman (2016)** now immersed in the world of Sustainability in New York with a US airline, regaled Year 12 students with tales of her life at St Andrews, including a year studying in Hong Kong, and her Master's Degree at Columbia. Her encounter with royalty at St Andrew's was a particular highlight, where she met Kate and William and gave a talk about a carbon offsetting proposal that she wrote for the university. Not only were the royals interested in the project and ask a lot of questions, but they planted the very first tree!

Equally, it was wonderful to welcome back three alumnae into Queen's to share their career insights, industry experience and how Queen's helped to launch them on their first steps.

Similarly, our wonderful Year 12 students asked fantastic questions and really took advantage of this opportunity to learn as much as they could from our guests. We welcomed

Dr Lizzie Sutton - Class of 2013

Lizzie is working on an amazing research project as Post-Doc at the University of Liverpool, called the MicroAge II project. It involves growing human muscle which will be sent up to the International Space Station from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre to use micro-gravity as a model of premature muscle ageing.

Dr Lisa Hallam - Class of 2005

Lisa Hallam attended The Queen's School 1995-2005 and went on to study medicine. She was never one of those people who know from an early age what they want to do but having an aptitude for science and maths and aspiring to a career with lots of contact with people made medicine seem like a good choice.

Emma Palmer - Class of 2003

Is a family solicitor but with a slightly unusual twist as she practices international family law and has for many years directly represented children so something a little different from the norm.

Year 12 Guest speaker panel

Deanna speaking with Year 12 in the VBR

Special thanks

to the following who have been invaluable to our current pupils this academic year offering advice and support.

Laura Watson - offered Dental School mock interviews and advice for Year 13 Dental applicants

Jessica Jones - who studied Music at University came into school to speak with sixth formers hoping to study music or performing arts.

Xanthe Lord - offering email support to our year 12 Physiotherapists

Alice Pym – talking to Year 12 students about her career in Physiotherapy at the Countess of Chester

Elizabeth Wood-Bowyer – a Teams meeting with a Year 12 pupil about a career in Engineering and her work as a Performance Engineer at Williams F1 Racing.

Liv Jones - Award-winning Journalist for the Telegraph who connected with aspiring writers in Year 11 and 12, offering valuable insights into her journey.

Inspiring Teachers

Our Queen's School teachers have always worked hard to support students, the impact they make continues long after both teacher and student have left school. We often receive emails from past students asking us to contact a previous teacher on their behalf. Here is one such exchange…

I hope this email finds you well. I appreciate that this might seem a little 'out of the blue' but I wanted to share that I have been asked to find your details from another Queen's School Alumnae. It is from a JL who refers to you as her 'lovely music teacher from the 1970s'

Yes, please do pass on my details to JL (or JP, as she was when I taught her!) I remember J very well, as she was a talented and keen musician. We met up again on a couple of courses in the early 2000s, when our roles reversed and I was on the learning side, whilst she was well versed in the teaching techniques we were studying! Her older sister S was also a good musician, and we met up again at J's wedding. Thank you for enabling alumnae to keep in touch - I always enjoy hearing from former pupils! J D

and another

Dear Mrs D, E referred to you as her Biology teacher who inspired her to go on and study Biology .. She would very much like to connect with you and if you would like her contact details please let me know.

Hello, a friend recently showed me the article on the website about E's success and I had meant to contact her to let her know how much I appreciated her kind words. I have vivid memories of the conversations I had with her about pursuing biology and was delighted to read about where her studies have taken her and the success she has achieved.

I would love to connect with E please do pass my contact details to her, or hers to me - whichever is easier.

Do you have any teacher memories that you would like to share? Is there someone you would like to connect with? If so, we would love to create a feature of previous teachers, who are now of course alumni. Ex teachers of the Queen's School are invited to share too. So, if this is you and you have a special memory let us know by emailing alumni@thequeenschool.co.uk

Caroline Harriman Class of 2017 contacted us to share with Mr Wilson our Head of Sixth form…

"I have recently learned that I have been included in the postgraduate guide at the University of Kent, which is a great honour.

I had the pleasure of becoming an Assistant Lecturer at the university this year and I adopted many of the teaching techniques you use in your classes. It was an incredibly rewarding experience.

This recognition is a testament to the quality education and mentorship I received from you, and I wanted to share this exciting achievement with you.

Thank you for all your support during those difficult times in school when I couldn't see my potential; you continue to motivate and inspire me."

Caroline Harriman '17

Alumni Spotlight

We really are lucky in that there are so many fabulous, inspiring, interesting stories that are shared with us about the lives of Queen's students after they embark on their own adventures. Here is just one.

Val Bannan, Class of 1974

After leaving Queen's in 1974, I went straight to university to study Music and attained my BA degree and a PGCE. Whilst there I met and married my husband Nick (also a musician); then taught classroom music in various girls' grammar and private schools; had three children and eventually became Head of Juniors at an independent school in Maidenhead, where I worked for twenty years.

My lessons always incorporated lots of singing and practical activities and, with the advent of the GCSE and the first National Curriculum, school music broadened to take in the vast domain of non-Western forms, and much more besides. Original composition was a central part of the curriculum across all age ranges, alongside skills in music technology, and I was delighted when I was appointed to a management role within my school, taking specific responsibility for the Junior department. I found a real affinity for working with 7 to 11 year-olds, and in teaching different subjects across the whole curriculum, while still being able to develop my choral and instrumental groups and direct musical productions. The best of all worlds!

Then, when my husband was offered a post at the University of Western Australia and we found ourselves relocating to Perth, I applied for and became a teacher in charge of music at a co-educational school of 3-13 year olds, which, for the final eight years of my career, entailed my learning all kinds of unfamiliar new skills, both musical and educational. I relished the experience but was more than ready to embrace retirement when I turned 60, giving me the chance to take more frequent trips back 'home' to catch up with our growing family of five grandchildren in the UK. When my husband finally retired too, at the end of 2020 (and what a year that had turned out to be!), we carried out our declared intention to return for good to live in the UK.

Living and working in Australia had been a great experience even though we had never previously anticipated, let alone planned, that our professional lives would take us 'Down Under'! It just goes to show that however much you think you have mapped out your career path, all that you can be sure of is that the unexpected will happen. When that occurs, all you can do is to call upon your prior experience, knowledge and understanding, to believe in yourself, accept the challenge and adapt!

In April this year, in Chester Town Hall, I became a Freeman of the City, an ancient legacy passed down to me through my grandfather. He had earned the right to join the Freemen & City Guilds of Chester a s very young man in 1906, through having served his 'indentures' as an apprentice carpenter and joiner fo seven years. Amongst other local work, he was part of the team who restored the Cathedral refectory roof in the 1930's. For me, as a pupil at Queen's on a 'free place' under the old Direct Grant scheme, I personally benefitted after the untimely death of my own father when I was only aged 12. The Owen Jones charity, having connections both with The Queen's School and with the City Companies of Chester, awarded me a small annual to pay for my instrumental music lessons So it was with both pleasure and gratitude that I was able formally to receive and accept my 'Freedom' of Chester from the Mayor at the annual Pentice Court ceremony this year.

The new Headmistress, Mrs Joanne Keville, spoke at our recent alumna lunch party about the importance of the bursary fund to the school I, for one, would never have been able to attend as a pupil if it hadn't been for the post-war Direct Gran scheme. I worked hard to justify my free place, became the Queen's Jubilee Scholar in my final year, and was one of the ten (ten!) Sixth formers in 1974 to gain a place of Oxford or Cambridge (back in the days when all university tuition fees were paid by the local authority - what a fortunate generation we were!). Throughout my subsequent career, I've done my best to pass on to my own pupils the quality of teaching, pastoral support and personal encouragement I myself received at Queen's. Despite all the economic difficulties that exist these days, it's good to see that the school continues to flourish.

Alumni news

Mary Thomson (nee Proudlove) contacted us suggesting that she was among our oldest alumni of the '61 vintage – her words! She has graciously gifted the school library her first collection of poems which she published on her 80th birthday in Glasgow. Mary's book, 'Still Dancing', was gratefully received and if you would like details where to purchase it please get in touch via email alumni@thequeensschool.co.uk

It is always a pleasure to welcome back past students to school, and an impromptu visit from Emma and Sophie from the Class of 2019 who just 'popped in' was the perfect opportunity to introduce myself and offer a quick tour. Emma who will graduate from the University of Nottingham after studying Veterinary Medicine, and Sophie who will graduate from the University of Liverpool in Medicine will both be doctors in their respective rights.

Emma and Sophie loved looking round the music and drama rooms, the gym and the main school hall. Emma was especially interested in the photographs of previous musical events held here at Queen's as she was an avid musician and singer. Sophie too remembered music lessons and playing lacrosse for the school. They were both interested to find out more about the new Astroturf plans and the 1m2 campaign.

Lowri Nala Quarrell, Class of 2018, has joined Desert Knowledge Australia for her internship as part of her Business degree at the University of South Australia.

She's been looking at how they can better organise their waste at the Desert Knowledge Precinct between the different partners and reduce their carbon footprint. She has subsequently written a report with research and brilliant ideas they hope to move forward with shortly.

"I wanted to see what it was like to work for a smaller organisation where there was less of a hierarchy than in my previous roles," she said. "It was great to be able to work directly with the CEO.

Congratulation to Lowri, we wish you success with the rest of your studies.

Anna Williams, Class of 2003 has been awarded her BEM (British Empire Medal) for her 'services to environmentally sustainable healthcare at Wrexham Maelor Hospital. She chairs the hospital's Green Group, which she founded in 2021, with the aim of delivering environmentally sustainable healthcare within the hospital community and beyond. Her interventions have helped achieve sustainable goals by the decarbonisation of inhalers, the introduction of reusable ear, nose and throat scopes, surgical gowns and sharps bins.

Reconnecting with Our Roots: An Old Boy's Visit

Remember when boys were part of The Queen's School? In February 2024 one of our 'old boys' contacted us here at Queen's and asked for a tour around the Lower School. Wim was part of the Queen's Prep dept, Sandford House, on Liverpool Road between 1983 and 1986, as one of the few boys in the school. He was in Mrs Whealan's class, followed by Mrs Gough's class before moving on in Sept 1986. He provided names to faces and some contact details of other 'old boys' too. Does anyone recognise themselves from this whole photo?

The Queen's Network – a platform dedicated to and for Queen's Alumni.

The Queen's Network is our online platform for all things related to Queen's Alumni. It really is a fantastic resource. Amongst its many uses, it helps us correspond with the large number of members and locate those who we need to find easily. It is useful for our fundraising campaigns also. However, it is most valuable to you, our members and offers so many more benefits to us all than other online media platforms including our content control and community building.

All alumni, should they choose to, can have their own profile and can add any extra information, such as opt in to receive information about supporting the school through your time and talents. You may, for example opt in to give careers or university application advice, offer a work placement, mentor current pupils or volunteer in the Archives. You can also update with what and how you hear from us and add new contact details too. You can change this anytime and decide to make your profile available or hidden.

TQN has a business directory, where you can share industry information about yourself with links and photographs. You can offer discounts to other alumni too if you choose. I would love this to be a 'one stop' resource for all alumni as a starting point for any services or resources needed.

The other fabulous part of TQN is the capacity for you to announce something for other members via our Bulletin Board. This could be along the lines of, " I am looking for….." or "Does anyone have any job opportunities in……" The Photo Board houses all the photos from reunions and other events too. There is a page dedicated to just reunions, as we know how important these occasions are for you. The News section has longer pieces of blog content including articles submitted from members of the community. Finally, there is information about the different fundraising campaigns and how you could support us.

TQN is updated regularly so you don't have to wait for the annual Alumni Newsletter to get your Queen's School news. It is something you can very much contribute to in so many ways.

Calling all Head girls!

Our Head Girl for 2023-2024 Natasha Latham approached me with the suggestion of a Head Girl's board to be insitu in school and added to every year. Natasha and I are working on events for Head Girls so any suggestions please share, and we can also keep in touch about the Head Girls board. If you were a Head Girl of your Queen's School year, please let us know so we can keep you informed.

Class reps

As the Class Rep of your year group, you play a key role in helping keep everyone connected and the spirit of Queen's alive. Together, we can continue to foster a strong and vibrant alumnae community for many years to come. If you are the Class Rep and would like to hand the baton on to someone else I can help, similarly if you would love to be Class Rep and are perhaps busy organising and reminding your peers of all things Queen's I can help you have recognition of that too.

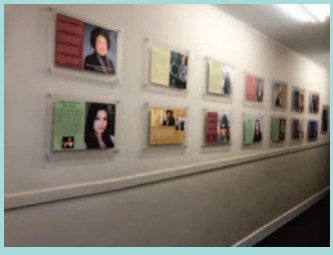
Alumnae Details & Info on TQN:

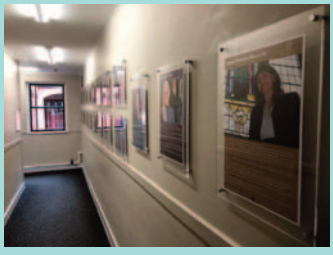
To ensure we're able to connect and reach as many alumnae as possible, we are looking to update the information we have. Please can you check any information and update anything that may have changed be it email/home addresses, phone numbers etc.

Please send any correspondence to alumni@thequeenschool.co.uk

Case Study Profiles:

We are looking for alumnae interested in being featured on our website and promotional materials, and our aim is to feature a profile for every year group. A profile picture and a few words about your school days and achievements are all we need. We can help you create some content too, if you need a few prompts. Examples of case study profiles can be found on the alumni section on the website and, if you visit us in school, you can see the selection we have that adorn what is affectionately referred to as 'alumni corridor'.





Muck up day 2024

We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2024 as our newest alumni and they will join us as alumni guests at the traditional Michaelmas supper at the beginning of the academic year in September at the Michaelmas supper held here in the evening at The Queen's School on the 11th September the same day as Prize Giving.

Mrs Sue Wallace-Woodroffe

Headmistress 2018-2024

We welcome Mrs W-W as a member of our alumni community. Under her leadership, our School has become a vibrant hub of learning, innovation and inclusivity. Her vision is exemplified by the determination to build an AstroTurf and the School's first Virtual Boardroom, providing every girl at Queen's with outstanding opportunities for growth. Sue retired from The Queen's School in April 2024 after 6 years and, we look forward to welcoming her back at one of our many events. As we all know, once a Queen's girls always a Queen's girl.

Thank you, for your unparalleled leadership and the profound impact you've had on all of us.

Meet the team Left to Right

Jane Archibald
Director of External Relations

Hayley McDonnell
Alumni Relations Manager

Amy Lewis
External Relations Office Assistant

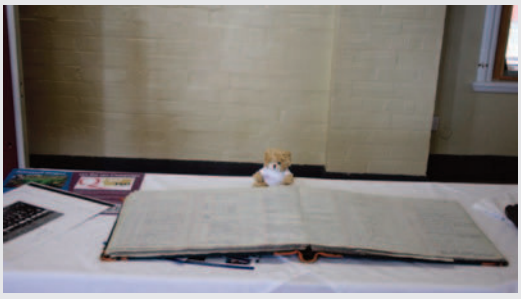
alumni@thequeensschool.co.uk

Archive News

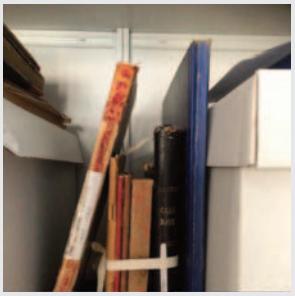
Our rich heritage and history is something we hold dear at Queen's and are very proud of especially as we approach our 150th anniversary. As such we are delighted that, with help from professional archivist volunteers, alumni and the Cheshire Records Office, we are embarking on an exciting project.

There will be a thorough assessment to determine the contents and needs of the collection, cataloguing of items, and plans to:

1. Group similar items and create a preliminary inventory list with essential details.
2 Implement systematic organisation with a classification system, assigning unique identifiers to each item, and creating detailed records in a digital database for easy retrieval.
3. Digitize much of the collection, creating high-resolution scans stored in a secure digital archive to preserve the originals and make them shareable and searchable.
4. Implement preservation measures, such as acid-free folders, protective sleeves, and climate-controlled storage to prevent deterioration and ensure long-term preservation.
5. I have also begun developing user guidelines on proper handling and documentation to maintain the archive's organisation.



This project aims to preserve the rich history of The Queen's School with Cheshire Records Office supporting us. We will still have full access to our collection and any further donations, so please continue to send us anything related to the history of The Queen's School. Any donations are welcome, and please feel free to contact us at alumni@thequeenschool.co.uk to discuss anything archive related.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Denise Pinto (nee Whitehead), Class of 1966, died on 17th September 2023. Denise attended Queen's from 1979 to 1986. She played the flute, debated and excelled at languages both French and German. She went on to Cambridge University and a successful career in law, both as a Solicitor and latterly running her own niche business advising on university contracts.
Denise had fought cancer for many years and was brave and stoic in its face. She died in hospital in London, with her husband and four children by her side.

Brenda Hughes (nee Boden), Class of 1964, unexpectedly passed away in June 2023.
Her son shared that Brenda had very fond memories of the school and had visited in recent years. After leaving school and marrying; Brenda moved to London in the late sixties and had two children.
Brenda enjoyed a short stint in banking, before pursuing a career in private aviation. She enjoyed a rich life – travelling often with her family, skiing with friends and spending time outside with her loyal dogs.

Norma Pullen (née Young) sadly died suddenly on 4 April 2023. A couple of months later her husband, Glenn, also died. While clearing their house her daughters came upon a big box of old photographs of classmates which, fortunately, Norma thought to collect names of (most of) the girls and the date is included - 27/7/1958. Any photographs received will be added to our archive collection.

Liz Rowland, now Liz Afia shares that her elder daughter **Pippa Rowland**, who was at Nedham House and left Queens in 1990 to study Commerce at Birmingham University, died in February 23 from cancer.

Mary Brown (Walling), Class of 1951, passed in January 2021 in Victoria, Vancouver Island Canda. Her husband Roy shared a great deal of information and said that Mary had told him that she had many friends at The Queen's School and often reminisced about her school life. He said she was very grateful for these experiences and often referred to them as they helped her in later life. Mary was also interested in music and took lessons while at The Queen's School. Additional information on the Alumni Facebook page too.

Mary Vallance, Class of 1955, passed away on 2 May 2024. Mary was involved in reunions with fellow alumnae from The Queen's School.

Hilary Steele (nee Preston), Class of 1955 died on 19 January 2024 and was still in contact with those from her year group.

Agnes Denise Pritchard was a pupil at The Queen's School in the 1930's. She recently passed away and graciously left a financial gift to the school in her will. Her niece told us that she became the chief pharmacists for the area's hospitals. She was also interested in music and drama, as well as being an avid reader. She requested that this donation be made to the 150 for 150 Bursary Fund.

Read our 2024 copy of Have Mynde

Q150 FOR 150

Supporting the School

To make a donation to any of our Queen's projects, such as the new Astroturf, the 150 for 150 Bursary Campaign, or simply to make a donation in memoriam, please scan this QR code.

Any contributions are hugely appreciated and will make a real difference to The Queen's School.

The Queen's School Alumni, Fundraising and Development Privacy Notice is available on our website www.thequeensschool.co.uk/privacynotices and on paper on request.

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