



## Westcliff High School for Boys

# Alumni Network Newsletter

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## Issue 7 - Autumn 2018

### WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER, MIKE SKELLY

Welcome to the Autumn Term edition of the WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter. I am delighted to have this regular opportunity to provide a brief update on your School, but please do also visit our website and read the Westcliff Diary for further information and news.

Following a further year of outstanding public examination results at both GCSE and A Level this summer, I am proud to report that WHSB has recently been placed 36th in the country in the recent table of State Schools published in the Sunday Times. I congratulate our School community on this tremendous achievement.

Much of our most recent building work, specifically the refurbishment of the Technology Building and extension to the Science Building, has been completed and the rest is well underway. Pupils are now utilising the much-improved Technology facilities, including a state-of-the-art Food Room on the first floor. Work is underway on the Science Building will



result in an additional, full-size (90m<sup>2</sup>) laboratory. These further works will ensure that we can continue to provide an outstanding 21st Century education for our pupils whilst we have continued to expand, now entering the fourth year in which we have admitted 185 pupils into Year 7.

Our plans for the programme of events for the School's Centenary Year are progressing and I hope that you have now reserved the date of our Official Launch (1 February 2020) in your diary. This exciting evening will showcase the best of the School's talent, music and drama, and we hope you will be able to join us. Further details on this event and booking arrangements will follow during the next few days. Other events taking place during 2020 will include exhibitions at the School, a series of special lectures, concerts and drama productions, and a joint Garden Party with Westcliff High School for Girls.

A great deal of the School's success is due to the support offered by its wider community and we are fortunate to receive generous support from our Alumni, the OWA, the Parents' Association and families of our current pupils. Recent generous donations have enabled the School to purchase and install three flagpoles on the South Drive, providing a valuable training resource for our Combined Cadet Force; the Royal Navy Section, in particular. We are also grateful to Mr Berger, former Head of History

at WHSB, for a generous donation in support of History teaching at the School. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association whose donation this term has enabled us to purchase a much-needed replacement minibus.

Continuing to provide our pupils with an excellent range of facilities and opportunities is increasingly challenging in the current environment of scarce public funding and we are so grateful for additional support. If you, or your organisation, would like to discuss ways in which you may be able to offer support please to get in touch as we would be delighted to hear from you. Details of sponsorship opportunities are included on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming many of our Old Boys and Girls back to the School for many of our events this term and next, including our festive musical and choral events this month. The Westcliff Diary lists our programme and we would be delighted to see you back at the School. Tickets can be obtained via TicketSource at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>. Alternatively, please contact our CDO Team for further information, or to arrange to visit us at the School on another occasion.

I offer you my very best wishes for the Christmas period and the New Year.

## ALUMNI PROFILE: IAN GRAVES

An Old Westcliffian (1977 to 1984), Ian was a School Prefect and Captain of the 1st XI Hockey & Cricket teams. He has over thirty years of business consulting and recruitment services experience, having worked for one of the world's most successful recruitment organisations. This organisation, Global S&P 500 listed on the NYE, pioneered specialised recruitment services and is a world-leader in helping companies hire professional staff across a variety of sectors including accounting and finance, banking and IT.

Ian joined in 1994 as a consultant working in their City of London Office. His role over the years has involved leading teams to deliver value added solutions to an international client base. Acting and advising on critical executive hiring, talent management, leadership development, change

management and succession planning are his key areas of expertise. Ian sat on the global steering committee of this \$5billion company and has been the driving force behind various SME start-up businesses both domestically and internationally in his capacity as Senior Managing Director for Continental Europe and The Middle East. Following his long and successful corporate career, in February this year Ian set up his own company The SEVARGI Group. The SEVARGI Group is comprised of companies offering Search & Selection, Consultancy & Talent Management solutions to Financial Services Clients, Candidates and Companies from its London-based offices overlooking the Bank of England.

Having a keen interest in sport, Ian plays golf, cycles and skis. He lives in The Cotswolds with his wife



Caralyn and has two children and two grand-children. Actively supporting Westcliff High School for Boys, Ian provides careers advice and potential job opportunities and work experience for current students.

## PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

It was another outstanding year for A Level results at Westcliff High School for Boys with 20% of entries graded A\* and 50% of all entries graded A\* or A. In addition, a remarkable 80% of all entries were graded A\*, A or B. Nine students have obtained Oxbridge places and many others will be undertaking courses at prestigious Russell Group Universities. There were many superb individual performances, with ten students



getting three or more A\* grades. Four students secured 4 A\* grades and are going to top universities, such as the University of Cambridge, to read Medicine, Engineering, Economics and Geological Sciences. There are many delighted students who have achieved the necessary grades for their first-choice university.

We also congratulated our pupils on their excellent performance in their GCSE examinations in 2018. Having achieved 76% of all grades at 7-9 (A\*-A) their results are the School's best-ever GCSE results. Twenty percent of examinations were graded 9 (which the national tables value above a former A\*). This is an exceptional performance, with pupils rising

brilliantly to the challenge presented by the new GCSE examinations. In summary, 103 pupils (70% of all Year 11 pupils) achieved 8 or more 7-9 (A\*-A) grades, 27 pupils achieved a total of 12 or more 7-9 (A\*-A) grades, and ten students achieved the equivalent of 12A\*/8-9 grades.

These results place Westcliff High School for Boys among the leading schools in the Country.



## A LEVEL CERTIFICATE COLLECTION FOR 2018 LEAVERS

Firstly, we do hope that things are going well for those members of our Alumni Community who left the School after completing their A Level examinations. From 3.45pm to 5.00pm on Monday 17 December 2018, there will be an informal get-together in the Sixth Form Building for all those who left Year 13 in Summer 2018. There will be the opportunity to catch

up with members of staff and your contemporaries with refreshments available. In addition, you will be able to collect your Examination Certificates.

Further information has been emailed to all those for whom we have a contact email address but please do spread the word to your fellow leavers who

may not have signed up to the Alumni Network prior to leaving School.

If you are unable to attend, Examination Certificates may be collected from Reception during Term Time by prior arrangement with Mrs Economou (Examinations Officer) who can be contacted by emailing [economou@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:economou@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

# OWA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2018

On Friday 7 September 2018 the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) Annual Reunion Dinner was held in the School Hall. Over 100 people, collaboratively spanning an impressive nine decades, joined together to celebrate the event. This year's speaker was Old Westcliffian Neil Harman, sports journalist, author and latterly chief tennis correspondent for The Times.

Alumni are requested to save the date for next year's OWA Annual Reunion Dinner to be held in the School Hall on Friday 6 September 2019. Further details will follow in future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter.



# ALUMNI DONATIONS

We are very grateful to the family of the late Mr Leonard Tate (Old Westcliffian 1945 to 1950) for kindly donating Mr Tate's Westcliff High School for Boys memorabilia to the School's archive collection. Amongst the items donated was an Annual Sports Day programme dated Saturday 18 May 1946. Significantly, the programme states that it is the '27th Annual Sports' day, indicating that despite the War years and evacuation to Derbyshire, the School held a Sports Day every year since being founded in 1920. Of particular significance was the fact that it was the first School Sports Day since WW2 had ended, eight months previously. Another insight into the social historical context of the era

was the statement in the programme "It is regretted that owing to current restrictions, no food can be supplied." - a sign of the times as post-war austerity measures included food rationing which continued in Britain until 1954. The original programme itself is in wonderful condition with evidence that Mr Tate, then a First Year pupil, had personalised it himself over 70 years ago. Pencilled notes recorded where he had been placed in certain races and the School crest on the front cover had been coloured in!

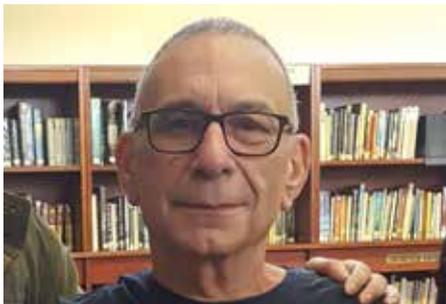
We also thank Mrs Elaine Tucker and family for donating a whole school photograph taken in 1932 that belonged to her late Father, Howard

Stone. Mr Stone played a leading role in the Southend business community for more than 50 years, building an empire of 29 HW Stone electrical stores. He was also a Director of Southend United Football Club and was one of the founders of Essex FM. Born in West Ham on September 11, 1917, Mr Stone moved to Thundersley with his family when he was six. A pupil at Thundersley Primary School and then Westcliff High School for Boys from 1928 to 1935, he was a keen sportsman and talented tennis player. During the Second World War he served in the Fleet Air Arm and served on HMS Formidable. Mr Stone passed away in 2008.

# ALUMNI VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

We welcomed a further two members of our Alumni Community back to the School this term.

Professor Tony Barnett (1955 to



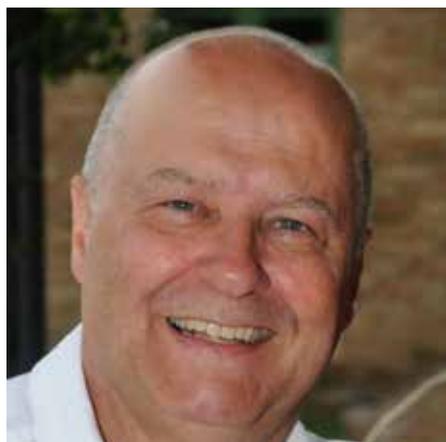
1962) visited in September, along with members of his family. Professor Barnett was School Captain in 1962 and recounted his involvement (as Head Boy seated on the stage), in the infamous 'Skeleton Assembly' during Henry Cloke's tenure as Headmaster.

Paul Sanders (1949 to 1954) visited the School in October and has very kindly lent the Community Development Office his copy of the commemorative Golden Jubilee brochure "Westcliff High School for Boys 1920 - 1970". During his visit, Mr Sanders' was

able to find a photograph on the wall outside the Westcliff Theatre (the Art Room during his time at the School) of a 1952 production of "The Zeal of Thy House" by Dorothy L. Sayers in which he appeared. He can also recall the School Community receiving news of the death of King George VI during the lunch break on 6 February 1952. Three members of the Sanders family have attended WHSB: Mr Sanders' son attended during the 1970/80s; and his grandson is presently a pupil in Year 8.

# ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We were delighted to hear from Old Westcliffian Ian White (1962 to 1966) who now lives in Australia. Ian was in classes 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A and represented the School at Rugby, Cricket and Athletics before



emigrating with his family to Australia in 1966. During his working life, within the mining industry, Ian has lived in Papua New Guinea and Africa. He settled in Australia with his wife of 46 years and they have two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Ian said that regrettably he has lost touch with most of his fellow pupils and would be interested to hear from any of his old friends and associates with whom he would have been at Westcliff back in the 1960s. If anyone would like to make contact with Ian, please contact us in the School's Community Development Office in the first instance:  
[community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk).



*Ian and his peers in Summer 1966 on a day-trip boat to France from Southend Pier.*

*From left-to-right:  
? Thompson, Ian White, Terry Bobin, Derek Bradon, Geoff Cordwell, Colin Weedon, ? (year below), Trevor Forder*

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

As the level of public funding in schools continues to decline, we are increasingly having to seek financial support and sponsorship from within our School community and outside in order to ensure we can continue to offer our pupils a full range of opportunities and excellent facilities. We are most grateful to those who have already offered generous support, and those who are now expressing an interest in becoming involved with supporting our Centenary Programme of Events. There are so many ways in which you could become involved in offering sponsorship, whether in support of general facilities, or in the form of a donation for a specific area of the curriculum or activity. Your sponsorship, financial or other support can make a real difference to

the present and future experiences of our current pupils and we would be delighted to hear from you.

There are also many potential benefits to sponsors offering support, through an association with WHSB which features regularly in the top 50 State Schools in the Country.

The WHSB Community is made up of several constituent groups to which a sponsoring partner may have appropriate exposure, including almost 1,200 pupils living in the local catchment area and throughout Essex, over 1,000 families and more than 5,000 Alumni in the UK, other European countries and beyond. Equally, the School hosts events involving external organisations, and

many external Sports Clubs including rugby, football, cricket, hockey, athletics, badminton and archery utilise the School's sports facilities each year.

The School attracts thousands of visitors each year to its sports events, exhibitions, productions, concerts and prospective Open Evenings, and we publish details of our Sponsors in our programmes, materials and relevant press releases. If you would like to discuss ways in which you, or your organisation, could become involved in sponsorship and make a difference, please contact the Headmaster via the Community Development Office ([community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk)).

## FORTHCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

### **Christmas with the Big Band Friday 7 December 2018 - 7.30pm**

Join the WHSB Music Department for a night full of jolly jazz and Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit. Zac Barrett will lead the Junior Jazz Band, supporting the Big Band who will later take to the stage with a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues favourites, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. Joining them will be a collection of smaller ensembles playing a collection of contemporary music. As in previous years, guests are invited to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy while sitting with their friends at tables in the Main Hall. Reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.

### **Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols Monday 17 December 2018 - 7.30pm**

You are warmly invited to the School's traditional service of Lessons and Carols, an opportunity for our School and Alumni Community to come together in what promises to be a rousing evening. Mince pies and coffee will be served afterwards. Tickets are free.

*Tickets for all events are available to purchase at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.*

## LAST WORD

If you or someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office. The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

In addition, you can follow WHSB on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. We would be delighted to welcome members of our Alumni Community back to the School to see what is going on.

We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter which will be published termly, with the next scheduled for Spring 2019. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the CDO. We look forward to hearing from you.



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