

FULLER NEWS

The Alumni Newsletter of Watford Grammar School for Boys
www.watfordboys.org alumni@watfordboys.org

Say 'Yes' and stay part of the Fullerian family

As you may know, the way the school contacts you could be about to change, due to new data protection regulations.

So unless we hear from you (or if you contacted us after the previous newsletter in the summer), you may not hear from us again until you 'opt-in' to communications.

While at time of writing, the new regulations have not been finalised, by asking for your permission we are ensuring we meet the maximum standards for contacting those who have been part of Watford Boys in the past.

We don't want to lose touch with you, and we hope that you enjoy hearing from Watford Grammar School for Boys. You're part of our family and we want things to stay that way.

We would like to confirm your consent to receive these newsletters and for the school to continue to hold your data. **Please fill out [this secure online form to say 'Yes'](#): or fill out and send back the form at the back of this newsletter.**

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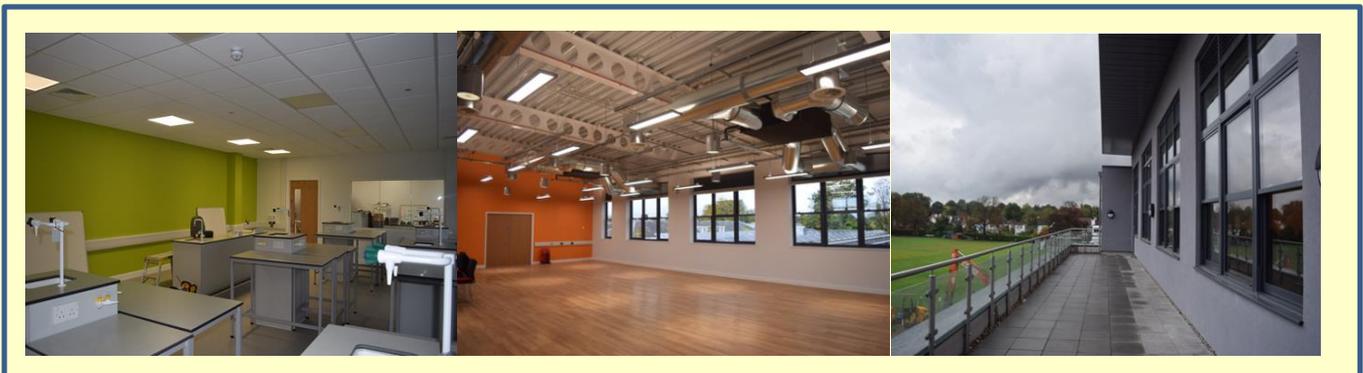
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This will guarantee you still receive communications from us once the new GDPR regulations come into force.

The school is at a very exciting stage in its history with fabulous new facilities and an expansion in our student numbers which will necessitate the formation of a new school house. As well as the event detailed on p2, we hope to offer more alumni events in 2018.

You can read about this and more in this edition of Fuller News and we look forward to sending you future editions and updates once you have opted in to say 'yes.'

Ian Cooksey



Rée House

In response to increased pressure on school places in Hertfordshire, and following recent expansion works that can accommodate more boys, Watford Grammar School for Boys will be admitting an eighth form of entry from September 2018. This necessitates the creation of a new House, the first since Groves House was added in 2002.

The new House will be named Rée House, after legendary Headmaster Harry Rée (1951-1961). For many, Rée needs no introduction; a complex character who was a pacifist turned war-hero, and went on to be a highly influential, and fondly remembered Headmaster.

Rée wrote 'The Essential Grammar School' and went on to be Professor of Education at York University when it opened in 1963. He became known as a leading contributor to national debates about the role of education. He retired in 1980 having taught languages at a comprehensive school in London for six years.



Harry Rée

Rée was a legendary saboteur in the war and is the only WBGS Headmaster to have starred in a film, appearing in 'School for Danger', commissioned by the RAF about the Special Operations Executive during the war. Old Fullerians from Rée's era recall that he never spoke of his wartime exploits; in fact, he did not talk publicly about his experiences until very late in his life.

As an integral part of Watford Boys history, the new House will ensure that Rée is remembered for generations to come.

Invitation to Rée-era Old Fullerians to attend special lunch

To mark the introduction of Rée House, Watford Grammar School for Boys would like to invite those who studied at the school while Harry Rée was Headmaster (1951-1962) to a special lunch to reminisce about their time at the school and have a tour of the grounds up to 65 years on.

We will be joined by Bill Bailey (1957-1964) who will say a few words about Rée. The two men remained in contact for many decades after both left the school.

The lunch will be held at the school on the 24th March from 12.30-3pm. A lunch buffet will be served before speeches and tours.

Tickets to the lunch will cost £20 per person (partners are welcome). To sign up, please fill in and return the slip below with a cheque made out to Watford Grammar School for Boys by 1 March, marked FAO Hollie Rendall, and you will be contacted with further details. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

I would like to attend the Harry Rée lunch on 24th March 2018

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Years attended WBGS: _____ - _____

News from around the school

Tennis

The Senior Tennis 1st team won their group in the Aegon Schools' National Championships by beating Aldenham, Dr Challoner's and Haberdashers Boys each by the same score lines of 7 rubbers to 6. Each fixture was won by Watford Boys in deciding championship doubles tie breaks after the teams were locked with 6 points each.

Rugby

This season 127 rugby fixtures have been played with 23 teams representing WBGS. This has included an enormous 425 different boys representing the school in competitive matches.

The 1st XV have been captained tremendously this season. They have had a good season which has been capped by a fantastic cup run. The team reached the final of the County cup with convincing victories over St Albans and Verulam along the way. Unfortunately the boys were out classed in the final by a very strong Haileybury XV. The heart and passion that our boys played with in the final was a credit to the school.

Student Counselling Service

Youth mental health charity, YoungMinds, estimates that three children in every classroom have a mental health problem and with NHS mental health resources often limited, it's an issue on which Watford Boys wanted to lead the way.

The school was aware that teenage boys may not want to talk to their parents about their mental health, so having a free, confidential resource in school to which boys can self-refer without their parents being involved would be a solution to this problem.

Two external counsellors from Safe Space now offer sessions once a week, with the first year funded by the Watford Fuller Foundation.

So far, the sessions have been fully booked – although the wait for a session hasn't been lengthy. The school hopes that this will continue to foster an atmosphere of emotional wellbeing in the school.

The 2nd XV under Ross Panter's leadership and the captaincy of Nathan Kelion have played 9 fixtures, winning 5 and losing 4. They have had some great wins against St Albans, Haberdashers and Bedford Modern and narrow losses against Richard Hale and UCS.



Old Boy News

Michael Segalov (2004-2011) is News Editor at Huck Magazine and is a regular writer for The Guardian, The Independent, Vice, and other media outlets. He is currently writing his first book, a beginners' guide to activism.

Alex Lozowski (2004-2011) has achieved two caps for England Rugby and been picked for their 33-man training squad, as well as signing a new two-year deal for Saracens.

Sam England (1999-2006) was named the City's second best stock-picker in the annual StarMine analyst awards in May 2017. Sam is a retail, consumer, healthcare and real estate analyst at Berenberg.

Congratulations to our newest alumni who have taken up places at university this year.

To submit Old Boy news for the next issue please email alumni@watfordboys.org

Launching the STEM Centre



After years of planning and months of building, Watford Grammar School for Boys formally opened its new STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) Centre in a day of special activities and events on Thursday 9th November 2017.

With the cost of the building covered by external grants, the school looked to parents and old boys for donations towards the fixtures, fittings and equipment required – including top of the range kit such as 3D printers, laser cutters and computers for a CAD/CAM suite that most former students could hardly have dreamed of.

Nearly 150 donors contributed to the fund, meaning that by launch day the boys were able to see much of the equipment they will be able to use in their studies.

Launch day began with the first ever lessons in the STEM Centre, which were taught by researchers from Imperial College, London, and included students from other local schools. Local outreach is a key objective of the new Centre. Member of Parliament for Watford, Richard Harrington, toured the building and joined a couple of lessons.

The guest of honour for the day was Lord Robert Winston, who spoke with a number of sixth formers before giving an inspirational talk to Year 7 students. He described himself as honoured to be opening the Centre and told the boys how lucky they are to have seven years of studying there ahead of them – a sentiment that really seems to be felt by the boys at the school.



Launching the STEM Centre (continued)

In the evening, the school welcomed 200 guests to celebrate the opening of the Centre. Guests included donors, staff and those who have given to the school, whether financially or with their time. With music provided by Stephen Hussey and students Tom Watts and Eddie Cummins on the trumpet and saxophone respectively, it was enjoyed by all.

A particular highlight for attendees was the opening speech by Sir John Holman in which he recounted finding a World War II bomb in his office shortly after becoming Head of Chemistry! It was wonderful to see former staff come back and see the new development, with Martin Post, Mark Allchorn, Peter Dilloway, Emma Brogan, Peter Nunn, Robert Chapman and Peter Buckley all in attendance.

The STEM Centre is now becoming fully operational with lessons and clubs taking place. The top floor conference hall is a new fantastic resource for larger gatherings, with the balcony offering spectacular views across the whole school site.

The school would like to once again thank all the alumni who donated to the STEM Centre appeal; the interest and investment in our current and future students is deeply appreciated.



Mentoring opportunity at WBGs

In partnership with Youth Connection Hertfordshire and The Careers & Enterprise Company, Watford Grammar School for Boys is setting up an employer mentoring programme where Old Fullarians mentor current students in the school.

Mentoring can be a powerful personal development tool for young people and research shows that employer mentoring has a positive impact on students' behaviour, school engagement, educational attainment and career/education progression. There are also many benefits for the mentor including building key employability skills such as communication, active listening and interpersonal skills.

The role involves meeting with a young person (in school years 8 – 10, aged 12-15) at least once a fortnight for a period of 6 months. Mentoring will take place at school, during school hours. To be able to volunteer you need to be in employment and able to inspire and motivate young people about the world of work.

There is a recruitment process which YC Hertfordshire will coordinate. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please request the paperwork by emailing alumni@watfordboys.org with the subject line 'Mentoring'.

GCSE and A Level Results 2017

In a year of significant changes to the GCSE grading system, the school was pleased to once again see excellent results. Value-add – the measure by which schools can show they are improving student attainment above and beyond what would normally be expected – put Watford Boys' amongst the top schools in the country, showing not just that the school enables boys to achieve high GCSE grades, but that it actively improves the outcomes of students compared to the country as a whole.

Maths was a particular highlight, with 98% of students achieving 9-4 (the new standard equivalent to the old A*-C).

At A Level, two-thirds (67%) of grades were A*, A or B – resulting in the majority of our students heading off to university around the country. Destinations included Cambridge and Oxford with boys achieving places to study law, medicine, economics and engineering at these universities.

A Levels

The 2017 results are below.

	2017
A*	14%
A*/A	39%
A*/B	67%
A*/E	99%

GCSE

The 2017 GCSE exam results highlights are below. In 2016 the school was ranked 7th amongst state comprehensive schools.

	2017
A* (or L8,9)	21%
A*/A (or L7,8,9)	49%
A*- C	92%

Tell your friends about Fuller News

This is the second issue of the revamped Fuller News. With a readership of around 4,000 Old Fullarians, we are delighted to be communicating with so many of you but our database has a lot of gaps.

We know that many of our Old Boys stay in close contact with their friends from school for the rest of their lives. If you enjoy receiving Fuller News, please pass it on and ask your friends to sign up to receive future issues too.

We also welcome news from (or about) Old Boys. Send any news to Hollie Rendall via alumni@watfordboys.org

You can also stay in contact with Watford Grammar School for Boys through our social media channels.

Follow the school on Twitter at @wbgsexcellence and on Instagram at @watfordgrammarboys

Search for 'Watford Grammar School for Boys Alumni' on Facebook to join our group and 'like' our page.



News from the Old Fullersians' Association

Careers day 2017

July saw another successful Careers Day for the Lower Sixth where over 40 alumni, teachers and staff shared their experience with students who are considering their next steps after Watford Boys. Students always display an impressive level of knowledge, attention and drive and the mentors on the day enjoy hearing their stories and thoughts on their eventual career ambitions. We are always grateful for the support we receive from our membership, and in return it is seen as a worthwhile use of a day by those who kindly give their time to take part.

Our next Careers Day will be in July 2018. If you would like to be involved in the next Careers Day, please get in contact with Russell Deane at russell@srcrecruit.com.

Dragons Den

The annual Year 10 Dragons Den took place in December and was particularly well-fought, seeing four teams present their ideas to a panel of judges from the business and entertainment sectors, as well as their whole year group.

There was an interesting theme of sustainability running through the finalists' presentations, which included impressive technical detail and thoughtful answers to the Dragons' tough questions. The winning team was 'Claimsy', with an innovative plan to develop an app to help reunite students with their lost items around the school.

Many thanks to all involved on the day.



The Old Fullersians' Association runs events throughout the year on behalf of its membership and the school, with the Careers Day, Dragons Den and Annual Dinner being the highlights of the year. It is run by a core group of volunteers who sit on the committee and give their time to manage and oversee the ongoing events, and liaise with the school and wider membership. We also help the school financially and, over the last few years, have donated thousands of pounds to projects, including a recent donation to the new STEM Centre.

Having sat as Chairman for the past two years, I will step down at this year's AGM in March. I would like to express my thanks to the other members of the committee for their continued support; it has been a privilege to represent the Association at events and services during this time.

We are looking for alumni to get involved and help us with new events and offerings for our membership over the coming year and welcome anyone who would be able to support our events or has ideas that may benefit the wider Association. If you would be interested in getting involved with the committee, please email me at obolland@gmail.com.

Oliver Bolland

Say 'Yes' to hearing from us

'Fuller News' is distributed twice a year by Watford Grammar School for Boys and is designed to help forge greater links with our thousands of Old Boys across the country and around the world.

The school is always interested in hearing from former students, and would particularly like to hear from anyone who would be willing to contribute their time or resources to help current pupils. Please fill out and return the below form if you have not already, or to opt in online, please fill in [this form](#):

Please contact Hollie Rendall on alumni@watfordboys.org or 01923 208900 ext 272.

To get in touch by post, please contact: Hollie Rendall, Development Director, Watford Grammar School for Boys, Rickmansworth Road, Herts WD18 7JF.

We would appreciate your email address for future newsletters to minimise our costs. Please note that we are requesting an 'opt in' to communications to ensure compliance with new data protection regulations. If we do not receive this, you may not hear from us after May 2018.

Name: _____

Years attended school: _____ - _____

Postal address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Current occupation: _____

I am interested in being contacted about careers events:

Watford Grammar School for Boys will retain the above information for the purposes of contacting you with newsletters, about alumni events, and for occasional school fundraising purposes. Your information will never be given to a third party. You can be removed at any time by emailing alumni@watfordboys.org

I am happy to be contacted by email / phone / post (delete as applicable) by WBGS for the purposes outlined above:

(please tick to say YES)

Date: _____