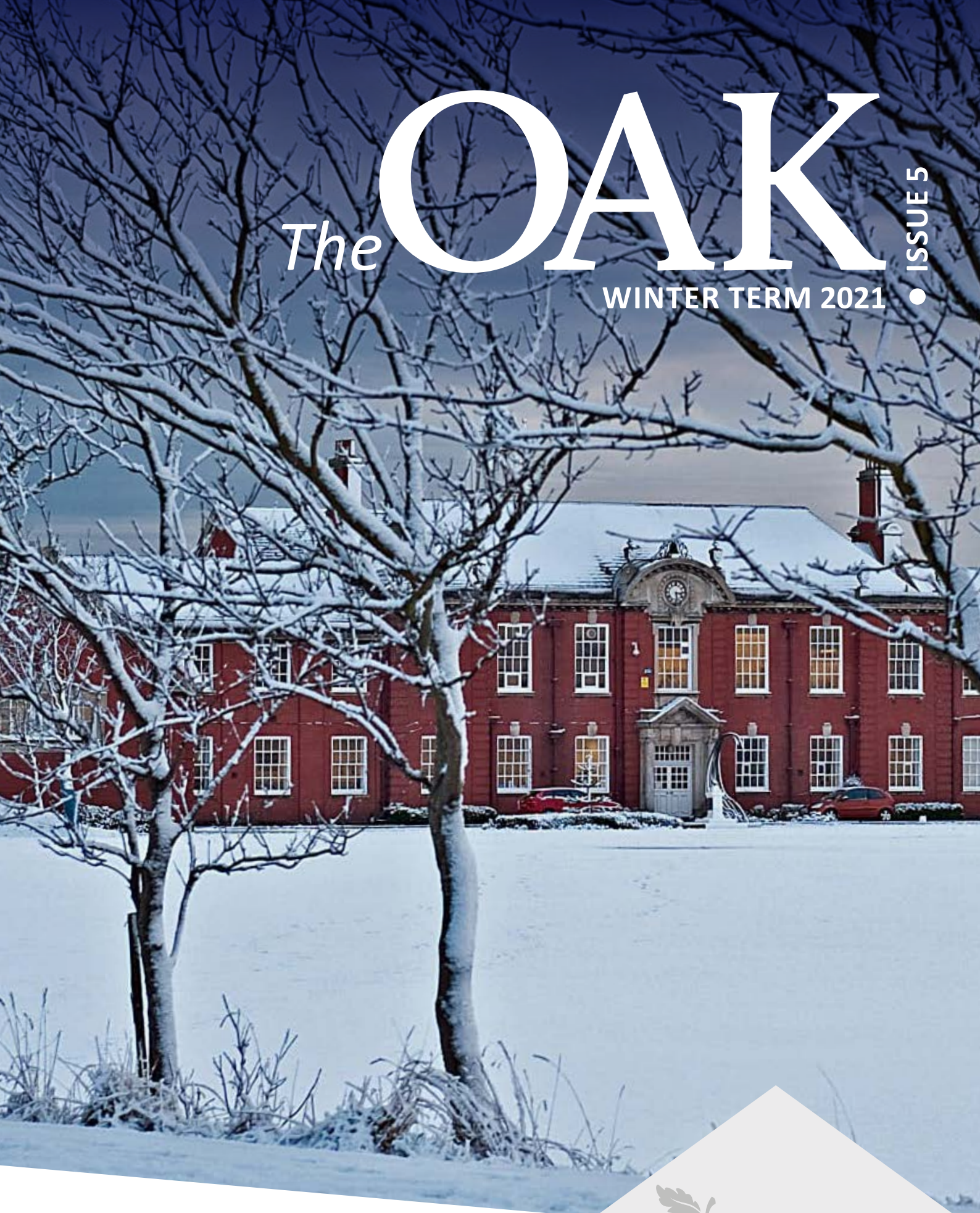


The OAK

WINTER TERM 2021 • ISSUE 5



AKS Lytham



WELCOME

from the Headmaster



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In this issue

Oaks introduce:

Jessica Grant
Helen Hotchkiss (Matron)
Martha Worthington

How things have changed

S36 School Bus Reunion

Farm Life

Lest We forget

Looking Back...

Hannah Shillito

Taylor Cornell

Updates from the Class of 2020

Upcoming Events



AKS Lytham

Clifton Drive South

Lytham St Annes

FY8 1DT

01253 784104

@AKSLytham

@AKSLythamSchool

www.akslytham.com



OAKS INTRODUCE

Jessica Grant

What was it like going from being a student at Arnold to working at AKS?

It was exciting to be joining Arnold as a teacher. I loved my time at school and felt lucky to have secured a position in such a wonderful establishment. I was one of a handful of new starters, including Mr O'Loughlin who had been appointed as the new Head of Geography, which made the induction and transition easier and fun as we learnt the ropes together. The staff were extremely welcoming and helpful, and I made some great friends.

Were you taught by any of the teachers who work at AKS now?

Yes, my first ever lesson in the Senior School was Science with Mr McKeown. Miss De Miranda tried her best to turn me into a hockey player, but I expect she was relieved when I retired from the sport in Year 10.

Who or what inspired you to become a teacher?

Nearly all OAs and OAKS will remember Mr Winterflood; aka Wintipedia. He was a truly fantastic and inspiring teacher who I had the good fortune to be taught by for my GCSE and A level Geography. He made Geography interesting, thought-provoking and accessible, and his passion for Geography was infectious. I knew this was a subject I wanted to continue studying and one day teach.



What are your favourite memories of student life at Arnold?

I loved the Geography field trips, especially our A level trip to the Netherlands and the CCF field days. Sixth Form was the best of times; I had fantastic teachers and made lifelong friends. I look back fondly on all my time at Arnold; it was a magical place to be.

What would our alumni be surprised to find out about you?

I've never been the 'sporty' type, so some may be surprised to know I've taken up running and recently ran my first half marathon. I also have two young children, Rosanna and Frederic.



OAKS INTRODUCE



Helen Hotchkiss (Matron)

When did you start at Arnold?

I started at Arnold School in 2009.

What inspired you to work in the field you do today?

When I qualified as a nurse, I took a temporary job at Lawrence House Prep School, a small independent boarding school in St Annes. They had been let down and needed a nurse for the start of term. It wasn't a conscious decision, it just happened, but I absolutely loved it. I worked there until it closed. I didn't return to school nursing until 15 years later when I took the job at Arnold.

What is your funniest memory as a school Matron?

Taking a group of 30 pupils to the Grand Theatre as a favour for the Head of Drama. She couldn't make the first half, so I agreed to go. Nobody told me about the audience participation and the fact there would be an actor sitting in between the pupils. I spent the whole of the first half watching this random man (actor) praying that nothing would happen.

Are there any standout moments you have from working at Arnold?

I had the smallest office, basically a cupboard with a window. It was like a tardis, I had everything in there. When we moved the removal man said, "how much stuff does this woman actually have?"

I remember when I arrived for the interview how smart the green uniform looked and the building being so corporate, everything was in school colours.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Dealing with situations that I can't change.



What is the worst thing you have seen whilst working as Matron?

We have had some gruesome rugby injuries over the years.

Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?

On my first day as a student nurse, a nursing officer said, "They might forget your name but will never forget the way you made them feel. Be kind." It's always stuck with me.

OAKS INTRODUCE

Martha Worthington

What did you do after leaving Arnold and how did you find returning to AKS as a teacher?

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Arnold and made friends for life. I loved studying A level Art and Drama.

When I left Sixth Form I headed straight to London and studied Drama Applied Theatre & Education at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. This was a great course that gave me a wide view of what it is like to work in several different fields linked to drama and theatre. Here I received a first-class honours degree and so many skills that prepared me well for working in a school like AKS.

Coming back at first was a bit odd, as I found it a little challenging to refer to colleagues who once taught me by their first name, but all the staff were so welcoming.

Were you taught by any of the teachers who work at AKS now?

Yes, I was taught by quite a few of my colleagues. Mr Sobey was my Year 11 form tutor and Mr Bridges was my Year 13 form tutor. I remember being on Prefect duty with Mrs Yelland as well. Of course, I was taught Drama by Mrs Marland. When I was at Arnold, Mr McKeown was the Head of Sixth Form.

Who or what inspired you to become a teacher?

Throughout my time spent as a student, I have been extremely fortunate to have so many wonderful and inspiring teachers, who not only deliver fantastic and engaging lessons but also take a genuine interest in the students as individuals. They were the sort of teachers who see the wider picture. This really had an impact on me and very much inspired me to strive to be that positive impact on others.



What are your favourite memories from Arnold?

I have so many great memories from my time at Arnold. I look back fondly on the musicals. I was in one every year from Year 7 to Year 13. One of my favourites was Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, in which I performed the role of the Baker. I also went on many amazing trips to places such as Venice and Germany with the Choir and New York on an Art trip! I also enjoy looking back on my time at Arnold with my siblings. At one point all 3 of us were in the Senior School at the same time – now we love reminiscing about our shared experiences.

What would our alumni be surprised to find out about you?

Outside of my teaching and passion for Drama, I am quite a keen 'furniture up-cycler'! In the first lockdown, I revamped 7 different pieces of furniture!! It is a little addictive, so I am always on the hunt for second-hand furniture that I can put my own spin on, although I am currently running out of space in my house!



Sam captains Morecambe FC into League One

Our alumni never fail to impress us with their ongoing successes. On 31st May former KEQMS pupil, Sam Lavelle, captained Morecambe FC into League One by winning the League Two play-off final at Wembley! Born in Blackpool, Sam represented Scotland at the youth international level before signing with Morecambe in 2017. After this year's triumph for Morecambe, Sam saw many supporters regarding him as one of the Clubs' all-time greats. Congratulations Sam, we cannot wait to see what you can achieve in the future.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Check out the Reflection Section video from 7th November on the AKS YouTube Channel. Mr Wainwright (AKS Economics Teacher) explores the lives and careers of notable alumni of the three heritage schools which make up AKS and reminds us that we are, indeed, standing on the shoulders of giants.

The Reflection Section is a period every Friday where we learn from someone in our community. It could be a member of staff, a student, a parent, or our alumni. The only rule is that the topics are from outside the curriculum – something "interesting, quirky and fascinating".

We have enjoyed several diverse topics since its inception in 2020. You can browse the back-catalogue on our dedicated playlist on YouTube.



HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

THE HAWKINS LIBRARY



THE COMMON ROOM



DINING HALL



THE GYM WAS CONVERTED INTO A LIBRARY



S36 SCHOOL BUS REUNION

At the beginning of November, three former pupils from King Edward and Queen Mary Schools met for lunch in Cambridge. The last time all three of them had been together was when they travelled on the S36 Preston Bus in 1964.



Dorcas Fowler and Norman Dawson were successively in the QMS and KES teams which, in 1963 and 1964, won the Rotary Schools' Public Speaking Competition. Elizabeth Kay took principal roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

Dorcas went to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford in 1965 to read English and had a career in education, as a teacher and administrator, in Cambridge. Norman

went to Clare College, Cambridge in 1966 and became a Chartered Mechanical Engineer in the aircraft and nuclear industries. Elizabeth went to St Mary's College in Cheltenham in 1967 and was one of the first to gain a Bachelor of Education degree (from Bristol University). She had a career as a primary school teacher and then worked for Blackwell's, the bookseller, in Oxford.



Another school activity in which they all took part was the joint Sixth Form ballroom dancing classes held in Big School under the auspices of The Gwendoline Ashcroft School of Dance and Elizabeth married Norman in 1972.

The three exchanged memories of life in Preston, at school and in Oxford and Cambridge over lunch.



Farm Life

their tractor-driving talent. Be sure to check out his YouTube channel, Tom Pemberton Farm Life, for more information. We hope to catch up with Tom soon and ask him more about his experience at school and how that may have helped him with his successes!

It has been wonderful to follow alumnus Tom Pemberton's achievements on the family farm over the years and his work in the influencer industry.

Tom has now gained over 402,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel which showcases his life on the farm with hilarious and informative videos. He now also sells his Farm Life merchandise.

This year Tom has been asked to front a new BBC Three tractor series which will offer an insight into the day-to-day lives of young farmers, showcasing



Lest We Forget

On 11th November, Armistice Day was commemorated across AKS as pupils and staff fell silent to remember those who died in conflict. After last year's service was broadcast virtually, it was particularly poignant to welcome guests back into school to participate in our main Remembrance Service in the Senior School Hall, where we recognised and paid tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Outside the Senior Hall, the Design Department displayed a beautiful piece entitled, *"Remembering at AKS"*, as well as a stunning cross made from sewn textile poppies by Lower School students.

Mr Harrow opened the service with a moving address, which was followed by the beautiful sounds of our Chamber Choir singing *"Irish Blessing"* and a moving poem read by Year 7 student, Lila.

Year 13 student, Joe, played *"The Last Post"* before wreaths were laid at the memorials as the names of the fallen were read aloud. Wreaths were laid by Mrs Bickerstaffe on behalf of the Queen Mary School Association, Mr Hoskisson on behalf of the Old Arnoldians, Sergeant Ethan Tinsley on behalf of the CCF, and 99-year-old Mr Hare, on behalf of the Old Lidunians. Mr Harrow laid a stunning wreath made from hand-made poppies by Year 9 students, on behalf of the school.

The school and assembled guests paid their respects and ensured that

"...We shall remember them."

LOOKING BACK...

We caught up with Hannah Shillito who was a pupil at both QMS and KEQMS to find out a little more about her school years and what she went on to do after leaving the first mixed Sixth Form in 2001. Hannah is now flourishing in the arts industry and produces modern pieces which you can see on her Facebook page 'Hannah Shillito Art.'

What is your favourite moment from your time at school?

I am still best friends with the friends I had in school, so I have many favourite moments, but one that sticks in my mind is when I was Head Girl, and everyone had to stand up when we went into assembly with the Head ... including my little brother who was four years below me. He was mortified ... I like to remind him of this to this day!

What were your interests in school, do they correlate with your interests today?

I loved English and Art at school- to be honest, I loved most things apart from sport! As a teacher, writer and now artist, it is safe to say I have pursued the interests that began in school!



What did you do when you left school and what inspired you to start the business you now have?

I went to university and then after that travelled and lived all over the world for a long-time, including Tokyo, Cape Town, and Milan. I became an English Literature teacher, doing freelance writing and photography and now I am teaching part-time at Roedean in Brighton (from one all-girls school to another!), while pursuing my lifelong dream of becoming an artist- something I never thought I would be able to say!

Having travelled and always been inspired by art and photography (my family has a long line of photographers in it), I decided to share some of my own art during the lockdown on Instagram and was just blown away by the reactions to it. I have just had a big solo exhibition with three more in the pipeline and businesses asking for my designs; I even have an agent who is working on getting me more exciting work in the future. I keep pinching myself, to be honest!

Do you have a quote or saying you live your life by?

Go for it - why not?!

Taylor Cornall

AKS OAK Taylor Cornall has had a standout cricket season in 2021, starring for University of Leeds, Lancashire 2nd XI and making his Lancashire senior debut. As a result, Taylor has earned himself his first professional contract with Worcestershire County Cricket Club for 2022.

Taylor began in junior club cricket, before leading the charge at AKS and representing Lancashire County age group teams. Taylor was an excellent student-athlete, who was able to combine his studies and his sport from an early age right up through to university. AKS is extremely proud of Taylor and we were able to ask him a few questions after his big contract news.

When were you a student at AKS?

I was at AKS for 7 years between 2010 and 2017.

What are your standout memories from school?

My standout memory is finishing runners up in the Lancashire Schools Cricket Cup against all odds, travelling around Lancashire with friends and having some great days out. Other standout memories include playing for Mr Mac's second team rugby, as well as representing the school's first-team football.

At what age did you start playing cricket?

I have been playing cricket since I was old enough to hold a bat. I grew up watching my dad play, so for as long as I can remember cricket has always been synonymous with Saturday afternoons.

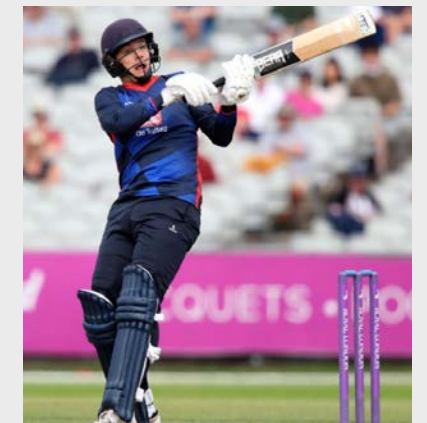
Tell us about your cricket journey

My cricket journey began at a little club in Thornton Cleveleys, which had an excellent junior section and ensured everything was always fun. I still train there to this day with dad. They proved the pathway to the Lancashire age group systems, for which I played U11 all the way through to the second team and eventually the first team. AKS was

extremely influential on my cricket journey. Having the chance to play on a Saturday for school allowed me to hone my batting skills before I was old enough to play men's cricket. Alongside this, AKS allowed me to use the sports hall one night a week to practice throughout the winter; this was a big point in my cricket journey as the progress I made that winter set me up for a successful season in my last year of school. After leaving school I began my Economics and Politics degree at the University of Leeds. It was at Leeds where I was selected to join the Leeds Bradford MCCU, which is a programme for elite cricketers who are striving to make a career in the game.

After the pandemic hit in 2020, I missed the full season and thought my chances of playing cricket professionally were over, so I decided to do a master's degree at Leeds. In the games against Yorkshire, I scored 142 and was selected for Lancashire Second Team.

After a year playing for the second team, I got my chance in the first team and made my debut for the County in August 2021 against Durham, I also played against Essex. Unfortunately, Lancashire decided that they didn't want to take me on full-time, which was a shock and knocked me for six. With just three weeks left of the season, I thought that the dream was over once again, but, after two games for Kent and playing one game for



Worcestershire, I was offered a full professional contract at both counties, with Worcestershire being my county of choice.

Who do you consider as your inspiration/role model?

Ex-England captain Alastair Cook.

What have been the greatest highlights/honours in your cricket journey so far?

My greatest achievement is scoring 142 against Yorkshire 1st as a student, with three weeks of training.

What are your future goals?

My future goal is to play for England but, at the moment I want to establish myself in the Worcester team.

We would love to have you back to AKS whenever your schedule allows - what advice would you give to our young AKS cricketers?

Yes, I would love to come back. The advice I would give is to train hard and enjoy the game. Never put too much pressure on yourself. Remember you play for fun and that should always remain a constant.

Updates from the Class of 2020

The school year ended abruptly in the Summer following the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. However, it was especially significant for our Year 13s.

For some, it was an end to what had been a seven-year-long journey at AKS. Not only this, following the announcement that schools were to be closed for the near future, it was confirmed that internal A level exams would no longer take place. In what could be a confusing and unusual time, the Class of 2020 remained positive and came together, alongside the tremendous staff, to maintain an upbeat spirit. Their hard work and determination were rewarded by the excellent results the students received. Despite the turmoil, on the 2020 A level results day almost 95% of applicants accepted places at their first-choice university, with two-thirds of students going on to study at prestigious Russell Group universities.

Ben Campbell

Former Head Boy

What year did you start AKS?

I started AKS in Year 6 for my final year of primary school.

What was your first impression of AKS?

AKS was a welcoming and friendly environment. The teachers and students made me feel comfortable at my new school and I made friends on the first day at AKS which I still have now as I begin my first term at university.

How did you feel at the end of Year 13?

Although excited to start a new chapter of my life, I was inevitably sad to leave the school. It seemed a daunting prospect that I would never return to my classrooms with my teachers and peers; however, my teachers had prepared me for my transition to university throughout my final two years at AKS which had helped me a great deal.

I was also aware that it may be some time until I saw my peers, but I have nevertheless stayed in contact with many of them. I hope to be reunited once again with everyone at AKS to see how they've been getting on since the Class of 2020's time at AKS came to an end.

What was your favourite memory from school?

AKS offered a wide range of various trips and tours to a number of countries, as well as its triennial Rugby tour to South Africa and Eswatini. I had the privilege of going on the school Rugby Tour in 2017. I consider the two-and-a-half-week experience to be my favourite time whilst at AKS. During our time in Eswatini, we experienced different cultures, visiting a local tribe and teaching local children how to play rugby. Whilst in South Africa we visited the natural phenomenon of Table Mountain and visited the Apartheid Museum. I returned from my trip with a broader outlook and was grateful to my teachers for allowing me to have this experience.

What are you up to now?

Currently, I am studying Politics at the University of Liverpool, living on campus. I credit this to my A level teachers who helped me find my passion for Politics through my subjects of Economics, History and English Language, all of which had a strong link to the political world.



Sally Stone

Former Head Girl

What year did you start AKS?

I started at AKS in 2012/13 as one of the first year 7s in the newly merged school. However, previous to that, I had been at Arnold since Year 2.

What was your first impression of AKS?

AKS was a very welcoming school, not only from the students but also from all the staff. My first impression of AKS was that there was a buzz about the place that made the concept of studying there even more exciting.

How did you feel at the end of Year 13?

Leaving Year 13 (especially in the most recent climate) was bittersweet. I have so many wonderful memories from my time at school and saying goodbye to my teachers was tough. That said, I was so excited to be

moving into the next step of my journey and felt fully prepared for what was lying ahead of me.

What was your favourite memory from school?

I have countless amazing memories from my time at AKS, so it would be impossible to name just one. Taking part in the yearly school musical, going to Buckingham Palace and winning the 2018 Tycoon in Schools Enterprise Competition and playing in the National Hockey Finals in London were just a few of my standout memories from my years at AKS.

What are you up to now?

I am currently at the University of Edinburgh studying Chemistry. I would not be here, however, without the help of my teachers who encouraged me to strive for the best and showcase my full potential.



Amrin Golam

Senior Prefect

What year did you start AKS?

I started AKS in the Sixth Form. Previously I was at a local High School called Highfield Leadership Academy.

What was your first impression of AKS?

When I first visited AKS on one of the open days, I immediately felt a strong sense of community. The people were very welcoming and friendly. It was different from other sixth forms I had visited in the sense that everyone seemed to know each other which made me feel like AKS was a very close community.

How did you feel at the end of Year 13?

I felt incredibly sad and disheartened because we did not get a chance to say goodbye properly due to current circumstances. However, AKS has

supported me immensely throughout the past two years and I felt more than ready to move on to the next chapter of my life with their help and support which they continued to provide throughout lockdown.

What was your favourite memory from school?

My favourite memories are from any of the social events that took place throughout the year. From the Christmas Ball to the Sixth Form Bake-Off. These things made us feel closer as a Sixth Form and helped us take a break and relax from our academic studies.

What are you up to now?

I am currently at the University of Lancaster studying Geography. I would like to thank my subject teachers and Mr Maund for helping me get to where I am today.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Get in the Festive Spirit
and join us for our
**Christmas
Carol Service at
St Thomas' Church**
Tuesday 14th December, 7.00pm



**Congratulations
to OA and former
Headmaster's son
David Cochrane on
receiving his MBE.**

CALLING ALL OLD BOYS!

**We are delighted that our OLD BOYS
fixture is back this year!**

Catch up with old friends and bring all the family.

Gate Entry: £5 for Adults and £3 for Concessions.

Matchday Hospitality available:

£19.95 Adults £9.95 for Children




**26th December | Gates Open at 2pm | Fylde Rugby Club
BOOK NOW: 01253 734733**

Dates of our Community Events may be subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 advice. We will keep you updated on any changes.


OAKS
STAY CONNECTED

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 @aks_lytham

From business networks, webinars and careers programmes to our annual sporting events and Heritage Day, we want to keep you connected. We welcome our alumni to visit at any time and to attend calendared events.

**Here are just
a few of the
ways you can
stay connected
with the OAKS
community:**

Join our database! Visit the OAKS page on www.akslytham.com and add your details or email us to be directly to be added to our database.

Follow us on Social Media

Be part of our careers support network:
Email: alumni@akslytham.com

If you have any questions about OAKS please do not hesitate to contact us.