

# *The* OAK

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AKS Lytham








AKS Lytham


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# WELCOME

## from the Headmaster



The earliest-known recording of a human voice is a crackly performance of Claire de Lune from 1860: the sound was rendered as a wavy line on soot-covered paper by Edouard-Leon Scott de Martinville's 'phonograph'. It was never intended to be heard but, in 2008, researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory were able to recover the distorted but recognisable performance.

Listening to this in today's high-fidelity, ubiquitously-recorded world, it sounds otherworldly, but 6th April 1860 was a day like any other. The buildings, the fashions, the discourse would have been different, but people are people, with lives shaped by the places, times and circumstances in which they lived:

we are them, and they are us. Old photos and old recordings might sometimes seem like they are from another world, but they are not: our experiences become our memories, and we must keep them alive.

The heritage of AKS stretches across three hundred years of history at our legacy schools, and the threads that link our current students with our alumni are as compelling as they are vital. It is my pleasure, then, to welcome you to this edition of the OAKS Magazine, as we celebrate once again our remarkable community both past and present.

David Harrow, Headmaster

## In this issue

**Oaks introduce:**  
Vicky Reynolds

**Mollie Mason**

**Thank you...**  
Amanda Hoskisson

**OAKS Archives**

**What a Wedding!**

**Introducing the  
AKS Foundation**

**Our Heritage**

**Ladies' Luncheon**

**Upcoming Events**



# OAKS INTRODUCE

## Vicky Reynolds

### When did you start at KEQMS?

I started at KEQMS Kindergarten in September 2007 and AKS in 2013.

### What is your role?

I am the Nursery Manager in charge of the 0 to 4-year-old classes at AKS.

### Who or what inspired you to work in childcare?

My interest in child development, alongside the inquisitive and fun-loving behaviour young children demonstrate when learning through play, inspired me to work within the Early Years.

### What is your favourite memory from KEQMS?

I have so many amazing memories from my time at KEQMS. The way all children are immersed in school life no matter what their age, encouraged me to enable the Nursery to be a place where children flourish and grow in a warm and stimulating environment, as well as being part of the whole school life.

### Are there any embarrassing or funny moments you are willing to share from your time at KEQMS or AKS?

Working with the youngest children within our school means that I have far too many funny or embarrassing moments.

The people who have worked with me over the past 14 years will know that I still live up to my 'class clown' reputation given to me in High School.

### What would our Alumni be surprised to find out about you?

The Alumni would possibly be surprised to find out I have an A-level in Chemistry.



### What are you most proud of in your role?

Watching the children I nurtured at Kindergarten thrive and succeed through the Preparatory and Senior School.

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

"Be the person you needed when you were younger".



# Mollie Mason Represents England

We are delighted to report that former student Mollie Mason is part of the 2022 GB Women's Elite Training Programme Squad following on from representing England in the Junior World Cup in December 2021 in which the team came away with a Bronze medal. Mollie kindly gave up her time during lockdown, delivering key skills to our Junior players online and always proves to be an inspirational role model to our students.

**It is wonderful for us all to be able to follow her hockey journey.**

**We wish her every success.**



## THANK YOU, AMANDA



**After over 26 years of dedicated service, AKS Lytham wishes to announce the retirement of our Uniform Shop Manager. Mrs Amanda Hoskisson. Amanda is as much a part of the school as anyone can be. As a pupil, parent, colleague and friend, she has become an essential part of the fabric of Arnold School and now AKS.**

She has an association with the school dating back to 1978, having been one of the first girls to join Arnold- and has witnessed and been part of enormous changes over the intervening 44 years, during which time she became the 2nd Lady President of the Old Arnoldian Association.

Her younger sister Heidi, husband Anthony (who is also now a School Governor), and brother-in-law Jason all attended the school. In addition to this, all six of their children attended the school- four of Amanda's children, and two of Anthony's daughters.

Amanda has sold around 7,000 blazers over the years- and as many of you will know- has an uncanny ability to judge an inside leg measurement from 100 yards!

As Amanda embarks on retirement, we would all like to thank her for the years of dedicated service, friendship and support that she has given to so many pupils, parents and staff.

**We wish you a very happy and healthy retirement - enjoy those long lunches, lengthy dog walks, and wonderful holidays.**



**We were delighted to see Tom Pemberton's book 'Make Hay While the Sun Shines' hit the shelves.**

**HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY?**



## What a team these guys made!

In this group there were two senior level rugby international players.

**Can you help us pin down what year this Arnold 1st XV photograph is from?**



We were delighted to receive copies of the following KES photos taken in 1952, 1964 and 1967 sent in by alumni Godfrey Bowring.



# TEACHER PROFILES QUESTIONS

1. What is your star sign? Does it reflect your character?
2. How long have you worked at Queen Mary?
3. What made you decide to teach?
4. Is teaching the only career you considered?
5. What type of car do you drive?
6. Are you married? How long have you been married? Have you got any children?
7. What is your favourite pastime?
8. What is your favourite holiday destination?
9. If you had £5000 to spend what would you do with it?
10. What is your favourite item of clothing/food/drink?

Mr. Hamer

1. Virgo: a perfectionist and boring!
2. I have worked here for 12 years.
3. ALTRUISM! (It means working for people. He is just trying to be clever!)
4. No, I considered Local Government Administration.
5. A bike! (He's training for the Tour de France)
6. Yes I've been married for 20 years! (Life sentence you don't get that for murder!) I've got 2 children, a boy and a girl.



1. Libra. (She had to think about it!) I'm indecisive. I hate making decisions.
2. 17 years (but she didn't want to tell us!)
3. I wanted to work with people in some role that involved direct contact. I liked the idea of working with young people (and who wouldn't!)
4. No, I fancied personnel work. I was offered a position with M&S. I also thought of social work.
5. Astra Si. (I prefer sporty cars.) It was all I could afford at the time.



6. Yes I've been married 17 years and I've got one daughter.
7. I enjoy theatre, concerts music and swimming.
8. I like going anywhere where there is sun and beaches but also places of interest.
9. I'd buy lots of clothes and maybe visit the Far East.
10. I like Italian food and to drink I like gin and tonic!!

MRS. PYBON

1. Taurus. It probably reflects my character in many ways: lazy, stubborn, enjoy comfort and food.
  2. Almost 11 years. (Her first answer was "too long!")
  3. My primary school headmistress, Miss Cooper, said that if I worked hard I could be another Miss Cooper (that was my maiden name).
  4. No I wanted to be an environmental health officer, a freelance translator (I used to have a good working knowledge of German and theology).
  5. I drive a Fiesta (or Mr. Pybon's Opel if I have to, it's a beast!!)
  6. Yes I've been married for 8 years. I've got 1 step-son, 2 step-daughters, 3 step-grandsons and 2 step-grandaughters. (Glamorous grandmother and wicked stepmother all at once!!)
  7. I like reading, cross-stitch, ornithology, walking and also music and theatre.
  8. San Francisco! I also like Spain, but not the coast and the unspoilt parts of Germany.
  9. I would visit San Francisco, buy presents and give some to charity.
  10. Clothes depends on what kind of mood I'm in. (Maybe tights!)
- Food-peanut butter and marmalade sandwiches and anything Mediterranean. Drink-red wine.



QMS Magazine - 1994  
Entitled Vox Vermiculorum  
issue 1

# SCHOOL HYMNS

## **The Queen Mary School Hymn**

O gentes omnes undique  
Laudate Dominum;  
Illum laudate populi  
Per orbis ambitum.  
Nam, ingens est hominibus  
Illius bonitas.  
Et in aeterna secula  
Jehovae veritas.  
Sit laus Triuni Domino  
Honor, et Gloria,  
Ab universo populo  
Per cuncta secula.

## **The King Edward VII School Song**

Our school shall boast as proud a name  
As any in the land,  
As year by year we bring her fame,  
High shall her honour stand,  
For wisdom, truth and loyalty,  
And courage shall her sons be known;  
Where is the school, shall claim to be  
As good as on our own  
  
School of King Edward, School by the sea,  
Dear to our hearts shall thy name ever be;  
Each of thy sons shall bring honour to thee,  
School of King Edward.  
  
May all within our school today  
Be prompt at duty's call,  
Sincere in work and keen in play,  
And each be true to all.  
  
That those who follow us in youth  
Be proud to be where we have been,  
To work with vigour, love and truth,  
And hate the false and mean  
  
School of King Edward, School by the sea ...

## **Arnold School Hymn**

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.  
  
O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us,  
To keep us in his grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
Of this world in the next.  
  
All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The son and spirit blest,  
Who reign in highest heaven  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore:  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.



# WHAT A WEDDING!

**The jubilee weekend started in style as two of our alumni tied the knot.**

**On Thursday 2nd June Gareth Vickers married Catherine Warwick in a beautiful ceremony at St. Joseph's Church in Ansdell, surrounded by family, friends and their two beautiful daughters Edie and Darcey. Guests then moved on to AKS for their wedding breakfast and evening party - the very location where Gareth and Catherine were students in the KEQMS days.**

The couple's personalities shone through in every element of the day with wonderful tributes to their school days, areas in Lytham and beautiful finishing touches to the setting that made the day simply perfect.

On arrival at AKS, guests were greeted by chilled-out Ibiza classics played by the fabulous Cat on Sax in the Pavilion whilst canapes and welcome drinks were served on the lawn in the sun.

Then followed a wedding breakfast fit for a queen (catered by the award-winning AKS catering team) and an evening of entertainment with Cat on Sax and the Warning Tones.

Many of Gareth and Catherine's guests are fellow alumni and for many it was their first time back in school since leaving nearly 20 years ago!



**We wish the new Mr and Mrs Vickers a wonderful future together.**

# Introducing THE AKS FOUNDATION

The AKS Foundation was created in 2020, with its aim being to:

*'...advance the education of boys and girls by way of providing bursary awards subject to parental means testing thereby widening access to AKS School, and to improve the infrastructure of AKS School or such other area of benefit within which the Charity Trustees decide to benefit.'*

The Foundation, in line with the mission of the original schools, wishes to support individuals who might once have benefited from the Direct Grant scheme, and to ensure that AKS remains able to offer to as many people as possible its progressive, exciting and outward-facing education.

To facilitate this education, the Foundation seeks to support the development of the school's buildings and site in line with its pedagogical aims, and to ensure that its students and local community have access to inspiring, state-of-the-art facilities.

**We are in the process of recruiting a Director of Development who will be responsible for taking this forward, watch this space for further updates and how you can get involved.**







# OUR HERITAGE

The history of our school spans around 300 years, and an estimated 15000 alumni, across the three main heritage schools that have combined to form AKS.

All of the schools shared a fundamental moral purpose of providing educational opportunities for children in the area, combining academic rigour and character education with a spirit of service within their communities and beyond, a core thread that runs through the school as it is now.

Many students were beneficiaries of the Direct Grant scheme, which enabled the core purpose of being schools for the local community to benefit many students over a number of years.

Given the centrality and prominence of the founding schools to the Fylde Coast and Blackpool communities over the past century, the heritage of these institutions remains as important as ever.

## **King Edward VII School**

King Edward's, a day school for local boys, was founded in 1908, and is the site upon which AKS is situated. Its motto *Sublimis Ab Unda* ('Raised from the Waves') echoes a devastating 1719 flood which led to the establishment of the Lytham Schools Foundation, which in turn ultimately developed and funded the original school. Although the preliminary plans to build a boarding school ultimately never reached fruition, the grand buildings and extensive grounds form a striking site.

## **Arnold School**

Named after Dr Thomas Arnold, Headmaster of Rugby from 1828 to 1841, what was originally known as Arnold House School was founded in Blackpool in 1896 with the motto *Honor Virtutis Praemium* ('Honour is the Reward of Virtue').

## **Queen Mary School**

QMS was founded in 1930, and its founding head, Doris Bailey, was a champion of progressive, globally-focused schooling, fighting to ensure that the educational opportunities offered to girls matched those available to boys at King Edward's and elsewhere.

## **KEQMS**

Over the period 1999 to 2004, King Edward's at QMS merged to form King Edward and Queen Mary's School, with the buildings from QMS being sold. This move brought together two long-affiliated single-sex schools onto one site.

## **AKS Lytham**

AKS Lytham was formed in 2012 from the merger of KEQMS and Arnold, at which point it joined the United Learning group of schools.

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



## ARE YOU JOINING US FOR OLD GIRLS HOCKEY?

**The date has been set! Sunday 3rd July**

This will be Andrea De Miranda's last Old Girls' game as she will be taking a break from teaching at the end of this academic year.

It would be lovely to see as many of you there to give her a big farewell.

**MISS IT, MISS OUT!**

The next OA Dinner will be held on 1st October at AKS in the newly renovated Senior School Hall that was partly paid for by the Old Arnoldians.



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.

## LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB



The sun shone for the Ladies' Luncheon Club's Afternoon Tea at the Pavilion in May. It was great to see so many new faces and meet new registrants for this thriving group who meet monthly at the Clifton Arms.

Further information about the club, including provisional dates of next year's events, can be found on our website here: <https://www.akslytham.com/topic/community/ladies-luncheon-club>

## WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN DAY

**Saturday 8th October 2022**

Nursery & Prep School: 11.00am to 1.00pm

Senior School: 1.30pm to 4.30pm

To register: [www.akslytham.com/admissions](http://www.akslytham.com/admissions) or call 01253 784100

## OAKS STAY CONNECTED

@AKS\_OAKS

@AKSLythamOAKS

@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](http://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](mailto:alumni@akslytham.com)

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