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RLS Alumni Facebook Page

Remember that you now have a dedicated RLS Alumni page on Facebook >



Welcome to our ninth edition of *Latin Life*

Welcome to a bumper edition of *Latin Life*. I am delighted to see that so many Old Latins are getting back in touch with us and it has been a pleasure to meet so many of you recently. Your contributions to this edition have really brought it to life – keep up the good work!

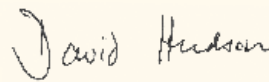
I am pleased to say that development of the school site continues apace. Work on Rotherfield Sixth Form Centre started this term and is planned to be completed by July. Many of you will remember the winding corridors and curious room configurations which, whilst quaint and quite probably good for hiding away in 'free' periods, are not well suited to study space!

Contractors are now in the process of knocking down walls, replacing the heating system and flat roof, and refurbishing the sash windows in order to make it a building fit for our students and staff.

We hope to be able to invite you to look around, most probably during our Archive Day in 2018 – save the date!

It is important to me that the school develops and improves, but also preserves some of its great traditions. One of the latter is the annual school production. This year's performance of *The Crucible* (full cast pictured above) was compelling and emotionally charged, and of a quality which stands alongside many of the great productions there have been over the years. It is truly impressive to see our young people being able to convey this depth of feeling with such maturity.

As ever, please do feel free to visit us and follow what we are doing, either via the [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



David Hudson, Headteacher

Old Latins Rugby Match v AWS

at Buckingham Rugby Club - Saturday, 29th April 2017, 2pm

We are trying to encourage as many RLS supporters to attend as possible, so please do feel free to come along and spectate as we defend our title following our 2016 victory!

For Old Latins interested in the rugby achievements of current Latins, keep an eye on their progress in the NatWest Schools Vase on www.Englandrugby.com or via our RLS PE twitter handle @RLSSport.

Our Under 18s are through to the semi final at Saracens on 4th March - all welcome!





The whole school assembles on the front lawn

Remembrance 2016

Our school Remembrance Service was held on Thursday 10th November 2016 and we were privileged to welcome guests from the Royal British Legion, Armed Forces, Civilian Forces and local establishments, including Old Latins such as Major James Beechy (Class of 2000).

Readings from our Senior Student Leadership team, Lt Col Robinson and RLS English teacher, Penny Mason, (who read *In Flanders Fields*) reminded us why it is so important to hold services of Remembrance and Lt Robb Bloomfield (Class of 2000) read the exhortation and Kohima epitaph. As the school stood in respectful silence, Deputy Head, Jackie Baldock, recited the names of the fallen Royal Latin students from the two World Wars – the names of whom are now forever carved in Portland Stone on the wall just outside the school hall. These new plaques exist thanks to a generous donation from the Buckingham British Legion, with the legacy left by the former president, Peggy Dale.

Next year's Remembrance Service at RLS will take place on Friday, 10th November 2017. All Old Latins who have served in Her Majesty's Forces are invited to attend – please do get in touch if this applies to you, and if you would be interested in attending, as we would love to welcome you to the event next year.



The new wall plaques outside the main hall

Christmas Carol Concert at Buckingham Parish Church

Tuesday, 13th December 2016

We were delighted to welcome Old Latins to join both the congregation and the choir at the RLS for the annual Christmas Carol Concert at Buckingham Church on Tuesday, 13th December. Head of Music, Rob Tucker, was especially grateful to Old Latin, Jonathan Whiting (Classes of 2016), for coming back from his first term studying music at King's College London to conduct the school orchestra.



Rob Tucker conducts the school choir

Rotherfield Renovation Update

The much-needed renovation of Rotherfield House is now underway, and due to be completed by the end of this academic year.

The development will provide a modern, flexible and professional working environment together with new dining facilities and a new main focal entrance point. Additionally, the scheme will accommodate 400 post-16 students, and will deliver more learning resources for both collaborative and independent learning. After planning permission was officially granted in December 2016, David Hudson remarked,

'We are very excited to finally be embarking on a long-overdue refurbishment of Rotherfield House. These essential works will not only enable us to create a much-needed modern study environment for our large 6th form, but will also enable us to renovate and weatherproof one of the most loved and important buildings on the Royal Latin site. We are very much looking forward to enjoying the revitalised building.'



Simulation of the complete, extended building, courtesy of GSS Architecture

From the Archive

During the period of the Rotherfield renovation, limited access to the Archive will be possible, so please do still get in touch if you are interested in viewing material from a particular era or subject.

Our 2017 Archive Open Day will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd May. Due to the Rotherfield building work, the event will this year take place in the main school hall, and we will do our best to display as much archive material as possible, bearing in mind that our Archive is currently temporarily 'packed up' while the Archive Room is out of bounds. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to this always-popular social event for Old Latins, which will include afternoon tea and tours of the school as in previous years. Further details about speakers and afternoon itinerary will be announced nearer the time - keep a look out on the [RLS Alumni Facebook page](#), [@RLS Alumni](#) on Twitter and in the local paper for further updates.



RLS girls' hockey team, circa 1924, with captain, Melina Jones, in the centre of front row

Sporting History

Thank you to Jennifer Beckett (née Jones) from the Class of 1959 for lending the following original photograph to the RLS Archive. The photo was posted from Canada by Jennifer's cousin, Mary Gingrich (née Spiers) and features Mary's mother and Jennifer's great-aunt, Melina Jones, as captain in the centre of the front row.

Melina was a talented hockey player by all accounts, playing for the county as well as the school. Melina's younger sister, Frida Jones was also at the RLS in the 1920s, as was their brother, Bert, who was Jennifer's father, and who also excelled at sport, also captaining the boys' hockey time during his time at the RLS. Similar contemporary photos in the archive have helped us to narrow down the date of this particular photo to around 1924.

In Memorium - Old Latins Remembered

Derek Lillistone - 1940s



Derek, pictured competing for Cambridge University at the White City Stadium in the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser

Brian Lillistone (Class of 1948) writes about his brother Derek, who attended the RLS in the early 1940s.

Derek Lillistone died on 12th October 2016 at the age of 83 of cancer and Parkinson's.

Derek seems to be the only person to appear twice on the school honours boards, once for his County Scholarship in 1950 and then for his State Scholarship in 1951 to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge to read geography. He was Head Boy and excelled on the sports field both at school and later at Cambridge.

Whilst at School Derek was All England Schools' senior high jump champion at Port Sunlight, setting a record that stood for many years; he was also a high jump record holder at Bucks Schools' Sports, this again stood for many years.

At Cambridge he changed to the long jump and was awarded a 'Blue' and beat his Oxford opponent at The White City in April 1953 with a jump of 21 feet 5 inches winning by almost a foot. He also represented Cambridge in the high hurdles and the hop, step and jump as well as being in his college hockey team.

Derek remained active until his last few years, playing hockey in Felixstowe until he was over 70, before taking up rambling.

After Cambridge he entered the Colonial Service and was a District Officer in Tanganyika, as it then was. After independence Derek re-trained as a teacher at Makerere University in Uganda and then taught in Tanzania for a number of years, where he is still remembered for building a running track and promoting athletics and sport at his School in Tabora.

Derek married Old Latin Jill Camm and they returned to England in the early 1970s after the birth of their daughter, Susan. Derek spent most of his subsequent career as Senior Geography Master at Deben High School at Felixstowe in Suffolk. At Deben, Derek promoted and organised The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for many years.

Derek is survived by Jill, a son, two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

It would be interesting to hear of any other Old Latins who have been awarded a 'Blue' at Cambridge or Oxford – do email us at latinlife@royallatin.org if you or someone you know did.

Maurice Thomas Hall – 'Modge' (1940s)



Modge (front row, second from right) with his cricket team

It is with great sadness that we record the death of 'Modge', who joined the RLS as a pupil in September 1943.

H.B. Toft was then Headmaster, being followed in 1949 by G. K. Embleton. Modge's great friend, Jim Faulkner, who spoke so movingly at Modge's funeral, was to join RLS in 1944.



Old Latins at Modge's funeral – Geoff Kirk, Jim and Phyllis Faulkner, with their daughter Suzanne

Modge was a fine sportsman, playing for school cricket and football teams. In his funeral eulogy, Jim Faulkner remembered 'Taffy' Williams, their teacher, telling the boys that if they wanted to learn how to dribble the football then, 'Watch Modge Hall!'. Other teachers such as T.R. Allitt and E.W. Archer taught him tennis, badminton and table tennis in after school practices.

Modge left the RLS early, as did most farmers' sons, and went to work for his father at Elm Tree and North End Farms, Steeple Claydon. He was married to June in 1964 and they came to live in London Road, Buckingham at the bottom of Brookfield Lane, which is still the family home. Among their wedding guests were George and Edna Embleton, as well as Reg Howard, Head of English and Boarding House Master, as well as a great friend over many years. Modge and June have two children and two grandchildren. Modge took up golf in the 1970s becoming a very good golfer and captain of Buckingham in 1986. His Captain's Day was attended by George and Edna Embleton, a source of great pride to Modge.

Many of us will remember Modge at the Archive Open Days, looking through the School Magazines and sports photographs of his school days and enjoying meeting old school friends once again. Modge had a sharp mind, a wonderfully dry sense of humour, a love of his wife, his family, his friends - and the golf course.



Gerald performing a high jump at Sports Day

Gerald Sear (1940s)

Thank you to Sue Hillsdon (Class of 1976), for getting in touch to relay the sad news that her father, and fellow Old Latin (1939-44), Gerald Sear, died, in Devon, in September 2016. Gerald was born in 1928, attending Miss French's school in Buckingham before obtaining a scholarship to RLS in 1939. He was

proud of his heritage, his school and his town. After leaving school he was articled to be a civil engineer, but was called up to military service after the war. He was a lifelong Buckingham Town Football Club supporter and was a Life Vice President (RLS Archivist, Robert Munday, remembers him well from his days playing for BTFC). Gerald and his wife lived in Buckingham until 1998, when they moved to Devon to be closer to Sue and her family. Gerald continued to participate in the Local History Society and has left a rich collection of memories, anecdotes and photos for the town.

We are grateful for Sue's kind offer to donate some of her father's reports to the RLS Archive.



Henry Burke (Class of 2015) - 1997 – 2016

The whole of the Royal Latin community has been distraught to hear the desperately sad news that Henry Burke has passed away, after leaving RLS only last year.

He was a much-loved member of the school and contributed so much to school life. He was a constant member of the rugby team and a regular cast

member for school productions. Staff and students remember him as a good friend and as an engaging and considerate young man. Henry will be sorely missed by those from the school community who knew him, and our thoughts and prayers are, of course, very much with his family. His parents have been keen to emphasise how much Henry enjoyed his time at the RLS. A memorial service, at which memories of Henry were shared by Headteacher, David Hudson, was held in the school hall on Saturday 17th December 2016.

Many of you will have seen news reports which have highlighted how many people have lost their lives in the River Avon in Bath. There is an online petition to campaign for improved fencing along this stretch of the river. Please feel free to add your voice to this campaign at www.change.org

<https://www.change.org/p/enquiries-bathnes-gov-uk-let-s-make-the-river-safe-again>



Julian Francis Bunney - Former Deputy Head

Mr Bunney was Deputy Headteacher at RLS. from 1968, appointed by G.K Embleton and retiring in the mid-1980s during the headship of Peter Luff.

He was a proud Cornishman, born in Truro in a humble background whose academic abilities won him a place at a

good secondary school and later a scholarship at Exeter University to read Physics. He entered the Royal Navy in the last months of the war and after his discharge became a teacher at Caterham School, Lord Williams, Thame, Carmel College Oxford and finally at the RLS as Deputy Head and teacher of Physics.

He loved Cornwall, holidays walking in the Lake District, Sheep Dog Trialling and playing Bridge- an exceptionally talented player. With his wife Rona, he loved horse racing, especially Point to Point and walking their collie dogs in the Oxfordshire countryside. Ed and I remember him, as do so many Old Latins who have contacted us, as an excellent teacher who always put teaching his classes before any Deputy Head demands; as a fair man who in disciplining

boys managed to maintain their respect; as a colleague who was always supportive, organised and capable of coping calmly with the unexpected daily challenges of school life. Mr Bunney was one of the last of those men who came into teaching after WWII and whose life experiences and values did so much to shape the careers of young men and women coming into teaching in the following years. The funeral service was at St Michael's Church Cumnor on Wednesday 21st December. Ed Grimsdale and Andy Cooper attended.

Andy Cooper: *'Thank you to all the Old Latins who shared their own tributes and personal memories of Mr Bunney on the RLS Alumni Facebook page'.*



'Scotty' Gordon (Class of 1977)

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Mark, a pupil at RLS in the 1970s.

After leaving the school Mark went to Manchester University and then after a number of career changes, took a Law Degree at Buckingham University before qualifying as a Barrister. Tragically his

Law career was cut short with the onset of Huntingdon's disease, with which he battled courageously for many years. Mark was a talented rugby player for Buckingham, a strong character who was a great friend to so many in the town. His funeral was at St Bernardine's Church in Buckingham on 23rd December.



Andrea Michelle Oakley 'Andi' - Former RLS modern languages teacher

At Andi's funeral in October 2016, her daughters spoke movingly about their mum, about her love and concern for them, the importance of education in their lives, morality and strong mindedness - all inspired through Andi's example.

Andi came to the RLS in September 1984 during the Headship of Peter Luff and left some 17 years later when Cecilia Galloway was Head. As Head of MFL she introduced Italian into the 6th form curriculum, achieving astonishing results. But more remarkable was her approach to teaching; her students were prepared to work extremely hard for her - Andi was a 'life-mentor' as much as teacher. She could be impulsive, spontaneous, very amusing but, always with the aim of getting the best out of her students. As a teaching colleague, Andi could always be relied on to challenge conventional wisdom. She was very intelligent, independent in her thought, humanitarian in her outlook on life and an essential presence if you wanted the party to go well!

At University Andi had studied French and Italian and her love for languages took her on many travels in Europe and further afield. She was also an excellent ballroom dancer, and as a young girl swam the English Channel. On her retirement she became a very accomplished artist with a number of exhibitions. Tim Hawkins, Mary Gentle, Frances Lawless, Lorna Piper and Clive and Pauline Martin represented her RLS teaching colleagues as well as this writer and his wife, Sally. Arron Quainton, Fiona Hewitt, Jane Harrington, Vicky Hurst and Ian Roberts were among Old Latins attending the service, and many wrote very moving tributes. As one Old Latin wrote, *'Au revoir, repose en paix'.*

Andrew (Andy Cooper)



600 Campaign Phase 2

Work continues apace to fundraise for the proposed £3m Sports Campus at RLS. We're busy consulting sports governing bodies, Sport England and anyone else who will listen! Our message is clear: we receive less funding from the government per student than any other school in England, and so we desperately need financial help to ensure that our young people can receive the sporting education that they are entitled to for the sake of their fitness, wellbeing and personal development.

Our talks with funders and potential sponsors and benefactors will continue throughout 2017; if you would like to know more, feel you might be able to help or introduce us to others, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing Jo Ballantine at jballantine@royallatin.org or by calling **01280 827309**.



Wendy Munt, Class of 1989

Campaign Board Welcomes another Old Latin

We are delighted that Wendy Munt, Class of 1987, has agreed to join the 600 Campaign Board. Wendy has been a supporter of the 600 Campaign right from the start, and brings commercial experience and endless enthusiasm for her old school to the team of twelve voluntary board members, including parents, Old Latins, and The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, who is Lead Patron.

We're really keen to ensure that Old Latins are represented on the Campaign Board. If you would like to find out more about becoming a member, please contact Jo at jballantine@royallatin.org, outlining any relevant experience.

A Message from Lauren, Year 13, Team GB Rower

I am currently a pupil of the Royal Latin's sixth form and will be sitting A-levels in Biology, Philosophy and Ethics and History this June. I was very unwell throughout the second year at the school, as a rare throat infection led to my antibodies attacking the frontal lobes in my brain and I spent nine months in and out of the John Radcliffe Hospital with brain damage. My parents were told that I would have to be taken care of for the rest of my life and would never be capable of looking after myself.

The support from the sport staff started here - Miss Gahagan ran a sponsored run in aid of the ward that took care of me and it was then I promised myself I would one day do something amazing in sport, no matter what the doctors told me I couldn't do.

As a result of the illness I have been left with a tic disorder which could last the rest of my life. I defied the expectations of doctors by returning to full time education within a year. Part of my rehabilitation was exercising, and it was then I found my love for competing. I represented the school in athletics at the district championships and still hold school records in the discus and relay, winning the junior Victrix Ludorum on sports day one year. I also captained the school netball team, played for the hockey team and took up PE for my GCSEs. Sport became an outlet for me, and the encouragement of the staff and the amazing fun I had both in games lessons with my friends and competing for the school led me to seek out what else sport could offer me, and I began rowing.

Throughout the last two years the Latin has helped me fit my education around a very demanding training schedule, also making sure I was up to date on my schoolwork, and that I was healthy and happy. They took a huge interest in what I was doing, even rewarding me with the school's first 'rowing' colour when I won the National Championships. When I represented Great Britain for the first time I was rewarded with 'international' colours which a number of high achieving students have been given when they have been selected by and competed for their country. It has always struck me that the athletes competing for sports outside the school get just as much recognition and support as those who compete for the school, and all levels of sporting participation are recognised. This means that sport is not just reserved for the 'elite' which is incredibly important.

Last summer I earned a British vest, having been selected to represent the country in the 4s and 8s at the Coupe de la Jeunesse (European Championships) and came back with a gold, silver and bronze medal. I owe a huge amount of my success to the support of my school and hope that they can continue to do this for students in the future. New sporting facilities would make this so much easier, and would encourage so many more students to take this opportunity to be fit, healthy and possibly find a sport that they love enough to be competitive in.

I feel as though I owe a lot to the school sports department and hope that you can help me give back to them, and to give this amazing opportunity to future students of the Royal Latin School.



Lauren, pictured left, with her GB teammates

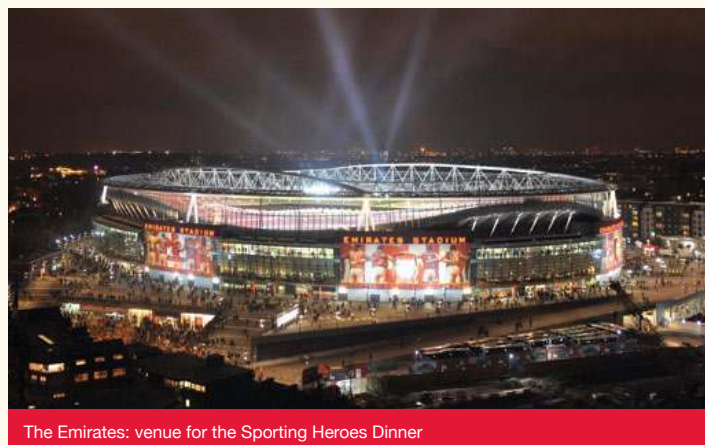


Lauren with David Hudson, Mum (Catriona Kay) & Ian Gould next to her framed GB Shirt

Did sport at RLS help you overcome challenges? Or have you found a love for sport and its many benefits later in life...please get in touch with your story at latinlife@royallatin.org, we'd love to hear from you.

A snapshot of our Sports Campus fundraising activities for 2017

Please get involved and follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter for lots of photos and latest news!



The Emirates: venue for the Sporting Heroes Dinner



Rugby international Kenny Logan will be attending the dinner in March

Sporting Heroes Dinner, The Emirates, 21st March

We're very excited about this special event! The dinner will be hosted by BBC's Chris Hollins, and attended by sporting greats such as Kenny Logan, Duncan Goodhew and Rob Andrew, plus many more. Please do join us for an amazing celebration of sporting heroes, and to hear inspirational stories of physical endeavour from RLS students past and present.

Tickets cost from £140, and can be booked via <http://bit.ly/heroesdinner>. This event has only been made possible with the help of Old Latin Trevor Saving, Class of 1974 – thank you so much Trevor!

At the dinner we'll be showcasing and auctioning a unique collection of tributes written especially for us by sportspeople, about their own sporting heroes.

We are so grateful to the following people for taking the time out of their busy schedules to put pen to paper for us:

- Marc Gené (tribute to Michael Schumacher)
- Craig Pickering (tribute to Michael Johnson)
- Max Whitlock (tribute to Usain Bolt)
- Bryony Page (tribute to Chris Hoy)
- Nile Wilson (tribute to London 2012 Men's Gymnasts)
- Brinn Bevan (tribute to Muhammad Ali)
- Nathan Bailey (tribute to David Beckham)
- Kat Driscoll (tribute to Lewis Hamilton)
- Kristian Thomas (tribute to Team GB Men's Gymnasts)
- Graeme Swann (tribute to Allan Lamb)
- Jonathan Davies (tribute to George Best)
- Owen Farrell (tribute to Michael Jordan)
- Neil de Kock (tribute to Joost van der Westhuizen)
- Nathan Earle (tribute to Jason Robinson)
- Andrew Fenby (tribute to Steven Gerrard)
- Alex Goode (tribute to Jo Goode)
- Jamie George (tribute to Freddie Flintoff)
- Charlie Hodgson (tribute to Jason Robinson)
- Maro Itoje (tribute to Muhammad Ali)
- Duncan Taylor (tribute to Gary Anderson)
- Nico Rosberg (tribute to Mika Hakkinen)

We will be accepting advance bids for these autographed, framed tributes, and so if you are unable to attend the dinner but would like to enter a bid, then please email us at latinlife@royallatin.org with your bid by 12 noon on 20th March and we'll enter it on your behalf at the event. We'll also be auctioning the following framed, signed shirts, so again, if you'd like to send us a bid, please get in touch - thank you!

Harlequins RFC Shirt, Arsenal FC Shirt, All Blacks Shirt Signed by Sean Fitzpatrick, Brighton & Hove Albion Shirt and MK Dons Shirt.

We're currently seeking corporate sponsors for this event, so please email latinlife@royallatin.org ASAP if you think your company can help!

Strictly Latin!

We couldn't resist! In the autumn we'll be staging our very own Strictly competition, and are currently seeking 16 dancers to be paired with a professional and get started on training.

Dancers need to be prepared to raise at least £1,000 in sponsorship each, and to commit to training sessions several times a week for a three month period, before starring in the glittering competition for one night only! No previous dancing experience required – sense of fun essential. We've already signed up our first dancer – an ITV presenter – so you'd be in good company!

If you want to apply to be a contestant, please email latinlife@royallatin.org and we'll send you an expression of interest form to complete. Good luck!

Cycling with a Pro



Giles Derry, 600 Campaign Chair, who cycled 850 miles in 7 days in 2016 to raise funds for the Sports Campus!

Calling all keen cyclists! We're exploring the idea of getting cyclists together this Spring, for a 2 hour ride departing from RLS with a cycling professional. If you're interested in joining in, please email us at rls600@royallatin.org and we'll give you more details as we have them.

600
Campaign

Sports Campus

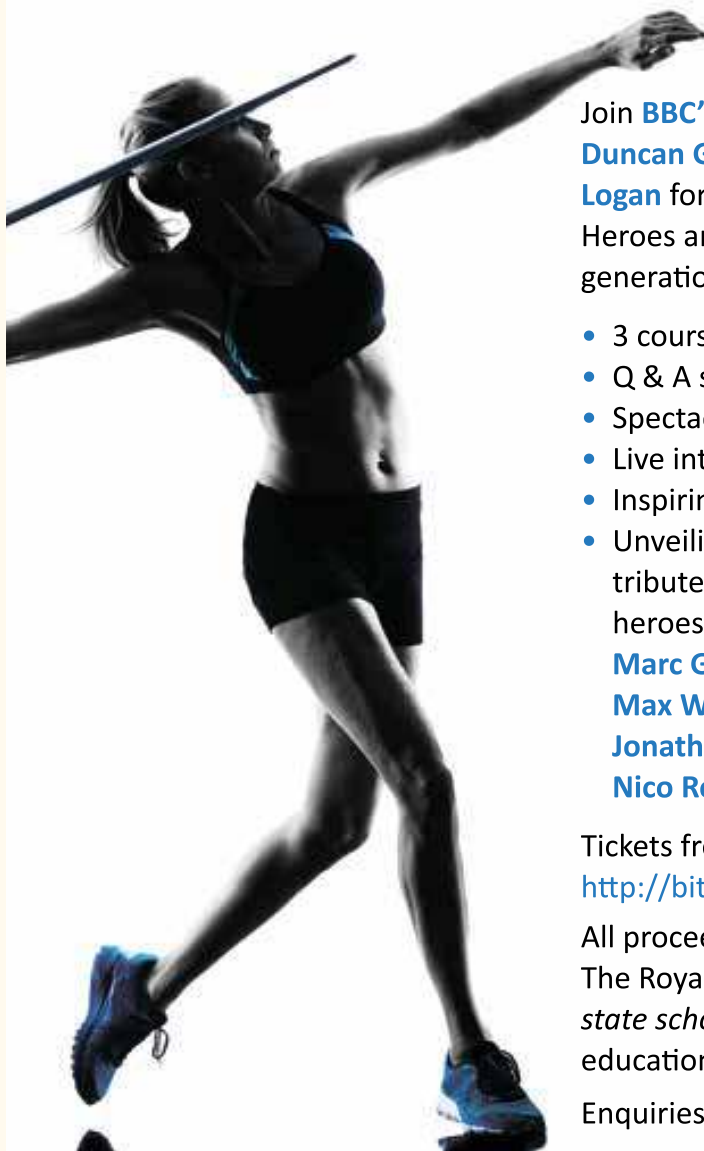
Energise • Enjoy • Excel



Sporting Heroes Dinner

On Tuesday 21st March 2017, from 7pm

To be held at The Emirates Stadium
by kind permission of Arsenal Football Club



Join **BBC's Chris Hollins** plus VIP guests including **Duncan Goodhew**, **Rob Andrew** and **Kenny Logan** for a fantastic celebration of Sporting Heroes and the role they play in inspiring future generations.

- 3 course dinner
- Q & A session with a panel of personalities
- Spectacular auction
- Live interviews
- Inspiring stories of sporting endeavour
- Unveiling & auction of unique handwritten tributes by sporting heroes, to sporting heroes, including:
Marc Gené's tribute to **Michael Schumacher**
Max Whitlock's tribute to **Usain Bolt**
Jonathan Davies's tribute to **George Best**
Nico Rosberg's tribute to **Mika Häkkinen**

Tickets from £140, early booking advised via:
<http://bit.ly/heroesdinner>

All proceeds to a £3m Sports Campus at
The Royal Latin School - *the worst-funded
state school in England* - to transform sporting
education for young people.

Enquiries to: jballantine@royallatin.org

Buy A Brick



Buying a brick for the Discovery Centre was popular with Old Latins, and we are really pleased to be able to offer you the same opportunity in this phase of the 600 Campaign.

The bricks will be situated in pride of place on an external wall of the new Sports Campus pavilion building, and offer Old Latins an opportunity to have their name and time at RLS – or the name of a loved one - featured on the building.

Each brick costs just £125, and if you prefer you can even pay over twelve months by making monthly instalments of £10.42 per brick. All you need to do is decide what inscription you would like to see on your brick in recognition of your support – it might be a family inscription, the names of your offspring, a group of classmates, a special date or message, or simply your name and year of leaving if you are a former pupil of the school.

Your inscription can have a maximum of 32 characters and incorporate letters and numbers, for example:

Fred Smith 1987

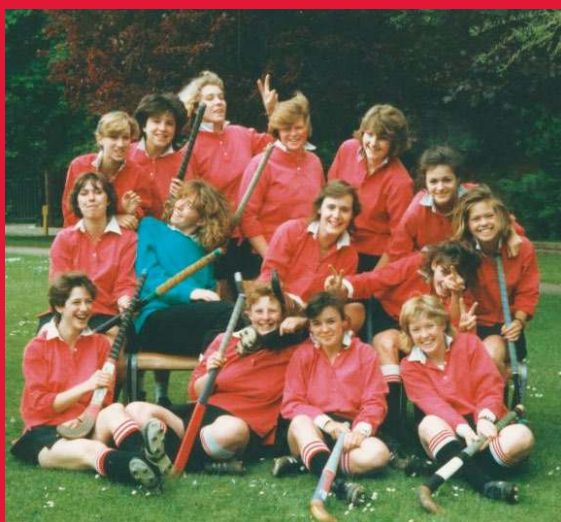
In return for your donation, you will receive a special invitation to attend the unveiling of the bricks once the Pavilion is complete. We'll also send you a brick gift certificate if you wish – please ask for details.



The Discovery Centre bricks in situ

Details of how to Buy A Brick for the pavilion can be found on the form included in this edition – simply complete and return to us with your payment, and feel free to email us with any queries - thank you!

600 Sporting Stories



We want to collect 600 stories about what sport means to us all – and we want you to take part!

Everyone has a sporting memory to share – whether as a participant or spectator. Share your story with us and we will incorporate it and your name into a large mural in the new Sports Campus.

- What is your favourite memory of a sporting event or achievement? Why is it special to you?
- What do you remember about sport when you were at school?
- Is your strongest sporting memory a victorious one – or a painful one?
- Do you have a story about how sport has united your friends and family?

Simply tell your story in 50 words on our 600 Sporting Stories form (included at the back of the newsletter) and return it to RLS with your £25 donation - please complete a separate story form for each story you wish to submit.

Thank you - we look forward to reading your entries!

Here is a gallery of the latest Sporting Heroes to have signed up to support the Sports Campus



Team GB Olympic Trampolinists



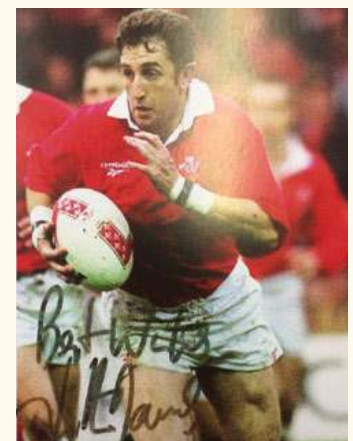
Craig Pickering, Olympic sprinter and RLS Student (Class of 2005)



Gabby Logan, Sports presenter



Marc Gené, Ferrari F1 Test & Reserve Driver



Jonathan Davies, Rugby Legend



Ollie Phillips, Rugby Sevens Star



Nico Rosberg, Mercedes F1 Driver



Dominic Mahoney, Olympic Pentathlete

Old Latins

In each issue we share news from and about Old Latins

From the 1940s

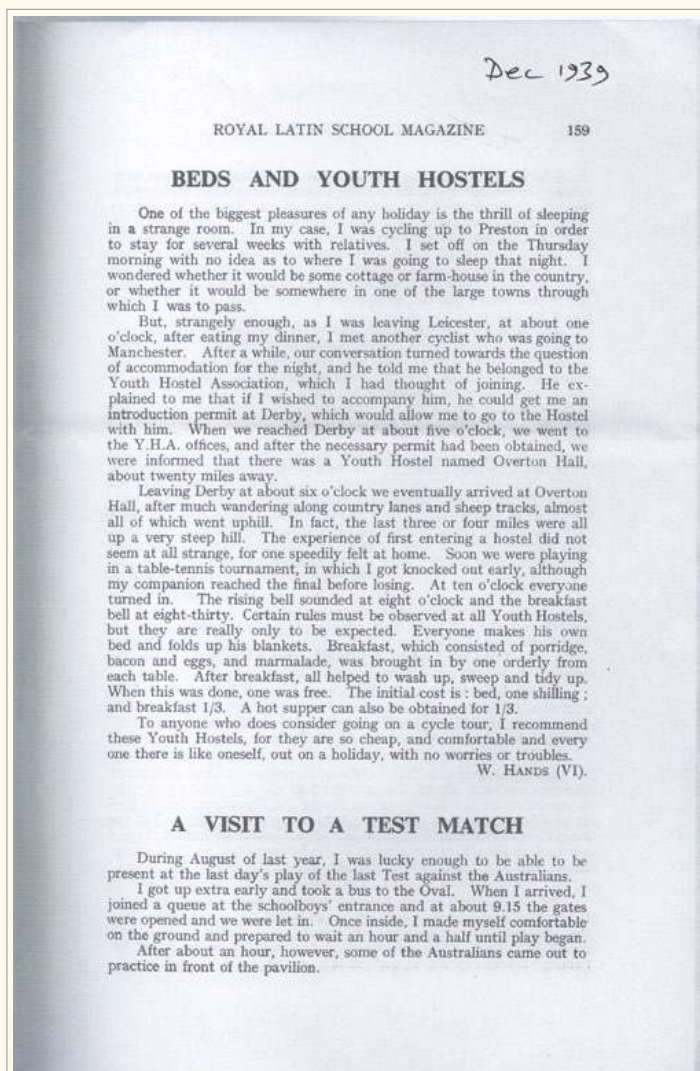


Harry on his bike

Harry Hands (Class of 1940)

The Alumni team would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to local Old Latin, William Henry (Harry) Hands. Harry celebrated his 93rd birthday last month. To mark the occasion, our archivist, Bob Munday (Harry's nephew) has looked out an interesting article from the RLS Archive from the RLS magazine

of December 1939, describing Harry's impressive achievement of cycling from Buckingham to Preston, Lancashire, at the age of 15, using Youth Hostel accommodation en route.



Extract from the RLS Magazine, December 1939

From the 1970s

Revd Martin Wroe (1970s)



The Revd Martin Wroe Vicar acts on Navy Officer's last order, to give flowers to strangers

This was a headline in the Daily Telegraph before Christmas. Jack Webber, a retired R.N. Commander had died aged 101 and his last wish was that flowers should be given to complete strangers and that they should be told they were, 'absolutely marvellous'.

The Revd Martin Wroe, RLS 1970s, one of the first to take A' level Religious Studies with Andy Cooper, is a full-time freelance writer and Associate

Vicar at St Luke's Church, West Holloway, and acted on Jack's last wish this Christmas. He also shared his experience of 'giving flowers to strangers' on Thought For The Day on BBC Radio 4 on 10th December 2016. To read the full story Google 'Martin Wroe'.

From the 1990s

Rob Smith (early 1990s)



Rob (left) with his expedition team at the South Pole in January 2017

Rob Smith, who left the RLS in the early '90s recently embarked on a polar expedition that made him the first British explorer to travel a new route across the Antarctic to the South Pole since Sir Ernest Shackleton, 100 years ago. He and his fellow polar explorer and guide, Eric Phillips, reached the South Pole on 10th January 2017, with this expedition following another trek to the North Pole in April 2016.

Three years ago, Rob's best friend, Neil, was diagnosed with Oesophagus and Lung Cancer and given only a few weeks to live. Sadly, Neil passed away in 2012 leaving a wife and new born baby. Just over a month later, Rob's mother Maureen passed away after a twenty-five-year battle with multiple cancers. One month later, Rob then found himself diagnosed with Cancer. Having undergone surgery and chemotherapy and an extensive 2-year battle, Rob eventually overcame the disease.

As a result of his personal experiences of cancer, Rob resolved to fight back against the disease by finding ways to raise money for research, and discovered Icetrek - a company that organises polar expeditions, and uses experienced polar guides, such as renowned adventurer, Eric Phillips, who has supported Rob on his expeditions.

'We were in touch with him in Antarctica and followed his progress closely. We very much look forward to Rob visiting us in 2017, to share his courageous adventure with our students.'

Rob is trying to raise £50,000 for Cancer Research UK and he would be grateful for any support through his Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Robert-Smith69.

Read more about these polar expeditions at www.trek2poles.com.

Class of 1991 Reunion, 15th October 2016



The Class of 1991

On Saturday 15th October 2016 the RLS hosted a 25th anniversary class reunion of the class of 1991.

WALKING up and down Brookfield Lane was an integral part of my daily routine during my teenage years.

But there'd been a 25 year gap since the last journey, and now I was meandering up to 'The Latin' with my husband. To be truthful, it was quite nerve-wracking.

We walked past the old sixth form block (which, as a 2nd year, filled me with awe and has long-since become a private house), and I pointed out Rotherfield, which was where my classmates and I spent our A' Level years. The rickety, cold T-Huts had gone. When I was at RLS, Brookfield House was the headmaster's residence, as well as home to a smattering of boarders. So when Marc – my other half – and I stepped over the threshold, it felt as if I were trespassing on Peter Luff's domain. But that soon faded when I walked into the elegant reception room and was met by tens of people that took me back quarter of a century.

Most of the class of 1991 hadn't changed at all – same familiar faces and, it soon became clear, same familiar characters. After warm acknowledgements, we fell into conversations about our school days, with anecdotes and reminders of a time that seemed like only yesterday.

The walls of the room were decorated with old pictures and we spent too long pointing out our former selves, laughing at memories of those we recognised and remembering those who have, sadly, already passed away.

There was little time to get comfortable though, because we were there to snoop around the corridors and rooms that had been our domain for our formative years. As we walked through Brookfield's cobbled stable-yard, I couldn't help but laugh at the tiny room which had been the computer lab. In the late 80s it had housed

naive technology which we visited only briefly every week. It was here that Mr Grimsdale had bellowed at me on a sunny summer's day when I daftly enquired whether we could work outside!

The tour proper started at our old science block. These former biology, chemistry and physics labs have all but been ripped out now, but they still had a slight whiff of gas in the air. I took biology A' Level, and I still say 'protozoa' in a Welsh accent, thanks to my teacher Miss Clark. The replacement science block, built on the grassy bank where the girls sat during clement lunchtimes, is astounding. It is a beautiful stream-lined building with state-of-the-art facilities and a rooftop patio. It was a fabulous spot to stop and take photos, while the RLS reunion team, headed by Director of Development, Jo Ballantine, patiently waited for us to move on.

Next, we climbed up the bank to the main building. We giggled about the teachers and lessons we'd all had in these corridors, were amazed to see a lift installed in what was Mr Newton's classroom and found our old form rooms. The wooden desks, the staffroom and the first-floor library – where a student once fell from a window, have all disappeared, but the general atmosphere is still the same. Downstairs, we realised the sickroom where girls used to hide during games lessons had disappeared too. And there was tangible shock to discover that the prefect's room was gone and the canteen had doubled in size! It was interesting how we were quite appalled by some of the changes, for no reason other than it skewed our own recollections!

Luckily, the hall, stage and gym are still the same as ever. The dreaded walk-through showers, however, have now been replaced by much more civilised private cubicles, so girls clearly don't have to go through the humiliation of walking naked through a stream of water overseen by PE teachers! Some changes are clearly for the best!

Our final stop was Rotherfield, which is still the sixth-form centre. Here we explored the rambling rooms which were home to our transformation into young adults. I remember watching Margaret Thatcher leave Downing Street for the final time on a television in our messy common room. Today, this room is an archive of Old Latin memorabilia. Jo and her team had thoughtfully laid out press cuttings and sports photos from our era, and we poured our way through them with laughter. There were stories about locking maths teachers in cupboards, hovering around the caged T-Hut boilers for warmth, reducing German teachers to tears, and of how we used to deface our hymn books (do pupils still have these?). Our days at The Latin were fun, full of drama and certainly shaped our futures.

There was merriment as we left, down 'Dark Alley' onto Chandos Road. We walked through Chandos Park, where many had bunked off for a crafty cigarette, and into town where the annual fair was in full swing. We had all really enjoyed our afternoon and were keen to spend the evening reminiscing some more. Where did we do that? At Villiers of course, where many of us enjoyed a legal drink at the bar for the first time!

Vikki Evans (Class of 1991)

Thank you to Vikki for writing such a lovely review of your reunion. We look forward to welcoming you back to the RLS in the future.

From the 2000s



Old Latin on the Stage

Stephanie Watkins (Class of 2011)

Stephanie Watkins (Class of 2011), has remained true to her dreams and has embarked on a successful career as an actor. On leaving the RLS she attained a BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre before successfully graduating from the American Musical Theatre Academy in London.

Since then she has appeared in a touring musical, a musical in London, and the Edinburgh Fringe where she was nominated for an award for best

individual performance, and her show won a Best Comedy award. She is now appearing as the lead in two pantos: as Cinderella and Elsa (Frozen). Stephanie is working hard to progress her career and is excited for forthcoming projects in 2017.

Old Latins Reunited

Have you lost touch with an Old Latin? Is there an old classmate or school friend that you trying to track down? Please send details of who you are searching for to latinlife@royallatin.org and we can advertise your search in our new section in the next issue and on the **RLS Alumni Facebook page**. We never share contact details without individual permission, and are happy to act as intermediaries if you prefer.

Reunion News

Calling the Classes of 1975 and 1976

Class of 2011

Thank you to Angela Rhodes for getting in touch to let us know that she is helping to organise a reunion for the Class of '75, as part of the 60th birthday celebrations for those in that year group. A pig roast gathering at the farm of Ken Grimsdell in Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire is proposed for July (date to be confirmed). Angela would be keen to hear from anyone from that year who would be interested in attending. Please email latinlife@royallatin.org in the first instance and we will put you in touch with Angela.

Class of 1976

The Class of 1976 (or 1974 for those that left after O' levels) are enjoying virtual reunions and mini get-togethers in anticipation of full reunion in 2017. They have a Facebook group, so if anyone is interested in joining, please contact either Sue Hilsdon (Sear), Jan Smith (Brown) or Richard Hill via their reunion page on **Facebook ('RLS 69-74/76')** or email us at latinlife@royallatin.org.

Class of 1974 reunion update

Thank you to Nigel Pullen (Class of 1974) for getting in touch with us recently. Nigel was unable to attend last year's reunion for his year at RLS, but has asked us to pass on his best wishes to all those who remember him, and to say that he hopes to make it to the next get-together.



The Buckingham Partnership - Teacher Training

Train to be a teacher and help shape young people's futures

There are now several routes into teaching and The Buckingham Partnership can support your journey to a new career.

We offer school based teacher training options to gain your QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) and PGCE. Your year is spent in a local school learning on the job from experienced teachers and mentors. We meet weekly at our dedicated training centre based at the Royal Latin School for training sessions delivered by outstanding practitioners in their field. Bursaries of up to £30k are available.

For those already working in a school with substantial teaching experience we offer the Assessment Only route, offering you the chance to gather a portfolio of

evidence against the teachers standards to gain your QTS (Qualified Teacher Status).

If you are a qualified teacher and want to develop further subject expertise and be qualified to teach Maths, MFL or Physics, the TSST (Teacher Subject Specialism Training) route is the option for you.

The Buckingham Partnership prides itself on developing trainees both academically, professionally and pastorally. We work closely with all our trainees to ensure the course meets individual needs.

We offer both primary and secondary and have excellent links with local schools.

Find out more at one of our Teacher Taster Days please contact us on:

www.bpscitt.uk Tel: 01280 827 377

teachertraining@royallatin.org

[f](#) The Buckingham Partnership [t](#) @bpscitt



Calling Old Latin Golfers

Around 100 golfers enjoyed a superb day of golf at Whittlebury Park in September 2016, followed by the evening Sports Ball, attended by RLS parents, Old Latins and other campaign supporters.

Many Old Latins will remember one of golfers competing on the course – Clive Martin, the RLS former Head of PE for many years.

For any golfers amongst the Old Latin community, the date for our popular annual Golf Day this year has been confirmed as **Friday, 15th September 2017**.

We will be looking for teams of four to compete in this fun event, which will include a putting competition and lunch. Further details will be available soon, but if you would like to express an interest in putting a team together or in joining another team, please email golf@royallatin.org.

We would love to hear from you about what kind of events you would be interested in attending, or what type of news you would like to hear.

We are considering hosting an informal get together for Old Latins in Spring 2017, but would like to gauge the interest in this from Old Latins. If you would be interested in attending such an event at one of Buckingham's bars or eateries, with the option of popping up to RLS for a look around, please do get in touch by emailing latinlife@royallatin.org



Clive Martin (second from left), former Head of PE at RLS, with his team

Is there a doctor in the house?

The RLS has a 'MedSoc' that meets on a weekly basis during term-time, and the society is currently on the look out for any Old Latin medics who might be interested in coming in to speak to students one lunchtime (usually Tuesdays, but another day could be arranged if more suitable) during this academic year.

If you would like to help, please email latinlife@royallatin.org to arrange a visit.

Jo Ballantine Honoured at CASE Europe Awards

RLS Director of Development Jo Ballantine was presented with the CASE Europe Schools Engagement Award in the autumn. The award recognises individuals who have led an innovative programme of external engagement to enhance relationships for their school and community.

The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, who nominated Jo for the award with the help of Old Latins, parents and students, said: *'Jo is a true asset to both education and fundraising. I am delighted to see her win this award in recognition of her considerable efforts and the very real impact they are having on the school community and beyond.'* **Well done Jo!**



Jo receiving her award last year



Get in Touch!

Editor: Lucy Beckett

Call: 01280 827306, e-mail: latinlife@royallatin.org

The Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX

2017 Calendar

Saturday 4th March

RLS Under 18s Semi Final
at Saracens

Tuesday, 21st March

Sporting Heroes Dinner at The
Emirates Stadium

Wednesday, 26th April

London Alumni Drinks - venue
to be confirmed

Saturday 29th April

Old Latins v Akeley Wood
School, Buckingham Rugby
Club, 2pm

Wednesday 3rd May

Archive Day

Friday, 23rd June

Founders' Day/Sports Day

Friday, 15th September

600 Campaign Golf Day
at Whittlebury Park

October - Official re-opening of Rotherfield House

Date to be confirmed

October/November

Strictly Latin – date to be
confirmed

Friday, 10th November

Remembrance Service at RLS



Alumni Facebook and Twitter accounts

We're thrilled that so many of you are now connecting
through the new Facebook page and Twitter account for
the Old Latin community.

If you haven't joined the Facebook group, please do search for
'RLS Alumni', like it and share with your old classmates or groups.
The Twitter handle is [@RLSAlumni](https://twitter.com/RLSAlumni).

Pass it on

Do you know an Old Latin who would like to receive Latin Life.
Please feel free to pass on your copy and do tell them to get in
touch with us at latinlife@royallatin.org if they would like to be
added to our mailing list.

Planning a reunion?

We are happy to help you make your reunion happen in 2017.

The tried and tested format for a reunion tends to consist of
meeting at the RLS at 2pm on a Saturday for a gathering with
refreshments (we are happy to provide complimentary tea and
coffee, but would just ask that you provide anything further you
might like to serve), followed by a tour of the school. Please contact
Jo to arrange – jballantine@royallatin.org

Latin Life Sponsors:

We would love to hear from
anyone who might be able
to help us with the design
and printing of Latin Life,
or who might be willing to
sponsor Latin Life on an
annual or edition by edition
basis – please do get in
touch for an informal chat
with Jo!

jballantine@royallatin.org

Your contact details

Please use the contact
details form included
with this issue to update
us with any changes,
and if you haven't
already, please send us
your email address!

If *Latin Life* is still posted to
your parents' address, and
more than one Old Latin
lived at that address, we
will aim to send only one
copy of the newsletter per
address from now on, to
reduce costs. If you require
further copies, or would
like them sent elsewhere,
please let us know (or even
better - send us your email
address). Email
latinlife@royallatin.org

It's Your *Latin Life*

Please get in touch to share ideas for articles or let us know what you would like to see
included in *Latin Life*.

We'd particularly like to be able to share your news – whether relating to career, family, leisure, travel or
voluntary work – with other Old Latins, so get your thinking caps on and email latinlife@royallatin.org with
your contributions!



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





Alumni contact details update form

Please use this form to let us know about any changes to your contact details, either by emailing this form to latinlife@royallatin.org or by posting to Latin Life, Royal Latin School, Chandos Road, Buckingham, MK18 1AX.

Personal / Home Details

Title	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>
Forename(s)	<input type="text"/>
Maiden Name	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/> (format dd/mm/yyyy)

Address details:

House number or name	<input type="text"/>
Street	<input type="text"/>
Town or City	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Mobile	<input type="text"/>
Year of joining RLS	<input type="text"/>
Year of leaving RLS	<input type="text"/>
Career/position	<input type="text"/>

Data protection

Personal data will not be passed to external organisations or individuals, including other alumni, without your prior written consent.

Help Us to Collect 600 Sporting Stories

We want to collect 600 stories about what sport means to us all – and we want you to take part!

Everyone has a sporting memory to share – whether as a participant or spectator. Share your story with us and we will incorporate it and your name into a large mural in the new Sports Campus.

- **What is your favourite memory of a sporting event or achievement? Why is it special to you?**
- **What do you remember about sport when you were at school?**
- **Is your strongest sporting memory a victorious one – or a painful one?**
- **Do you have a story about how sport has united your friends and family?**

Simply tell your story in 50 words below, complete the donation form and return it to RLS - please complete a separate story form for each story you wish to submit.

My Sporting Story

Name: _____

600 Sporting Stories Donation Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to share _____ Sporting Stories at £25 each

☐ I am happy for my story and first name to be shared on social media/ RLS website to encourage others to take part

☐ I enclose a cheque for £_____ (made payable to 'Royal Latin School – School Fund'; please write '600 Story' on reverse of cheque)

☐ I have made a direct transfer of £_____ to the school account (please use '600 Story' as your reference):

Account Name: The Royal Latin School – School Fund

Sort Code: 30-15-53

Account No.: 48911968

Address: Lloyds TSB, 28 Secklow Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EH

☐ I am enclosing £_____ cash

Gift Aid Declaration – PLEASE COMPLETE

I wish The Royal Latin School to reclaim tax on all donations I make from the date of this declaration. I understand that I must pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that RLS reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

LL9 17

The Royal Latin School is a Registered Charity No. 1060724

Buy A Brick

Show your support for the Sports Campus by buying a brick for a feature wall of the Pavilion.

Each brick costs just £125, and if you prefer you can even pay over twelve months by making monthly instalments of £10.42 per brick.



All you need to do is decide what inscription you would like to see on your brick in recognition of your support – it might be a family inscription, the names of your offspring, a group of classmates, a special date or message, or simply your name and year of leaving if you are a former pupil of the school.

Your inscription can have a maximum of 32 characters and incorporate letters and numbers, for example:

The Jones Family
Fred Smith 1987
Sarah, Lucy & Shona 2012

In return for your donation, you will receive a special invitation to attend the unveiling of the bricks once the Pavilion is complete. We'll also send you a brick gift certificate if you wish – please ask for details.

To buy your brick, simply complete and return the form and we'll do the rest!

LL9 17

Buy A Brick Form

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I would like to buy _____ bricks at a total cost of £ _____
I would like my inscription(s) to read: _____

☐ I **enclose a cheque** (made payable to 'Royal Latin School – School Fund'; please write '600 Brick' on reverse of cheque)

☐ I **have made a direct transfer** of £ _____ to the school account (please used 600 Element as your reference):

Account Name: The Royal Latin School – School Fund

Sort Code: 30-15-53

Account No.: 48911968

Address: Lloyds TSB, 28 Secklow Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EH

☐ I **have set up a standing order** into the above account for £ _____ for 3/4/6/12 months (please delete as necessary)

Gift Aid Declaration – PLEASE COMPLETE

I wish The Royal Latin School to reclaim tax on all donations I make from the date of this declaration. I understand that I must pay an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that RLS reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to: Jo Ballantine, The Royal Latin School,

Chandos Road, Buckingham MK18 1AX

The Royal Latin School is a Registered Charity No. 1060724