

Inside Latin *Life*



Remembering Robert Munday



We Did it! ek Sports Campus opens



Take a look inside the new Sports Campus



The Countdown to 2023 begins



Archive Day 2022



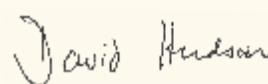
Welcome to the 17th edition of Latin *Life*

Six months ago I was reflecting on how the school was returning to some semblance of normality - I'm not sure that we have quite got to this state of nirvana just yet! We have, though, managed to keep going and the number of positive Covid cases, for both students and staff, has been manageable. There seems to be something resilient about the Latin student - clearly the current crop maintains the tradition of previous generations in being able to weather the most challenging of circumstances.

I do also want to thank so many of you for supporting our fundraising campaign for the Sports Campus. It was humbling to see so many of you contributing in so many ways and I have been delighted to see how our students are already benefiting from the new facilities. Thank you - you have helped to make an enormous difference to what we can offer our students, particularly with a view to them seeing how an improvement in physical health can support their mental health and wellbeing.

As we move into 2022 we are very much aware that our 600th anniversary, once a distant thought, is just round the corner. We are actively planning for a year which will, I hope, provide a range of exciting opportunities for Old Latins to return to school. The idea is that there should be something for all Old Latins, so please do watch out for notifications and information about events. Perhaps it is also an opportunity to start getting back in touch with your friends and classmates with a view to using 2023 as a means of coming together.

You will see a tribute to Robert Munday (Class of 1970) who sadly passed away last year. I wanted to express my own sadness and recognition of a fine Old Latin who loved our school and gave so much to RLS, both past (as student, father and husband) and present (as Archivist). I remember him with much fondness and miss his calm presence, love of football and gentle humour. RIP Bob.



David Hudson, Headteacher

A Tribute to Robert Munday



Robert (right) with fellow members of the Class of 1970, John Hounslow & Judith Beale at RLS in 2018



Robert, pictured centre on back row in the late 1960s X-Country team

We are so grateful to John Hounslow (Class of 1970) and Robert's widow, Ruth Newell (Class of 1974), as well as Robert and Ruth's daughters, Lara (Class of 2016) and Rachel (Class of 2011) for allowing us to share the following wonderfully fitting tribute to Robert; extracts from the eulogy written and delivered by John Hounslow at Robert's funeral in May 2021. As explained in the previous issue, Robert was also a much liked and highly valued member of the RLS Alumni Relations team, where he was our archivist for the past several years, and was a loyal and dedicated colleague, right up to the end. He will be sorely missed by us all.

I first got to know Robert nearly sixty years ago, the Monday of the second week of September 1963 was when we first met in one of the great rites of passage for any youngster. moving from primary to secondary school. I don't know if I spoke to Robert on that first day as he was surrounded by a few friends from his primary school who had moved up to the Royal Latin School with him. Gradually however I got to know him and it didn't take long to realise that we had a great deal in common. Both of us liked to laugh, both of us liked silly jokes and both of us were determined not to take life too seriously. When I think back to those days I always pictured Robert in what he called "Smutwork" and what was described on the curriculum as Metalwork. The teacher was a Mr Smith a tall avuncular Oxfordshire man who, like Robert, loved his football and Robert became adept at getting Mr Smith off the track of a lesson by bringing up Oxford United knowing that Mr Smith was one of their most dedicated fans and that he would far rather talk about football than metalwork. It was in the metalwork rooms that we forged a real partnership as we goaded on boys like Edmund Bullman and Geoff Beasley into wilder and wilder antics setting light to the Health and safety posters and getting the forge heated up to the point where we had to evacuate the room. Whatever it was we got up to Robert always emerged squeaky clean, the innocent party and the teacher's pet despite the fact that most of

the tricks we got up to were his idea in the first instance. I think, although I only met him once, that there was a lot of Harry Hands [Robert's late uncle and also an Old Latin] in Robert, the same impish humour and the same charm that carried them out of trouble . . . usually. He also had the knack of making himself useful to the teaching staff because when he went home for his lunch he often carried out errands for them. In particular for Mr Howard, the English teacher who usually got Robert to bring him 20 Benson & Hedges back. Heaven only knows which shop Robert used but they had obviously never heard about not serving cigarettes to under eighteens. The shopkeeper presumably knew Robert well and thought he could trust him not to be consuming the cigarettes himself.

Robert himself said of his school days "I had a great time at the Royal Latin. So many characters and so much humour. Such good friends – John Hounslow, Tony Summers, Edmund Bullman, Robert Holland, Paul Smith, Nigel Robinson, Ted Few, Geoff Beasley, Sally Battersby, Glynis Wilby, Miranda Brown, Tamara Garbe, Pam Chart and many more. We all enjoyed ourselves with some working harder than others!"

We both enjoyed our school days as they were full of laughter, sport and friendships and it was on the sports pitch that Robert really stood out from his fellow pupils.

He represented the school at most sports with the notable exception of swimming. In fact I don't recall ever seeing him in the swimming pool although I'm sure that he would have been required to do so at some stage. He seemed to have a natural aversion to cold water.

In rugby, x-country running, athletics and cricket he was more in his element although Robert will admit that he was not the keenest of rugby players. One of his favourite stories however was about playing rugby for the school when we suffered a big defeat in our first season losing 59 - 0 to Banbury Grammar School. In Robert's own words "One of their centres was electric and running through us at will". Robert obviously pointed this out to Edmund Bullman although I don't know what was said as we set the next scrum Edmund was noticeable by his absence. We glanced around and over on the far touchline was Edmund sat on top of their star man giving him a damn sound thrashing. This was followed by a strong telling off from the referee but no sending off. I think Robert must have reminisced with me 20 or 30 times about this match and each time this story came out so it must have been true.

Robert may not have liked Rugby but he had his uses on the pitch as when we were playing down on the town pitches at Bourton the favorite trick was to get Robert to kick for touch. He had an absolute siege-gun of a kick on him and whenever we needed a breather we could pass the ball for Robert to kick for touch making sure that the ball went well out into the middle of the river – although as he made absolutely clear it was not going to be him who went in to fetch the ball back!

However, when I think of Robert and sport my strongest memories are of him in football kit, always immaculate – if he left the field with mud on his shorts you knew you had been in a rough game because he strolled through most games with his skill and languid manner; seemingly existing on another plane to us mere mortals. His hair never seemed to be out of place either! He was a very fine footballer albeit he was always modest. Another school friend of Robert's was a chap called Paul Smith who made his career in professional football, not as a player but as an administrator and marketing guru he held senior managerial positions at both Manchester United and Chelsea and I spoke to Paul before finalizing this tribute. He confirmed my thoughts that Robert could have been a professional footballer had he possessed that last spark of nastiness or bite in his makeup which the professional game regards as so important. But that wasn't Robert's way, he was a purist who enjoyed the sheer beauty of the game when it is played well. It says much about him that his schoolboy footballing hero was Jim Baxter, a Scottish international and, surprise, surprise a Sunderland player for some two seasons. Baxter was not known for his hard running and played most games at little more than a trot. Nevertheless he was regarded as a Scottish legend and I'm sure Robert modelled his own style on that of Jim Baxter. Both believed that the ball could travel far faster than they could run – so why bother?

Robert left the RLS in 1969, and went to work in water supply for Bucks Water Board, and then Anglian Water, for 42 years

where he was a Network Manager and Construction Engineer and was involved with the Development of Milton Keynes. Anglian Water kindly sponsored him to study at the Open University and he gained a Diploma in Pollution Control in 2000, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in 2001.

Robert was a gentleman in the fundamental sense of the word – a 'gentle man'. He instinctively thought the best of people – especially if they came from Buckingham or in my case from Akeley – three miles or so up the Maids Moreton Road. A walk through Buckingham with Robert was a real education. It never seemed possible to walk straight from A to B because he was constantly being hailed by people who knew him and just wanted a chat. He responded to everyone, patient, cheerful and polite with something to say to everybody he met. At times it seemed as if everyone in Buckingham knew him and he unflinchingly used to introduce me to everyone which meant that it could take a fair while to get through the centre of town.

I was always very aware of the closeness of Robert's family and how proud he was both of Ruth and the girls. When we met up again in these last years Robert was the catalyst who brought so many members of the RLS 1963 intake back together again and one of the first things he told me was that Ruth, Rachel and Lara had all been to the Royal Latin School. By this time Robert had become the School's archivist and he was extremely proud to be so. His work was exemplary and when I took on the role of writing a History of the Royal Latin School for the 600th Anniversary Bob offered his unconditional support and was instrumental in identifying all the records which he thought would be useful and digging out quotes, facts and figures from the hundreds of School magazines.

In an effort to try to sum up what Robert meant to me and, I suspect so many of the people who knew him, three words stand out for me:

- Firstly *loyalty* to his wonderful family, Ruth, Rachel and Lara and to his extended family, sister Patricia, Aunts, Uncles, nieces and nephews; to Buckingham, his friends and the school where he was educated. All of these in their various ways mattered to Bob and he was loyal to them
- Secondly *laughter* because it was impossible to be in Robert's company for long before he would start off on one of his stories which invariably began "Do you remember when . . . and ended in gales of laughter and;
- Thirdly there was an *honesty* about Robert, in his dealings with people, how he spoke to people and the brave and honest way he dealt with his diagnosis. He never lied either to others or himself.

His friendship meant so much to me and I will always treasure the memories. I felt both proud and privileged to say that Robert Munday was my friend.

John Hounslow

Remembrance

In November we saw the welcome return of the whole school gathering for our annual act of Remembrance on the front lawn of the school, albeit without the external guests from the local British Legion, Armed Forces and local community who we usually welcome to share the occasion with us.

Remembrance Day at school is the nearest Thursday to Remembrance Sunday, and this year we truly were able to say that at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month - we did remember them. Ellie from Year 11 played the 'Last Post', and her rendition was also broadcast by the BBC South local news on the evening of 11th November, as part of the region's Remembrance coverage.



Ellie from Year 11 with her form teacher, Mr Matanda



The whole school gathers on the front lawn

Carol Concert



On 6th December, it was also wonderful to come together again in person at Buckingham Church for our annual carol concert, although, again adapting to the circumstances by holding the event 'behind closed doors', with parents able to enjoy the event this year by watching a film of the occasion. It was a real team effort preparing the Year 7 Chorus, and an orchestra across year groups. It was very exciting and uplifting to have so many voices and instruments playing together once again.

This was the first year of filming the Carol Concert for a remote audience, and we hope that if the filming takes place again next year, we will also be able to share this lovely annual occasion online with Old Latins.

Your news from the decades

From the 2000s

Samantha Tatlow (Class of 2005)

Congratulations to Samantha Tatlow of the Class of 2005 for being nominated in October 2021 as one of the 100 most influential disabled people in the Shaw Trust's The Disability Power 100. The Shaw Trust Power is an annual publication of the 100 most influential disabled people in the UK. The list plays a vital role in providing much needed encouragement to the young and talented leaders of tomorrow, allowing them to see that aspiration and ambition can be fulfilled regardless of disability or impairment.

Sam is Creative Diversity Partner at ITV and is part of the team delivering the Diversity Acceleration Plan. She is involved in delivering ITV's Disability agenda and also works closely with producers and the commissioning teams to ensure a diverse and inclusive team are involved for all ITV commissions.

She also works closely with her counterparts at other broadcasters including BBC, Channel 4, UKTV and Viacom CBS. Sam is involved in creating meaningful cultural change within the television industry, paying particular attention to accessibility and support packages such as Access to Work to enable increased representation of disabled people within our industry.

Sam is also a member of BAFTA's Learning, Inclusion and Talent Committee and is part of BAFTA's Diversity Steering Group for the Awards which conducted a review of BAFTA's Film Awards in 2020 with over 450 professionals from across all disciplines and backgrounds in the film and Television industry to ensure greater representation. She is part of the British Film Institute's Disability Advisory Group and is on the Board of Trustees for Graeae Theatre Company, the UK's leading disabled-led theatre company.



Samantha told The Shaw Trust:

“Being recognised by Shaw Trust in this way is an honour, thank you. Creating change, particularly for disabled people, is often a slow process and progress doesn't happen as fast as anyone would like. The impact the pandemic has had on disabled people's lives and careers over the past year and a half has been monumental but there have also been some benefits from the new ways we have all had to learn to live and work. I'm encouraged by this and feel we are turning a corner particularly when it comes to representation of disabled people in the television industry. I hope by this time next year that feeling has become a reality and I can't wait for that to happen.”

Your news from the decades

From the 2000s continued

Lauren Kay (Class of 2017)

Thank you to Lauren Kay of the Class of 2017 for sharing this inspiring story of her experiences since leaving RLS. We wish you all the best in your career as a paramedic.

I didn't really have much of an idea about what I wanted to pursue after school. Most of my peers were quite vocal about their plans, with applications in to Russell Group Universities to study architecture, medicine or business studies... but I hadn't really thought of a career I could get excited about. I was an athlete all the way through my school years, competing up to Junior British level in rowing, so that had been my main focus. I didn't really think much about my future beyond sport and not getting grounded for my exam results.

The Royal Latin prides itself on high academic standards, and whilst it is a privilege to study amongst some of the top performers in the country with that "the world is your oyster" feeling, it can be quite daunting when you don't know what it is you want to pursue. Going to university is the norm - I remember actually being worried for a friend who said she was going to London for an apprenticeship (she's now in a managerial position at Harrods). There's a lot of pressure to go on to higher education, with promises of better career prospects and financial security which, as it turns out, isn't necessarily true!

So, I picked a subject I enjoyed, applied to Newcastle University, got an offer, and off I went to study Philosophy. Don't get me wrong, I absolutely loved my degree! It teaches you so much more than the subject itself - by the time I came home for Christmas I was independent, excited about living so far away from home and well on my way to getting a handle on academic writing. Higher education taught me a lot. My time management improved, I learned to work hard academically and read beyond the taught subjects... I just didn't really see how I would translate the ability to understand Kantian ethics into the working world. I knew for a fact I didn't want an office job and started to really worry about what post-university life would look like for me.

After stopping rowing it was agreed that I needed to get a part-time job (my bank balance wasn't looking pretty and my parents weren't that keen on funding my nights out for the last two years of my degree). I applied to 40 different shops, bars and cafes but because of my lack of experience I didn't hear back from anyone, apart from the odd "I'm afraid that your application has been unsuccessful...".

As a last-ditch attempt I applied to the North East Ambulance Service as an emergency call handler and after a series of interviews, tests and a lot of paperwork I was finally employed. I fell in love with the job immediately, and knew that I wanted to pursue a career as a paramedic.



Unless you want to do a job like nursing, you're on your own when funding a second degree. My only option was to apply for a place on an extremely competitive degree apprenticeship programme, where you earn a full time wage as well as having uni fees covered.

The next two years were really tough and I worked hard to make myself a desirable candidate for the role. I worked for the service alongside my degree, wrote my dissertation in my student halls bedroom during the first lockdown, graduated with a 2:1, volunteered for a bereavement charity, got my C1 driving licence, took courses in my spare time and even got nominated for a national award for call handling at work.

The hard work all paid off, though. After a very stressful 5 weeks of application stages, competing for one of 20 places out of over 200 applicants, I was told that I was successful and that from September 2021 I would be a paramedic apprentice (back to uni I go!). I'm so excited to make a start on my dream career and proud to wear my greens.

Moral of the story is: it's ok not to have a clue what you want to do yet. At 18 you haven't gone out and experienced the world, found what your passionate about and what excites you. It's ok if 10 years from now you still have no idea what you want to do! University isn't always the answer to everything, you can take some time to explore and gain some life experience before you go, you can decide to skip it altogether or you can study all the way up to a PHD if you really want. There's so much out there for you to sink your teeth into and whilst good exam results certainly opens doors, 'bad' exam results won't leave you with no options. Academic success is not the only kind of success you can experience and you might just find your niche in a place you'd never even considered. It'll all be ok in the end.

Connor Heron (Class of 2016)

We are very grateful to artist Connor Heron of the Class of 2016 for sharing these wonderful drawings of the Royal Latin on a recent visit to the school. We hope to feature some of Connor's artwork in our 2023 celebration activities over the next year, so watch this space.



Old Latins back in the classroom

We are always extremely grateful to hear from Old Latins who are willing to support current Latins in their learning and career aspirations. Thank you so much to Rachel Street from the Class of 2016 for talking to Year 11s via a Google Meet in December about 'Maths in Careers' and how maths has helped her in her career in digital marketing.

Thank you also to Arinade Bademosi from the Class of 2017 who came into school in July to talk to Year 7s about her job as an Associate Client Partner at Apple.



Rachel talks to Year 11 students in a Google Meet



Arinade speaks to Year 7 students

If you would like to offer to talk to current Latin students about your career, we would love to hear from you at: latinlife@royallatin.org

WE DID IT!

The ek robotics Sports Campus Opens to Delight of School and Community

After five long years of fundraising, the ek robotics Sports Campus is finally complete! More than a hundred sponsors, supporters and special guests attended the official opening ceremony on 24th November. A host of Old Latins and sporting stars sent messages of congratulations to the school, and Professor Greg Whyte OBE had the honour of cutting the ribbon to formally open the facility. As part of the opening celebrations, Olympic rowers Ben Hunt-Davis and Charlie Elwes dropped in to coach some rowing, Olympic runner Laura Muir met students via Zoom to share her experiences, and England rugby star Rachael Burford delivered a girls' rugby coaching session on the field. Players and coaches from MK Dons FC women's team also got involved with a girls' coaching session on the new 3G pitch.



Greg Whyte OBE (left) and David Hudson (right) with 600 Campaign board members Denise Griffiths (née Bone, Class of 1980) and Giles Derry

David handed over to Olympian and sports scientist Professor Greg Whyte OBE, who also gave a speech before unveiling the plaque commemorating the opening of the building:

"I'm so impressed by what the Royal Latin has achieved for school and community sport, and I love the way you've brought sporting heroes into the heart of the project. I'm really delighted to have been asked to cut the ribbon to officially open the Sports Campus, and to give the inaugural community lecture – it is imperative that we embed positive experiences which inspire people of all ages to be more active, and this is a fabulous model for other schools and communities to follow. This is a fabulous project delivered by an outstanding team, that will make a real and lasting difference to children's education and health. Congratulations."



Guests assemble to watch the official opening and speeches

Chris Price, UK Managing Director of Sports Campus sponsor ek robotics, said:

"ek robotics are delighted to see the finished sports campus handed over to the students and wider community. It was a pleasure and privilege to be able to help fund such an exciting project that will have great benefits for the future education of our children. We are proud to continue our support of the Buckingham community as a whole. With help from the industry, ek robotics are looking forward to working closely with the Royal Latin School to educate and shape our future business leaders."

David Hudson addressed guests under the floodlights at the official opening ceremony, saying:

"We are thrilled to have our friends and supporters here today to witness the opening of this much needed facility. It's fantastic to see our students and wider community getting use from the building and pitch. We've long been concerned about the physical and mental health of students and families, and this has only been accentuated by the impact of the pandemic. I feel very strongly that as a school, we should be at the forefront of helping everyone understand how physical activity provides a much-needed boost to our wellbeing, helping us all achieve a good balance between working hard and living well. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has worked so hard over the last five years in order to make these facilities a reality."

Ian Gould, Head of PE at the school is over the moon:

"The new sports facilities we now have at the Royal Latin are amazing. After so long wanting to improve upon what we already had, I can hardly believe we've finally got them! The ek robotics Sports Campus is transforming what we're able to offer students and the community, and will bring so many more exciting opportunities to inspire everyone to try new activities. It's come at such a critical time, when we need to work extra hard to help everyone to rebuild fitness and confidence after the pandemic. The Sports Campus will allow us to enhance both provision and equality in outstanding facilities. It adds a new energy to the school, and will change lives for the better. My department is really proud to be a part of that."

Sporting Heroes Congratulate the Royal Latin

"I want to say a big congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in raising the funds necessary for the Sports Campus at the Royal Latin School, in Buckingham.

That's where I had my education and that's where I practised my sport on the way to Formula One. And this School will for sure make that possible for many other kids. So well done everybody and best of luck for the future."

Marc Gené, Ferrari F1 Driver

"You have made a monumental difference not just to the students at your school right now but for generations to come; you are the ones who are actively engaged in getting Britain moving. Congratulations!"

Kate Allenby MBE, Olympian

"Your Sports Campus is such an amazing space! I'm looking around, and I could do everything I need to here, it's perfect - enjoy it!"

Charlie Elwes, Olympian

"Very glad to hear that the project is complete, and I hope it will be a great success"

David Gower OBE

"It's great to see what you've managed to do. The Sports Campus is incredibly impressive."

Ben Hunt Davies MBE

"To see all the hard work that you guys have put in to make this facility what it is today is phenomenal and so I just want to say a massive congratulations".

Rachael Burford, England Rugby Union Player



Keven Bursnell (Director at Racelogoic) left, with Ian Gould, RLS Head of Sport



RLS Headteacher David Hudson (right) with Sports Campus donor Bernard Garbe (who joined RLS in 1964)

Old Latins Join the Sports Campus Celebrations

"What an incredible achievement, on top of the Discovery Centre; I'm sure the Sports Campus will be enjoyed by many pupils and the local community for many years to come. Congratulations!"

Julian Thomas, Class of 1986
Founder, Racelogic

"You have all shown so much resilience throughout the campaign - I'm blown away by what you have achieved. Huge congratulations."

Alan Stewart, Class of 1992

"Congratulations to Jo and her team and everyone else involved. The amazing new facilities will benefit thousands of pupils and teachers for many years to come."

Carol and Trevor Saving, Class of 1974



Josephine Bassett (Class of 1956) spots herself on the 'Wall of Sporting Heroes' inside the Sports Campus building, along with the inscription, '1954 All England School Sports Intermediate Long Jump Winner'. Josephine was nominated by Robert Munday (Class of 1970), on behalf of Old Latins

Students shine as they tell the ek robotics Sports Campus story

Who better to talk about the excitement of the new sports facilities than the students themselves?! We are always so proud when students step up and volunteer to get involved in school activities - and the opening of the Sports Campus was no exception. Students of all ages shared their first impressions of the Sports Campus, formed a meet and greet team to welcome guests to the school and acted as tour guides and demonstrators. A student videography and photography team also helped to capture proceedings and guest reactions during the opening ceremony.

"The students are natural ambassadors for the school, and we very much rely on their expert help!" said Louise Amodio, Fundraising Events Manager. *"They gain a lot from the experience of helping us to host parents, Old Latins and members of the community. After so long without any big events, it was fantastic to see students beaming as they showed people around and told their own fundraising stories. They did an amazing job."*



Our star videographer & drone operator Kyle (Year 11)



6th formers chat to guests



Students starred in a fantastic BBC South Today report from the Sports Campus

Old Latin Sports Captains visit the ek robotics Sports Campus



It was a delight to welcome back former RLS Sports Captains; Ceri Davies, Katie Thrift and Joe Clark (all Class of 2019) in January for a tour of the ek robotics Sports Campus during their university break.

Having launched the Student Fundraising Board in 2019 which led to such amazing student fundraising success, it was a privilege to welcome them back, and thankfully they were suitably bowled over by the facilities they have helped us bring to the school!

Professor Greg Whyte OBE delivers inaugural Sports Science lecture

Following the Sports Campus opening ceremony, Greg Whyte gave the inaugural lecture of the new Sport Science lecture series, sponsored by the Lillingstone Trust, entitled, 'Sport Science and the Limits of Human Performance'.

As with every lecture in the series, attendees enjoyed the free lecture and refreshments, and listened spellbound as Greg, Professor of Applied Sport and Exercise Science at Liverpool John Moores University, shared details of some of his research and talked about how he has used those insights to train some of GB's top athletes. Greg also played video clips from some of the celebrities he has trained to undertake some of the biggest challenges for Comic Relief, Children in Need and other charities - challenges which have collectively raised over £60m to date. Attendees were left with Greg's mantra: "Nothing good comes easy", and are very much looking forward to the rest of the lecture series!

For details of future lectures, please visit:
<https://www.royallatin.org/lillingstone-lectures>

"The Lillingstone lecture was EXCELLENT."

RLS Parent

"Greg Whyte's lecture was inspiring."

Mother of Old Latins

"Well done RLS! It was a great event last night, I thoroughly enjoyed the talk by Professor Greg Whyte."

RLS Parent



Calling all aspiring lecturers!

Could you give a lecture to the community on a topic in the fields of STEM or Sports Science? If you'd like to give a lecture, please send your suggested lecture title and a brief description to latinlife@royallatin.org and we'll let you know when we have an available 2022/23 date.

Take a look inside the new ek robotics Sports Campus

The building is light, bright, welcoming and fully accessible, with a Fitness Suite, Mind & Body Zone, and the Racelogic Sports Lab.

It will be used by the school during the day, and available to the community during evenings, weekends and school holidays. The facility will drastically improve the sporting landscape in the local area, and offer young people and the community game-changing new opportunities to be active.

It will also act as an innovative gateway for community education, providing new opportunities to learn about the benefits of an active lifestyle from a network of sports and wellbeing specialists via a free programme of lectures and seminars, all under one roof.

Membership

Memberships are available to members of the community including Old Latins.

You can find details at www.royallatin.org/viva or by scanning the QR code below:



VIVA

at the Royal Latin School



Yoga, Body Conditioning & Gym Sessions

Open to members:
Mon - Fri 5.30pm-8.30pm
Sat/Sun 8am - 5pm

Email to arrange a visit:
vivagym@royallatin.org

www.royallatin.org/viva

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Grow Confidence * Relax & Restore * Feel Good * Prioritise Health





The Countdown to 2023 Begins . . . and we need your input!

The Royal Latin School was founded in 1423, making it the 51st oldest school in England. Now that we're embarking on 2022, our 600th anniversary year is very close indeed!

The school plans to celebrate its important anniversary throughout 2023, via a programme of special events and initiatives designed to reflect on 600 years of education. We'll pay tribute to the schools' Founders, leaders, staff, students and alumni and to look forward to a bright future as one of England's leading schools, balancing our unique heritage with a reputation for innovation and enduring excellence.

It's time to make some big plans - and we need your help.

What might the 2023 celebrations consist of?

- Publication of '600 Years of The Royal Latin School' by Old Latin John Hounslow
- Publication of a coffee table book of photographs from The Royal Latin School archive
- Special edition 2023 merchandise and memorabilia
- Creation of an online archive & special Archive Days at school
- Production of a commemorative video telling the story of the school
- A feature wall in school incorporating a historical timeline
- Time capsule, tree-planting and more...

Plus, of course, some very special events:

- A very special 2023 Founders' Day Celebration
- Lots of reunions!
- Head Boy & Head Girl Reunion
- Boy Boarders' Event in Brookfield House; Girl Boarders' Event in Rotherfield House
- Celebration Event in the Chantry Chapel, Buckingham
- A 2023 Summer Gala Ball

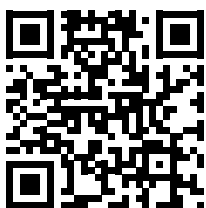


We'd love it if you could help!

It would be great to get a sense of which of our suggestions would be most appealing to you, so please take a few minutes to complete our quick questionnaire.

Use this link:
<https://bit.ly/questions2023>

or scan the QR code to
open the questionnaire



We're building a network of people to help plan for this important year. We're looking for help with:

- Sharing details of planned events to as many Old Latins as possible, so that everyone has a chance to join the celebrations. We can only engage with Old Latins who have directly consented to be contacted (because of GDPR/data protection), so **we'd love to hear from as many Old Latins as possible** so that nobody misses out on the opportunity to be part of this big year
- Creating a **corporate sponsorship proposal** and sharing with companies/brands who may want to partner with us for our 600th year, to enable us to cover costs and keep celebration events as accessible to all as possible
- Building **links with media representatives**, who could help to tell our 600 year old story
- Practical help with **event planning and organisation**
- Experience/connections in **publishing, event suppliers, merchandise**
- One person in every year group willing to act as a **Year Group Rep** to lead the way and help us make sure that every year is included in reunion and event invitations

The new history of the RLS by John Hounslow

This book is a central part of our celebrations, and as John finalises his manuscript, we would still welcome contributions. We would especially like to hear from Old Latins from 1990 - 2015 with their memories of attending the Latin.

Please contact latinlfe@royallatin.org if you would like to be involved and spread the word to your Latin contemporaries. We would appreciate hearing from you by the end of February if at all possible.



"Not many institutions have the opportunity to celebrate such a significant birthday, and we'll be dedicating ourselves to doing the anniversary justice."

Jo Ballantine

We'll keep you updated via our regular emails as our 2023 plans develop, so please do look out for those!

If you think you could help, or have an idea you'd like to share, please either include in the comments on the questionnaire via the link above, or email Jo at jballantine@royallatin.org

Archive Day, 4th May 2022

For 2020 and 2021 our annual Archive Day was virtual only, by virtue of the Covid restrictions in place, but for 2022 we very much hope to be able to invite Old Latins back on site.

The provisional date for this event is the afternoon of Wednesday, 4th May, timings to be confirmed. Even if we are able to hold the event at school, we still anticipate a virtual element to the day, after the success of the online Archive Day hosted on the RLS Alumni Facebook page for the last couple of years.

Save the date!

We will keep you updated on Archive Day arrangements and timings via email and our **RLS Alumni Facebook page** and **website**. You can also contact latinlife@royallatin.org or **01280 827306** with any queries or to register your interest.



From the Archive - The Latin through time



The Chantry Chapel



Chandos Road building plans in the 1920s



1980s aerial shot of the current site



The Green Room and Brookfield



Aerial shot showing the Discovery Centre under construction



The site today, as seen from the new Sports Campus 3G pitch



Phase 3: Theatre & Arts Centre

Now that we have completed the Sports Campus, we can focus on assembling the team we'll need to help us assess the feasibility of creating the proposed Theatre and Arts Centre at the school. There are lots of factors to consider - not least the number of years it will take us to raise the millions needed to build such a significant building for the school and community.



Nurturing creativity and expression through the Arts is fundamental to our development and wellbeing. We're designing a much needed multi-use arts, theatre and music facility at the heart of our site, to provide an exciting and accessible creative hub for our students and community.

We don't anticipate being in a position to start publicly fundraising for the project until 2024, but, we will very much be working hard behind the scenes and seeking advice, ideas and pledges from people who are keen to help.

"The Discovery Centre and the Sports Campus began life as dreams on a piece of paper; both are now thriving buildings, full of life and learning. We'll embark on the Arts Centre project with the same spirit and optimism, in the knowledge that whilst it certainly won't be easy, it's very much needed and might just be possible - and that's worth striving for."

Jo Ballantine, Director of Development

We need your help!

We are currently conducting a feasibility study and would love to hear about your experience in the Arts sector.

Visit www.royallatin.org/600-phasethree or scan the QR code for more information:



Annual Production: All Together Now!

The annual school production for 2021 was 'All Together Now!' which involved 140+ cast and crew.

It was an exciting concert that was offered to schools and groups across the world to celebrate the return of theatre after Covid restrictions.

Between the 12th and 14th November, over 2,000 organisations across the globe staged All Together Now! which included songs from Les Misérables, Hairspray, Frozen, Oliver and many more. The Drama Department are incredibly proud of everyone who took part, and plan to launch our next school musical in the summer 2022. We hope to see lots of students auditioning to be part of something which brings the whole school community together.



Calling all medics, dentists and vets!

We're keen to hear from any Old Latins working in the fields of medicine (including midwifery and nursing), dentistry and veterinary medicine, to provide inspiration, advice and support to Year 12 students as they undertake their university applications. We'd love to run a series of virtual meetings, Q&A sessions and talks throughout the Spring term, so if you'd be happy to spare half an hour and share your advice and experiences, please do get in touch!

Students haven't had the usual work experience opportunities or the chance to connect with many professionals due to the pandemic, so we're really keen to do everything we can to give them some additional support as they make their future plans.

If you'd be happy to help, please do drop us an email at: latinlife@royallatin.org, and we'll put you in touch with Sally Kay, the Assistant Headteacher leading the MedSoc activities.

Thank you!



Autumn storm damage



On Sunday 31st October the Buckingham area experienced some unexpectedly very high winds. This short, but sharp storm wreaked a bit of havoc on site, with some fallen branches causing obstructions to the main drive and bus bay. Fortunately, although limbs were lost, all the trees affected lived to fight another day, and as the storm hit over the weekend, the dedicated RLS site staff were able to clear the fallen debris and assess the tree damage in time for students to return to school on the Monday morning.

RLS site improvements

As well as the completion of our new Sports Campus building and 3G pitch, the past year has seen RLS successfully become a 'greener' site, with a plethora of measures and works undertaken, funded by 'green grants', to ensure that the Royal Latin is doing its best to minimise the negative impact of our school on the environment. These works have included:

- LED lighting installation around the site
- New Block solar panel installation
- Art roof (Brookfield courtyard building) void insulation
- Main Block roof replacement including new insulation to current building regulations
- A new Air Source Heat Pump being installed, due to the removal of the old gas boilers
- 2 x Electric charging points and 10 x cycle bays
- 85 tree saplings planted around the site
- Moving to paperless working processes, helping to reduce waste and printing cartridges



The new air source heat pumps arriving on site



Main block roof works, including insulation block installation



Get in Touch!

Editor: Lucy Beckett

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

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

Calendar 2022

Wednesday, 4th May:

Archive Day

Saturday, 11th June:

Class of 1974 Reunion

Wednesday, 22nd June:

Sports Day part 1

Friday, 24th June:

Founders' Day and main Sports Day

Saturday, 2nd July:

Class of 1991 Reunion

Thursday, 10th November:

Remembrance

Tuesday, 13th December:

Carol Concert

Sunday, 1st January 2023:

600th Anniversary year celebrations commence

It's Your Latin *Life*



It's Your Latin Life. We rely on your contributions to shape this magazine - so 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

Planning a Reunion?



We are happy to help you make your reunion happen in 2022/23, The tried and tested format for a reunion tends to consist of meeting at 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. Note: Reunions planned for summer 2020 and 2021 have been postponed to 2022 because of the pandemic, so 2022 is likely to be a busy reunions year.

Don't delay in getting yours booked in! If you need help to arrange, contact latinlife@royallatin.org.

All dates are provisional at the moment, due the pandemic, but any changes will be communicated as far in advance as possible by email and social media.

Latin *Life* via Email

If you haven't already, please, please please send us your email address!

By switching to receive Latin Life via email, you will help us to save approximately 30,000 pages per edition, and help us to save money as well as do our bit to protect the environment.

Helping the environment

For those that still love receiving a paper copy, they are now mailed out in polythene-free, compostable wrappers.



<p>1856</p> <p>Old Latins receive Latin Life & event news on email. Please email us at latinlife@royallatin.org to add your email to our list and help reduce our postal costs!</p> 	<p>772</p> <p>Old Latins like our Facebook page for news, photos and the chance to share memories. Please search Facebook for @rlsalumni and join in the conversation!</p> 	<p>472</p> <p>Old Latins are members of our group on LinkedIn and choose this as the preferred way to message us. Search for Royal Latin Grammar Alumni to join, or connect direct to Jo Ballantine</p> 	<p>213</p> <p>Old Latins follow us on Twitter for news and the chance to share Royal Latin stories with their wider network. Please follow us at @rlsalumni and say hello!</p> 
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We'd love to hear from you via any of these methods before the next edition of Latin Life, so next time you're online please take a moment to get in touch. Thank you!



Students planting an English Oak in November for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!