

Inside Latin Life



Sam Baldock Returns to RLS



Historical Timelines Launch



2023 Archive Day Report



Reunions Photo Gallery



Inspirational RLS Women



Welcome to this 20th, and very special, edition of *Latin Life*

In January of this year I was introducing our 600th anniversary and highlighting the menu of events planned to celebrate this landmark moment in our history. And here we are, nearly a year on...

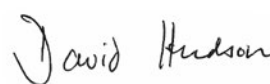
A flick through the pages of this edition will give you a magnificent flavour of a wonderful year. We have rekindled lots of memories of the past, but at the same time created new and much cherished memories for the future. It has been a real joy to welcome back so many Old Latins to our reunions – heartening to hear that the Latin still has the same ‘feel’, and illuminating to hear the appreciation of how our school is building on our shared history. And, of course, many of the stories of days of yore remain fairly hair raising for the modern-day Headteacher!

Other highlights of the year for me have been the opening ceremony back in January in the Chantry Chapel, Founders’ Day in June with the sensational flypast from the Red Arrows, the hugely enjoyable evenings throughout the year with inspirational Old Latins, and, of course, our Gala Ball in September. Days to remember indeed . . .

2023 has always been about celebrating our past, but also having one eye on the future. Our 2023 Charter has given us a structure to guide the school’s development as we move into our seventh century. I am, in particular, delighted to see how our current students have embraced our aim to support the local community (they have, for example, already completed over 5,000 hours of volunteering this year) and also look further afield with a view to being leaders in our desire to protect the planet.

Before I end, I really should like to express my personal thanks to our outstanding Development team – Jo Ballantine, Lucy Beckett and (up until the summer) Louise Amodio. They have worked unbelievably hard and produced a year for us all to remember for a very long time. Bravo!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and very much hope that this momentous year serves as a prompt to bring lots more of you back through the Royal Latin gates in 2024 and beyond. You know you are always very welcome back in your school.



David Hudson, Headteacher



The history of the Royal Latin School

Step back in time and discover the story of RLS

STRATTON

1268

RLS Founder

Matthew Stratton, Archdeacon of Buckingham, founded a Chantry Chapel at the Hospital of St John the Baptist.



VERNEY

1907

RLS Founder

Lady Verney gives a speech to open the new school; girls and female teachers are admitted for the first time.



BARTON

1423

RLS Founder

John Barton (Snr) receives 40d as a rent payment from a school master at the Chantry Chapel: taken to be the foundation date for the school.

6 students on roll

NEWTON

1904

RLS Founder

Alderman Newton's Greencoat School Charity lends support to the Governing Body & a new site is bought on Chandos Road (now the George Grenville Academy) at a cost of £5,000.



RUDING

1481

RLS Founder

John Ruding completes renovation of the Chapel and adds the school motto: 'Alle May God Amende'.



1876

Further fundraising enables the school to undertake renovations to designs by Gilbert Scott.



1524

First recorded Headmaster is Thomas Hawkins.



1872

65 students on roll



DENTON

1540

RLS Founder

Dame Isabel Denton leaves a legacy of 4 marks a year (about £3) to the school in her will.

1857

A fundraising appeal in the town enabled further repairs made to the dilapidated school.



1597

The Crown transfers an endowment of £10 8s 1/2d from the Chantry at Thornton to the school at St John the Baptist; the school inherits Royal status and the requirement to teach six poor boys.



1833

36 students on roll



1658

Parliament orders an annual maintenance grant of £10 to be paid to the school.



1830

Edward Britten arrives as the first master of RLS not in holy orders. Five subjects being taught: Latin, English, Writing, Reading and Arithmetic.



1725

The Great Fire of Buckingham destroys much of the town; the school is damaged but survives.



1776

The school is given a new roof by Earl Temple of Stowe.



To see even more Royal Latin School history online just scan the QR code.



1914-18

All male teachers and many students are called up to serve in WWI; 17 Belgian refugees are welcomed as students.



1928

103 students on roll



1939

Headteacher Bert Toft is called up to serve in WWII; the school again welcomes refugees.

170 students on roll



1944

School fees are abolished under the Education Act.



1963

360 students on roll

Headteacher George Embleton moves the school to the Brookfield/Chandos Road site; HRH The Queen Mother opens the new school on 10th June.



1989

The old Rotherfield boarding house is converted into a Sixth-Form Centre.



1991

Boarding at the school comes to an end.



1993

910 students on roll



2023

The Royal Latin School celebrates its 600th anniversary, making it the 100th oldest surviving school in the world.



600 YEARS

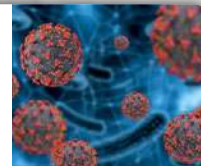
1,310 students on roll

2021

Professor Greg Whyte opens the ek robotics Sports Campus after £3m is raised by the 600 Campaign.



2020 The Covid pandemic closes the school for almost all students. After lockdown ends, year groups are confined to a section of the school until restrictions are lifted in 2021.



2015

Lord Robert Winston opens the Discovery Centre after £5m is raised by the 600 Campaign.



2011

The school becomes an Academy and creates an Archive to conserve its history.



2004

A large, multipurpose Sports Hall is opened at the railway embankment end of the school site.



2001

A 'New Block' is opened at the rear of Brookfield, housing maths and modern foreign languages departments.



1999

A new library is created in the old Brookfield boarding house.



Introducing our Virtual Timeline

As part of the 600th anniversary celebrations, we're really excited to have installed a huge timeline on the wall inside the main block foyer, depicting a potted history of the school.

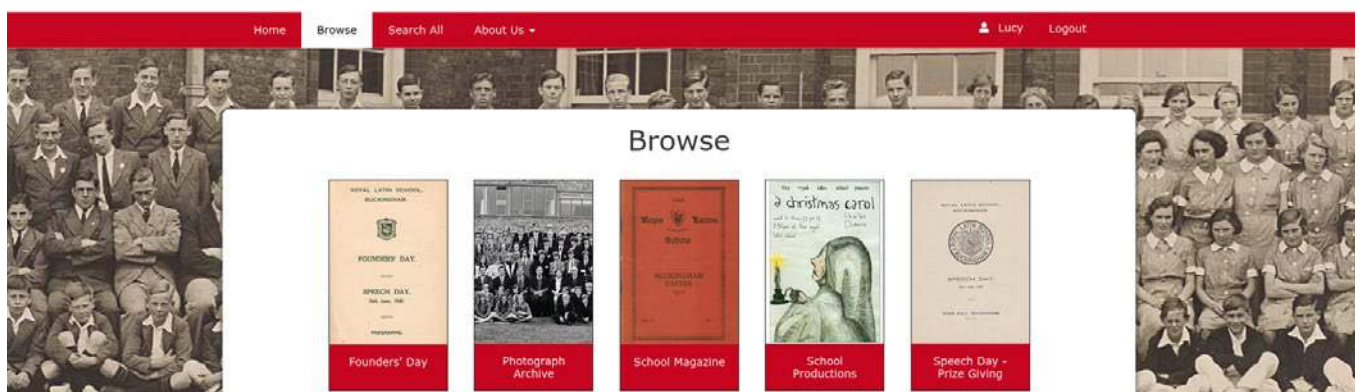
We've reproduced it here for you on pages 2–3. Condensing 600 years of history into a few key dates is clearly not easy! So we also wanted to find a way to create an interactive tool for the school community to use to explore the history of the school in more depth. Our Virtual Timeline is now available online for you to explore at www.royallatin.org/royal-latin-school-history. We'll continue to add details to the timeline in 2024 – if you have suggestions of school, local, national or international dates to add, please get in touch!



Online Archive

In our last edition, we shared plans for the digital scanning of thousands of pages of documents and images from the Royal Latin archive. We're delighted to say that this material is now available for Old Latins to peruse online, on a secure archive site, which you can obtain access to by logging onto RLS Connect and selecting the SDS Archive Tab: rlsconnect.royallatin.org.

You can read every page of school magazines, zoom in on old photographs, and search the whole archive for mentions of yourself, classmates and teachers. It's a lot of fun – we hope you enjoy exploring! We'll update you again in 2024 with new material that we plan to add to the virtual archive.



Anniversary Events: An Evening with Sam Baldock



It was fantastic to welcome Old Latin Sam Baldock back to the school in February, for a special evening in conversation with Headteacher David Hudson.

Sam talked with Mr Hudson in front of a large audience of current and former students, parents, staff and members of the local community, about his time as a student at the Latin, and his journey into and in professional football, having played at several clubs including MK Dons, Brighton & Hove Albion, West Ham, Reading and, currently, Oxford Utd.

It was an inspiring evening covering many topics including discussions about hard work, adaptability, resilience, mindset, leadership, and luck! When asked what his advice to youngsters would be, Sam stated: 'Just be adaptable, work hard, and be human.' Good advice... proud Mum, Jacquie Baldock – former Royal Latin deputy headteacher and chemistry teacher – nodded in agreement! Thank you to everyone who attended and came prepared with such good questions, and huge thanks to Sam for giving up his time and entertaining us so brilliantly.

Welcome Back Head Boys, Head Girls and Deputies!



Former Head Boys, Head Girls and Deputies gathered for a historic photo at the event in April

In April, we were delighted to welcome back Head Boys, Head Girls and their Deputies to the school, ranging from Class of 1950 right up to the present day.

The outgoing and newly appointed current Student Leadership Teams did a wonderful job of helping us to host our guests, and spoke entertainingly about what it is like to be Head Girl, Head Boy or a Deputy today. Athena Tzallas, appointed Head Girl

in 2015, also addressed guests and spoke warmly of her time as Head Girl and how it feels to still regularly visit the school. Old Latins also enjoyed chatting with current staff along with former staff members Chris George, Jacque Baldock, Dorothy Tinsley and Ed Grimsdale, before embarking on a tour of the school and tucking in to afternoon tea. Thank you so much to everyone who attended – we really hope to repeat this event in the future, to enable more of our student leaders to attend.



Archive materials on display for Old Latins to browse



Guests were invited to sign the 2023 Visitors Book



Head Girl from the Class of 2016, Athena Tzallas, addresses guests



Old Latins share their memories & photos with students



2008 Head Boy Dominic Crocombe reunited with former school friend and now Royal Latin Biology teacher, Jo Clarke



Former Head Boys Guy Drury and George Simons



2014 Head Girl Georgia Crouch joins Mr Hudson's tour group



Former Head Boy Simon Tansley (1976) with former Deputy Head Dorothy Tinsley (King) and a photo of them both at a school prizegiving

Archive & Heritage Open Day, 3rd May 2023

Who better than Old Latin John Hounslow, author of *Latin Lives: 600 Years of the Royal Latin School*, to give a talk on our special 600th anniversary Archive Day?

Able assisted by sixth-formers playing the role of the six founders of the school and by younger students who represented a student from each of the six centuries of the school's existence, John entertained the assembled guests with a talk on the theme of key moments in the Royal Latin history – that is, decisive moments when the school somehow managed to survive, against all odds!

The Old Latins in attendance then enjoyed tea and cakes, access to the archive in the Wagland Room, and a tour of the school to learn about some areas of the school not usually included on the tour, including the clocktower, the Brookfield fireplaces, and the wonderful large trees in the school grounds.

Old Latins also brought along artefacts and photos to share with the archive, including the oldest known school magazine from 1898 which we hope to have on display at our next Archive Day on Wednesday 1st May 2024.



New details shared about the Brookfield Clocktower, restored this year



John Hounslow and students at the 2023 Archive Day



Old Latins viewed the updated list of Head Boys & Head Girls

2023 Reunions

Thank you to the hundreds of you who returned to the school in our 600th Anniversary year! We've loved welcoming everyone back, listening to your memories, and taking you to your favourite places around the school site.



Summer reunion attendees, June 2023



The sun shone for the Autumn Reunion too!



In the school hall for the Autumn reunion



Old Latins peruse items in the archive



Members of the Class of 1970



Old Latins from the Class of 1974



Classmates from 2013



Former staff and students reunited

A Very Special Founders' Day

Our 600th anniversary Founders' Day fell on Friday 23rd June, 2023, and was a day filled with tribute and celebration.

The morning was spent down at Buckingham Parish Church, with not one but two special services taking place, so that all of the students in the lower school that day (Years 7, 8, 9 and 10) could be part of the Founders' Day service. During the afternoon, students spent time with their forms and were then treated to cakes outside in the sunshine, and a very special treat – a specially arranged flypast from the Red Arrows at 3:27pm precisely. The whole school gathered to watch, and there was great excitement as the jets flew directly overhead, creating a wonderful tribute from the Royal Air Force to the school, and a memory for the school and for the town to treasure.



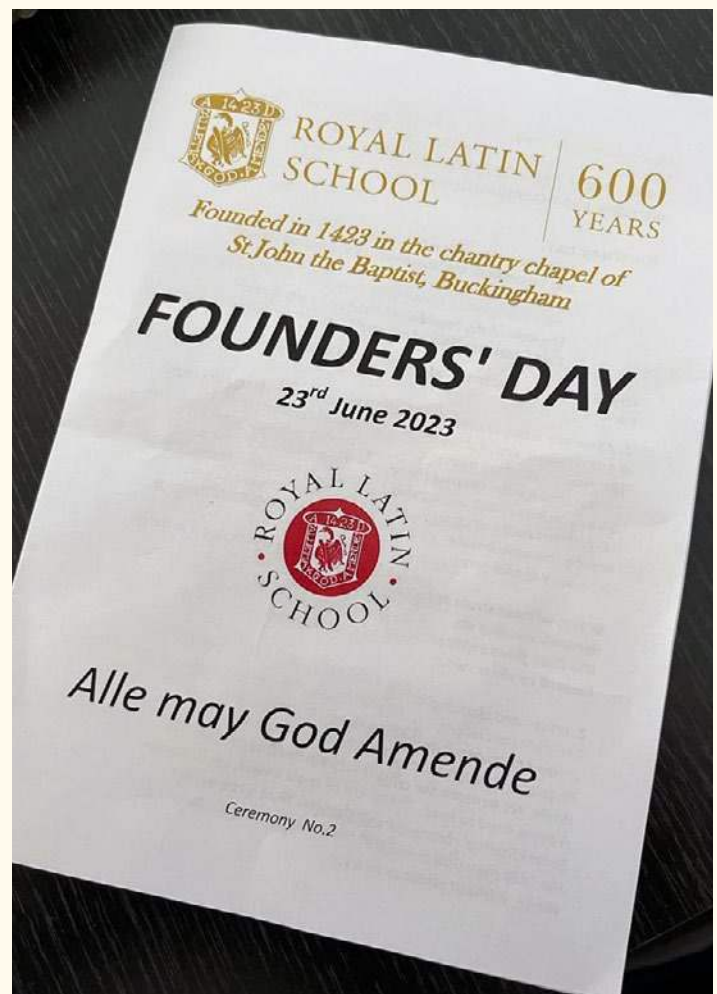
Cakes galore!



Mr Hudson addresses students at the church



Students with our giant 600



Founders' Day Order of Service (No. 1)



The special flypast from the Red Arrows, right on time at 3:27pm

Our 600th Anniversary Virtual Visitors Book

If you have been unable to attend the anniversary celebrations in person this year, you can still sign our Visitors Book online

Did you know that you can sign the 600th Anniversary Visitors Book virtually? You can send us a message via the online form at www.royallatin.org/visitorbook and we will make sure your message is stored in the Archive with the physical Visitors Books, as a record of your contact with the school in 2023.



600th Anniversary Family Garden Party

More than 800 people gathered at the school on Saturday 8th July for the biggest event of the 600th anniversary year: a family picnic and garden party.

The organising committee breathed a collective sigh of relief as the day dawned warm and bright, and an army of volunteers set to work early in the morning to start erecting gazebos and making preparations for the busy day. The school was looking its very best, with hundreds of metres of bunting and handmade tissue paper pom-poms decorating every available space.

Guests laden with their picnic baskets began pouring through the gates at 2:00pm, and settled themselves in their chosen positions on the front lawn; children soon found the various time machine games in the Brookfield courtyard and families also enjoyed inflatables and circus skills games at the back of the school.

It was wonderful to welcome Tad Newton and his Jazz Friends back to the school, and they entertained everyone throughout the afternoon on the open air stage outside the green room. The school chamber choir also gave a performance, along with several student bands, who were also well-received and thoroughly enjoyed their opportunity to perform. As well as picnics, guests were spoilt for choice with several food vans on hand, along with an ice cream van, afternoon teas, including some fabulous 600th anniversary iced biscuits, made by Buckingham's Pure Patisserie.

'It's been a wonderful afternoon,' said Jacque Baldock, part of the organising committee. *'We're so pleased that everyone had fun and enjoyed the food, music and activities. It's been really lovely to see so many Old Latins and former colleagues and their families gathered together like this - thank you to everyone for coming along to celebrate!'*



A great view from the outdoor stage for the compère, from Year 11



Beautiful 600th anniversary biscuits by Pure Patisserie



Guests settled in their picnic spots on the front lawn



Brookfield courtyard hosting games - and plenty more bunting!



Brookfield courtyard hosting games - and plenty more bunting!



Brookfield courtyard hosting games - and plenty more bunting!



Brookfield courtyard hosting games - and plenty more bunting!



Brookfield courtyard hosting games - and plenty more bunting!



600th Anniversary Family Garden Party 2023



TOILETS ARE LOCATED INSIDE MAIN BLOCK. FIRST AID IS LOCATED BY THE WELCOME DESK.

What's on...

REFRESHMENTS

REFRESHMENT ZONE & BAR
Delicious cakes, tuck shop, soft drinks and bar - including gold-bottled Prosecco and cocktails

FOOD VANS
Wilson's Street Food: Burgers / Wraps
Gurkha Street Food: Curries / Momos
Giuseppe's Pizzeria: Pizza & Ice-cream

PURE PATISSERIE
Pre-ordered Luxury Afternoon Tea Boxes
Special-Edition 600th Anniversary Iced-Biscuits

ENTERTAINMENT

600-YEAR TIME MACHINE 2PM-5PM
Challenge yourself with a range of activities through the centuries to escape back to 2023! Run by our students, in Brookfield Courtyard

SKILLS & FUN ZONE 2PM-5PM
Inflatables, Circus Skills (from the Great Gappo) and Giant Chess - on the back lawns.

MUSIC

THE GREEN ROOM STAGE
2.15pm Tad Newton's Jazz Friends
3.15pm RLS Chamber Choir
3.45pm RLS Jazz Trio
4pm Tad Newton's Jazz Friends
5pm The Student Bands - In Progress, The Congregation & The First Shadow Puppets

SHOP

600TH ANNIVERSARY POP-UP SHOP
Special-edition mug, silk tie, tea-towel, Latin Lives book, and more...

Kindly sponsored by



Gold Gala Ball

After eighteen months of planning, the evening of the 600th Anniversary Gold Gala Ball finally arrived on Saturday 30th September 2023 – and it was a glittering night to remember.

Almost 400 guests arrived at the school in their finery, not entirely sure what to expect! They were led down a tree-lined red carpet, decorated with fairy lights and festoon lighting, into an enormous marquee, tucked neatly between the Discovery Centre and the 3G pitch. Lit by fairy lights and chandeliers, and decorated with trees and gold decorations, the marquee welcomed everyone into a sparkling drinks reception.

Background music was provided by harpist Rachel Sherry and by Year 13 pianist Miles Tickell, before Old Latin Martin Prendergast took to the stage and played everyone to their seats for dinner, launching into a brilliant rendition of 'Piano Man'.

Master of Ceremonies Stuart Branch welcomed guests and invited David Hudson onto stage to address guests. Former Deputy Headteacher Andy Cooper kindly said grace – a prayer from St

Benedict, recited in Latin – before guests enjoyed their dinner. After the Extraordinary People Awards Ceremony (see page 16) and one more song performed by Martin Prendergast, the dancing began, with local band Firing Line (with Old Latins Mark Edwards, Kate Edwards and Ben Weston in the line up) giving a brilliantly energetic performance.

'It was a magical occasion!' said Jo Ballantine. 'This was a huge event for the school to host and it was every bit as special as we wanted it to be. I need to say a big thank you to the literally hundreds of people who helped us to stage the event, to the generous Old Latins, parents and businesses who stepped forward to sponsor the event, and to everyone who bought tickets – you all made this brilliant celebration possible and helped us to pay tribute to the school in a way that will hopefully be remembered in our memories, and in the archive, for many years to come.'



Guests mingle at the drinks reception



Air Marshal Sir Julian Young, Class of 1980, leads a toast to the Royal Latin founders



Sarah Deaves, Class of 1980, leads a toast to Old Latins



On stage with Firing Line

‘Simply Spectacular ...’ Reflections on the Gala Ball from Athena Tzallas, Class of 2016



Martin Prendergast, Class of 1986, entertaining guests at the piano

In September I was honoured to be a guest at the Latin’s Gala Ball, its ultimate 600th birthday party. The anticipation was palpable: our party – an amalgamation of students from Classes of 2016–18 – had regularly been checking into the WhatsApp group chat we had made to fuss collectively over wine choices, how formal was ‘formal black tie’ and how everyone was planning to arrive. Not far below the bureaucratic surface, the excitement was bubbling – the excitement to return physically to school (most for the first time since leaving), to see our teachers and certainly to reunite and spend time together.

The ball was simply spectacular. As we entered the marquee we could hardly believe we were back at school. The tent was elegantly decorated in black, white and gold, lit charmingly by chandeliers and a set of giant illuminated 600 numbers. The bubbles flowed, the smiles spread contagiously and the drinks reception fizzed with warmth.

The sound of a mellow, nostalgic piano filled the space as we took our seats to enjoy three delicious courses. The atmosphere buzzed with guests impatiently recalling anecdotes and sharing memories. As the drinks flowed and the music soared, I was grateful for some precious conversations with my teachers and new faces, too. It was joyous for different generations of Old Latins to be in the same room to mark the occasion together.

The Extraordinary People Awards provided an opportunity to celebrate innovative, kind and dedicated members of the local community. The speeches which introduced each winner were thoughtful and inspiring; they allowed for quieter introspection and proved the perfect antithesis to the buzz of the laughter and music. After the awards ended we were invited to dance and to enjoy the fabulous live band. The dancing was simply brilliant fun. It was wonderful to be part of such a momentous occasion, and I’m grateful to the ball committee for creating a truly remarkable, emotional and happy night. It’s safe to say that this was an appropriate celebration for our amazing school’s 600th anniversary.

Royal Latin Extraordinary People Awards

The Gala Ball also played host to our inaugural 'Extraordinary People Awards', created as part of our 2023 Charter, to recognise people in our local community who go the extra mile to support and inspire others.

Each award winner was nominated by a member of the community, and as part of the ceremony, hosted by David Hudson and Chair of Governors Phil Dart, guests at the gala ball were treated to a short film of each winner before they were invited up to the stage to be presented with their award. Many thanks to our brilliant award sponsors, and huge congratulations to all of our winners!



Leadership

Royal Latin teacher Penny Mason receives the **Award for Leadership** from Chris Price, Managing Director of ek robotics



Resilience

Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team Trackside Engineering Director, Andrew Showlin (centre-left) presents Mike Spencer-Jones with the **Award for Resilience**, flanked by Phil Dart and David Hudson



Teamwork

Rosemary & Peter Frohock receive the **Award for Teamwork** from Matt Birtwistle, IMU Director at HSO



Innovation

Ross Hockham is presented with the **Award for Innovation** by Racelogic Managing Director Julian Thomas, Class of 1987



Nurturing

Peter McNiven Hay (centre) receives the **Award for Nurturing** from sponsor Denise Griffiths and Air Marshal Sir Julian Young, both Class of 1980

You can find further details of the inspiring work of each of winner at: www.royallatin.org/extraordinary-people-awards

Update on our 2023 Charter

You may recall that at the start of the year, we launched our '2023 Charter' – a set of goals and pledges from the school themed around our community, our heritage, our planet and our future.

The school has been busy throughout the year working towards delivering these pledges, and we'll continue to build the legacy of our 600th anniversary by continuing to deliver them into 2024 and beyond. Below are some of the initiatives we're busy working on!



Encourage forms to volunteer for local organisations

So far, students and staff have logged a total of 5,077 hours of volunteering for local charities - well done everyone!



Find 600 inspirational mentors

343 mentors signed up so far; mentoring programme to be launched in 2024. You can sign up by selecting to become a mentor in your RLS Connect profile at: rlsconnect.royallatin.org



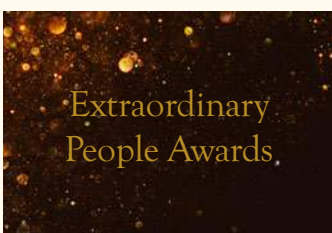
Present students with a 2023 keepsake

All students and staff presented with their 2023 commemorative badges, and are wearing them with pride!



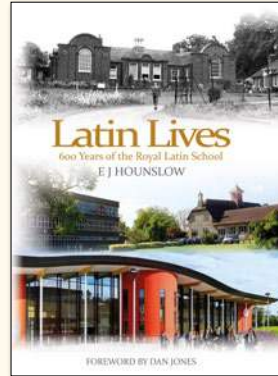
Create a timeline to share our story

We've created two! One huge timeline on the foyer wall, and one virtual, interactive timeline at www.royallatin.org/royal-latin-school-history



Create an 'Extraordinary People Awards' scheme

Awards presented to five inspirational members of our community – see previous page!



Publish a book on the school's history

Latin Lives published and will remain available for purchase via the school shop: www.royallatin.org/shop



Expand our Archive and look after the items entrusted to our care

We've continued to add exciting and previously unseen items into our Archive this year and will continue to do so into our next century.



Look after the wildlife on our site

Bird boxes built and installed, Go Wild species spotting and community talks held, community tree lecture held too (in a thunderstorm!)



Increase access to our Archive to enable people to connect through heritage

As well as holding a special Archive Day & Heritage Open Day in 2023, we've given Old Latins access to hundreds of items in our new digital archive – you can get access via the SDS Archive tab on: rlsconnect.royallatin.org

An Evening with Inspirational RLS Women

On Tuesday 14th November we were delighted to welcome six inspirational Old Latins back to the school, to take part in a special evening to reflect on their memories of the school, Royal Latin values and virtues, and share their career experiences since leaving the school.

Former Head Girl Sarah Deaves (Class of 1980) spoke about her banking career, and about how to transfer skills across to different roles and make an impact quickly: 'School was always a positive place – and coming back is always energising. RLS is a place of possibility', said Sarah.

Royal Navy Commodore Alison Hofman RRC KHNS MA MSc QARNNS (Class of 1989) shared her reflections on her experiences rising through the ranks in the Royal Navy: 'Someone once told me to go into everything with the confidence of a four-year-old wearing a batman t-shirt' Alison shared; 'It works!'

Lakechia Jeanne (Class of 2014), spoke passionately about her work to promote STEM education and careers to girls, through the Girls in Science movement which she founded: 'I don't expect to change the whole world but I have my own corner – start by helping the 10 people around you and allow the ripples to spread', enthused Lakechia.

Dame Shan Morgan DCMG (Class of 1973) spoke about the importance of resilience throughout her career in the Civil and Diplomatic Services, including her former roles as UK Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay and Welsh Government Permanent Secretary. Shan said: 'Resilience is definitely part of the value set that school engendered in me. I've often had to decide what the right thing to do was – and that's where you have to build on the values you've learned and the education you've had.'

Virginia Sentance, MBE (Class of 2009) spoke about the importance of integrity, her various civil service roles including at HM Treasury, and about her work as UK Chief of Staff for COP26 that led to her receiving an MBE in 2022: 'Self-challenge and self-reflection were really important to me, in order to work out what I actually want to do, what motivates and drives me – it's not always about the scale of your actions, it's about integrity and being true to yourself on a daily basis', she reflected.

Sam Tatlow, MBE (Class of 2005) talked about the love of Drama the school instilled in her, thanks to Mr Boileau, who was listening in the audience, and about her role as Creative Diversity Partner at ITV. Sam said: 'The brilliance of RLS is that it expects loads of everybody- and that raises your expectations of yourself. Mr Boileau taught me to be confident and that I have a space in this world that I can truly own.'

The event was attended by around 120 Old Latins, students, parents, staff and members of the local community, who all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear these six inspirational women speak on a broad range of topics. Thank you to all of our panel members for taking part, and for answering questions so candidly. We hope to stage similar events at the school in future – watch this space!



Mr Hudson introduces the six panelists to the audience



Commodore Alison Hofman provides careers advice



Lakechia Jeanne meets students and parents

Our 600th Christmas

Christmas at the Royal Latin is always a nostalgic time, and this year more than ever. The Archive is full of accounts of Christmas celebrations past, from the Christmas Carnival Dance, parties, carol concerts, charity collections and performances. Here is a selection of treats from the last century!



Extract from the School Magazine, Christmas 1930...

A few days ago I received a letter from Victoria, Australia, which had been over a year in transit. It had travelled from Australia to England, Uruguay around the west coast of America, through the Panama to Russia, and thence to England again, where it ran me to earth at last...

I have spent Christmas Day in very widely assorted places since I left the RLS in 1918. Two only have been in England, the best of all Last Christmas found me somewhere south of the line aboard a small tramp steamer, the tropical sun blazing down upon our iron decks. Our stock of ice was all but gone and we faced the prospect of salt horse and tinned meat: but with reckless prodigality the steward manufactured ice cream with our last lump of ice...it was a fine repast washed down with our French supercargo's Champagne and enlivened by selections from the Skipper's gramophone.

A Christmas Day upon an Australian farm is little different from any other...I was persuaded, in a weak moment, to adopt the role of Santa Claus. It was necessary to disguise myself in a large red blanket and an immense growth of cotton wool whisker. It was not a success from my point of view as the temperature was in the vicinity of one hundred and ten...I caught on fire when lighting a pipe. A cool Christmas dinner recompensed me having been parboiled for three hours, and Santa Claus stretched out in the shade until milking time.

*Perhaps this year will favour us with a real old fashioned white Christmas: England, Home, and the real spirit of the time are inseparable.**

T Markham

I cannot leave England in winter...

From a poem published in the school magazine, 1955-56:

I cannot leave England in winter,
When the snow falls silent and pale,
And icicles hang in the shadows,
And deep soft drifts lie in the vale,
I should dream of the paths all covered with ice,
Draughts under the door blowing chill,
Rosy-faced children on ponds all a-sliding,
English Christmas, God's peace and good-will.

Gloria Williams (Form III).





Do you have news you want to share with fellow Old Latins? Then get in touch!

Editor: Lucy Beckett Call: 01280 827306 Email: latinlife@royallatin.org

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



600th anniversary shop

Brand new limited edition items now available

Place your shop orders by 12th December for Christmas delivery at:

www.royallatin.org/shop



£16



£2



£20



RLS CONNECT



EVENTS - CAREERS - MEMORIES - EXPERTISE - HERITAGE - MENTORING - FRIENDSHIP

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Welcome to RLS Connect

RLS Connect is a brand new network for Royal Latin alumni, students and staff to connect with each other through fond memories, inspirational mentoring, invaluable networking, and playing a part in preserving the heritage of our 600 year old school.

If you haven't joined yet - JOIN NOW and see who else you could connect with!

We now have 863 members on RLS Connect - can we reach 1000 before the year is out?!

If you haven't joined our brilliant online community yet then join today at rlsconnect.royallatin.org to reconnect with teachers and classmates, browse the photo galleries and archive, and keep up to date with event and reunion plans!

A Message from your Development Team

We want to say a huge thank you for all of your support in 2023! It's been an action-packed year, and we hope you've enjoyed the 600th anniversary as much as we have. It's been an honour to do our bit to ensure that the school was able to mark such a significant milestone in so many different ways, and we've loved seeing so many of you in person.

We'll be back in the New Year with news of what's to come in 2024 – we have lots of exciting plans and so many ideas we want to put into action for, and with, Old Latins. Our best wishes for a very happy 600th Christmas in the meantime!

Jo & Lucy

Royal Latin Development Office
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