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## Welcome to our seventh edition of *Latin Life*



David Hudson, Head Boy, Head Girl and Jo Ballantine welcome Professor Robert Winston outside Brookfield House

You will see from this edition that The Discovery Centre has now been officially opened by Professor Robert Winston and that the building is fully functioning with our students (and staff!) enjoying the upgrade in their scientific facilities.

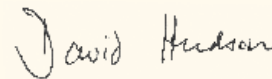
Looking back on our long history this building stands in a noble tradition – the Chantry Chapel, of course, set us on track, but this was superseded in the early 20th century with the building of the new school on Chandos Road (now Grenville Primary School) and then the move, masterminded by George Embleton, to our current site in 1963. Since then we have built

the New Block and Sports Hall (2001 & 2004 respectively) following the sale of land adjacent to Rotherfield.

All of these previous moves have involved an element of fundraising and I am very conscious of and grateful for the immense efforts of so many Old Latins who have contributed to this first phase of the 600 Campaign.

It really has been a wonderful project and I am particularly pleased that it has brought back so many of you into the school. I see, on an everyday basis, just how much of a difference your involvement is making in the opportunities available to our current students – whether in the Discovery Centre, or in the provision of archive materials, or in the offer of work experience. It is also very pleasing to see how the network of Old Latins is beginning to spread – it seems right and proper that we should be able to help and support each other beyond the limits of the school gates!

In this spirit please do get in touch with us, particularly if you would like to visit or indeed if you would like to get in touch with a former school friend or colleague. It is always a real pleasure both to meet you and help in any way we can.



David Hudson, Headteacher



## Spring Alumni Drinks

Wednesday 2nd March 2016, 6.30pm – 9.30pm at Hush,  
8 Lancashire Court, Brook Street, London

We are delighted that Hush has agreed to host (free of charge) the next gathering of Old Latins in London. We've done the hard part!

A great excuse to meet up with a few classmates - or just bring yourself along - for an enjoyable evening with fellow alumni from every generation, in welcoming surroundings. Stay for the whole evening or just pop in any time to say hello – we'd love to see you.

Email Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) to put your name on the guest list.

## Remembrance 2015

Many Old Latins will remember that the names of those members of the RLS who are on the school's Roll of Honour were read out during the annual Founders' Day Service held at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in June.



The school community, Old Latins and the Buckingham and Winslow Royal British Legion pay their respects at the annual Remembrance Service in the Main Hall at the RLS

In the early 70s, when I came to RLS, I remember clearly the school walking down to church, often carrying chairs, and Headmaster, G. K. Embleton, intoning the names of our founders and benefactors, John Barton, Dame Isobel Denton, Matthew Stratton and then, in his inimitable way, 'King Edward the VI . . . of England.' The growth in student numbers and the changes to the church that limited seating, have led us in more recent years to hold Remembrance at RLS.

In 2013 for the first time we held Remembrance on the new stage area outside the refurbished Green Room, with pupils assembled on the front lawns. As the names were read out, leaves were falling from the trees and there was added poignancy as the Last Post echoed around us.

The wet weather this year and last year made it necessary to use the main hall, stage and canteen to accommodate nearly 1500 pupils, staff and guests. The Headteacher welcomed Old Latins and members of the Buckingham and Winslow Royal British Legion and poems were read by Jonathan Aubrey, Deputy Head Boy, and by Mrs Mason. Colonel Robinson reminded us in a reading of soldiers across the Commonwealth who joined the ranks, Jacque Baldock, Deputy Head, read the names, and 2Lt Robb Bloomfield, teacher and Chair of the local RBL, gave the exhortation. Afterwards, the school provided a reception for guests in the library, an opportunity for Old Latins to pass on their memories to a new generation of students.



RLS Air Cadets



Old Latins and guests chat with students in the Library

## The Diespecker Story



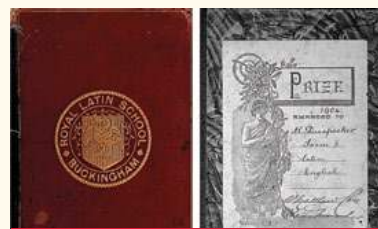
Louis-Cyril, Denny and Jean Diespecker

The Headmaster during the WW1, Mr Fuller (1908-1933), wrote in his diary during the course of 1916, 'Louis Diespecker awarded the Military Medal'.

John Mellors, who spoke at the last RLS Archive Day on the Diespeckers, is a member of Buckingham Royal British Legion and an expert in family history and military records. His extensive research could fill a book, but even the bare bones of the story of the Diespecker family, expounded below, should make for fascinating reading for anyone interested in the history of the WW1 and of the RLS.

In 1847, Louis Samson Diespecker arrived as an alien from Bavaria. He later married and had a family of six or seven children, and the 1861 and 1871 censuses showed that the family had settled in

Finsbury. Two sons, Julius and Rudolf Solen migrated to South Africa as prospectors and mining engineers, with Rudolf becoming involved in railway contracts with the British Commonwealth, Foreign and War Office. In 1899 he was recruited as an intelligence officer in Portuguese East Africa – during the Boer Wars – but after his cover was blown, he remained in South Africa but moved his family back to England. John Mellors portrays him as an 'Indiana Jones'-type character. In 1902, Captain Rudolf S. Diespecker was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, with three clasps.



RLS Prize awarded to Rudolf S. Diespecker in 1904

By 1903, Rudolf had returned to England and bought Adstock House, located three miles from Buckingham where he lived with his wife and four sons. The three elder sons, Denny, Louis-Cyril and Durbyn, all attended the Royal Latin School. In 1904,

Rudolf sued the British Government in a case at the High Court (speculation is that the Government had betrayed/exposed him) and the case was settled out of court, although, in 1908, Adstock House and all its contents were put up for auction, the house sold, and the whole family moved to Canada, assuming different names!

At the outbreak of WW1 the brothers enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served on the Western Front at Vimy Ridge. John Mellors' research on the family extends right up to the present day, and has traced the Diespeckers across the world. We are very grateful to him for re-discovering the Diespecker family and the three brothers who attended the RLS.

## From the Archive

### Old Latin Connections



Geoff Kirk

**Old Latins** Geoffrey Kirk, Margaret Walduck and Ronald Herring, descendants of **Railway Platelayers from Drayton Parslow**, all joined RLS in the autumn term of 1946.

**Geoffrey Kirk** who is a regular help in the School Archive and a local historian was born in 1935, the grandson of James Kirk who lived in **Drayton Parslow**. After service in the Coldstream Guards James had returned to Drayton and became a **Railway Platelayer** in 1891. The family were to move later to Middleton Cheney and the census again shows James' profession as 'Platelayer'.

**Margaret Walduck** was born in 1936, the granddaughter of George Walduck, who lived in **Drayton Parslow** and was also a **Railway Platelayer**. The family later moved to Buckingham and lived in Lenborough Road where George continued his profession.

**Ronald Herring** was born in 1936 the grandson of a Nora Walduck from **Drayton Parslow**. Nora's father was – a **Railway Platelayer** and later moved from Drayton to Railway Crossing House at Mixbury.

### Young Latins Study the History of RLS



Year 8 pupils in the Archive Room

The school runs an Electives programme in which a number of subjects are offered to pupils for short six-week courses. One such programme is an introduction to the history of RLS where there is the opportunity to learn

something of the history of the school through their own research, lessons in the Archive room and to take part in question and answer sessions with Old Latins. These pupils were particularly interested in school uniform – the summer boaters for girls and their winter berets, and the old school ties and scarves. They found it difficult to believe that there was time for pupils to have both indoor and outdoor shoes!

If you have any items you would be happy to donate to the Archive, please contact **Andy Cooper – acooper@royallatin.org**

## Old Latins Join Discovery Centre Opening Celebrations

Alumni from far and wide and from Classes of 1949 to 2015 joined other guests at a formal opening ceremony last month, which was led by special guest Professor Robert Winston.

'The Discovery Centre is a magnificent building', said Professor Winston in his opening speech. 'It is certainly not just an ordinary science block - I've not seen anything else like it in the UK. The fact that it will benefit not only the students at the Royal Latin School, but also those at other schools and the wider community is truly commendable.'

Headteacher David Hudson said: 'The new Discovery Centre is an amazing building and witnessing the excitement and renewed engagement of the students is incredible.'

The fact that former RLS students from all generations have not only contributed to the funding of the building, but will also be visiting the Alumni Lab to share their experience means that students have a unique and exciting sense of being part of a wider community of Latins.'

The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Lead Patron of the 600 Campaign, also gave a speech at the opening ceremony and thanked sponsors and contributors. After unveiling a special plaque and cutting a red ribbon across the doorway, David Hudson led guests inside to explore the building.

Julian Thomas (Class of '86) said, 'It is fantastic to see the students already benefitting from the Racelogic Innovation Lab. I'm really excited about the projects that I'll be working on with students - the

first being a project to send a balloon into space. This is an incredible facility!'

Professor Mark McCaughrean (Class of '79), Senior Science Advisor at the European Space Agency, commented, 'The school was an important part of my becoming an astrophysicist, and, helped by the new Discovery Centre, I'm sure that it will continue to inspire the young scientists of tomorrow.'

**Thank you to Old Latins for so kindly supporting the Discovery Centre project, in so many ways. If you would like to visit the building, nominate a classmate for the Alumni Lab Hall of Fame or discuss giving a talk to students, please contact Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)**

### Discovery Centre Opening Ceremony in Pictures



Old Latins, parents and sponsors gather in the Discovery Courtyard



Professor Winston and The Rt Hon John Bercow MP unveil the building plaque (Photo: Sally Elvin Photography)

All smiles as Professor Winston helps out



Guests watched science demonstrations in each lab (Photo: Sally Elvin Photography)



One last photo with the science staff



Professor Winston delivers the first lecture in our Community Lab



Students took a good look at the Racelogic car



The Discovery Centre at the end of a long and memorable day (Photo: GSS Architecture/Fotohaus)



**600**  
Campaign

**Building the Future  
Together**

## What next for the 600 Campaign?

When we launched the 600 Campaign in 2012, we outlined three main phases of improvements to the school site, to be completed in time for our 600th anniversary in 2023. Now that the first phase - the Discovery Centre – is complete, we can move on to the next phase, which will aim to deliver improvements to the school's sports and sixth-form facilities. The final phase will focus on creating a new Arts centre at RLS.



### Sixth-Form Centre

At the time of writing, we are attempting to secure statutory funding for the much needed renovation of Rotherfield House, where our 400 sixth-formers are based and will update you in the next edition of Latin Life as to whether we have been successful . . .



### Sports

We are also looking at the feasibility of improving our sports facilities across the school site. A range of improvements such as an all-weather pitch, levelling of pitches, lighting and additional changing facilities or a pavilion would have a transformational impact on sport at RLS, and again, we'll

bring you more news of our plans in the next edition.

In the meantime, we'd love to hear about your memories of PE and sport at RLS. Whether your favourite was cross country, swimming, athletics, rugby – or whether you worked hard to avoid PE at all costs, we'd like to know what sport at RLS meant to you! **E-mail us at [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org)** and we'll include a selection of your sporting memories in the next edition.

Finally, would you be interested in helping the fundraising campaign for sport at RLS in some way? If so, please get in touch with **Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) – thank you!**

## Other 600 Campaign News



Lucy Beckett

We are pleased to welcome Lucy Beckett as Development Assistant to the RLS 600 Campaign team, following the departure of Dean Jones (thank you Dean and good luck in your new role at Buckingham Town Council!). An ex-grammar school girl herself, Lucy's sister, Harriet Robinson, attended the Sixth Form at the RLS (Class of 1992), and

Lucy has lived in or around Buckingham for nearly 20 years, now living in Steeple Claydon with her husband and two young sons.

With a degree in Medieval History from the University of St Andrews, Lucy pursued a career in academic book and journal publishing with Blackwell Publishers, followed by event management roles including at Stowe School. Since starting a family, Lucy has combined motherhood with freelance proofreading and copyediting, as well as support for her husband's motorsport event and PR business and volunteering at her sons' primary school. Lucy looks forward to joining the 600 Campaign as it moves on to its next exciting phase of development, and also to playing an active role in alumni relations, including future issues of Latin Life.



'The Royal Latin School - Building on 600 Years', by Cathy Read

Cathy has just signed the next batch of prints of her stunning painting, so please **email Lucy at [lbeckett@royallatin.org](mailto:lbeckett@royallatin.org) to order your copy for just £30, with proceeds to the 600 Campaign.**

Thank you again to Cathy for taking the time to support the school in this way. The original painting is on display in Brookfield House, so please do arrange to come and view it if you wish to take a closer look.

## Historian, John Hounslow, Visits RLS



John Hounslow (left) with David Hudson in the Archive Room

My old school friend, former boarder and now historian Edmund (John) Hounslow visited the RLS at the end of September writes Robert (Bob) Munday. John left the RLS in 1970, joining P & O as a purser, followed by a career of over 30 years with the Civil Service, working in areas such as defence planning, transport, civil aviation and endangered species conservation, before retirement in 2011.

It was by chance that I made contact with John again this summer after many years. Our email conversations showed me that he had lost little of his sense of humour and also revealed a desire, if possible to revisit the RLS. Contact with the school confirmed that we were very welcome to visit. John came up from Bristol and we were warmly welcomed and given a tour by Jo Ballantine (Director of Development). The site of the old woodwork and metalwork workshops reminded us of the hilarious lessons we had with Les Smith (Smut). John spoke of when the posters on the wall somehow got ignited with a brazing torch. Not me, sir - but the suspect still lives locally. The old labs looked just the same as fifty years ago and also brought out a hilarious story or two from John. The main school block was much the same, although no indoor shoes were visible and the two stairways were being used by both girls and boys together unlike the separate use we experienced.

Of course, the highlight was the magnificent Discovery Centre sited on part of the 'top rugby pitch'. A building that can have few equals

in the education world, giving current and future students wonderful opportunities to experience the marvels of science. We were privileged to view the building a few days before the official opening.

Jo then took us to the archive room at Rotherfield where we browsed the many photographs, documents and cuttings highlighting the rich history and characters of our school, and where we met with David Hudson. John presented David with a copy of his book, *Fighting for the Bucks: The History of The Royal Bucks Hussars 1914-18*. Researched and written upon his retirement from the Civil Service, the book is illustrated throughout with photographs of John's grandfather, Bill Cowell of Swanbourne, who served in the Royal Bucks Hussars in WW1. David was delighted to receive the book for use for all in the school library. Indeed, the RLS has a part in the book, with Old Latins featuring amongst the many that sadly lost their lives.

John has now completed a second book, *Nelson's Right Hand Man: The Life and Times of Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Fremantle*, with the Swanbourne connection (the Fremantle family) again providing a local link. This book is currently with the publishers, with publication expected in early 2016. Both books can be purchased via Amazon. John previously explained to me that a teacher, Jim Robertson, inspired his historical interest, and he would like to thank him personally if possible. Well, we managed to track Jim down and John has passed on his thanks for giving him that inspiration.

Sincere and grateful thanks go to the Headteacher and the Director of Development for their welcome and the precious time given to us when final arrangements were being made for the official opening of the Discovery Centre.

John tells us that he is one of eleven members of his family to have attended the school between the 1930s and 1970s. If you can beat that family headcount then please get in touch!

**We would like to make author visits by Old Latins a regular feature, so if you are an author or know of a classmate who is, then please get in touch with us to arrange a visit or just write an article for a future edition of Latin Life!**

## Plan a visit or reunion of your own

We would love to welcome you back to RLS – so please do get in touch and we'll be very happy to make arrangements for you to pop in and have a tour of the school, visiting all of your favourite haunts and hopefully giving you a really enjoyable trip down memory lane.

If your year group hasn't had a reunion for a while - or ever - then seize the day! Don't wait for someone else to organise it,

just get in touch with us and we'll help you to start planning a get together. We usually hold informal reunions for Old Latins and family members on a Saturday afternoon at the school, allowing plenty of time for exploring the site and for you to go out with friends for a drink or dinner locally afterwards if you wish.

**Email Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) and start planning a 2016 visit!**

## Old Latins

### From the 1940s



Miss Jean Watts

#### Jean Watts (Class of 1948)

I entered the school in 1943, having left a war-torn London with my parents. The Marylebone Central School had also evacuated to Buckingham, and I sat both entrance exams thinking that maybe my parents would wish to return once the war was over. Fortunately, we stayed in Buckingham, and I

came to the RLS. At this time there was an acting headmaster (Mr Foster), but he was rather an ineffectual man who only referred to us pupils as, 'a lot of worms', so we were lucky when Mr Toft took over again!

Our Maths had suffered during the war years, and when Mr Toft realised how little we knew, he took it upon himself to teach us. He always came into the form room asking us 'ladies' if we minded if he removed his jacket. I can see him now making us tussle with Pyrethames etc.

Although he was a strict man, he also had a sense of humour. I remember Miss Margaret Rose taking us for English one day, when Mr Toft appeared at the door window singing, 'Ma Bella Margarita' from 'Bless the Bride' and after seeing Miss Rose blushing furiously, he laughed and walked away.

He instilled a lovely feeling in the school and had a very good team of teachers to back him up. Miss Merritt was my teacher for Geography, Maffy Williams for French, Miss Fox for Latin, Mr Archer and Mr Jones for General Science, Miss Spencer for English, Harold Nutt (who composed the school song, 'All May God Amende'), and, of course, Mr Toft himself. He was determined to get us through our O' Levels and it was certainly down to him that I left in 1948, having matriculated.



H. B. Toft

We have newspaper articles in the RLS Archive about H. B. Toft, Headmaster of the school at the outbreak of WW2, who served during the War in the RAF and returned as Headmaster in 1945. Toft was an excellent rugby player, playing for Waterloo and captaining England in seven Internationals.

Toft died in 1987 and we have a copy of a letter sent to the Guardian in 1980. His full name was Herbert Toft, often shortened to 'Bert', but he was persistently asked by journalists what his middle name was; this was the age when middle initials were always spelt out. But Herbert Toft did not have a middle name. On one occasion, questioned yet again by a journalist about his name, he exploded, 'Herbert bloody Toft', and so 'H. B. Toft' became his official name thereafter!

### From the 1980s



Tracy Alexander

#### Tracy Alexander (Class of 1982)

I left the Royal Latin School (with 'unwritery' A' levels in Physics, Maths and Chemistry) in 1982 – a year in which I had the privilege of being 1st Team Hockey Captain and Stratton House Captain. I went to Leeds University to study Psychology, continued to play hockey, and from there got a position on the

Unilever Management Development Scheme. I worked for ten years in blue-chip companies as a marketer, then spent ten years running a consultancy, but in 2004 chucked it all in.

I started writing because I saw an advertisement in a local bookshop for a Creative Writing class. I always say, had it been a pottery class, I may have become a potter! It took five years to get published, in which time I completed a Diploma in Creative Writing at Bristol University. My first four books were a series for 8-11 year olds about the Tribers, published by Piccadilly Press. Recently I have moved into Young Adult fiction, with two thrillers.



Tracy addressing students in the Lecture Theatre

We were delighted to welcome Tracy back to the Royal Latin School on Monday, 21st September to talk about her young adult novels, *Hacked* and *Alias*.

Many students purchased copies of the two novels on the day and it has been great to see so many of them reading what

challenging and thought-provoking texts are in their reading time during English lessons. We look forward to inviting Tracy back when her next novel is published in the future.

### From the 2000s



Rosie Melliush

#### Rosie Melliush (Class of 2008)

I first joined Royal Latin School in 2002 as a student, and later in 2013 as an employee. I have gained a degree in Psychology and spent time living and working abroad. When I first returned to school as a member of staff it seemed a little daunting; I was expected to start calling the teachers who

taught me through secondary school by their first names, (which I still find difficult over a year later!) and sit in the staff room with them at break. At first I was mistaken for a student a few times which resulted in me getting told off by a certain physics teacher for being in the science block without a teacher present!

## Continued from the 2000s...

I had a great experience as a student here; I met people who are still my closest friends. From going on a residential trip to Lakeside in Year 7, to participating in tennis house sports (my co-ordination has never been the best); I always really enjoyed my time at school. The last day of sixth-form was one I'll never forget. The Headteacher at the time had heard rumours that we were planning to build a beach on the front lawn and had subsequently employed a security guard with a dog. When cars full of sand started turning up early in the morning the security guard just carried on walking around the school fields and didn't interfere. 'Costa Del Latin' was built with a small beach and a slip and slide to the amusement of the younger students and even the staff!

My time at school as a member of staff is a very different experience from being a student. I have gained lots of valuable experience and been given many opportunities which I didn't expect when I first came back. I work as a learning support assistant which means I get the chance to work across lots of different subjects with many students. My job is always varied, and as well as working with individual students I also provide classroom support. I plan to train to become a teacher myself and the experience I have had here will hopefully put me in good stead for my training. Before that I have more travelling adventures planned . . . but you never know, maybe I'll be back a third time!

### Reflections on teacher training at RLS with the SCITT Buckingham Partnership Programme



Caroline Telford

#### Caroline Telford (Class of 2009)

Returning to RLS this September to embark on the SCITT programme brought back many feelings of nostalgia, reflecting on times that I had at school and how these had shaped my development and the future that I am just starting to begin. If you had asked me

back in 2002 when I started RLS what I would be doing aged 25, I would have told you that I would be a teacher. I spent the next 13 years trying various different things before realising that I should've been a teacher all along!

Over the years at school, I began to develop a real love of science and this took me to the University of St Andrews where I studied Biochemistry. RLS instilled in me a confidence to aim high and to work hard, this paid off and I gained my degree and began to consider different careers. Through various internships and experiences, I decided lab work wasn't for me and came across an advert for a fully funded scholarship to study at Emory University in Atlanta, USA. I applied and was one of four selected Bobby Jones Scholars. Little did I know what I was in for when I applied. The year was spent studying classes I wouldn't normally have the opportunity to take; I opted for Education, Spanish and Global Health classes. Outside of classes, travelling and experiencing new things took up most of my time. Driving 10000 miles across America with two friends has been my best experience so far and will be difficult to top. Over the course of the year, the scholarship opened many doors such as the experience of attending the

Master's golf tournament, playing Augusta national (the one and only game of golf I have ever played!), and having a breakfast meeting with President Jimmy Carter.

Coming back to the UK was incredibly difficult as I had no idea what I really wanted to do. After a few months of working in an office, I was reminded of the SCITT programme at RLS. I had always thought that I wanted to be a teacher but hadn't had the courage to apply. I realised that I have a love of learning and that wasn't fulfilled in an office. Training at RLS gives me a sense of becoming like many of the teachers that inspired me and shaped my future. Throughout the years at school I was genuinely amazed by the passion teachers have for their subject and the understanding they have of their students. The teachers I had at RLS have truly given me inspiration for the type of teacher I want to be.



Jamie Seddon

#### Jamie Seddon (Class of 2012)

I am now approaching the end of my first term in teaching through The Buckingham Partnership and can safely say that I would not have expected to be in this position when I left The Royal Latin in 2012 (in fact, I didn't even expect to be here this time last year!) The Buckingham Partnership SCITT

has been an enjoyable, exciting and slightly stressful experience so far, but I am confident I made a very good decision in joining The Partnership for my teacher training. The support I have received both in my placement school and through The Partnership has been invaluable and I look forward to the terms to come.

I joined The Royal Latin in 2005 and stayed right through to the end of Sixth Form, where I left to study Neuroscience at the University of Sussex. I can hold my hands up and say that I have not always wanted to be a teacher. Nevertheless, as I came towards the end of my degree I decided I wanted a job that was challenging yet diverse in its day-to-day form, and I have already seen how teaching meets this criteria. Having spoken to a former student at the RLS who had also trained with the Buckingham Partnership, I didn't look any further for a training provider and applied for the post of Science trainee in April 2015. I am currently placed at The Cottesloe School in Wing and am really enjoying the challenges of teaching. Each day is filled with ups and downs (mostly ups!) which makes going into work exciting and slightly unpredictable.

While at school I had a fond appreciation for the great teachers; those who made us work hard yet had a respect and an understanding of students' lives. As a teacher I find myself using techniques I picked up on as a student, particularly in Science where teaching the slightly more 'boring' topics can be difficult without little tricks to make them more interesting. Luckily I was bestowed with some fantastic Science teachers at the RLS and am still in touch with many today. They often say it's no surprise to them that I have entered teaching, so maybe it was fairly obvious after all. The Buckingham Partnership SCITT has been a great training provider in my first term of teaching, and the fact that as Science trainees we get to learn from staff at the RLS makes the experience incredibly valuable. I look forward to my next placement before considering applying for a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) position in the New Year.





## The Buckingham Partnership Teacher Taster Days

The Buckingham Partnership SCITT offers a bespoke PGCE course for Primary and Secondary Trainees. It is situated in Buckingham and based at the Royal Latin School.

The Partnership comprises 30 partnership schools specialising in a vast range of subjects. The course offers a wide range of experiences and opportunities.

**For more information about the course, what we offer and how to apply, please attend one of our Teacher Taster Days:**

4th December 2015: 09.00 - 15.30

8th January 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

5th February 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

4th March 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

6th May 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

10th June 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

8th July 2016: 09.00 - 15.30

**To book a place, e-mail Helen Hinchcliffe -  
hhinchcliffe@royallatin.org**

The year is the year of appointment – in most cases the beginning of their second year in the sixth form.

I will be making additions and corrections in the near future. As usual, we would love to hear from you if you think you may have any relevant information. **E-mail [acooper@royallatin.org](mailto:acooper@royallatin.org).**



YEAR	HEAD BOY	HEAD GIRL	YEAR	HEAD BOY	HEAD GIRL
1945	Peter Fletcher	Edna Robinson	1981	Michael Jones	Jennifer Evans
1946	P.J. Brazier	Joan Howse	1982		
1947	Geoffrey Blake	Patricia Chapman	1983	Peter Neville	Sarah Barle
1948	Richard Blake	Rosemary Buncher	1984	Sean Ribben	John Copp
1949	Derek Lillman	Janet Butler	1985	Richard Whitall	Gillian Daniels
1950	Derek Lillman	Barbara Aris	1986		Lyne Thorne
1951	R Thorne	Anne Ross	1987		
1952	Roy Hill		1988		
1953	Ronald Thorne	Sheila Foot	1989		
1954			1990		
1955	D. D. Knight	Sonia Palsson	1991		
1956	Roger Wagland	Diana Rhodes	1992-2004	No Appointments by Headteacher	
1957	Roger Wagland	Anne Gillett	2005	Anthony Potts	Carmen Austin
1958	Jack Austin	Fred Viccars	2006	Michael Wilcott	Gemma Cook
1959	WLM Small	Susan Green	2007	Nick Rakowski	Gwen Taylor
1960	Robin Harris	Gloria Williams	2008	Dominic Crocombe	Rachel Lane
1961	Ray Cooper	Ann King	2009	Guy Drury	Gemma Frost
1962	Ray Cooper	Sally Pellard	2010	Ian Riley	Emma Cross
1963	Dennis Wilby	Rachel Archer	2011	Ben Lewis	Natasha Stansbury
1964	W J F Ford	Karina Lambrenna	2012	George Simons	Harriet Bull
1965	W J F Ford		2013	Max Hewitt	Peggy Thomas
1966			2014	Callum Holliday	Georgina Gresham
1967	Paul O'Gorman	Carolyn Hands	2015	Michael Keating	Athemi Trallos
1968					
1969	Ted Pew	Sally Hattersey			
1970	Andrew Darling	Jane Hammond			
1971	Paul Lachock	Mandy Thompson			
1972	Andrew Flegg				
1973		Ann Worth			
1974	Graham Carder	Fiona McKenzie			
1975	John Hilsdon	Angela Crisp			
1976	Simon Tansley	Susan Watkins			
1977					
1978	Mark Harris	Jane Wagland			
1979	Julian Young	Sarah Deaves			
1980		Janet Copp			

## School Honours' Boards

The Honours' Boards that once graced the RLS Grenville site are now mounted in the main school hall. They record those students who won places at universities between 1913 and 1956.

A new board has also been added, recording Head Boys and Girls from 1945 to the present. This continues to be a test of memory for Old Latins, who have suggested competing names for competing years! Most recent contributions, for which I am grateful, are;

- Ben Robinson 1991
- Nic Aspinall and Christine Marshall 1988
- Carolyn Hands 1967
- Paul Savage 1966

Thank you to Mike Jones for contacting us regarding our Head Boy and Girl list published in the previous issue: Mike was not Head Boy in 1981, as there were no Head Boy or Girl appointments in this year. Mike also pointed out that Jennifer Evans was also from the Class of 1981, and should therefore not be listed as Head Girl from 1979.



We would love to hear from old Latins who have gone into business together for a future feature in Latin Life. If you have any stories about teaming up with fellow ex-students, please get in touch. **Email Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)**

## Reflections from the Student Leadership Team



Athena Tzallas

### Athena Tzallas (Head Girl)

It's frightening to think that eight months have passed since I last wrote a piece for Latin Life - at the beginning of my term as Head Girl - about my hopes and expectations for the role. How time flies!

You may be interested to know that I didn't spend year seven at RLS and, in July of 2009, was faced with making the awkward decision of either staying at my previous school or accepting a place I had gained from RLS after passing my 12+ examination. This decision was an unpleasant one to make: I had made good friends where I was, but something I can't pin down urged me to come to the Latin and see what all the fuss was about! Frankly, I haven't looked back since. In my opinion, RLS is a truly brilliant school and I'm not one to use the word 'brilliant' heedlessly! The combination of conscientious pupils and passionate teachers makes our school community unique and an inspiring environment to study in. I am grateful to have benefited from the huge array of opportunities available to us: throughout my six years at the Latin, I've been part of the Mock Trial team, Model United Nations, I've played (well, at least tried to play) on the netball team, I've taken part in school shows and have been on some unforgettable trips. My positive experience of RLS has certainly had a profound impact on the person I am today.

If I had to choose, the best part of being Head Girl has been working closely with Michael, Naomi and Jonny. Unquestionably gifted, intelligent and overall impressive individuals, I have learned so much from them. Thankfully, the strength of our personalities has not hindered our ability to work as a team and actually get something done! We started our term with the clear aim of improving student voice within the school and so set about creating a system of Year Councils which would hopefully make it easier for students to voice their opinions. It is with great pleasure that I am able to write about the success of the councils. Thanks to the hard work of Year Captains (who are appointed to help out in the respective year groups) and the diligence of the Form Representatives, we have seen students' ideas really listened to since September. Overall, I strongly believe that the introduction of Year Councils has been one of the true successes of our team.

I am studying History, German and Spanish at A level and have applied to read Law with Spanish Law at university, with the ultimate aim of fulfilling my commitment made on the 600 Campaign video a few years ago and becoming a lawyer. Hopefully, the next time I'll be writing in *Latin Life* will be to reassure RLS Alumni that I kept my promise! The thought of leaving RLS next year is an unnerving one but I couldn't have asked for a better school experience at the Latin.



Naomi Greener

### Naomi Greener (Deputy Head Girl)

My name is Naomi Greener and I feel privileged to hold the position of Deputy Head Girl at the Royal Latin School. Being part of the Student Leadership Team is a really exciting opportunity. It does not come without its challenges and disagreements, but being able to make significant changes to the school

keeps me motivated. I think it's important to ensure that at the heart of every decision are the best interests of the students - for they are the future of not only RLS, but also of our society.

The role of Deputy Head Girl is one that I take pride in having. Through my effective communication and organisation, I definitely manage to keep both Jonny and Michael under control! I've learnt that patience is essential to any role of responsibility, as well as the importance of listening properly. Whilst being a leader is a strength of mine, this role has taught me that strong teamwork and acting as one unit can achieve far greater results than acting independently could ever hope to.

The thought of leaving Royal Latin in six months is quite an emotional one and I know that I will miss a lot about this very special school we have. The unfaltering dedication of the teachers is overwhelming; any support and help they can provide is done so in such an approachable manner. The school community is something I really value, and I very much doubt that many other schools have such polite, respectful and helpful students. And, of course, the friends I have made at Latin are incredibly special to me, and I hope to stay in contact with them. Having spent six years as a student here, it will be sad to leave, but also very exciting to start the next chapter of my life.

If you'd asked me as a Year 7 what I wanted to do after leaving school, the response would have been something along the lines of, 'anything but maths'. However, I am currently studying Maths, English and Economics and will be going on to study Accounting and Finance at university. Seeing how much I have developed and matured whilst being at RLS is really quite amusing - as a Year 7, I was so confident that I would never be able to succeed in maths (a huge thank you to those maths teachers who refused to give up on me!). After university, my aim is to work for one of the 'Big 4' accountancy firms to gain my professional qualifications, with the aim of moving on to be a Financial Director afterwards.

One thing that I will carry with me through the rest of my life is the school motto, 'high expectations for all'. I think it's so important to apply the best version of yourself to everything that comes at you in life, and being at RLS has taught me this. I have plans for the future, but we all know how unpredictable and changeable this world is. What I do know, however, is that the preparation I've received from being a student at RLS will open doors for me, and allow me to do anything I put my mind to, with confidence and a smile.



Michael Keating

### Michael Keating - Head Boy

For me, this year as Head Boy has seemed to fly by in a blur of events, speeches and meetings, but the lessons I have learnt from my time in this position of responsibility will last far longer, past university and into my working life.

To say I was unsure when applying is a huge understatement; I almost didn't put myself forward for the role at all. However, my time in the 6th Form has definitely shown me I made the right choice by taking a chance and throwing myself in. Of course, a large part of the reason our team has achieved what

we set out to do is our ability to work together across everything we encountered. I think I bought an almost “devil’s advocate” role to the team, trying to keep a realistic picture of our aims and how we would get there. Coupled with a sense of humour and a passion to leave a positive impact on such a brilliant school, I feel like I have added to the team and been the right person for the job this year.

The qualities I have personally learnt, including how to argue in a professional space, as well as collecting ideas and opinions to make what was judged to be the best decision, will be invaluable in life, but more immediately in my study of English and Philosophy at university. But it hasn’t just been the last year that has prepared me for university; from Year 7 to Year 13, the Royal Latin has been slowly but surely built me up to what I am now. The strangest thing about being in my last year is looking back to what I was those years ago and realising how far I’ve come from being the stereotypical Year 7 with an oversized blazer and a nervous enthusiasm for starting secondary school. Looking back, I will miss so much when I leave at the end of the year; the teachers, the students, the opportunities, all have affected me throughout my course at the Royal Latin.

Overall, I am proud of going to an amazing school, and proud of what the Student Leadership Team and I have achieved over the year. Looking to the future, I hope to go to university next year and after that move into a career that will allow me to manage people and work in a team; I am best when working face to face with others. A job involving sport or music advertising would be especially exciting for me. I’m sure the rest of the team are just as optimistic for the future after a strong start at an amazing school!



### Jonathan Aubrey – Deputy Head Boy

Now into my second ‘term’ of being Deputy Head Boy, the team of us have now managed to make some of the improvements to the school which we wished to make. I’ve really enjoyed the impact we’ve been able to make on the rest of the school. I believe our ideas on student voice have enhanced communication throughout the school, and

has hence created overall improvements to the school environment.

Our teamwork and comradeship has enabled us to work together effectively. It’s a lot easier when you work with your friends. We have a great combination of skills and attributes. As I study Maths, Further Maths and Physics, I make an extremely capable and creative scribe, with my true artistic potential overflowing into our team! I have learned so much from this role.

It’s clearly a great honour to be able to say I am the Deputy Head Boy of such an impressive school, and even more so with the opening of the new ‘Discovery Centre’. Science is very close to my heart, so to see pupils now having the opportunity to use this fantastic facility and being inspired within the subject of Science is amazing. I have suggested they rename the ‘Discovery Centre’ the ‘Jonathan Aubrey Astronomical Centre of Excellence’ when I leave but they didn’t seem too keen.

As I enter my last year it is clearly fitting to partially reflect on my time at the school. However I’ll keep the final sob story for the ultimate instalment. Clearly, the friends I have made along this journey have changed everything for me. I couldn’t have made it to

this point without them. A very poignant moment was playing my last ever House Rugby. I have participated in this competition every year and to play in this final competition was a special moment. To do it with my friends was even better.

House sports will always be remembered as a very special event for me, no other school quite does House sports as well as the Royal Latin, and never with such enthusiasm and excitement. Sport is a great part of this school, and will always be a fond memory for me. The superb teaching and lessons are what make the school though. It is what makes the school special. There are so many lessons I can think of where I have been truly inspired, truly interested and truly enjoyed myself. If you can make a teenage boy enjoy school, you are definitely doing something right.

As I draw to an end I look to the future, and my future. The Discovery Centre has dominated the School’s future and Science dominates my future as well. With a view to read Physics at Oxford, I will continue on as a budding scientist, and with my true passion lying in Cosmology and Astronomy, being an Astronaut is the real dream. The Discovery Centre shows that anything is possible, so maybe I can be an Astronaut. Then the ‘Astronomical Centre of Excellence’ could be possible, however I think becoming an Astronaut is more likely. Every spaceship needs a platform to launch from, and the Royal Latin has been my platform and I will always be grateful for that.

## Peggy Watts



Old Latins from the 1970s and 1980s will be saddened to read of the death of Mrs Peggy Watts, a secretary at the school during the later George Embleton years and early years of Peter Luff’s headship. Peggy was part of that great triumvirate of women with, Marguerite Smith, the School Matron and Edna Embleton,

who essentially ran the whole bureaucracy of the school - and many would say the Head! Peggy lived in Newgale, the house on the corner of Brookfield Lane and London Road and one of her sons, Keith, now a Sky TV cameraman was a pupil at the school in the late 60s early 70s.

Peggy was enormously kind, had a lovely sense of humour and a great affection for the school. In recent years with failing memory, she still liked to be driven round the RLS site and it was remarkable how she could be transported back to her younger days. Her funeral is at St Edmund’s Church, Maids Moreton on Tuesday 8th December and the school will be represented by Andrew Cooper and Ed Grimsdale.



# Get in Touch!

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## Forthcoming Reunions

There will be a Joint Reunion for the Class of 1970 and Class of 1974 on Saturday 11th June 2016 at RLS - organised by Robert Munday and Ruth Newell.

Contact Jo at [jballantine@royallatin.org](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org) for further details.

### Latin Life via Email



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

We are trying to reduce costs as much as possible so please help us by contacting [latinlife@royallatin.org](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) with your email address and electing to receive Latin Life via email.

## It's Your Latin Life

The vision for *Latin Life* is that it should be produced by Old Latins, for Old Latins.

But to realise this vision we really do need feedback, so we would like to invite all Old Latins to

## Community Lectures



John Lane (Lillingstone Trust) with David Hudson, Dr Moffatt and Chris George

The Lillingstone Community Laboratory in the Discovery Centre was officially opened on Wednesday 18th November. David Hudson, Chris George and John Lane (of The Lillingstone Trust) welcomed members of the RLS and local community to the launch event which was followed by the inaugural Community Lecture, attended by over 100 people, entitled, 'Living with Dementia - Cause and Effect', by Dr Kevin Moffat of Warwick University.

The Community Laboratory will host a programme of regular community science lectures by visiting speakers from universities, companies and entrepreneurs, including Old Latins who have gone on to make significant contributions to the scientific community all around the world.

The Lillingstone Trust, a small charity based in the Buckingham area, has financed the equipping of the Community Laboratory at the school, and funded the community science outreach programme for the first year of operation.

### The two next confirmed lectures are as follows:

- 24th February 2016, 6pm 'Biofuels: The Green Alternative?' by Dr David Read, University of Southampton
- 9th March 2016, 6pm 'Creative Science' by Dr Jonathan Hare, University of Sussex

For further details or to reserve your space at any of the above, please contact our outreach science officer, **Chris George** [cgeorge@royallatin.org](mailto:cgeorge@royallatin.org)

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### 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](mailto:jballantine@royallatin.org)

### Join Us Online

Apologies to those who have been trying to access [www.risalumni.org.uk](http://www.risalumni.org.uk) - don't worry, we haven't lost anything or given up on it, but have some technical challenges and are investigating the best way to reinstate and ultimately improve on the site. In the meantime, please bear with us and do keep in touch via email, and we will load content onto the site once it is up and running again.

We are also hoping to develop a Facebook page in the near future – so watch this space!

Join the Royal Latin Grammar Alumni group on [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) to network with Old Latins in business and find out how RLS is working with the business community.

your success stories – 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](mailto:latinlife@royallatin.org) with your contributions!

submit articles and images to the magazine (subject to editing).

Please get in touch to share articles or let us know what you would like to see included in Latin Life. We'd particularly like to be able to share some of

