

FROM SCHOOL HOUSE



1707

Warminster School

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Dear Old Verlucian,

The forthcoming Old Verlucian dinner in June has provided the focus for another busy term for the new Development and Alumni office. We look forward to welcoming the 100 or so OVs who have reserved their place so far. We have been overwhelmed by the level of interest and goodwill surrounding this event. It will undoubtedly be a great evening. There are only a few seats left, so if you think you can raise a table of old friends then please get in touch with Stella Aldridge as soon as possible.

We are also delighted that **Joy Odili (OV89)** will become the first Old Verlucian to be guest speaker at Speech Day in May. Joy who has become one of the UK's most famous plastic surgeons is based at St George's Hospital in London and has her own private practice. We are looking forward to her address to the current generation of Warminster pupils.

We hope to see many of you at events next term. If you would like to keep well-informed of School news, sign up to the Head's newsletter, HEADS-UP! www.warminsterschool.org.uk/the-school/headmasters-introduction/heads-up

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G McQueen'.

GRAEME MCQUEEN
HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI



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ON CAMPUS

It was a pleasure to host **Tom Davenport (OV10)** for lunch at School recently. In this era of high graduate unemployment Tom has done exceptionally well to secure a post with the French multi-national CGG. Tom's role is to sell the company's products to clients throughout the Middle East. Tom is delighted to use his Geology degree in his new role. We have no doubt that he will have the sales skills to accompany his technical knowledge.

We are also very proud of **David Sutton (OV96)** who came to school recently to deliver a masterclass to our sports scholars. David is a specialist strength and conditioning coach and helped Northampton County Cricket Club become one day champions in 2014. He has now secured a top job at the Shanghai Institute of Sport. We wish him good luck!



The 1st XI football team have spectacular new shirts thanks to a kind donation by Old Verlucian, **Nick Walden (OV00)**. Nick, Sales Director of local food and drink wholesale supplier, Ashton Farms of Wiltshire, presented the shirts to 1st XI captain Dean Cook before the match against Kingswood School. Nick left the School in 2000 and was a talented striker and goal scorer in one of the best 1st XI's in recent memory.

It was clear that Nick's passion for the game and the School has not diminished in the fifteen years since he has left. His vocal encouragement and touchline coaching however, did not prevent the 1st's from narrowly losing a tightly fought match, but Nick was impressed with the skills and commitment on display, particularly from Ross Melia and Vincent Hecklenburg.

Nick said, "As a former captain and player of the 1st's, it's great to be supporting the team with their new shirts. Boniface pitch looked fantastic and the playing surface has improved massively over the last 15 years with its new drainage. As for the football, it was a shame we couldn't get the win after going 2-0 up, but that's football!"

"We were delighted to welcome Nick back to Warminster and we look forward to his next visit to see 'our boys in red' as their season re-starts after half term."



ON CAMPUS

Thanks are due to OVs **Duncan Wilson (OV86)** and **Maren Mende (OV06)** for their brilliant contribution to the recent Lower Sixth Form Mentoring Evening. Both used their experience in the corporate world to give the Sixth Form a valuable insight in how to succeed in the 21st century workplace.

Maren was Head Girl in 2006 and is now Vice President of Global Relationships at Barclays HQ in London. She has special responsibility for all of the companies' dealings with the United Nations. Maren told the Sixth Form of the importance of getting out of their comfort zone and dealing with the tough decisions that lie ahead. Duncan is i/c 3,000 employees in Western Europe for the German pharmaceutical giant, Fresenius. Duncan emphasised the importance of taking advantage of the education available at Warminster and stressed that being innovative and different, catches the eye of employers in this competitive age.

Both speakers agreed that although very important, qualifications alone are no guarantee of success. We are delighted that both Duncan and Maren have agreed to continue to support our Sixth Formers and help mentor them throughout their school career and beyond. The mentoring programme has been running for a year now and is going from strength to strength. However, we are always keen for more OVs to get involved; if you would be willing to consider volunteering, please contact us.



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guarantee of success”*

GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE ISTS

Hector Lyons, Ist XI hockey Captain is delighted with his team's performance this year. Rightfully so!

This has been the best season for many years with victory against local rivals including King's Bruton, Wells and Milton Abbey. Graeme McQueen who started boys' competitive hockey at School and has followed the team this season is impressed. The 1st XI hockey team ended the season having played 12, won 10 and drawn 1.

"It has been fantastic to see this team play with such skill and commitment. This has been a ground-breaking season. Congratulations to the boys and Mr Evans, the Head of Hockey."



CABARET

Sparkling lights, shining silver and black programmes and stylish feathered vase arrangements adorned each table, making the perfect setting for an evening of high-class food and entertainment. **Cabaret 2016** proved a triumph for the Music Department and all the pupils and staff that took part.

Efficiently compèred with military precision throughout, Director of Music, **Caroline Robinson** took the audience on a musical journey. The evening started with a bang as 49 pupils from Year 7 and 8 gave a hearty performance of MATILDA numbers complete with their own Matilda's (**Charlotte Robinson, Milly Morgan, Thea Knight** and **Naomi Watson**) and the terrifying Mrs Trunchbull, played wonderfully by **Harrison Kilminster**.

The evening continued with many excellent performances, notably a duet by **Vittoria Ferrario** and **Lili Wieberniet** which some commented would not have been out of place in the final of *The X Factor*. The String Ensemble excelled with a stunning rendition of *Palladio*, made famous originally in the De Beers diamond advert. The Ukulele Group were on top form, paying a fitting tribute to **David Bowie** with their performance of *Heroes*, with a magnificent solo spot for **Ben Stone**. The Drum Corps, in their usual style, made their presence felt with their own fully choreographed composition, *Drums Alive*, and keeping the music current, *Star Wars* was enjoyed in a performance by the Concert Band.

Newly formed Rock Band, *The Seventeen O'Sevens* led by **Charlie Whelan** gave a truly professional and rocking performance of the *Sultans of Swing*, and **Kathryn Rush** proved a 'Popular' hit, with her own version of this *Wicked* favourite.

Jazz Band whetted the appetites of the audience with their polished performances including the all-time Jazz favourite *All of Me*. The excellent food and service did not disappoint, a highlight being the sophisticated selection of individual handmade desserts. The evening culminated in a performance from the school Concert Orchestra playing *Queen* favourites.

Mrs Robinson commented on Cabaret 2016 – *"My personal highlight was the outstanding performances from the Warminster Singers. Having been tutored by the leader of the Bath Community Gospel Choir, their flash mob-esque entrance led to an enthusiastic rendition of 'He Reigns', with huge energy from each and every member of the choir. My thanks go to the Music Department and everyone who helped make Cabaret such a success. I am already planning for 2017!"*



SPOTLIGHT ON... SAM WILSON (OV08)



OV INVOLVED IN GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

We were delighted to hear of former pupil **Sam Wilson's (OV08)** ground-breaking work in the field of prosthetics. Sam who graduated with a first class honours degree in robotics from the University of Reading is currently a research student, funded by the Office of Naval Research, at Imperial College, London. Sam's research programme focuses partly on the control of prosthetics using mechanomyography sensors whose main component is a £1.50 microphone that can pick up the sounds that muscles make when they move.

The ultimate aim of this research is to reduce the physical and cognitive load on people using prosthetics. This is to be done by developing a gesture based natural user interface that patients can use to interact with the prosthetics they are wearing, and with specially designed equipment around the house. This simple but highly effective innovation is already being trialled by Mr Alex Lewis, the quadruple amputee whose trust the School has supported in recent months.

Sam has also recently returned from a trip to Texas for a demonstration at the 2015 Defence Innovations Summit in Austin, as part of a team sent from the Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial. The main objective was to generate some interest in the US for the work that the team is doing. The hope is that the trip will lead to future collaborations with other research units and businesses

We will follow Sam's career with interest and look forward to his next visit to the School.

HERITAGE

Graeme McQueen, was delighted to welcome **Tom Kiggell**, Master in Charge of Fives at Marlborough College and **David Barnes**, Archivist of The Rugby Fives Association.

The reason for the visit was to see our historic Fives Court which is believed to be one of the oldest in Britain. The School dates the court from around 1780 and famous Old Verlucian and Headmaster of Rugby School, Thomas Arnold, played Fives at Warminster School at the beginning of the 19th century.

Fives is an English sport believed to derive from the same origins as many racquet sports. In Fives, a ball is propelled against the walls of a special court using a gloved hand as though it were a racquet. Many famous schools including Eton, Winchester and Marlborough play versions of this game today. The game of Warminster Fives, based on Wessex Fives, was played at Warminster School until the 1970s.

Tom and David were very impressed by the court which they regard as being historically significant, in good condition and very playable. David Barnes commented *“The wall itself is Grade II listed and cannot therefore be extended or built onto in any way, thus limiting the options, but it is in good condition and fully capable of withstanding the impact of a fives ball or handball”*.

Speculating on the origin of our School court, David was able to tell us that, in his view, it is a classic example of a West Country court of its time, with another example being found in the nearby town of Mere and is a precious rarity.



“We look forward to investigating ways of bringing this historic game back to the current generation of Warminster pupils under the direction of Chris Knight, Director of Sport and welcoming a Marlborough College team for an exhibition match in the near future”

FORTHCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Senior Open Morning – 7/05/16

Prep Open Morning – 14/05/16

Speech Day – 28/05/16

OV Black Tie Dinner – 25/06/16

WSPA Mad Hatter’s Summer Ball – 02/07/16