

# OCTIMES



**THE OLD  
CANTABURIAN CLUB**  
The Alumni of the Kent College  
Canterbury Family of Schools

## LOOKING BACK

Archives from 1903 - 2003

## SPOTLIGHT ON

Graham Noble

## REUNION

Class of 1994 return



[oldcantaburians.co.uk](http://oldcantaburians.co.uk)

Issue 1: 2024

# OCC COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

## CAROL BAKER KC'75



### Welcome back to the OC Times

What a welcome venture bringing the latest news to the whole KC family.

The purpose of the Old Canterburian Club is to help former students of Kent College to stay in touch with one another and to keep up to date with what is happening at their old school. You may say that with social media this has become easier but there remains only one place that has a database of all its pupils past and present.

Due to the nature of the Kent College community the alumni association provides a great network of people with a shared educational experience. This might be through sport, art, drama, music, academia or the workplace.

So how does this help you? Maybe you want to get back in touch with an old school friend who you have lost touch with. Perhaps you are moving to a new country and would like some help with settling in. Large numbers of alumni return to the school to share their working experience with the next generation of leavers.

Every year we host a number of year group reunions allowing classmates to get back together and reminding them of their school days through our rich archive of photos. Tours of the school can be arranged on a group or individual basis allowing you to revisit and rekindle memories. Yes, the chapel still smells the same!!

Everyone who leaves Kent College automatically becomes a member of the Old Canterburian Club, and the subs that are included within school fees allow us to provide some bursary money each year to assist students who need some support to keep them at the school.

We are very lucky to have Gemma Frost in office at the school who acts as a direct link between the school and the Club and in fact she is the person who has brought the OC Times back to life!

### Carol Baker (Finch)

Pupil 1973-1975

Staff 1978 -2017

President, Old Canterburian Club

## Old Canterburian Committee

### President:

Carol Baker (KC'75)

### Vice President:

Mark Jones (KC'83)

### OCC Archivist:

John Charlesworth (KC'78)

### Honorary Secretary:

Duncan Cooper (KC'84)

### Honorary Treasurer:

Duncan Cooper (KC'84)

### Honorary Vice Treasurer:

Graham Dawkins (KC'68)

### Committee Members:

Dr Nick Sandon (KC'66)

Stuart Earl (KC'86)

Anne Waters (KC'81)

William Taylor (KC'13)

Esther Copeman (KC'98)

Peter Kennedy (KC'69)

Robbie Whittaker (KC'17)

Sir Henry Feilden (KC'70)

Eliot Mead (KC'22)

Gemma Frost

Please email [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk) if you would like to become involved, or wish to contact a member of the Committee.



# HEAD OF KENT COLLEGE

## MARK TURNBULL



Welcome to the latest edition of the OC Times. The relaunch of a magazine that we hope will keep you in touch with your old school community.

At the end of this calendar year, I will have had the privilege of being Head of KC for three years. It is true that the longer you remain in a place the longer you become attached to it, to valuing all that it brings to supporting the growth of young people.

KC today is a thriving community where over 800 pupils and staff live and work. It is a place where we strive to ensure young people are given the environment to grow into themselves. Whilst exam results are significant, what is just as important is making sure that all pupils feel confident in following their own path and that their experience of their education is a happy one.

Any school will have its good weeks and those weeks that will present more of a challenge. Just ask some of the pupils who took part in the house music competition in February, or the sports day in June. There will have been many who would have gone through moments of fear and trepidation in the rehearsals for their performance. Yet on the day, all of them exited the stage or the track with broad smiles, animated by having overcome their fears to produce something of which they could be proud.

Equally those who walk around the campus and who have a chance to speak to current Canterburyans all say how happy the pupils seem to be. And we can all appreciate how much tougher it is to grow up today.

We believe that achieving this sense of happiness comes through getting the balance as right as we can. Balance in the day, between the classroom and the co-curriculum. Balance in our outcomes: recognising that results matter but so does wellbeing, and developing the skills that are going to equip today's Canterburyans for life beyond school. In recognising this need for balance, we believe that we are giving the pupils the right outlook to go on to lead fulfilling lives.

We do this within the context of the wider world beyond the school gates. The school now works in partnership with other local state and private schools to deliver opportunities to those who would not otherwise have the chance. And we also support the local arts through hosting a large part of the Canterbury Festival in our fantastic Great Hall. Beyond the local we look towards our international partnerships with Kent College in West Cairo and Dubai now educating nearly 2000 pupils.

So welcome back! We hope that the relaunch of this publication will help us all to stay in touch and to value relationships that can sustain us all through our own journeys.



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# SCHOOL NEWS

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

### October 2022 - ISI inspection

The school was graded as excellent in all categories in an inspection conducted by ISI, the Independent Schools Inspectorate that conducts inspections on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. The full reports are available to read on the school website.

### August 2024 - Exam results

'We are all delighted with the results that the students have achieved. Without exception it has

allowed them to go on to pursue their ambitions beyond school. We are particularly proud of the diversity of choices they have made about their pathways. It is a testament to the resilience and confidence that they have developed in themselves.'

Mark Turnbull, Head

More details on Results and Destinations on page 20.

### July 2024 - Charities

The Charities Committee have raised a record amount of money this academic year on behalf of Edukid, Porchlight, Farms for City Children, Pilgrims Hospices, Rising Sun and The Evie Dove Foundation.

## KEY NEWS

### Honouring tradition with an innovative approach

Over the past 2 years the school has undergone a refresh, which has reestablished its Methodist foundations whilst also declaring a desire to be seen as forward-thinking.

'Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.'

**John Wesley**

Whilst Kent College welcome students of all faiths and non, the Wesleyan ethos is the foundation of the school on which a new vision has been built.

Education that is focussed upon the needs of each **individual**, developing **inquiring** and **knowledgeable** people who understand how to lead **happy** and **fulfilling** lives, as **compassionate** members of a **global community**, with the skills to play **active** roles in an **inclusive** and **sustainable** future.

This vision has been expressed as 8 easily digestible school values, for which students are awarded house points and prizes for their ability to demonstrate.

### RESPECT

value oneself and the world around us

### ACTING JUSTLY

work for good through service to others

### KINDNESS

be considerate and compassionate towards others

### AMBITION

engage positively with all learning opportunities

### HUMILITY

walk humbly

### OPENNESS

embrace equality, diversity and inclusion

### CURIOSITY

inquire actively

### RESILIENCE

build the courage to take risks and forgive others

This updated approach to the ethos is matched by the branding, with a revitalised logo and colour palette seen throughout the school on signage, uniforms and online.





## A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Kent College has always been a diverse and inclusive school. This has intensified in recent years with the breadth of countries we welcome students from (currently 40 nationalities) and the creation of 2 new schools, Kent College Dubai and Kent College West Cairo.

Created with the objective of providing the same high-quality education, aims and values but with local context and expectations, the schools are directly managed by Kent College, Canterbury.

We recently welcomed colleagues Engie and Shady from KC West Cairo to share our learnings about the IB and how we operate our Sixth Form and co-curricular activities programme.

The school celebrates its cultural diversity during International Week, with cultural displays, dancing, world music and food from across the world.

Our Admissions team continue to travel the world meeting prospective families. Recent trips have included Hong Kong, Japan and Hungary. If you are a former pupil and are living overseas, please ensure your current location is updated on your Old Canterburian profile so that we can reach out to you and reconnect when we're travelling.

School trips this year have included a Hockey Tour to Holland, Choir Tour to Venice, German trip to The Rhine Gorge, Spanish trip to Barcelona and a French trip just before Remembrance Day to the Somme and Thiepval Memorial.



Contact the Admissions team ([admissions@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kentcollege.co.uk)) to meet them this term in the following destinations:

Saturday 21 September	Paris
Monday 23 September	Hamburg
Tuesday 24 - Thursday 26 September	Munich
Friday 27 - Saturday 29 September	Warsaw
Tuesday 1 - Thursday 4 October	Milan
Friday 4 - Saturday 5 October	Mexico City
Sunday 6 October	Monterrey
Saturday 12 October	Hong Kong
Saturday 19 October	Hong Kong
Tuesday 22 - Sunday 27 October	Shanghai and Beijing
Tuesday 12 November	New York
Wednesday 13 November	Washington
Saturday 23 - Monday 25 November	Kenya
December (dates tbc)	Seoul





# SCHOOL NEWS

## OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The school positively encourages students to contribute to the local community to realise both their privileges, the needs of others and the positive impact of their generosity both for others and for their own wellbeing.

Through events such as sponsored walks, non-uniform days and the Santa Run, the students have raised over £12,000 in the last academic year, for local charities such as Porchlight and Pilgrims Hospices.



Over at Moat Lane Farm, the Eco-Warriors have planted dozens of trees and saplings, as well as creating bee sanctuaries and planting a meadow, all in effort to support local wildlife.



On a monthly basis our Farm team host The Fifth Trust, a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities, providing educational sessions to build confidence around animals.

Students have long enjoyed activities week at the end of the academic year, a chance to step away from the classrooms and enjoy team building exercises. Last year, the school replaced activities week with Futures & Service week, where activities

were focused around conservation, sustainability and life beyond KC.



*Litter picking in green spaces around Canterbury*

The school continues its close ties with Kent Cricket by sponsoring the next generation of cricketeers as they travel to play on tour. Many of our students play for Kent Cricket, our sports coaches have also played cricket for Kent and coach Megan Belt is the current captain of Kent Women's Cricket team.

For the past 6 years Kent College have been the Headline Sponsor of the Canterbury Festival, welcoming acts such as Gabrielle, Ruby Turner and Barbara Dickson as well as classical ensembles Classico Latino, the Sacconi Quartet and Festival Chamber Orchestra to our Great Hall.





## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Over the past 2 years, Lara Wilkinson, Assistant Head, Co-curricular, has established an activities programme of over 70 different clubs designed to allow each pupil to find an area or areas where they can discover and develop their skills. Ranging from debating and chess to coding and cross-country. Taking place at lunch times, after school and at weekends, students are encouraged to take up at least two activities per week. Each student therefore builds a portfolio of extracurricular learning which can be used as evidence on a CV or UCAS application.



*In 1924, KC was an all boys school. Fast forward to 2024 and our girls Hockey team have re-enacted the team photo with Director of Hockey and GB Olympian, Ali Brogdan*

## SPORT

Kent College continues to build on the rich history of sporting success.

Our scholars represent Canterbury and Kent in Cricket, Hockey and Tennis across a range of year groups.

Our girl's hockey teams have been victorious and following KC history, continue to dominate in the local area. In cricket, the U14 boys won the Kent Cup and qualified for the national U15 competition next season, whilst the U12 boys reached the Kent Cup final.

Sport scholar, Tilly Corteen-Coleman was selected to play for the womens U19s England team against Sri Lanka. Tilly was also drafted to play in The Hundred, competing against some of the best players in the world and broke records as the youngest player to feature and the youngest to take a wicket.





# SCHOOL NEWS

## MUSIC

Musicians from both the Junior School and the Senior School got the crowd into the Christmas spirit with outstanding performances at the annual 'Joy to the World' concert.

Autumn term ended with a magnificent Carol Service from the school choirs, in Canterbury Cathedral.

The choirs travelled locally with Camber Choir, Sedecim singing a splendid service of Choral Evensong at St Mary's Church, Sevenoaks and

Choristers in the Symphony Hall in Birmingham at the Barnardo's National Choir Competition, finishing in 2nd place. Further afield, the choir toured Venice this year, singing for audiences in St George's Anglican Church, St Mark's Basilica, San Lazzaro and Chiesa di San Canciano.

The annual Spring Concert took place in April. The choirs and choral society joined voices to perform Karl Jenkins' powerful work, 'The Armed Man.' Talented pianist Theo in year 13 also performed the first movement of Rachmaninoff's epic piano concerto No.2.



## DRAMA

The Autumn production this year was Guys and Dolls, considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy. Frank Loesser's brassy, immortal score certainly pleased the Great Hall audience as did wonderful performances from the cast and crew.

The quality of the Lower School production 'Wizard of Oz' was fantastic and the whole community are looking forward to watching these young stars in many more productions in the coming years.

In the spring, One Man, Two Guvnors provided an evening of riotous entertainment, filled with witty humour, slapstick comedy and clever worldplay.





# ALUMNI NEWS

## REUNIONS

The Old Canterburian Club Annual Reunion took place on Saturday 16 September 2023.

The day was comprised of welcome drinks and a display of archives in the OCC bar within the Great Hall, tours of the school, and lunch in the Great Hall colonnade.

Students from across the years were in attendance, some as far back as 1943.

Former classmates from the Class of 1973 reunited, including Richard Silver, Paul Venning, John Frederick Wyver, John Inge and Stephen Page.

A group of 1978 leavers also attended, including Mark Little, Mike Godwin, John Charlesworth and Head Boy (KC'77), John Roper.

The Annual Reunion takes place on the second Saturday in September every year. Book the dates into your diary and contact us if you need support in rallying up former classmates.



**Annual Reunion 2024** – Saturday 14 September

**Annual Reunion 2025** – Saturday 13 September





# CLASS OF 1994 REUNION

On Saturday 25 May, 40 former students returned to the school to celebrate 30 years since they left Kent College, Canterbury.

The Class of 1994 enjoyed an afternoon of games, tours of the school and drinks with former teachers in the Old Canterbury Bar, ending the day with dinner and a disco in the dining hall.

It was a brilliant opportunity to reconnect and reminisce.

Thank you Class of 1994 for sharing your memories and being wonderful guests, especially those of you that travelled from all over Europe and Hong Kong.

Class of 1995, are you ready for a reunion next year? Contact [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk) to find out more.

## Welcome back

Former students are always welcome back to KC, whether it's for a reunion or just for a tour to walk down memory lane. Find out more about upcoming reunions on the OCC website or contact [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk).





# NEWS



## **Grace Balsdon (KC'11), September 2023**

Olympian Grace Balsdon received an honorary doctorate from Canterbury Christ Church University in recognition and celebration of her remarkable professional achievements and for being such an inspiration to girls and women in sport.

In the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, Grace scored the game winning goal for Great Britain to win the bronze medal in women's hockey.



## **Issaya Mayro (KC'20), September 2023**

Issaya, who achieved 7 grade A A-Levels, has again succeeded wonderfully, winning prizes for his scores in end-of-year exams at the Medical School at the University of Kent! We wish him all the best with his future in medicine.



## **Cross-country win for Kennedy brothers, September 2023**

Alan Kennedy (KC'75) and brother Peter Kennedy (KC'69) won the over 65 cup at the Alumni race organised by Thames Hare and Hounds. Alan reports that "Peter won the over 70 section and excelled. I just about got round."

For those who do not know, Peter Kennedy won the school cross country in 1969, and Alan was a member of the all-conquering team that won 38 out of 40 interschool matches in the 1972-1975 era.



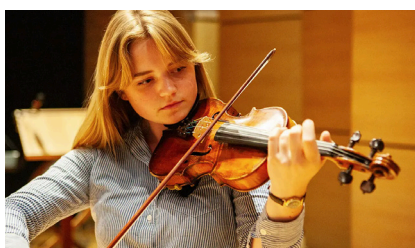
## **East Kent Ploughing Match, October 2023**

It was great to be back at the East Kent Ploughing Match this year. Our Young Farmers enjoyed showing off a selection of our farm animals. Former Head Boy, Joe Hearnden (KC'18), came over for a chat with Gemma Frost, our new Development Officer.



## **Kent College Cup at Canterbury Hockey Club, November 2023**

Over 200 enthusiastic Junior Hockey players joined us at Canterbury Hockey Club on Presidents' Day to compete for the Kent College Cup. Mr Turnbull applauded the efforts of all the teams, with the Flying Fishies being the overall winners.



## **Oxford offer for Head Student, January 2024**

From year 7 to year 13, Anna has always played a vital role in the KC community.

We are delighted that Anna has been offered a place at the University of Oxford to read English Language and Literature and a Choral scholarship! Do watch the video to find out more about Anna's journey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEymwU-hWWA>



### Frank Mason Tournament, February 2024

The school hosted the Frank Mason tournament for 20 different Senior schools in the country to compete for the silverware.

Frank Mason was a pupil at Kent College from 1916 until 1919. He then became the Tulse Hill Hockey XI goalkeeper from 1919 and continued playing for the Club until 1947.

Frank qualified as a member of the Southern Counties Hockey Umpires' Association and as an international umpire, becoming Secretary and a valued committee member of the Umpires' Association.

Frank served the Old Canterburian Club most loyally, rarely missing a reunion dinner and acting as President in addition to serving on the Committee until 1965. He died in September 1966.



### Lightboard reinstalled, March 2024

In years gone by, if a student required the attention of a teacher within the Common Room, they could press a call button which would highlight the teacher's initials on the lightboard situated in the Common Room.

Although it is no longer used, the lightboard is proudly displayed in our newly redecorated Common Room.



### Chris Figgis Memorial Hockey Match, March 2024

We welcomed back a team of OC's to compete against a KC mixed first team for the Figgy trophy.

The OC's dazzled in their pink socks and beat KC 4-0!

Captain of the OC's, Ali Figgis, took the Figgy trophy home.



### OC's attend OC Raymond Yiu's concert, March 2024

OC's Robbie Whittaker and David Cain along with Director of Music, Julian Ross attended the world premiere of OC Raymond Yiu's Violin Concerto at the Barbican last month.



### Besa in Eurovision, May 2024

Besa Kokëdhima (KC'04) represented Albania in the Eurovision Song Contest.



## MARRIAGES



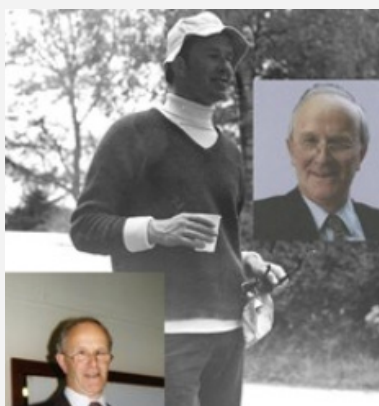
### **Raymond Yiu (KC'92) to Alexander Bray**

8 June 2024 - London

Composer Raymond married Alexander Bray on 8 June 2024 at Old Marylebone Town Hall, London.

Winner and four-time nominee of BASCA Ivors Composer Awards, Raymond's works have featured in festivals including Cheltenham Music Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, Manchester International Festival and BBC Proms. He was also nominated in the large-scale and chamber-scale composition categories of the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

## IN MEMORY



### **Martin Child, KC 1964 - 1997**

When Martin retired from Kent College in 1997 Julian Coles wrote:

*Martin Child leaves Kent College after many years of service to the school in countless diverse ways. He joined the school in 1964 and it is quite a shock to realise that this was before people had walked on the moon, before the death of Winston Churchill, and even before England had won the World Cup in football! Yes, that long ago!*

*Although these early years of Martin were before my time, they have still been passed on to many members of the staff through the myths and legends of the common room. These were the years when Martin, and here one feels that legend may be a little exaggerated, excelled at cricket and*

*took countless teams to other schools, where on one occasion he was shot at with an air rifle! Martin not only found time to teach English, direct school plays, and play the organ; he also wrote a light opera romantically titled "Canterbury Bypass" which nearly launched him on the international scene!*

*However, it is the recent years that I have most in memory and here Martin again contributed in many different ways. Not only was he an excellent teacher, but he also ran the library with flair and efficiency so that it still looks like a new building even though it is a decade old. It was typical of Martin that he kept poetry written by his various classes over nearly thirty years so that he could publish it even in his last term at KC and for many years Martin produced the school magazine literally single-handed. Latterly he also found time to recycle much of the paper used around the school and now that he has left, we find that there are countless small chores to do which he obviously once did quietly and efficiently, probably before most of us arrived in the morning.*

*Clearly we shall miss Martin and we hope too he will occasionally miss us, as he sits in the stands watching Norwich City regularly at last, now that he is free of the ball and chain of work!*



### **Chris Figgis, KC'22**

Deputy Head Boy, Chris Figgis touched the lives of many colleagues and pupils. Chris was a student who really participated in school life, excelling in sports, particularly hockey and achieved top grades in his A Levels in Geography, Maths and Physics. He was planning to read physics at the University of Bath following a gap year.

We all greatly miss his wonderfully dry humour and the manner in which he made everyone feel so welcome in the school. Alongside the wellbeing programme, the school raise funds and awareness about mental health, particularly among young males.

Chris played hockey for the school and for Canterbury Hockey Club. He represented the school on several occasions during the OC V KC Hockey Matches. The Annual Chris Figgis Memorial Match (OC V KC) takes place on the last day of the Spring Term each year and all are welcome to watch.





### **The Rev'd David Cawley, (KC'62)**

In 1973, David was ordained in Norwich and after serving in several dioceses, he later held several roles in the diocese of Leicester between 1995 and 2009, most notably Vicar of St Mary de Castro.

David retired to Canterbury in 2009 and held the Bishop's Permission to Officiate there until 2023.

His funeral was held in Canterbury Cathedral in March 2024.



### **W01, Torben Erik George Sorenson MC, (KC'98)**

Torben was a boarding student at Kent College, Canterbury until 1998, when he left for a career in the military.

In September 2009, whilst a Sergeant in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Torben was awarded the Military Cross in recognition of his 'exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land.'

Torben was leading a patrol out of his base in Helmand Province, to tackle Taliban fighters who were attacking the British camps with small arms and rocket propelled grenades.

Despite suffering a major leg wound, Torben continued to lead the attack and refused to be treated by a medic until all his patrol had been reunited.

Torben was laid to rest in November 2023.



### **Frederick Thomas, (KC'56)**

Originally from Littlebourne, Frederick (Rick) aged 84, was very proud to have been a KC scholar and achieved great O level results.

Rick had lived in Wiltshire for the past 38 years. A keen motorcyclist, a cavalcade of motorcyclists rode with him on his last journey to his service in July 2024.

## **The Club have been notified of the deaths of other OC's including:**

**David Paine, KC'54**

**Matthew Milne, KC'98**

**Tony Carter, KC'64**

**Mike Connolly, KC'10**

## **STAFF LEAVERS**

### **Tracy Watton, 2015-2024**

Tracy leaves KC after nine years as English teacher and pastoral lead. Tracy fully commits to everything she has done and has shown great care in her support of so many students facing difficulty. She deserves particular credit for developing the whole school's awareness of adolescent mental health and for setting up the Wellbeing room and leading a team of student Mental Health First Aiders.

### **Kathy Wilson, 2012-2024**

We thank Kathy for taking forward the ever-popular Food and Nutrition department in the school with such an unflappable manner. Her subject provides a more practical but no less demanding approach to learning that has built confidence in many and developed skills that really are essential for life.



### **Jennifer Webber, 2004-2024**

Jennifer has been a passionate English teacher, expecting high standards of her classes but always with a warmth and empathy that draws the students along with her. Her support of the subject has always stretched beyond the classroom, with even the last Sunday of term seeing her lead a group of IB students to see 'The Importance of Being Ernest' at Mount Ephraim Gardens. Most latterly Jennifer has been instrumental in leading the school's drive to achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion, a task that has presented challenging questions to us all and which she has handled with sensitivity and her typical determination to see things done justly.





### Graham Noble, 2002-2024

Graham joined the school from Bedales in 2002 as Head of History. During his time there have been significant changes in the role of teachers. Gone are the days when Graham could have once been in the classroom in the morning and then led a cricket team in the afternoon. But throughout all that has ensured, and continues to evolve, that academic rigour remains at the heart of his teaching, whether that be in the classroom or in his leadership of trips to Canterbury, Hampton Court or the battlefields of northern France. He has been a particular advocate for oracy supporting the Debating and MUN clubs, recognising the significance of procedure to support informed and balanced debate. Although his decision to retire could not have foreseen it, the timing of it at the point of a General Election seems entirely appropriate as he has created the platforms for impassioned and well-informed debate in the school's mock elections. The quality of which undoubtedly exemplifies his ability to deliver the very highest of outcomes for his pupils.

## GIFTING AND GIVING

There are many ways in which you can support the students and the development of Kent College, Canterbury.

### Careers

Our Careers Advisor, Charlie Mount is always looking for people to inspire our students. Perhaps you are in a position to offer work experience or give a talk to a small group of students. Please contact Charlie directly, [cmount@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:cmount@kentcollege.co.uk)

### Charities

As described in the School News section, one of the school values is Acting Justly – work for good through service to others. We are continually looking for ways to give back to our local community, whether in time and effort or fundraising. If you work for a local charity or business and would like to discuss ways to collaborate, please get in touch.

### OCC Bursaries

Every year the Old Canterbury Club contributes towards Bursaries, awarded to pupils who are likely to gain most from a Kent College education and will contribute fully to the life of the school, but do not have the financial means to pay fees. If you would like to add to the OCC Bursary, monthly, yearly or as a one off, please email [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)

### Development

The school have utilised some previously unused space at Moat Farm for a new environmental project. Site 2 requires more consideration as further expertise and funding is required to build pathways and ponds. The OCC has contributed £1,000 towards the project thus far and further donations from Canterburyans would be welcomed.

### Great Hall

During the Autumn term, Robert Pay (KC'77) returned to KC for a visit with former classmate Nish Devani. Following the visit, Robert decided to honour two of his former teachers by adding their names to the Major Donors board in the entrance of the Great Hall.

William L. Bircumshaw and Christopher Wright now proudly appear on the board. We are incredibly grateful to Robert for his generosity and value his wish to recognise his former teachers.



# FEATURES

## A HISTORY OF CHANGE : GRAHAM NOBLE

At the end of the summer term, I retired from teaching after 34 years, the last twenty-two of these as Head of History at Kent College, and I have been happy to put together a few disconnected reflections on my time as a teacher. My first impressions of the school were mixed. Coming from a more liberal boarding institution in 2002, I appreciated the normality of the working day. Teachers had the space for a family life. But I also found aspects of KC rather staid and unadventurous. I had been used to an environment where ideas were openly challenged, in and out of the classroom, and I found instead a weary acceptance of instruction.

Steadily, though, much of this has changed. Over the years, students have obtained a far greater

sense of agency; learning has become a more cooperative process, and school events generate a real sense of anticipation and excitement.

Kent College is certainly a smarter, more ordered place. My history classroom, for example, is now carpeted and boasts a fully operational whiteboard, the functions of which I was just starting to understand. But some things remain: a former governor told me that she recalled, as a student, dancing on the very same bookshelves that still support our departmental library.

I think that KC is also a kinder school today. As a rule, staff and students speak to each other with respect and generosity of spirit. It is rare to hear raised voices. Much more attention is attached to the importance of students' mental health. The Staff Common Room is younger, better balanced between the sexes and much more united in its purpose.







Diversity has remained a great strength of the school. The introduction of the International Baccalaureate, alongside A-levels, continues to bring us a wonderful tranche of sophisticated, committed boarders from across the world. For this new course, I enjoyed moving away from the relative comfort of sixteenth-century Europe and taking on the challenges of modern China and the Americas.

There has been a much fuller creative and artistic side to KC in recent years, and playing a small part in the musical life of the school has been a source of great pleasure to me. The camaraderie and mutual dependence of a choir on a Christmas tour has more than compensated for the hours spent shivering in chilly European churches. Those trips are a favourite memory of my time here.



My first boss and mentor in the teaching profession was the Head of History at Bedales School, a remarkable woman called Ruth Whiting. It surprises me to calculate that she must have been less than fifty when I arrived as a newly qualified member of her department. She seemed thoroughly ancient and formidable in every sense: a sparkling intellectual with a relentless

commitment to getting her students to think for themselves. To be in Ruth's class was seen as a privilege, albeit an onerous and mildly terrifying one. As I said to colleagues at the end of term, I have not approached Ruth's high standards in the classroom but the example of her teaching has left me forever in her debt.

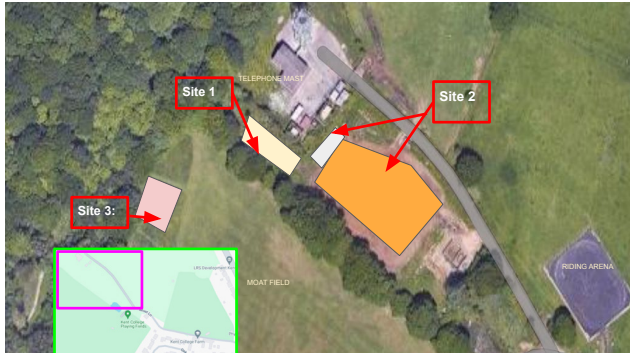
She shared with philosophers of the Renaissance a view of humankind which placed scholarship at the apogee of achievement, and the discipline of history was her surest route towards it. But the world moves on. Are these values still a relevant part of a modern education? Why do we need to learn to research when we can google? Why should we struggle to write A-level essays when AI can do a perfectly serviceable job at the press of a button? What, indeed, is the point of delving into the past when we are preparing for the future?

I remain convinced that, in a world of unmindful technology, critical thinking is more important than ever. The skills of the historian, analysing complex material and making a case based on evidence, are still a significant defence against the vortex of spin and deceit that faces us in our everyday lives.

And what's just as important, learning is fun and trying to understand the cares of those who have walked the Earth before us is endlessly fascinating. Though I approach retirement with some sense of relief, I know that I will miss the comradeship of my colleagues and the energetic optimism of generations of students.



## BEES AT MOAT FARM



The school have utilised some previously unused space at Moat Farm for a new environmental project.

A group of staff and students have started creating bee hives and wild meadows, both of which are crucial for biodiversity and ecosystem health. Bees are essential pollinators, aiding in the reproduction of many plants, including crops that we rely on for food. Wild meadows provide habitat for various species, promoting biodiversity and natural pest control.

By establishing bee hives and wild meadows, we can mitigate the decline of pollinators, support sustainable agriculture, and foster a balanced, thriving natural environment at Moat Farm.

There are 3 different sites:

1. Location of bee hives, maintained with bee friendly plants
2. Large wildflower meadow with paths, benches and a pond for wellbeing and environmental purposes. Also a polytunnel to serve as a community garden
3. Wild meadow to provide food for bees

Sites 1 and 3 are underway, with students building the hives and clearing the land for seeding in the autumn.

Site 2 requires more consideration as further expertise and funding is required to build pathways and ponds. The OCC has contributed £1,000 towards the project thus far and further donations from Canterburians would be welcomed.

If you have experience in beekeeping or creating environmental spaces and would like to get involved, please contact [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Earlier this year we heard from former student John King, (KC'55).

*I was at KC from 1950 to 1955, leaving after taking O Levels aged 16.*

*By 18 I was the youngest ever Assistant Manager of an M&S store and was conscripted for National Service. I obtained an NS Commission, 2nd Lt. in the 5th Royal Tank Regiment.*

*That was followed by 5 years as an Articled Clerk to become a Chartered Accountant. Then I became a computer salesman/systems analyst/programmer (in those days we did it all!), ending up by 1973 as Sales Director for a computer manufacturer. Then my world imploded: someone invented microelectronics!*

*Four years of consultancy followed with a firm advising governments and large manufacturers on the impact of the new technology.*

*In 1982 my wife and I bought a ruin of a large house and converted it into a residential home for 21 confused elderly people.*

*By 1992 we'd had enough, so sold the business and went sailing for 14 years, cruising from the Black Sea to South and North America.*

*2006 saw us retiring from the sea, but not the boat. We lived aboard in a marina in Gibraltar whilst travelling extensively by plane and motorhome in the US and Australia and visiting most of Europe's Opera Houses. I resumed the role of Financial Consultant for some local housing estates.*

*I have always lived by the tenet "Change or Accept". It's worked so far! So now (2024) I'm a widowed octogenarian touring the vineyards of Europe in a small campervan. What could possibly go wrong?*



# TOURS & CAREERS

This year we have welcomed back a record number of former students to KC for a tour of the school, to take a trip down memory lane and even reconnect with former teachers.



## **Jillian Lee, KC'09**

Jillian is a lawyer, graduated from Kings College London and received her Masters of Law from NYU, where she practised Law until recently returning to Singapore to continue her career.

Jillian was emphatic that the support she received whilst a student at KC, from OC Anthony Scrivener QC, through mentoring and internships proved vital for navigating her throughout her career.

If you are in a position to be able to offer work experience to KC students please do get in touch. [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)



## **Tita, KC'50**

Tita came from Italy to work at KC, when it first relocated after the war. Tita fondly recalled services in the Chapel, particularly one following the death of George VI in 1952. Whilst in the main school foyer, Tita was introduced to our Chaplain and the pair

quickly began speaking in Italian. Francesco, our student Deputy Head of School was passing and on hearing our guest speaking Italian, joyfully joined in with the conversation. It was very heartwarming to witness 2 strangers from within our community converse like old friends.



## **Jason (KC'82) and Heide Wilsher (KC'85)**

Jason and Heide (nee Wickes) visited the school in September and loved seeing all the changes to the school since the 1980's.



## **Rachel Stevenson, KC'05**

We warmly welcomed back Rachel (nee Curry). Rachel was an Austen House boarder from 1998-2005 and was delighted to return to see some familiar faces including Mr Letley and Mrs Jones. Mrs Jones was the Austen House Manager when Rachel first joined and still is!



## **Catherine Rutherford, KC'03**

We were delighted to welcome back our Head Girl from 2003, Catherine Rutherford and her family for a tour of the school. Catherine is now a physiotherapist and lives in Melbourne.



## **Daniel Riva, KC'03**

Daniel Riva returned with his family for a tour of the school. Daniel's journey began in the Junior School under the guidance of Head Teacher Andy Carter, and Edward Halse and Gino Carminati in the Senior School.



## **Ira Akbas and Veronika Gorodnicka, KC'17**

Ira, Head of Wesley House in 2016, is a PA and lives in Tenerife. Veronika (Nika) is studying for the Bar in Amsterdam.



## **Stefano Cuomo and Umesh Amarnani, KC'97**

Former classmates Umesh and Stefano returned for a tour. Umesh has recently relocated from Nigeria to London, whilst Stefano is CEO of Macknade in Faversham. Whilst on a tour we bumped into former teacher Mrs Jain, nee Sibley.

## CAREERS

We are incredibly grateful to former students who come back to the school to share information regarding their further studies and careers.



### **Maozi Chen, KC'04**

Former pupil Maozi, returned to KC at the end of the Summer term for our Careers Expo.

Inspired by her favourite teacher, Mr Stephen Fell, Maozi studied Biochemistry with Medical Biochemistry at Bristol University.

Putting her Masters in Entrepreneurship from Cambridge to good use, Maozi created TopCourses, a UK based company specialising in helping international students apply to universities in the UK.

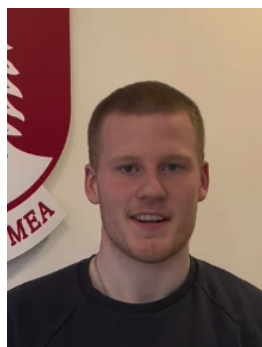


### **Herman Ho, KC'14**

Former Head of Guilford House, Herman returned to the school in June to talk to Year 10 and 12 students studying Art, Media and DT. Herman gave a truly inspirational talk about the importance of self-learning, work experience and the ability to branch out. Herman studied

Architecture at Edinburgh and is now a lecturer at UAL in Games Design.

His former teachers were delighted to see Herman return too!



### **Elliot Spencer-Tanner, KC'23**

Elliot returned to KC in April and talked of his experience of working full-time as a Veterinary Care Assistant, before he begins to study Veterinary Medicine and Science at the University of Surrey in September.

Elliot was a Young Farmer at KC and his time at Moat Farm inspired him to become a vet.

If you would like to return to Kent College for a tour or would like to share your journey since leaving KC with our students, please contact [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)

## SPEECH DAY OC FILM

The theme for Speech Day this year was Our Journey. A film was produced to show the audience during the Speech Day ceremony with Year 7's sharing their hopes and dreams for their future, Sixth Formers sharing what they would like to do after KC and OC's sharing what they have done since leaving KC.

We are incredibly grateful to the OC's that took part and submitted their own films for inclusion. It was incredible to watch the students find the OC contributions relatable and inspiring.



Jillian Lee, KC'09 - Lawyer  
Anoushka Faith, KC'94 - Doctor  
Luke Ray, KC'92 - Designer  
Matt Frederick, KC'91 - Orthotist  
Yakubu Bayi, KC'90 - Compliance Officer  
Max Wright, KC'23 - Theatre Technician  
Ian Ridsdale, KC'94 - Professional Golfer  
Elizabeth Brown, KC'17 - Horse Riding Instructor  
Eliot Mead, KC'22 - Drama Student

The film is available to view on the OCC website, alternatively you can email [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk) for a copy.



# LOOKING FORWARD



## ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

This academic year will be the first time the Old Canterburians have been assigned a student Senior Prefect.

Our Alumni Ambassador,  
Tommy Howton is studying

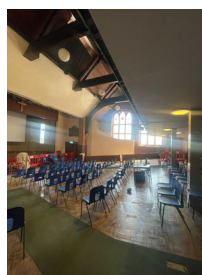
A Levels in Physics, DT and Maths and would like to study Mechanical Engineering at university. Tommy plays in the hockey team and performed in the most recent drama production, One Man, Two Guvnors.

Tommy will gain real workplace skills by supporting Development Officer, Gemma Frost with arranging OC events, collating news content for the website and social media. Once Tommy graduates, he will become his year group representative to ensure the Club stays informed with news and can provide support where possible.

## CHAPEL RENOVATIONS

Renovation of our much-loved Chapel started in the summer of 2024. Walls are being plastered, beams refurbished and the seating replaced so that the Chapel can continue to be used by students for decades more. The Chapel is used daily for either morning Chapel, Drama lessons, debating, small group music rehearsals or as a space for quiet reflection.

Sections of the Chapel have been unusable due to the seating being beyond repair. The refurbishment means that larger groups can again take part in the lessons and activities.



*July 2024, during refurbishment*



### Chapel in the 1950's



*Chapel as  
School Room  
in 1919*

## RESULTS & DESTINATIONS

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>IB average (points/45):</b>	37	37	37	38.5	35.5	36
<b>A Level A*-A %:</b>	44	43	52	55	40	37
<b>A Level A*-B %:</b>	67	71	76	77	67	61
<b>A Level % pass rate:</b>	100	100	99	100	99.5	99

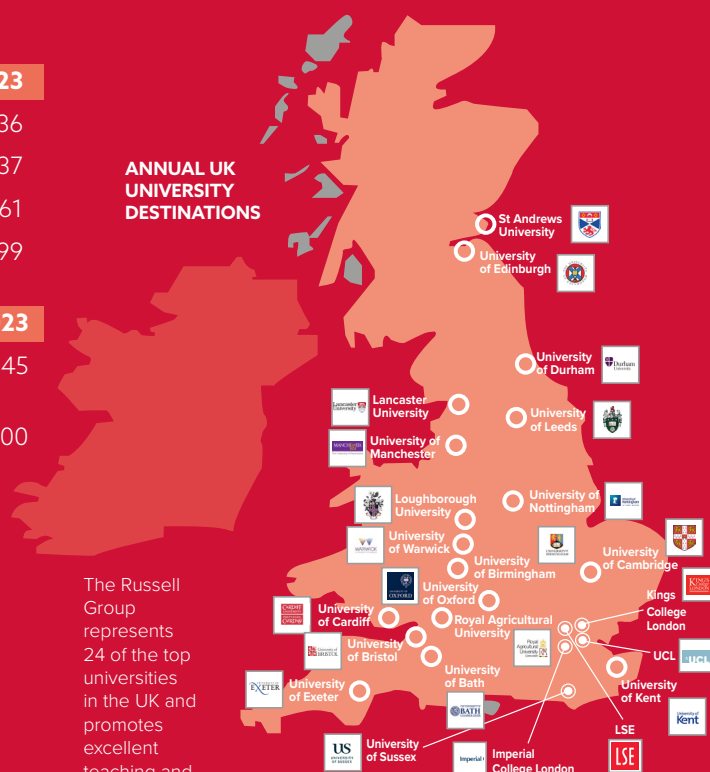
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>GCSE A*-A% (2018 onwards 9-7)*:</b>	38	36	48	48	35	45
<b>% achieving 5 or 100 more GCSEs:</b>	98	100	100	97	100	100

**98%** of students go to their first university of choice

**47%** of students go to Russell Group universities

**22%** of students go to international universities, including Bocconi in Milan, Esade in Barcelona, Madrid and the University of Boston

## ANNUAL UK UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS



The Russell Group represents 24 of the top universities in the UK and promotes excellent teaching and research



# LOOKING BACK

LOOK BACK AT THE 03/04 YEARS AT KENT COLLEGE OVER THE DECADES

**1903**

Football 2nd XI



**1913**

Football Team



**1914**

Cricket Team



**1923**

Cricket Team



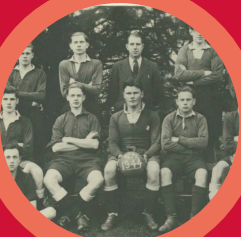
**1944**

Rugby Team



**1944**

1st XI Football



**1943**

Football Team



**1934**

Hockey Team



**1944**

Truro & KC Staff



**1953**

Whole School



**1953**

Rugby U15s XV



**1953**

Michael Rowbotham High Jump



**2003**

Whole School



**2003**

Girls U14 Hockey



**1993**

1st Netball



**1993**

Hockey



This is just a small selection of the archives available on the Old Canterburian Club website, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Archivist, John Charlesworth.

**1923**

Hockey Team



**1923**

Whole School



**1924**

December



**1933**

Football Team



**1934**

Football Team



**1934**

Cricket Team



**1933**

Hockey Team



**1933**

Football team



**1954**

Rugby 2nd XV



**1954**

KC V Parents Cricket



**1963**

Cricket



**1963**

Spring Term in the Snow



**1993**

1st Girls Tennis



**1983**

The Quad



**1963**

Speech Day Prize Giving



**1963**

Swimming Team



Please share any archive material from your time at KC with us so that it can be added to the library for us all to share.



# KEY DATES FOR 2024/5

## 2024

Annual Reunion and 60th Anniversary of Guilford House  
East Kent Ploughing Match  
Junior School Open Morning  
Senior School Open Morning  
Canterbury Festival  
Presidents' Cup  
Advent Carol Service  
Cathedral Carol Service  
Class of 2019-2024 Breakfast Reunion

Saturday 14 September  
Wednesday 25 September  
Friday 27 September  
Saturday 28 September  
Saturday 19 October – Sunday 3 November  
TBC  
Friday 29 November  
Wednesday 4 December  
Saturday 14 December

## 2025

Frank Mason Tournament  
Chris Figgis Memorial Match  
Spring Concert  
Class of 1995 Reunion  
Kent County Show  
Speech Day

Thursday 1 February  
Friday 28 March  
Saturday 26 April  
Saturday 24 May  
Friday 4 – Sunday 6 July  
Saturday 28 June

In the Autumn term of 2025, we begin to celebrate the 140th anniversary of Kent College, Canterbury. There will be even more opportunities to reunite the Kent College community. To ensure you are kept updated with these dates, please ensure that the contact details on your Old Canterbury Club profile are up to date, especially your email address.



*These dates are accurate as of the publication date.  
The OCC website will be updated with any changes.*



**Annual OC v KC Hockey match in memory of  
former Deputy Head Boy, Chris Figgis (KC'22)**

## RECONNECT & CONTRIBUTE

### Contribute to the School and the OCC:

-  Register as an Old Canterbury via [www.oldcanterburians.co.uk](http://www.oldcanterburians.co.uk)
-  Update your profile on the OCC website
-  Share your news, memories and archives with us via [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)
-  Attend an event
-  Return for a tour
-  Join the Committee
-  Offer work experience to our students
-  Donate to our Development fund or Bursary

### Stay connected:

-  [www.oldcanterburians.co.uk](http://www.oldcanterburians.co.uk)
-  @OldCanterburianClub
-  @CanterburianClub
-  [alumni@kentcollege.co.uk](mailto:alumni@kentcollege.co.uk)

**OC** TIMES

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