



GREAT WALSTEAD  
SCHOOL

*The*  
GREAT WALSTEAD  
JOURNEY

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2024 - 2025



1925

2025

# CONTENTS

- 01. HEAD'S WELCOME
- 02. PUPIL LIST 24/25
- 04. SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS
- 08. SPORT
- 10. DEVELOPMENTS
- 12. PRE-SCHOOL
- 14. PRE-PREP
- 16. JUNIORS
- 18. MIDDLES
- 20. SENIORS
- 22. DRAMA
- 24. MUSIC
- 26. ART
- 28. OGW
- 36. STAFF NEWS



SCAN TO WATCH  
OUR MUDTT FILM

## HEAD'S WELCOME



Welcome to this very special edition of the Great Walstead Journey in which we mark our centenary year.

We began our celebrations with a series of 'Lantern Lectures' in which we invited parents to join us in a range of evening activities. The idea was taken from the original lantern lectures that were offered to boys back in RJ Mowll's time in which a guest speaker was invited to talk to the boarders on topics that ranged from the work of Doctor Barnardo to the wild animals of Great Britain. Our lantern lectures opened in style with a wine tasting event as well as Christmas wreath making, 'Pinot and Painting' and an insightful talk on nutrition.

Our girls and boys also took part in many special events for our centenary day in which they re-enacted a variety of different lessons and activities that pupils from the 1920s took part in. These included an air rifle activity, a maths lesson from the 1920s, learning the Charleston and, for those naughty children who were sent to the headmaster's study, a chance to see (but not experience) an old-fashioned headmaster's cane! This was just a flavour of our celebrations and I'm sure that you will get a better flavour as you flick through this special edition of The Journey.

The other big news this year was the announcement of our merger with Ardingly College. The introduction of VAT to private schools, along with an increase in National Insurance and employer contributions plus the removal of business rates relief for private schools have shown that private schools are facing arguably the biggest challenge in their history. Our merger with Ardingly has helped us mitigate these financial issues but, more importantly, has brought together two schools who have for many years shared a very similar ethos with many GW pupils moving on to Ardingly senior school.

I hope you enjoy reading through our centenary edition of The Journey and here's to our next hundred years.

**Chris Calvey, Headmaster**



**8ABL**

MRS A BLAND

N. Austin C  
L. Cornwell C  
H. Fogg M  
K. Harada C  
O. Knight L  
F. Lube G  
R. Misquita Rodrigues L  
D. Robbie C  
S. Scott L  
M. Seddington L  
E. Shuttleworth L  
A. Worwood-Cherry L

**7DRE**

MRS D REES

W. Axford L  
B. Breeze G  
G. Cook C  
S. Crozier M  
M. Ellicott-Taylor C  
M. Ellis-Smith G  
J. Heath G  
I. Le Fleming M  
E. McCarthy L  
R. Oates G  
M. Onuoha G  
S. Pepper C  
G. Raybould L  
I. Soares L

**6CLE**

MRS C LEE

S. Chaplin C  
A. Clay-Goard L  
M. Denne C  
A. Duffield G  
T. Garrood G  
A. Glover L  
H. Harding C  
J. Jacob C  
S. Marshall C  
S. Slade C  
I. Smith G  
T. Stuart L  
L. Wolfaardt M

**5RMU**

MR R MUNTON & MRS S BARTHOLOMEW

J. Ashby C  
H. Chads L  
P. Finlay G  
B. Gu G  
C. Henderson G  
H. Holland L  
C. Hunt C  
E. Johnson C  
R. Malcolm G  
T. Milliken G  
J. Millyard C  
H. Raynsford G  
W. Smith L  
S. Soares L  
R. Tompsett-Snell M  
W. Wakeman M

**4ARE**

MRS A REES

P. Barrett L  
K. Campbell G  
J. Cornish M  
C. Daines C  
S. Ellis M  
O. Foot G  
H. Johnson C  
M. Koumelli C  
J. Le Goff C  
I. Magee M  
T. Martin M  
T. Petch C  
B. Ross G  
B. Stevens M  
J. Yuan M

**3BLW**

MISS R LAW

G. Armstrong G  
E. Ball C  
J. Balleny C  
M. Burton M  
C. Hadjivassilev M  
E. Holland G  
W. Malcolm G  
E. Marshall C  
M. Mead M  
R. Newlyn C  
O. Peters C  
A. Stafford L  
L. Traff L  
L. Williams M  
O. Willis M

**8BMC**

MR B MCCREA

C. Campbell-Baker L  
A. Gohl L  
M. Gorton C  
P. Hatt L  
L. Malta G  
J. Murphy C  
F. Robinson G  
B. Ross G  
S. Searls M  
O. Tollit C  
F. Van Dijk M

**7ESM**

MRS E SMITH

D. Broad L  
I. Brown G  
A. Chads M  
M. Coulson-Thickett M  
B. Crossfield C  
B. Hanmer-Delve L  
G. Hinchliffe L  
C. Loukaides Broomfield M  
H. Martin M  
A. Massey M  
E. Meeks G  
R. Nunn L  
E. Rees C  
S. Soni M  
H. Stafford L

**6SMC**

MR S MCCAGNEY

A. Campbell G  
L. Cleverton L  
A. Elson C  
G. Henocq M  
A. Howard M  
H. Kentish Barnes G  
K. McCrea G  
L. Roberts L  
E. Semple M  
F. Simpson L  
J. Sorrell M  
C. Steiner G  
F. Whiting C

**5SBE**

MISS S BENKTANDER

L. Bromwich G  
R. Collins C  
R. Copping G  
M. Davis L  
P. Giffen G  
G. Groom L  
A. Henry M  
A. Lewis C  
M. McIntyre-Beckers C  
W. Peters C  
R. Petruccielli L  
R. Rowland L  
M. Searls M  
N. Shuttleworth L  
L. Stuart L  
J. Topp C

**4NCA**

MRS N CALVEY

E. Bell M  
B. Broad L  
E. Dawes G  
P. Dougall L  
E. Duffield G  
R. Eliot L  
O. Garrood G  
O. Gilhespie G  
L. Hanmer-Delve L  
E. Lucas M  
C. Raybould L  
G. Rees C  
S. Rudd M  
A. Ruskin C  
T. Simpson L  
C. Slade C

**3RWI**

MR R WILLIAMS

B. Badger-Jones M  
C. Bellière G  
D. Bigwood L  
L. Carter L  
L. Colvin C  
A. Henderson G  
D. Henry M  
F. Holmes L  
E. Marks C  
C. Marshall L  
C. McCrea G  
M. Meeks G  
M. Mushtaq L  
L. Nardini L  
I. Wheeler M

**8TGL**

MRS T GLOVER

W. Caporn L  
T. de la Rosa C  
J. Dobson M  
S. Donougher C  
I. Foster Healy L  
H. Graham G  
E. Kentish Barnes G  
O. Savage C  
G. Spadaccino M  
R. Vesey Holt G  
E. Williams G

**7MLL**

MR M LLOYD

P-A. Ashby C  
N. Bostock G  
D. Foot G  
C. Humphrey M  
E. Joyce M  
M. McIntyre-Beckers C  
P. Meeke M  
O. Prickett L  
M. Selby C  
S. Soni M  
M. Tether-Jenkins G  
B. Wellen C  
M. Williams G

**ELM**

MRS E SETRA

G. Andersen  
W. Ashby  
G. Barrett  
I. Beard  
I. Behles  
E. Betts  
A. Hawksley  
K. Misquita Rodrigues  
A. Parker  
H. Pollins  
F. Smith  
W. Taylor  
H. Whiley

**MAPLE**

MISS R FOLKARD

S. Armstrong  
E. Davis  
I. Dodd  
E. Ellis  
A. Marks  
J. McGregor  
R. Nardini  
C. Newlyn  
C. Phillips  
Z. Phillips  
R. Rudd  
A. Tompsett-Snell

**PRE-SCHOOL**

MRS P LINDFIELD, MRS C SPEIGHT, MISS V PEARCE

F. Bartholomew  
H. Carr  
B. Clark  
A. Cunnington-Knight  
D. Darby  
M. Hamilton  
M. Harben  
E. Hills  
M. McBride  
A. McGregor  
E. Rudd  
W. Sargent  
V. Wheeler  
N. Bartholomew  
F. Forster  
C. Hales  
O. Holmes  
R. Jenkins-Hampshire  
R. Kotze  
F. Leviaen  
M. Milton-Hunt  
A. Phillips  
P. Phillips-Cochrane  
R. Spofforth  
C. Whiley  
E. Wood  
R. Andersen  
W. Andersen  
H. Betts  
B. De Bruxelles  
C. Dodd  
B. Geoghegan  
A. Hanmer-Delve  
F. Keast  
Z. Lintott  
B. Morris  
A. Pargeter  
W. Pinder  
A. Stevens  
W. Swann  
C. Traff  
R. Turner

**HEDGEHOG**

MISS R PARANGI

L. Badger-Jones  
G. Barton  
E. Behles  
J. Blacher  
S. Chin Ten Soong  
F. Kear  
W. Lucas  
I. McMillen  
M. Pinder  
C. Pollins  
F. Slade  
J. Thomas

**OWL**

MRS H CALTHROP

O. Bell  
L. Bellière  
H. Blaker  
A. Carter  
M. Colvin  
A. Humphrey  
E. Keast  
L. Millyard  
O. Parker  
E. Turner  
F. Woolley  
L. Yong-Bevan

**LARCH**

MISS H LAFLIN

A. Behles  
G. Bournon  
H. Cornish  
L. Hales  
I. Lube  
Z. Mushtaq  
S. Onuoha  
J. Ritchie  
H. Sargent  
P. St Pierre  
E. Wilson

**PINE**

MRS S WORRALL

M. Bentley  
A. Clark  
M. Coffey  
M. Darby  
T. Henry  
N. Hession  
C. Pichler  
E. Stevens  
S. Traff  
H. Willis  
O. Wiseman  
O. Willis

**PUPIL LIST 2024-2025**



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

## SCHOLARSHIPS

NAME	AWARD	SCHOOL
N. Austin	Academic	Ardingly College
W. Caporn	Academic	Ardingly College
J. Dobson	Sport	Worth School
I. Foster Healy	Music	Burgess Hill Girls
K. Harada	Academic	Hurstpierpoint College
P. Hatt	Academic, Sport	Ardingly College
F. Lube	Sport (Talented Athletes Sports Programme)	Worth School
R. Misquita Rodrigues	Chess	Brighton College
J. Murphy	Sport (Talented Athletes Sports Programme)	Worth School
D. Robbie	Academic, Sport	Bede's School
B. Ross	Academic	Bede's School, Eastbourne College, Christ's Hospital
O. Tollit	Sport	Hurstpierpoint College
E. Williams	Academic	Hurstpierpoint College



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## END OF TERM PRIZES

### YEAR 3

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

C. Hadjivassilev  
I. Wheeler

#### FORM PRIZE

L. Williams  
F. Holmes

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

E. Ball  
C. McCrea

### YEAR 4

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

B. Stevens  
L. Hanmer Delve

#### FORM PRIZE

M. Koumelli  
C. Raybould

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

J. Yuan  
O. Gilhespie

### YEAR 5

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

P. Finlay  
M. Davis

#### FORM PRIZE

B. Smith  
N. Shuttleworth

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

C. Hunt  
R. Petruccelli

### YEAR 6

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

J. Jacob  
J. Sorrell

#### FORM PRIZE

S. Marshall  
C. Steiner

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

A. Glover  
F. Whiting

### YEAR 7

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

B. Breeze  
M. Tether-Jenkins

#### FORM PRIZE

S. Crozier  
Sa. Soni

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

Sh. Soni  
D. Foot

T. Meeks

I. Soares

### YEAR 8

#### SPIRIT OF WALSTEAD

M. Gorton  
G. Spaddacino  
R. Misquita Rodrigues

#### FORM PRIZE

S. Donougher  
B. Ross

#### PROGRESS PRIZE

E. Shuttleworth  
F. Van Dijk

H. Fogg  
H. Graham



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## END OF TERM PRIZES

### YEAR 8 (CONTINUED)

NAME	PRIZE
A. Gohl	Benton Cup – Academic improvement In Year 8
A. Worwood-Cherry	Biology Prize
B. Ross	History Prize
C. Campbell-Baker	Creative English
D. Robbie	Evans Cup for Vibrancy
E. Kentish Barnes	Bloomer Award, All Round Girl
E. Shuttleworth	Scholarship English Prize
E. Williams	French Prize
E. Williams	McCourt Spirit of Q-Day Cup
F. Lube	Ardagh Cup – Unsung Hero
F. Lube	Religion & Philosophy Prize
F. Robinson	Watson Prize, Determination in their Learning
G. Spadaccino	Davis Cup, Diligent & Consistent Effort in their Learning
I. Foster Healy	Art Prize
I. Foster Healy	Drama – McKinnell Performing Arts Award
J. Dobson	Alex Newman Cup, Demonstrating Persistence and Commitment in Learning
J. Dobson	Heine Drama Cup
J. Murphy	Baty Award for Resilience
J. Murphy	Great Walstead Sports Award – Commitment to Sport
K. Harada	Programming Prize
K. Harada	Thomson Art Cup

NAME	PRIZE
L. Cornwell	Music Prize
L. Cornwell	Spanish Prize
L. Malta	Filmer Science Cup
L. Malta	Geography Prize
M. Gorton	Blandford Award – Compassionate Leadership
M. Kentish Barnes	Senior All Round Music Award
M. Seddington	Endevour Award for Outstanding Contribution on the Leavers Trip
N. Austin	Parke Prize for Academic Progress
O. Knight	Physics Prize
O. Knight	Wainwright Shield
O. Savage	Chemistry Prize
O. Savage	English Prize
O. Tollit	Munks Award, Overall Sportsman
O. Tollit	Raitt Brass Cup
P. Hatt	Davidson Shield, Overall Sportswoman
P. Hatt	Scholarship Science
R. Misquita Rodrigues	Chapman Cup
R. Vesey Holt	Spoken French Prize
S. Donougher	Williams Cup, Outstanding All Round Contribution to Great Walstead
S. Scott	Bloomer Award, All Round Boy
S. Searls	Maths Prize
T. de la Rosa	Digital Information
W. Caporn	Sloane Maths Cup
W. Caporn	Spoken Spanish Prize



# SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## ATHLETICS RECORDS

### TRACK EVENTS

100m Sprint	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Sen Boys	A. Meadows	11.89	2005
Sen Girls	Z. Williams-Thomas	12.93	2016
Mid Boys	J. Salt	13.09	2008
Mid Girls	L. Hope	14.10	2006
75m Sprint	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Jun Boys	A. Goudie	10.58	2017
Jun Girls	F. Rogers	10.87	2017
75m Hurdles	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Sen Boys	P. Cooke	11.49	2009
Sen Girls	L. Bryant	11.99	2024
Mid Boys	C. Frost	12.36	2013
Mid Girls	N-R. Williams	12.98	2013
55m Hurdles	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Jun Boys	T. Rockett	8.11	2008
Jun Girls	H. Kleinwort	8.24	2004
200m Sprint	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Sen Boys	L. Mathews	25.10	2022
Sen Girls	N. Forster	26.68	2005
Mid Boys	P. Cooke	27.58	2007
Mid Girls	A. Grobbelaar	30.60	2022
Jun Boys	C. Mackie	33.94	2005
Jun Girls	L. Hope	33.60	2004
300m	Record Holder	Seconds	Year
Sen Boys	R. Selby	45.11	2023
Sen Girls	B. Webb	46.39	2023
Mid Boys	R. Bussey	53.32	2023
Mid Girls	I. Soares	62.00	2023
600m	Record Holder	Minutes	Year
Jun Boys	M. Webb	2.01.02	2016
Jun Girls	A. Fox	2.05.80	2016
800m	Record Holder	Minutes	Year
Sen Boys	T. Wharton	2.07.61	2016
Sen Girls	B. Webb	2.25.36	2023
Mid Boys	M. Webb	2.30.45	2018
Mid Girls	A. Fox	2.34.46	2018
1500m	Record Holder	Minutes	Year
Sen Boys	M. Andrews	4.34.33	2023
Sen Girls	F. Goodwin	4.54.16	2024
Mid Boys	T. Fox	5.11.53	2016
Mid Girls	F. Goodwin	5.18.25	2021

### FIELD EVENTS

Long Jump	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	K. Lewis	5.21	2004
Sen Girls	S. Allisat	4.56	2015
Mid Boys	K. Batham-Read	4.42	2012
Mid Girls	S. Allisat	4.07	2014
Jun Boys	S. Anderson	3.96	2005
Jun Girls	L. Musson	3.26	2018
High Jump	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	A. Osler-Holt	1.63	2013
Sen Girls	H. Williams-Thomas	1.51	2013
Mid Boys	H. Rienecker-Found	1.45	2012
Mid Girls	S. Allisat	1.35	2014
Jun Boys	H. Rogers	1.27	2015
Jun Girls	I. Hopkins	1.20	2013
Triple Jump	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	J. Florschutz	9.50	2013
Sen Girls	E. Costin	8.89	2024
Mid Boys	G. Spadaccino	6.20	2023
Mid Girls	M. Andrews	5.81	2022
Javelin	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	E. Rabe	33.00	2005
Sen Girls	P. Hatt	26.54	2024
Mid Boys	E. Rabe	32.01	2004
Mid Girls	M. Andrews	19.28	2024
Jun Boys	H. Reece	15.20	2022
Jun Girls	M. Andrews	11.10	2022
Shot Put	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	A. Oates	12.62	2024
Sen Girls	C. Benstead Schlup	9.96	2016
Mid Boys	A. Oates	8.46	2022
Mid Girls	T. Oates	7.20	2021
Jun Boys	B. Breeze	6.38	2022
Jun Girls	A. Henry	5.11	2024
Discus	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Sen Boys	A. Oates	40.93	2024
Sen Girls	M. Forty	23.34	2023
Mid Boys	A. Oates	26.18	2022
Mid Girls	I. Le Fleming	17.80	2023
Jun Boys	G. Hinchliffe	13.20	2022
Jun Girls	M. Searls	11.90	2024
Nerf Throw	Record Holder	Metres	Year
Jnr Boys	M. Burton	24.40	2025
Jnr Girls	E. Reece	14.70	2023



**SPORT**

**THE SPORTING PROGRAMME**

2024/25 represented another *action-packed year* of sport at Great Walstead with all children in Years 3 to 8 representing the school in every one of our core sports.

It was a year of near misses for the U13 boys who fell one game short of the national finals in football, hockey and cricket. Getting so close does still show what an impressive sporting group they are.

In individual sports we had national finalists in athletics and swimming and the whole school entered the pool to conquer a channel swim for our Giving Day.

Our biennial ski trip jetted off to Austria over the Easter break. As in previous years, it was wonderful to see pupils from different year groups enjoying each other's company and making exceptional progress on the slopes. There was plenty of snow, smiles and sunshine throughout the trip.

**THE YEAR AHEAD PRESENTS HUNDREDS MORE FIXTURES FOR ALL OF OUR PUPILS AND A SPORTS TOUR TO HOLLAND FOR SOME OF OUR SENIOR PUPILS.**

**BY MARK LLOYD**



Ski Trip to Amade Austria

Girls Football U13



Boys Cricket U13

DEVELOPMENTS

ONE YEAR ON...

The new ICT suite, 'Robyn's Nest', was opened at the start of this academic year by the Stuart family whose very kind and generous donation enabled the school to completely refurbish three classrooms in order to create two IT suites and an activity room.

A lot of creative technical design projects have been created using the laser cutter and 3D printers, with the pupils using their programming and coding skills to develop their concepts into a real item.



Over the Easter holidays the science corridor and the Learning Enhancement corridor received a refresh. The latter benefitted from a grant from the Rose Foundation to replace all the lighting with brighter and more energy-efficient LED lights alongside new flooring and decoration.

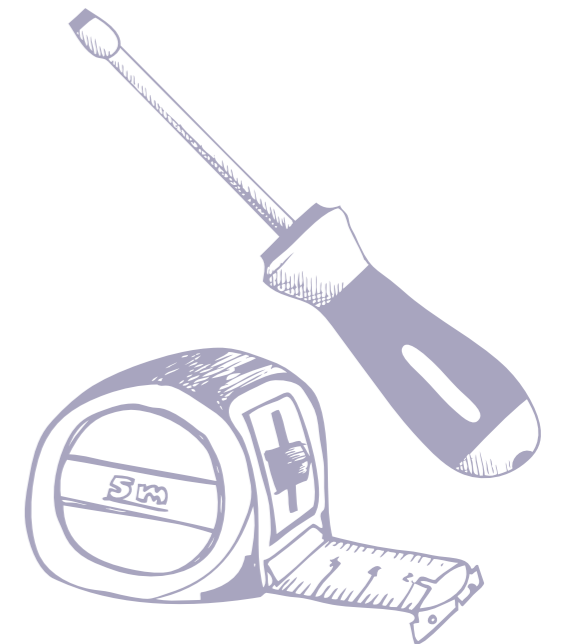
The Chapel, used by the whole school for a variety of activities, will have a new set of chairs for the start of next term. They are easily stackable wooden chairs which will look smarter and be more sustainable than the plastic ones we currently use.



Artist impression of the Pool refurbishment

Plans are in place for a refurbishment of the school's swimming pool over the new academic year. To help raise funds for this, our pupils and staff participated in a sponsored swim at the end of June, completing a distance equivalent to swimming the English Channel to France and back.

The pool refurbishment will improve the facility, particularly the changing rooms, to enhance the experience for all our young swimmers. A new toilet block will be built and the whole building will be clad in cedar pine to tie in with the Art Studio and the Reception classrooms.



**BY AILSA WOLFAARDT**

**PRE-SCHOOL**  
**FUN-FILLED BEGINNINGS**

What a busy time we have had in Pre-School!  
Another year of *uninterrupted fun.*

Whatever the weather, we love to be outside making the most of our beautiful grounds. The 'Mud Kitchen' is always a popular place to be, with the grown-ups often offered something delicious to eat or drink.

We do love a bit of festive sparkle in Pre-School, so Christmas is always fun-filled. Our Christmas tree decorated by the children was as usual a beautiful sight. We finished the autumn term with our Nativity which was enjoyed by the parents.

Snack is always a highlight in Pre-School. This year the picnic theme has been very popular. The children have chosen to eat Snack at the Tree House, Hagrid's Hut, in the Mini-Woods and the Secret Garden.



Child-led without fail, this year our children have taken us down a very creative route.

**LOOKING AT ALL THE ART THEY HAVE PRODUCED, WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE NEXT PICASSO!**

We always feel privileged to work with the children and this year has been no exception, filled with boundless fun, love, paint and mud.

**BY PENNY LINDFIELD**



## PRE-PREP

# A YEAR TO REMEMBER IN PRE-PREP

This year has marked a truly *special milestone* for Pre-Prep as we celebrated our centenary.

Our summer term topic, "Celebrating our Centenary", sparked imaginations and inspired children and teachers alike. Each classroom explored different decades of the past century, bringing history alive through art, storytelling, music, and play. Children learned about how toys, schools, and homes have changed over time. It was a wonderful way to link the past with the present and helped our little ones understand the world in a deeper, more meaningful way.

One of the highlights for Years 1 and 2 was an exciting educational trip to the Gatwick STEM Centre. Bursting with curiosity, the children donned their explorer hats and spent the day immersed in the world of science, technology, engineering, and maths. They built mini bridges, created a water filter, and even made their own solar-powered electric car. The hands-on learning experience captured their imaginations and left them talking about the visit for days.

One of our most unpredictable – and most magical – events of the year for Reception is always the Nativity. It's a performance shimmering with sparkle and joy, sprinkled with just a little chaos. When the lights go up, we never quite know what to expect – will the angels sing? Will the shepherds remember their lines? Someone will definitely wave enthusiastically at their parents mid-song if you've got a room full of Reception and Pre-School children on stage! But that's the magic of it.



This year, countless inspiring visitors came through our doors, including firefighters, lawyers, dentists, storytellers and a travelling animal show, each sparking curiosity and wonder.

Forest School remains a firm favourite too. From toasting marshmallows over an open fire to building boats that floated down the river, the children embraced every muddy moment. Our new, kindly gifted 'Mud Kitchen' in our Reception garden became a hive of creativity and discovery, inspiring imaginative play and lots of 'yummy' creations being concocted.

Above all, the friendships formed this year have been a joy to witness. These bonds will surely support the children as they continue their Walstead journey.

**THE TEACHERS ARE VERY PROUD OF ALL THE CHILDREN AND HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING THEM GROW AND FLOURISH AS THE YEAR UNFOLDED.**

**BY HANNAH LAFLIN**





## JUNIORS LEARNING AND LAUGHTER

Another *busy year* for the Juniors.

This year saw the launch of our 'Journey through Ancient History' topic. We began by studying the Ancient Egyptians where we visited the woods to build our own shadufs and pyramids and created cartouches with hieroglyphics. Moving through time, we soon arrived at the 'Rotten Romans' and were visited by a historian who helped bring our learning to life with artefacts, stories and battle re-enactments. Before long we were also deep in pantomime rehearsals – oh yes, we were! As the term drew to a close, all the children took to the stage to perform Kitty Whittington, and they were fabulous – demonstrating most, if not all, of our 7Cs in abundance. As the spring term started, so did our study of the 'Sensational Saxons' where another visiting historian inspired the children through the retelling of Beowulf alongside some weird and wonderful facts.

Following the February half term, we embarked upon a journey through the Amazon. To launch our topic we visited the glasshouses at RHS Wisley where the children were in awe of their size and the humidity! We were also lucky enough to be visited by an OGW who shared his experiences of living in the Amazon through stories and pictures, although a spider the size of a dinner plate put many of us off visiting there ourselves! Other summer term highlights included Walstock, where so many of our remarkable Juniors shone on the stage, our activity day at Hindleap Warren and Sports Day.\* For many of our Year 4s, the highlight of the year was camping over on the field. Mrs Calvey and Mrs Rees reported that the children were perhaps the best cohort ever to have taken part, and by 10.30pm all was quiet on the field – except for some very loud snoring!

As another year ends, the children once again have impressed all the staff by the progress they have made and how ready they are for the next step in their Walstead journey.

\*Which was delayed twice by the weather, but worth the wait.



**BY BECKY LAW**



## MIDDLES

# A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR THE MIDDLES

Every year in the *Middles* seems to go by in the blink of an eye and this year was certainly no exception.

The year started as always with the sound of Year 5 trying to find their next classroom and Year 6 preparing for pre-tests. However, as always, these phases soon passed and life in the Middles quickly became a whirlwind of new topics, a trip to Ardingly to hear author Patrick Ness, and festive Christmas songs. The Middles Christmas concert is always a highlight with many children braving the stage to sing, play their instrument or participate in a new ensemble.

The spring term saw the visit of a mobile planetarium where much of their science learning came to life through an out-of-this-world experience! Year 5 spent a significant proportion of the term planning, writing, choreographing and performing their 'Mini-Musicals,' the end results of which were really quite impressive.



## IN THE SUMMER TERM, BOTH YEAR 5 AND 6 PACKED THEIR BAGS AND HEADED TO PENSURST PLACE FOR THREE DAYS OF BUSHCRAFT ADVENTURE.

After learning, revising and enhancing their wilderness skills, they were soon put to the test as they set out to rescue Mrs Calvey, Mr McCagney, Mrs Glover and Mr Swarbrick who had been 'involved' in a terrible plane crash. I am pleased to say that the Middles rose to the challenge and rescued all the teachers successfully!

As the children returned from half term, they were all eagerly anticipating the secret code to signal the start of Woodlarks. Before long, the code was out and organised chaos descended upon the school. Teams were assembled and relationships established (including some alliances made between groups to maximise their chance of success). After a fabulous two days, Sparrowhawks were crowned champions!

As the year draws to a close the end of term prize giving and services offer a lovely way to reflect on what a successful year it has been.

**BY BECKY LAW**



## SENIORS

# A YEAR TO CELEBRATE FOR THE SENIORS

Academic progress is the cornerstone of modern schooling, and Walstead *continues to shine* in this area.

Q-Day has always been, and still is, an amazing senior event. The pupils look forward to it and it never disappoints. This year saw another wonderful week in the woods. The pupils were outstanding and selecting the winners was tough. With all teams excelling at different times and in different ways, we started the final morning with any of the teams still in with a realistic chance of winning. Ultimately, the superior team-work and team spirit of Section A prevailed. They were well led by Ellie S, with outstanding support from Elsie W. However, the whole team were responsible for the win, so an additional well done to Koh H, Clara H, Darcey F, Amelia M, Ruby O, Susie P, Savannah C, Izzy B and Emmy M.

Trips are another aspect of school life that bring out high levels of excitement and anticipation. Our Year 7 trip to France was another success, with a lot of fun happening alongside some additional French teaching. My respect is always extended to those pupils brave enough to venture outside their comfort zone and eat snails for the first time. Our Year 8 leavers' trip headed off to Devon for the first time for a stunning week of sea and sun. The pupils challenged themselves in surfing, wakeboarding and coasteering. However, as always, the highlight was spending time with each other, before they head off in new and exciting directions.



Year 7 trip to France



Year 8 Leavers Trip to Devon

Head Girls and Head Boys:  
E. Shuttleworth, S. Crozier,  
B. Breeze & S. Scott

**THIS YEAR I HAVE LOVED SEEING SO MANY SENIOR PUPILS TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE USUAL, DEMONSTRATING ALL OF THE SCHOOL VALUES IN THE PROCESS.**

**Here are some of my favourites this year:**

Our successful public speaking team, Bodhi R, Raul MR and Fintan L, arguing "History is dead". Seeing our Year 7 scientists put their learning into practice at a local science fair, with a special mention to Molly W for her individual success. Bodhi R and Fintan L taking on the Prep School History Quiz, with Bodhi winning the essay round and finishing 3rd overall.

Oscar T leading the U14 Sussex Golf Team. Fintan L fighting his way to fencing success. Savannah C taking on the tricky pole vault in local competitions. Clara H, Molly W, Daisy B and Heidi S taking part in a National Literature Quiz. And, in a nod to our changing world, our successful E-sports team who defeated opponents from schools across the world. Well done to Shrey S, Sahil S, Max S, Jake D, George S, Albert G and Toby DLR.

Finally, a thank you to all the senior pupils. Walstead children are so kind and really take care of each other, and the older children continue to be excellent role models in this regard.

**BY BRUCE MCCREA**

DRAMA

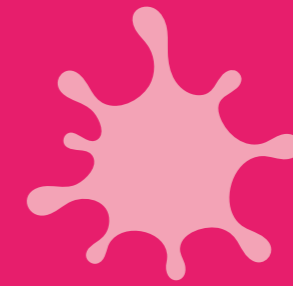
IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER *busy year* FOR THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT



...and as always, a huge amount of talent from the children on display.

September always brings a sense of anticipation for the senior school musical and this year, in honour of our centenary, we went back in time to the era of American gangsters for the show Buggy Malone. The autumn term rehearsals were jam packed with music, dancing and complex accent work as over 30 children from Years 7 & 8 took part. The autumn term is also full of festivities

and celebrations in drama with Years 3 & 4 working hard to put together their Christmas production and this year was the tale of Kitty Whittington. The confidence on stage was great and it certainly looked like the children were enjoying themselves in their wonderful costumes! Our wonderful Early Years and Pre-Prep added to the festive finish of the term in their nativities and Christmas stories.



In the spring term Year 5 rose to the challenge of writing and performing their own mini-musicals. This is where the children have a real opportunity to showcase their own creativity and performance skills. With an intriguing Mash Potato Monster, an evil DJ, a group of shipwrecked lemurs and talking trees in an enchanted forest, we were transported into the minds of Year 5 for the afternoon and again it was a pleasure to see how much they all enjoyed themselves and how much their performance skills have developed.

After months of rehearsals, our popular Senior School Show took place in March. Buggy Malone amazed audiences for a matinee and two evening performances. I've decided every director's nightmare comes in the form of "splurge" but I couldn't be prouder of how the children handled this messy show and worked so hard to ensure it was a magnificent success from start to finish. A huge thanks to all the team on making this possible and it was clear the kids had a lot of fun with this one.



Being my last summer term here at Great Walstead, it of course seemed sensible to fit as much in as possible. Year 3 took their own Puppet Shows to perform to the early years. Year 6 performed a variety of plays, soliloquies and duologues and songs in our wonderful Shakespeare Festival and Year 7 also put together a fantastic morning of performances in the PAC as they performed a selection of Grimm Tales. There has been something for everyone!

And of course we couldn't stop there... In true Great Walstead style, Year 8 worked tirelessly to pull together an absolutely fantastic Leavers' Show. This year's theme was The Traitors, which saw all of our wonderful Year 8 students take to the stage in an all singing and dancing version of the TV show, with our very own Head Boy and Head Girl, Sammy and Ellie, playing Claud and Wink. They put all the contestants through their paces, in a bid for the 7C rewards in order to move safely on to their senior schools. The show was a great success and we had a lot of fun along the way creating sketches around their memories of their time here. It has been an absolute privilege to work with all the children this year and I too am leaving with some very fond memories to last a lifetime.

**WISHING EVERYONE ALL THE BEST AND ONCE AGAIN A HUGE WELL DONE FROM ME TO ALL THE CHILDREN FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK IN DRAMA THIS YEAR.**

**BY NICKY LOOMES**



## MUSIC

## THE BEATING HEART

At the heart of the music department's successes this year has been the strength of *community spirit*.

This has underpinned every performance and major event, showcasing the very best of every pupil's determination, commitment and passion for their music-making.

The autumn saw a new adventure for the Chamber Choir. The boys and girls travelled to Lancing College to take part in their annual choral day. They fully embraced the opportunity to join and sing with other school choirs and tackle a good bit of sight-reading on the day itself. This ensemble continued to grow in quality and number, closing the term with a stunning Seniors Carol Service at the All Saints Church, Lindfield.

This academic year was always going to be special. To celebrate our 100th birthday, we needed a truly remarkable occasion and the Walstock festival returned bigger and better than ever before! With over a hundred performers of all ages, every ensemble took to the stage to sing and perform hit songs throughout the decades. After their first performance last year, the Great Walstead Community Orchestra and pupil choirs were also boosted by our immensely talented parent choir. They closed an extraordinary afternoon with a super Elton John finale.

**THE DAY SHOWCASED  
THE VERY BEST OF THE  
GREAT WALSTEAD COMMUNITY.**



This summer, Seniors celebrated the end of the exam season with a collaborative and improvisation-based drumming workshop. It was led by renowned composer and artistic director of the Royal Philharmonic's Noisy Kids Concert, Tim Steiner, whose incredible expertise captivated pupils and brought some much-needed light relief after a busy few weeks.

The department also warmly welcomed oboist Emma Sims who completes our phenomenal team. In addition to all the current instrumental ensemble clubs, Emma's new recorder club for Year 1 and 2 pupils proved very popular indeed! My deepest, heartfelt thank you to every single one of the visiting music staff. Their energy, drive and expertise are the true makings of the department. It is their unwavering support which brings such joy and inspiration to everyone around them.

Hearing the burst of music through the practice room corridor always kicks off each morning with exciting intent. To witness and nurture growing numbers of pupils on their music journey is a privilege. Next term will see a revival of the House Music Competition and throughout the year I wish to encourage pupils to embrace new opportunities and challenge themselves to reach even greater heights.

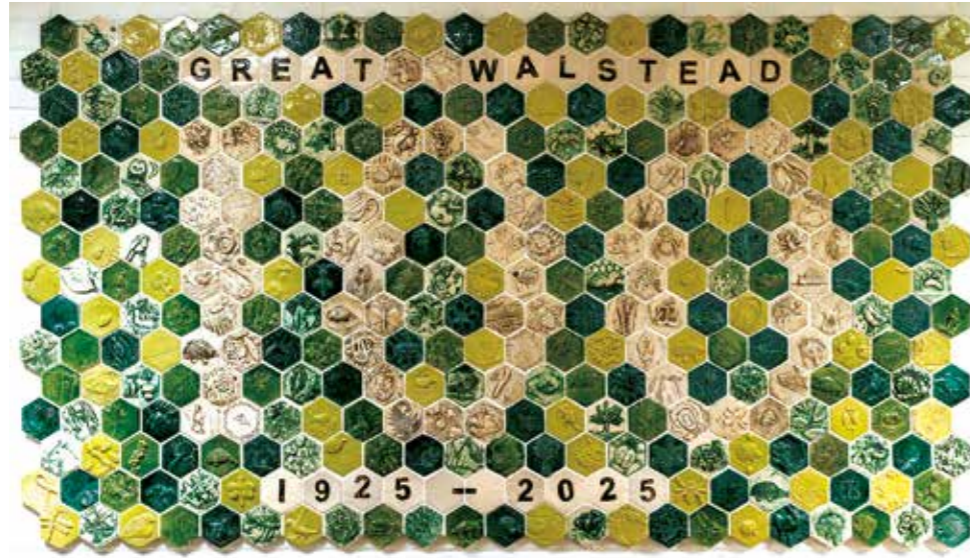
**BY JEMMA PACKER**



Heidi S, Year 7



Centenary Tile Project



## ART

# FROM SKETCHES TO SCULPTURES



Upon returning in the autumn term there was much anticipation at Great Walstead to see the *collaborative* centenary tile wall display.

As I am sure you will agree the final installation surpassed all expectations. Our pupils rose to the challenge of creating the initial design ideas during their art lessons and worked with our talented artists in residence to create their ceramic tile.

## IT WAS A VALUABLE LESSON ON COLLABORATION AND WILL REMAIN A LEGACY FOR YEARS TO COME.

Our art scholars also played their creative part in marking this important centenary year by producing an art display for Mr Calvey's office. Taking inspiration from pop artist Jasper Johns, they designed illustrations of the numbers 1925-2025, combining complementary colours and tonal shading with great effect.

Alongside our centenary based creative pursuits we have also participated in events such as Languages Day. This year our Juniors enjoyed a morning of art with a French twist. Applying their spoken word and painting skills they showed great enthusiasm when learning about the French pointillist artist Seurat and all produced a stunning version of the Eiffel Tower using small painted dots. Très bien!

As part of their cross-curricular learning, our Senior pupils focused their artwork on the Windrush Generation. They created their own logos to mark Windrush Day 2024 using boats and portholes as the focal point of their designs.

The opportunity to work collaboratively with other subjects allows the children to develop a better understanding of the subject matter, exploring it in different ways.

In the summer term it was a pleasure to welcome back OGW Olive O'Rourke. Having recently completed her fine arts degree, she very kindly organised an abstract painting masterclass for our scholars. Not only did our pupils produce some exciting artwork, but they also gained an insight into where art can lead in a future career. As well as their practical workshops, a visit to the GCSE exhibition at Ardingly gave a wonderful chance to experience artwork up close. The breadth and quality of the work on show was truly inspirational and made a lasting impact on our young artists.

We ended our year with a spectacular exhibition evening to celebrate the official opening of the art room here at Great Walstead, with work from all our students on display. GW parent and illustrator Christian Birmingham marked the event with a wonderful speech about how art spaces can inspire young students. This event was a chance to celebrate all the spectacular artwork that the children have produced throughout the year and how talented our young artists are.

**BY TRUDI CROOK**

# OGW CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The sun shone on our Centenary Celebrations as we marked the *100th birthday* of Great Walstead School.

Our pupils followed a very special timetable, giving them a flavour of life back in 1925. From classrooms with chalkboards and desks all in straight rows, rifle shooting (with lasers, rather than shells), boxing lessons, and a vintage-style Sports Day, as well as learning the Charleston. During break time they entertained themselves with traditional games such as hopscotch, spinning tops and some rather adventurous skipping challenges. We were lucky enough to

be joined by Hugh Lowries, who was not only a pupil but also a teacher and then the headmaster of Great Walstead (1991-2006). The children were brimming with questions for Mr Lowries about his time here.

**ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A FABULOUS CELEBRATION OF A HUNDRED YEARS OF OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL, AND HERE'S TO THE NEXT!**



OGW (CONTINUED)

# WALSTOCK 2025

## *The Centenary Edition*



To celebrate Great Walstead's centenary year, our Walstock Music Festival returned for 2025, bigger and better than ever before!

We warmly welcomed our Old Great Walsteadians to a morning Chapel service before the official opening began. The fields were filled with classic cars for CarFest, vintage games, a giant tipi with a fascinating display from our archives, a delicious BBQ, a huge stage to showcase our incredible musicians and performers, and lots of smiling faces. 'The Walstock Arms' certainly saw many happy customers keeping hydrated as the glorious sun shone down.

On stage, our performers took their audience on a journey through each decade with a huge array of iconic hits. From the Seniors' 'Bugsy Malone' cast tackling the 1920s all the way to the present day, with the Chamber Choir rocking their favourite songs in style. Every ensemble were fantastic ambassadors for the school and burst with the absolute joy music brings.



It was soon time for our grand finale. After a successful first outing last year, our Community Orchestra and Choirs returned to perform our Elton John Medley. This year it also included our first parent/staff choir. Willing volunteers of musicians continue to grow in number, and we couldn't be prouder of every single participant. Thank you for inspiring every pupil to love their music.

**THIS YEAR'S WALSTOCK WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CELEBRATION OF THE WHOLE GREAT WALSTEAD COMMUNITY AND A FITTING FINALE TO MARK OUR CENTENARY. A SPECIAL, HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF STAFF BEHIND THE SCENES WHO HELPED MAKE THIS OCCASION SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS.**

OGW (CONTINUED)

# SCHOOL HISTORY AND ALUMNI THE CENTENARY EDITION 2025

What a fabulous way to *celebrate* Great Walstead's centenary by welcoming OGWs from far and wide back to the School.

The day began with a Chapel Service attended by over a hundred people. After a warm welcome from Headmaster Chris Calvey, the congregation listened to a reading by ex-Head of the Junior School, James Skillicorn, and an address by ex-Headmaster, Hugh Lowries. The school song, 'Hold Fast the Good', was of course sung, as well as 'Amazing Grace' and 'Lord of the Years'.

Afterwards, our guests joined the festivities on the field, and many ventured into the 'memorabilia tent' to look at old photographs, magazines and other archive material. It was also a chance to meet up with old friends and share reminiscences of their times at GW.



James Skillicorn gives a reading at the Chapel Service



Hugh Lowries addresses a large congregation



Looking at the memorabilia – young and old

Nigel Bishop (OGW 1977-82) commented...

"We had such a great time, and I met up with three of my classmates who I hadn't seen since I was 12 years old. The whole day was lovely. The walk in the woods, the food, the bands (especially the school 1970s and 80s covers band who really rocked) and the atmosphere. Not to mention the weather. Everyone I spoke to had such happy memories of the school. It is really such a great accolade for Great Walstead. Thank you again."

Nigel also included his VW Beetle in the CarFest.



The Centenary attracted a lot of interest among the OGW community, with many sharing reminiscences of their time at the School and updating us on their lives since.

**Brian Boyes**, for instance (OGW 1961-65), revealed that following a degree in Sociology from University of London, he started work at the BBC in radio presentation and station operations at BBC Radio Oxford, with some time also spent at Broadcasting House in London for Radio 2.

"After something like ten years I was offered work in the United States and ended up working in talk radio – like LBC – in Houston and later as a rock'n'roll DJ in Houston. Plus, a dabble of work for ABCTV in that city. Then a move to Dallas and with ABC Satellite Radio Services as on-air talent playing classic rock to automated radio stations across the whole of the US.

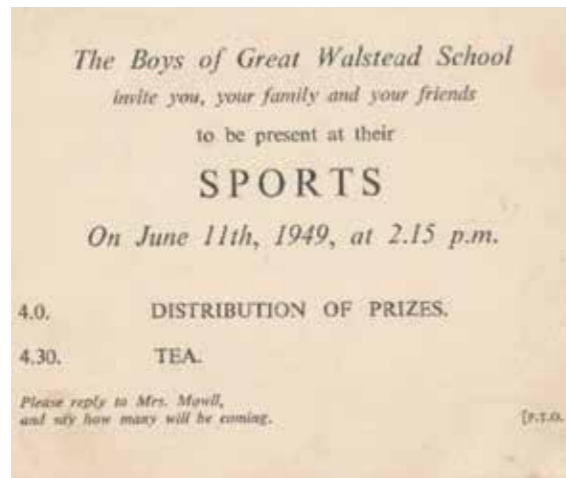
Then came the call from CBS Radio to go to San Francisco to again perform talk radio – I've been in San Francisco for close to thirty years, having also produced TV programmes for Discovery TV and CBS TV. Now sort of retired but still providing voiceovers for AI, various other clients and sound production work on a freelance basis.

See what happens when you get cast as Cousin Hebe in HMS Pinafore at age 13 at GWS? Touched by the boards – the smell of the crowd and the roar of the greasepaint?"



One visitor was **Brian Statham** (OGW 1949-54), who kindly brought along some items from his time at GW.

These included the programme for a play put on by the Cubs in March 1951, an invitation to the Sports Day for 11 June 1949, and term reports from 1949, 1950 and 1951. Also donated were pictures from the 1953 Fathers' Day cricket match and photographs of friends and staff from Brian's era.



**Robert Baxter** (OGW 1952-6), who lives in Australia, sent a list of fond memories of the school, including:

- Miss Bunting's class when we learned all the books of the Bible in order
- The day we all had to descend via the Davey fire escape from the little dormitory on the second floor
- Using the open-blade Allen scythe to cut back dense growth and the flame thrower to burn weeds around the school
- Watching the new B&W TV on the floor in the Mowlls' bedroom – "Hank Rides Again"
- Skating on the pond in the woods when frozen over

- Mr. Marsh's daily morning PT on the gravel driveway in front of the school
- Making model balsa aeroplanes with 'doped' fuselage and wings with elastic and powered engines
- Playing on the full-size billiard table (in the big lounge next to RYM's study) and the competition 'ladder'

"I moved on to St Lawrence at Ramsgate, then took articles in London and on qualification moved to the Isle of Wight for 30 years as a solicitor. Then retired to Perth in 1997 with my wife and our two sons to join the rest of my wider family already here."

"I was only too pleased that "health and safety" was not around in my days: it would have made a lot of fun things very boring. I still have my balloon label, which was returned to me by a French huntsman in a forest in France – it's a treasured possession now. I noticed that there was no mention of "maggots and varnish" (cold rice and black treacle) and spam fritters – one could choose the lunch menu on one's birthday and these were two of the favourites!"

Robert's contemporary, **Colin Dorling** (OGW 1952-56), was also unable to join us on May 11th but sent best wishes and his own reminiscences on reading the Centenary book.

The archivist is particularly grateful for a series of detailed reminiscences of the school by ex-teacher (1983-96), **John Chipperfield**, encompassing the development of its facilities and buildings, fellow members of staff, the children, and various 'customs'. John remembers fondly, for instance, games on the lawn during the Parke era.



"Just below the Cedar Pitch boarders would assemble after the evening service, instead of gathering to watch a video. Mr Parke would organise first 'Chain-he' and then 'British Bulldogs'. All ages of boarders joined in, matrons, too: I confess that I enjoyed being on duty then, the games being quite the most enjoyable experiences yet at the school, having the effect of breaking down barriers and being talked about long afterwards, when the various groups went off to play on the assault course or dawdle around the grounds in small groups. A free swim might be offered if it was warm."

Swimming was, of course, restricted to the summer term, as it was not until 2003 that the pool gained a retractable roof. Improvements are planned again for this facility, including a complete refurbishment.

In the meantime, you can buy an updated history of the school and other centenary items by contacting the School Office.

"...the book is very well written, researched and presented...I have greatly enjoyed reading this book, and I am sure that I will do so again; thank you so much for allowing me to wallow in so much nostalgia."

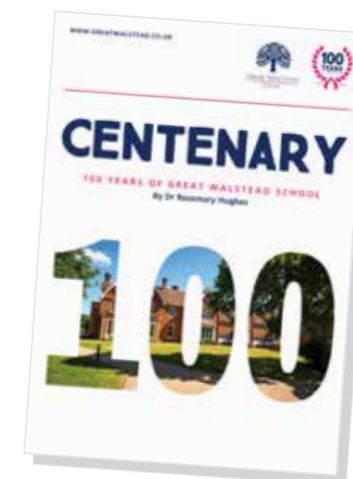
(**Colin Dorling**, OGW 1952-6)

## **BY DR ROSEMARY HUGHES**

### **MAKING CONTACT**

The archivist is grateful to the OGWs above and welcomes all contributions to memories of a special school.

**Contact:** [ogw@greatwalstead.co.uk](mailto:ogw@greatwalstead.co.uk)



## STAFF NEWS

## 2024-2025

## LEAVING STAFF

**Danni Butler**

Danni has spent two years at Great Walstead and has impacted our pupils significantly throughout her time here. Her impressive coaching skillset for a number of sports enabled her to develop both girls and boys across the curriculum. During her second year, Danni juggled the demands of her job with the challenge of gaining a PGCE, which she did with consummate ease and immense organisation. Danni leaves us to take on a full time teaching role at Sevenoaks Prep School and there is a good chance that we will see her on the local sports circuit in years to come.

**Inger-Marie Cawley**

Inger-Marie joined the Great Walstead Learning Enhancement Department in September 2022, where her focus was supporting children's maths development. She worked with children individually outside the classroom, and as part of the Maths Team in the classrooms. Inger-Marie's kind and gentle manner coaxed and guided even the most mathematically nervous child to see they could have a go and be successful, and she will be sorely missed. We wish her much happiness as she embarks on her retirement; she plans to return home to Norway to live by the sea, with a boat and crab pots. Happy fishing, Inger-Marie!

**Sophie Chapman**

Sophie joined the school as a gap year student in September 2024. She threw herself into life at Great Walstead, particularly the 'mud' part of the 'Mud Pi'. Sophie enjoyed going out with the children into the woods for Forest School. Her contributions to the wider aspects of school have been excellent. This has included helping in the maintenance department, supporting the School Nurse and working in Pre-School and Reception. Sophie has had a real taste of all aspects of prep school life. She leaves to go to Durham University next year. We wish her all the best for the future.

**Claire Gale**

Claire joined Great Walstead in September 2023. In her role as a Performing Arts Graduate, she has thrown herself into Music, Drama and Art and has been a huge asset to the team. Her previously unleashed creative talent has really shone through, particularly in set and props creation for numerous performances and her wonderful display boards and art resources. She has also been hugely instrumental in the growth of the Music department, supporting and playing in all our musical ensembles in their weekly rehearsals. She has been a valued member of staff in many areas of the school, assisting with school trips and numerous events and her friendly face and crochet skills will be much missed by the staff. Her cheerful manner has had a real impact on both the children and staff and no doubt this will continue in her next chapter as she heads back to her love of singing, taking on the role of Choral Director for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. We wish her all the best and just know she will be fantastic in her new role.

**Hannah Laflin**

Hannah joined Great Walstead in September 2015, but within a year her talents had been spotted and she was promoted to Head of the Pre-Prep. More recently that role grew to include Pre-School and Reception. Throughout her 10 years at GW she has shown such care and kindness towards all our pupils and has become affectionately known as "Miss Honey" from the musical Matilda. She is an inspiring teacher who is so often fondly remembered by our Year 8 leavers who had the privilege to be in her class. She was also a terrific Head of our Pre-Prep and kept everybody on the Senior Leadership Team on their toes by famously adding items to the AOB list at every opportunity! Hannah sums up everything we look for in a GW teacher and both staff and pupils are going to miss her very much. We wish her all the very best as she takes on a new adventure working as a Volunteer Manager for the Keswick Ministries in the Lake District.

**Nicky Loomes**

Nicky joined Great Walstead in September 2020 as Head of Drama. She was thrown straight into one of the hardest challenges a teacher could face: teaching drama online during the Covid pandemic. Nevertheless, she was able to expertly adapt lessons where children were creating sock puppets and discussing various scripts. Nicky's first performance with the senior school pupils was 'The Lion King' with the bar for performances set high. She also directed and produced 'Grease' in 2023, 'The Wiz' in 2024 and 'Bugsy Malone' in the Spring of 2025, which coincided with the school's centenary year.

There have been a number of amazing nativities and pantos for the Juniors at the end of the Autumn terms as part of the 'Performing Arts Thursdays' as well as Shakespeare and Grimm Tales for the slightly older children. The child-centred performances for parents and staff, where the children wrote, directed and produced their own work, show complete faith and trust in the students' abilities. This was invaluable to the children's confidence in all areas of drama.

Nicky leaves us to train and work in the field of child wellbeing. We wish her all the best for the next chapter of her life.

**Dominic Morgan**

Dom joined us in September to experience life working in a school. As a former pupil at Ardingly College, he knows the local prep school circuit well and was a vital asset to the sports department throughout the year. Whilst cricket is his area of passion, Dom's high level of coaching benefitted our pupils across all of the sports at the school. He leaves us to head to Australia where he will be playing cricket, with a little bit of work thrown in to keep him busy! In years to come, you may well still find him on the common leading a Friday night All Stars session or taking wickets on a Saturday afternoon for Lindfield's 1st XI.

## STAFF NEWS (CONTINUED)

## 2024-2025

## LEAVING STAFF

**Deborah Rees**

Right from the start, Deborah arrived in 2017 as a welcome breath of fresh air. A phenomenal teacher, with a passion and commitment to embrace any and every challenge, she threw herself fully into Great Walstead life and community.

As Head of English, she has led from the front with enthusiasm, a wealth of immense subject knowledge, and a breadth of skills. Reading and writing are celebrated and pupils enthuse about her teaching. Deborah introduced the wonderful "Celebration of Writing" and was a driving force to initiate Accelerated Reader into the school. She'll always find time to help pupils, whatever their need – before, during and after school. Whether running a debating team, organising equestrian pursuits, throwing herself into residential trips and Q-Day, and being a staunch supporter of Livingstone House, Deborah is a practitioner and a role model for being your best self – and has a healthy sense of humour as well. (The Hobby Horse Gymkhana will live long in many memories!)

Deborah will be remembered for her wonderfully calm and kind approach and her amazing range of skirts and shoes!! We will also miss her greatly.

**Barbara Richmond**

Barbara joined Great Walstead as Director of Learning Enhancement in April 2008. Since joining GWS she has also been an English teacher, form tutor, Q-night camper and member of the senior management and leadership teams.

Her job title only scratches at the surface of what has become a multi-faceted job but overarching everything she does she does with compassion and an understanding of special educational needs for all. The Learning Enhancement department is described as being at the centre of the school and Barbara has been the heart of the Learning Enhancement department. Her fingerprints are all over the future through the children she has nurtured, supported and believed in – before they even believed in themselves. She is an ambassador for equality, an excellent classroom practitioner, and a valued friend and colleague to all in the GWS community.

She will be remembered for her mischievous sense of humour and her willingness to find any way to help staff or pupils. We will miss her greatly. She is leaving big shoes to fill and a department that is thriving because of her dedication and hard work. Quite simply she exemplifies Walstead's values and 7Cs to the core. We wish her well in her retirement.

**Isobel Roope**

We say goodbye and good luck to Isobel who has been a valued part of our school community over the past few years. Starting out as a resident artist, Isobel has more recently stepped into a role in the Pre-Prep after school care team, offering a calm, steady presence and supporting a wide range of activities. Whether guiding a craft project or simply lending a helping hand, she always found creative ways to connect with children.

Now, Isobel is heading off to begin a new chapter, having secured a place at university to train as an art teacher. It's a move that makes perfect sense given her natural creativity and thoughtful approach to working with young people. While we'll miss her contributions and artistic eye, we're excited to see her take this next step. We wish her all the best in her studies and future teaching career.

**Dan Swarbrick**

Dan joined Great Walstead during his university holidays helping out in maintenance, and he loved working with us so much that he has now been with us for over 6 years! During that time he has turned his hand to many different roles, from HR and admin to sports coaching and, more recently, he has been instrumental in supporting the marketing department. Dan very much embodies a prep school staff member, always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed and always with a smile. He will be missed by the children and staff alike. We wish Dan all the very best in his new venture working in HR for the Ministry of Defence.

**Robin Williams**

Robin joined Great Walstead in September 2018 where he joined the Year 3 team and quickly became a firm favourite with his pupils. His love for all things outdoors quickly became apparent as he was part of many after school activities including sailing, golf and mountain biking as well as supporting the Juniors across all the sports. Taking the Great Walstead sailing team to their first IAPS has to be one of his highlights. He has also shared many tales of his beloved Bosun whom many of the children met as a puppy. Robin's kind, caring and gentle personality has made him a firm favourite with many and he will be missed at Walstead next year but we wish him well as he embarks upon his next adventure as he pursues his passion of sailing.



## STAFF NEWS (CONTINUED)

# 2024-2025



### NEW STAFF

#### Jenny Blacker (Head of Pre-Prep)

Jenny's belief that Pre-Prep should be the root of a school, creating a strong foundation from which children can grow and thrive as they move up through the year groups, is born from her extensive experience working with KS1 and below. Having worked at Brighton Girls' Prep as Deputy Head Academic for 11 years, she is embracing a new adventure at Great Walstead as our new Head of Pre-Prep.

#### Laurence Brasted (Head of Drama)

Laurence has previously worked as the Head of Drama at Brighton College Prep School and founded Centre Stage Dyslexia, an inclusive drama club offering a multi-sensory, dyslexic-friendly learning environment for drama enthusiasts with learning differences.

#### Laura Duffield (Head of Learning Enhancement)

Laura's ties to Great Walstead were established back in 2016 when her eldest joined us as a pupil. She now joins us as our Head of Learning Enhancement, having previously worked as Head of Learning Support (Reception to Year 6) at Hurstpierpoint College Prep School.

#### Ellie Burrows (Lower KS2 Teacher)

Ellie has spent the last two years teaching at Atelier 21 Future School, having previously completed her undergrad and postgrad degrees at Bangor University.

#### Lucy Chatwin (Lower KS2 Teacher)

Lucy joins us as an Early Career Teacher having graduated from the University of York for her undergrad degree and the University of Cambridge for her PGCE.

#### Beatrice Frias Del Rio (Performing Arts Graduate)

Beatrice brings her vast experience of Performing Arts to Great Walstead, having completed a course in Musical Theatre and Dance at Performers College (BIMM, University of Essex) and volunteered for Eastbourne Stagers, an amateur theatre group for which she performs and helps develop choreography.

#### Matthew Black (Sports Graduate)

Following a degree in politics at Loughborough University and a Master of Education at the University of Vermont (USA), Matthew gained invaluable teaching experience working with various sports coaching companies in America and Australia and now joins us as our Sports Graduate.

#### Finley Parker (Gap Student)

Finley joins us from St Paul's Sixth Form following his A Levels this summer. While completing his studies, he has been working at Places for People as a lifeguard.





**GREAT WALSTEAD**  

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**SCHOOL**

**Independent day school for girls & boys | 2½ – 13 years**

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