



The Draxonian Winter 2020/21

Welcome

Chair of Governors



As we draw towards the end of an extraordinary year for Read School, I hope that you are all managing to stay safe and well in the difficult circumstances and restrictions that we are facing with the pandemic. Hopefully, we will soon see better days ahead, with the programme of vaccination now planned for early 2021.

Despite the challenges Covid-19 has brought, Read School and its broader community have worked exceptionally

hard, with great success, to keep the school open and safe, while delivering a comprehensive programme of remote teaching and learning whenever required. The staff, students and parental body have all embraced the new technology involved and have coped extremely well with every challenge they have faced. I wish to express my sincere thanks to them all for their understanding and hard work. Great congratulations must also go to Read Junior, recently ranked 69th in the Sunday Times ParentPower List of Top 100 Independent Prep Schools in England.

Apart from the pandemic, this year has seen various changes in the Management of Read School. Following the death of my brother Peter, I became Chair of Governors, with the aim of helping to deliver his vision for the secure future of the school. I am pleased to report that we have made good progress in two key areas. Ruth Ainley and her team are continuing to improve student recruitment, with the promise of further increases in the roll. We have entered a period of careful financial management to help us cope with the Covid-19 challenges and support the emerging growth. Sadly, earlier this year our Bursar Peter Edley died. We have now welcomed Sarah Charters to the Bursar role and she has brought strong financial skills to the task. In the Board of Governors, we have seen the retirements of Zoe Bayston, who has served since 2016, Roy Manock, William Bayston and Ian Chilvers, all of whom have served on the Board since 2010 and before this have many years of association and service to the school.

Roy and William, both former Chair of Governors, have kindly accepted new roles as Honorary Vice Presidents and Ian will become an Honorary Patron. We thank them all for their many years of dedicated service to the School and look forward to their continuing support and advice in the years ahead. We have also welcomed Dr Richard White, Sarah Langridge, Chris Sunley and Kevin Weston as new Governors. Richard, Sarah and Chris all bring excellent skills, knowledge and experience in different aspects of education while Kevin is a very experienced solicitor.

As we look forward to a period of exciting growth opportunity, we have completed the refreshing of the Read School branding and have introduced our new website <https://www.readschool.co.uk>. Our Marketing Team, led by Lisa Obi, is working hard with new outreach programmes, encouraging those Read School Alumni not yet registered as Draxonians, to join the Association. Good progress has been made with the development of social media to spread the positive messages about the exciting and wonderful opportunities that Read School offers its students, the wider community of parents, guardians, carers and Draxonians. We are confident that 2021 will see the emergence of Read School into a stronger period of growth and development than was the case before the pandemic.

Very best wishes to all for the year ahead.

Brian A Watt
Chair of Governors



The Draxonian

Head of School

Remembrance Edition



Welcome to the 2021 Remembrance Edition of the The Draxonian.

The Read School Service of Remembrance has long been part of school tradition and is held each year on the 11th November. The service usually takes place at St Peter & Paul's Church in Drax. However as this was not possible this year, we opted to hold an outdoor service so the school could still pay its respects to the fifty-one former boys of the school who died serving their country (In the two World

Wars and one pupil killed in action in Northern Ireland).

Our preparations for the service started, of course, long before the 11th, with year group assemblies focusing on how the war impacted pupils and local residents. The school gates were decorated with crocheted poppies. History students researched the lives and achievements of the fallen boys. Wooden silhouettes, kindly made by a parent last year, were placed around school.

With none of the usual Draxonian guests of honour in attendance, the school congregated at 10:45 for the outdoor service, with seated pupils from Reception through to Sixth Form, flanked by the CCF cadets bearing the Read School Standard. The roll of honour was read by Head Boy, Patrick Kelly and following the last Post, the school observed the two-minute Silence at 11:00am, followed by the Réveille. My address noted that Remembrance Day reminds us to enjoy and relish the freedom and democracy that we all take for granted and that we must all work towards a more peaceful world whether that is in the playground, in the classroom, at home or in the workplace.

Following the service, all pupils proceeded to the Draxonians' Memorial Library to respectfully place their poppies beneath the list of names and to view the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the recent refurbishment of the library, kindly funded by Mr David Ward, President of the Draxonians.

Highlights of The Read School 2020 Remembrance Service, along with an address by our Chair of Governors Mr Brian Watt, can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwkrYTunCe4>.

The full re-opening of school at the start of the Autumn Term brought a sense of relief and some return to normality with bustling corridors, friends reunited in class and a return to face-to-face teaching. Yet the spectre of COVID has never been far away and everything has had to be adapted to fit in with the new 'normal': bubbles, pupils wearing face masks and hand sanitizer stations on every wall. As term has progressed we have grappled with a couple of confirmed COVID cases in school which duly necessitated the isolating of the whole pupil 'bubble' and a periodic return to online teaching. However Read School has shown its usual character and resilience and staff, pupils and parents have worked hard together to ensure that provision, whether it be academic, extra-curricular or sport has been able to continue, largely uninterrupted. As our social media and weekly newsletters attest, we have had a full, rich and ultimately joyful Autumn Term.

As we head into the holiday season, I would like to express my gratitude to the Read School staff team for all their hard work this term and to the Draxonians who have continued to support the school on a daily basis, whether it be a friendly email, a donation of funds or books or the contribution of a tale of yesteryear to add perspective and hope. I believe that Read School, having seen so much turbulence over the past 354 years, is weathering the 'COVID' storm in stronger shape than ever. We certainly hope that 2021 will bring calmer seas and look forward to welcoming all Draxonians back to school as soon as possible.

With very best wishes to all for a happy, peaceful and safe New Year.

Ruth Ainley
Headmistress



The Draxonian

Memorial

The Unveiling of the Memorial Window

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.6 no.5 December 1950

The Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Drax was filled with Relatives, Old Boys, Parents and Present Boys when on July 22nd the first part of the Old Boys' Memorial scheme was completed by the unveiling and dedication of a window in the Church. This, is a three light window situated in the north aisle, was designed by HJ Stammers of York and is based on the first eight verses of Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes, which is the lesson read on the last day of each term. The interpretation of the design therefore will be familiar to all Old Boys. The centre light is a presentation of Life and Death as upheld by the Christian Faith and gives a Christian turn to the second verse: "A time to be born and a time to die." It also embodies the ideas of a Christian Life being one of self sacrifice.

The Holy Spirit is shown in the head of the centre light, and beneath the School Arms, with the School motto on a panel below. The base of the centre light shows a decorative "empty tomb".

The six symbolic figures illustrate the following extracts

Left hand light—

"A time to weep and a time to laugh,"

"A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together";

Centre light—

"A time to be born and a time to die";

Right hand light—

"A time to break down and a time to build up,"

"A time of war and a time of peace."

The Rev. BA Ramsker, MA conducted the service; the Headmaster read from the Funeral Oration of Pericles, and a Litany of Commemoration was followed by the reading of the above lesson by the Head Prefect.

Captain PC Thompson, MC President of the Old Boys' Association, then read: "In Memory of the Old Boys of Drax Grammar School who gave their lives in the War, 1939-45.

Kenneth Abbott	Leonard Arthur Jeffries
George Adams	Dennis Laverack
Dennis Edwards Addyman	Charles William Mackenzie
George Albert Anson	David MacGill
Roy Marsden Bogie	Keith Madgwick
Henry Vivian Braithwaite	Edward Melville Mould
James Richard Burton	Douglas Phillips
Brian Maurice Casson	Raymond Stuart Pickard
Edward Francis Cryer	Robert Thomas Pierson
Derek Webster Eadon	Joseph Thomas Plant
Henry Graham Eadon	Gordon Smith
George Edward Ellwood	Frederick Alan Spencer
Frederick Harry Greener	George Bowman Stewart
Sidney Donald Harrison	Herbert Harry Stott
George High Owen	Dixon Thomas
Carlton Curtis Holmes	William Cliffe Varley
Sydney Huntington	Brian Utley Ward
David Jackson Lindley	Miller Wishart
John Stuart Wood"	

He then unveiled the window. "The last post" was sounded and silence was kept for 2 minutes.

Following the recital of Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen" "Reveille" was sounded. The window was then dedicated by the Rev. DP Grant, MC MA former Head 1934-1946.

In an inspiring address Rev. Grant said that, although they were deeply conscious of their losses, they were reminded not so much of the horrors suffered during the past few years as the fact that against the background of evil thousands of ordinary men and women rose to great heights. They showed unexpected skill and courage in battle, displayed powers of patience and endurance, and were calm and cheerful in danger and adversity. They also remembered the genuine spirit of comradeship which was so characteristic of the Services—the knitting together in one fellowship of men and women from all classes of society, from many different schools of thought and professions. They recognised the best in others and valued men for the contribution they made to the common good. It gave them a real sense of responsibility, devotion to duty and capacity for putting their jobs before personal interests, and it banished jealousy, self interest and personal ambition.

Unfortunately, those qualities had not been so evident in the days since victory was won, although some effort had been made to foster war time relationships by way of Old Comrade Associations and reunions. Generally speaking as they looked around the world, they were forced to the conclusion that nations, classes and individuals were self interested and selfish. They wanted for themselves as much as they could get, giving as little as possible in return, were very jealous of their rights and indifferent to the needs and claims of others.

The truth was that remembrance was not enough. They did not forget the sacrifices of their brothers whose names had been read that morning, or the qualities they showed. They remembered only too well that some of them showed great promise of distinction in careers or on the playing fields. We were sometimes apt to forget that in giving up what could, in the ordinary way, be regarded as their "rights," they had not left us to enjoy a life of ease but had stripped themselves of robes, swords, bows and girdles and handed them on to us for use. In war we were united in a common purpose, but now the human qualities which brought us victory lie dormant.

In conclusion, Rev. Grant said that if they were Christians they must refuse to submit to the inevitability of anything except the ultimate triumph of good over evil. The Church was the champion of man against all that cheapened and degraded him. It's mission was, as always, to proclaim and live out the Gospel by which alone men could be saved from sin and judgement and the world from despair and self destruction. Those who were still at the School were to develop to the utmost the qualities which they were endowed; to learn to live and work together in true fellowship; giving of their best to the School and so preparing themselves for a life of service in whatever profession they adopted. He hoped they would often make a special point of looking at the window they had just dedicated, and let it remind them that the "sword, bow and girdle" had been handed on to them by their elder brothers for use please God, not against the enemies of their country but in the warfare against the forces of evil, greed and selfishness.

The service was concluded with the National Anthem, the Benediction pronounced by the Rev. BA Ramsker and Kipling's "Recessional Hymn."

The Draxonian

Memorial The Library

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.7 no.3 December 1954

The outstanding event of the year, was of course, the opening of the Memorial Library on 3rd July. It was good to see so many Old Boys present at the unveiling of the Memorial Tablet and the sadness of the occasion must have been mixed with pride that the memory of their comrades had been so worthily commemorated in the building they had erected. Since that day the question of providing suitable furniture has been accomplished and Robert Thompson, of Kilburn has now installed bookshelves of outstanding beauty - £200 was needed to meet an additional cost for them and this has now been met. Again the School owes its gratitude to the Old Draxonians RUFC who donated £50 to this cause, the Auxilliary Fund for a further donation of £100 and finally to the present parents who nobly responded to the Headmaster's Appeal and donated the remaining £50. The final stage, that of providing the books to fill the shelves is also being considered and it is hoped that a reasonable supply will be forthcoming in the spring.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.7 no.3 December 1954
Commemoration Day

The most notable feature of Commemoration Day, 1954 was the opening of the new school library. This is a single storied brick building attached to the present teaching block. It has been erected at a cost of £2000 by the School's Old Boys' Association as a memorial to 38 Old Boys who fell in the Second World War.

Before the whole assembly of parents, old boys and present boys, including members of the ATC squadron, Mr P Avis President of the Old Boys' Association unveiled a memorial stone tablet on the Library wall bearing the names of the Old Boys who had died. The Bishop of Sheffield, The Rev. LS Hunter, who had earlier preached at the Commemoration Day Service, carried out the task of dedicating the library.

While all the spectators stood in silence the "Last Post" followed by the "Reveille" were sounded on a bugle, and the door of the Library was opened by Viscount Downe of Scarborough.

During the afternoon prize-giving ceremony in the marquee, the Headmaster referring to the new library expressed the gratitude of the school to all Old Boys, parents and friends who had made the library possible, and also to the architects and builders who had made a fine building.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.6 no.6 December 1951 Library

Day-boy Librarian: SB Clark. Boarder Librarian B Sykes

A completely new library system has been introduced this year, a system which will, we hope, add greatly to the School's appreciation of the library.

Though long regarded as a building in which wet dinner times might be spent consulting football results, the library has now become the haven of a select body; the privileged few. Membership is now restricted to monitors and prefects, to members of the sixth form, and to those fortunate juniors who having been sponsored by three sixth formers, are selected by the library committee from a list of applicants. Membership, being restricted, is much sought after, and the atmosphere is infinitely better than ever before.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.7 no.1 December 1952

Library

As a result of the elections, the library has been used with more respect by the privileged few and competition for membership is keen, especially among the junior forms. However a new scheme is being evolved with a view to encourage more boys to use the library properly.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.7 no.4 December 1955

Library

All the suitable books were moved into the new building during the Summer Term. A number of volumes more suited to junior readers remain in the old library; these are on twice weekly loan. New West Riding Library books are divided between this section and the new one.

Though the books in the new library only occupy a small part of the available space, they form the nucleus of really useful works. In time, when the books are equal in proportion and quality to the building, we should have a really outstanding School Library.

At present, only fifth and sixth form pupils may borrow from the Fiction Section. Only Fiction volumes are allowed to leave the building; the other books form a permanent reference library.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.7 no.6. December 1957

The Library

The chief improvements during the past year have been a separate junior library, which has stimulated interest, permanently we hope among the lower forms, and in the section devoted to science and careers. In all 210 new books were bought. There have also been a gift of cricket books from Mr Leak, the founder of the Leak Bat.

Last January, the school lost one of its most faithful and efficient Servants Mr George Hubie, who for 20 years kept our playing fields. To commemorate his connection with the School, his family have presented an inscribed chair, made in the same workshop, Thompson's of Coxwold, as the rest of the library furniture.

Reprinted from the Draxonian
vol.8 no.1 December 1962

The Library 1961/62

Looking through the 1954/55 edition of the Draxonian I noticed that the number of books on the shelves totalled 1500. Now seven years later, the total is 2300. But I am afraid it will be some time yet before the number of volumes reaches 10000, the number of books the library was built to hold. I am glad to say that an increasing number of books are being kindly presented each year.

The Draxonian

Head's News

Blast from the Past

I attended Read School as a full boarder from 1970 until 1977; yesterday (Saturday 4th July) was my first Commemoration Day for 43 years! I have to admit, it was something of a trip down memory lane and I was struck by a number of the contributions and in your particular case, something you said, more on that shortly.

Forgive the potted history, but it will help to provide a context: Post school, my chosen career took me to sea, joining the commercial merchant navy as a Deck Cadet, a callow 18-year-old, starting at the very bottom of a profession, leaving an environment where I was pretty much at the top, a massive shock to the system! Five years later, I left the sea having qualified as a Deck / Navigating Officer and spent the next nine years trying to find my niche in life without realising I was even looking for a niche. An interesting period of my life, which included self-employment (hiring skips and a picture framer). While I would like to claim the call of the sea was just too strong, in truth, it was an absolute necessity to rescue my finances and I joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) in the rank of Third Officer (exactly the same level as I had left the sea nearly nine years earlier). This was intended to be a short-term measure, but 28 years later, I am shortly to retire having had the privilege of serving as a Captain. Along the way I have added academic achievements, HND Nautical Science, Master Mariner, too many professional courses to mention; and assisted in humanitarian, disaster relief operations worldwide (Mozambique floods, Sri Lanka, Tsunami, UK overseas territories for example) and a host of military operations, including the second Iraq War (Op TELIC). To add icing on the cake (a lot of icing) I was made an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2004, I think I can safely state I found my niche!

So, what's the point of all this? In your speech, you stated that Read school is not all about examination success, but to produce well-rounded individuals who can venture into the world and become successful in their own right. Clearly this is a recurring theme and it certainly resonates with me. I was not very clever, I struggled with academia, managing to cobble together sufficient GCE passes at O Level and then sacrificing my A levels to finally pass mathematics O level (at the fourth attempt) to be accepted for a seagoing career (oddly I found my academic feet a few years later). A career which has proven full of excitement, never to be forgotten experiences and most importantly I can state with confidence, I have made a difference.

In total, I didn't have to be bright, I didn't have to finish top of my class to succeed in life, I just needed quiet determination, a will to succeed and no doubt, oodles of luck! That's the point. I recognise that the CCF does not include the Navy (more the preserve of TS establishments) but if there is any interest in visiting a ship or an establishment, I may be able to assist (I will always retain my contacts within the RN and RFA services). Although I live in Scotland, I would be willing to visit the school and discuss my experiences, but if not of interest or use, I won't be offended if the offer is not taken up.

Finally, and not really important but I'm curious. When I left the school my father (Patrick Holden) donated a trophy to the school, in memory of my time at Drax, to be awarded, I think for all round athletic effort. I note from the virtual ceremony there was no mention of the trophy and I wonder if it still exists? **Captain Peter Holden MBE RF.**

Editor's Note: Do you know of any Winners of this Trophy, if so please let School know?



Obituaries

I am an Old Draxonian and sadly wish to inform you of the passing of Old Draxonian Alan C Moor (1950-58). He passed days after his 81st birthday and shortly before receiving his last Draxonian magazine.

Alan was in the 1st XI squad at the time of the first Scottish tour in 1957. When reminiscing, he often talked about his friend David (Stamf) Stamford and MW

(Mike) Gillian who was also in that 1st XI and an initiator of the tour. He left school, after I had done National Service and a year of uncertificated teaching, and we met up at Saltley College, Birmingham becoming lifelong friends. On qualifying we stayed in Birmingham to teach but after two years Alan returned to Yorkshire to teach in Pontefract, where he married Barbara.

Alan went onto teach in Zambia and after a few years when a baby was due, he returned to Pontefract. He claimed if it was a boy, he would automatically qualify to play cricket for Yorkshire. The baby was a girl, Elizabeth, but it made little difference as she became Captain of the Women's Cricket Team at Hull University. His granddaughter Holly also plays cricket. Some years later Alan moved to Germany to teach children of the British Army of the Rhine where he became a Head of school. Later he finished his career as the Head of a primary school in Boston, Lincolnshire, much appreciated by pupils, parents and staff alike.

Alan had a natural aptitude for sport and in later life played single figure golf, but his great passion was cricket. He was an opening batsman of the Boycott type. He gained full colours at school and college, where he scored a big fifty against a Warwickshire under 21 team which included Amiss, Jameson and Brown, all future England players. When teaching in Zambia he was selected to represent the country at International level. His passion for cricket was equalled by his ability and passion for teaching. He knew the value of traditional methods, but was one of the earliest to introduce computers into primary education.

From Nansen Road Birmingham to Pontefract, Zambia Chingola, Boston and among families of the Armed Forces there will be many people who remember Mr Moor with gratitude and affection. Read can be proud of him. **SI Dennis (1947- 1955).**



I'm sorry to report that Read School Alumnus Jeremy Gilleard (1956-64) has died. He with his wife Frances and their two married children have been living in Melbourne for many years and he died there peacefully. He was suffering from dementia and has been in a care home for the past 3 years.

Jeremy and his younger brother, Christopher (1959-66), both boarded at Drax. In his final year at school in 1964, Jeremy was Head Boy and Captain of

Rugby and Cricket. He went on to read chemical engineering at UMIST and had a successful career in South Africa and Australia in Process Engineering. **David Pritchard (1959-63).**

The Draxonian

Sporting Memories

of Playing Tennis - Nicola Mooney

Nicola started at Read in 1990 just at the point where the school became co-ed and Strickland house opened its doors to a new, younger cohort of children. It was here, in pre-prep 2 in an after school Tennis club organised and taught by Mrs Saddler where Nicola was noticed, encouraged to join a county level squad in York and began her tennis journey. This squad guided her towards more training and the beginning of competitive play. Over the years into her teens, Nicola was invited to train in county squads in Leeds and Hull after school and on weekends. This was followed by private lessons and representing Yorkshire from Under 12's.



© Copyright - Rowland Charles Goodman.

Her high level of competitive play led from County to National tournaments. Continually representing Yorkshire and competing in national tournaments to improve her rating gave her the opportunity to apply for a Tennis Scholarship and complete her A' levels at Queenswood, one of the top Tennis Schools in the country. Rather than take the direct route to University, Nicola decided to train and play competitive tennis 'full time'. The learning curve was steep and the training rigorous under her first coach, an outspoken Australian. Initially, under his regime, she trained at least 7 hours per day on court, with additional fitness and evening sessions. It wasn't easy, but laid the foundation. A note of explanation is needed. On the Women's Tour at the time, in order to gain a world ranking, a player must not only gain entry into qualifying for the lowest level event (\$10,000), but also win a number of rounds in order to qualify into the main draw of that event. Then win the first round in that event. Qualifying for the main draw of the tournament depends on the size of the draw. This can be 32 players up to 128 players. When a player has no ranking, the odds of gaining entry into a 32 draw are much smaller than into a 128 draw. Therefore a player needs to win two matches in a 32 draw or 4 matches in a 128 draw. Once a player has achieved this, they will gain a WTA ranking point, which must be repeated two more times over the course of one year to gain a WTA ranking.

There are of course exceptions. A player may have earned or been lucky enough to receive a wildcard for an event, which accelerates them towards getting a point. In larger events, points may be given from simply having this direct acceptance. Usually though, a player will have had to show a good winning streak in order to be considered for this. For months on end, this meant watching the entry list for tournaments around the world that she could enter, and then making an educated guess on whether it was worth travelling to the tournament and signing in (wherever that may be!).

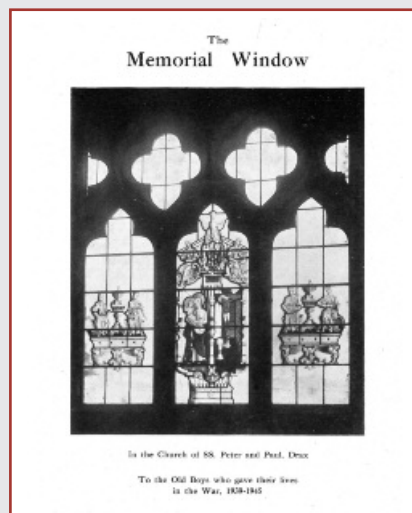


© Copyright - Rowland Charles Goodman.

The risk was always that, if you hadn't made it directly into the qualifying without a world ranking, you may not get in at all. It was a stressful gamble, as well as managing the training. It would often be a last minute decision to organise travel and accommodation, pack bags and just GO! On one occasion, Nicola was preparing to play in a series of tournaments in Japan. She had been to the Japanese Embassy in London, a few weeks before the tournament, to ensure her passport was back in good time. As the time approached for the start of the first tournament, it became apparent that she had more of a chance of gaining entry into a bigger event in India. So, before signing into the Japanese tournament on Friday, the decision was made on Thursday, to ditch her travel plans. Instead she travelled to Birmingham, got an Indian visa, returned home about 4pm to pack, and went straight back to the airport to buy a ticket.

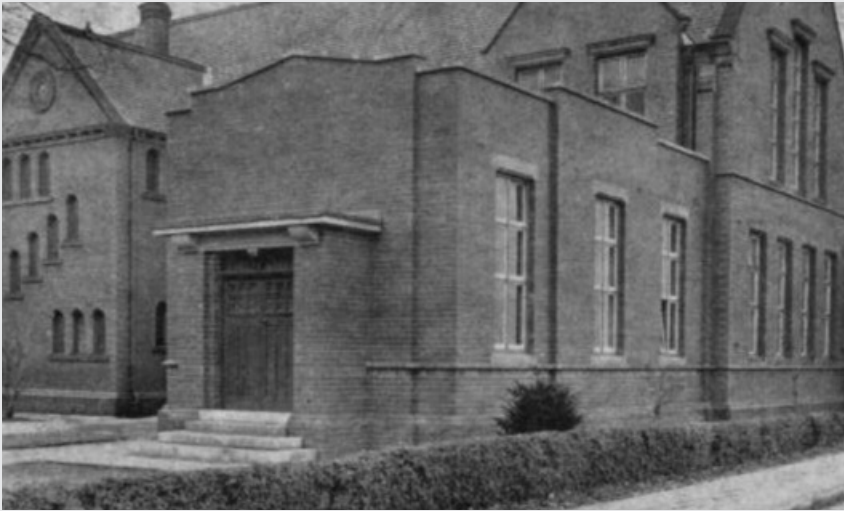
The Draxonian

Memorials



The Draxonian

The Library



The original 1940's library.



- 1 'The refurbished Memorial Library with bookcases and books purchased from the Minster School, York'.
- 2 'Draxonian Ken Houghton kindly contributed a complete set of Harry Potter for our younger readers, inspiring a term of avid Hogwarts reading'.

The Draxonian

Gallery

Michael Pearce (1959-66)



Michael Pearce
Played School Cricket for 7
Consecutive Seasons 1960-66.

The Draxonian

Gallery

Operation Touchstone

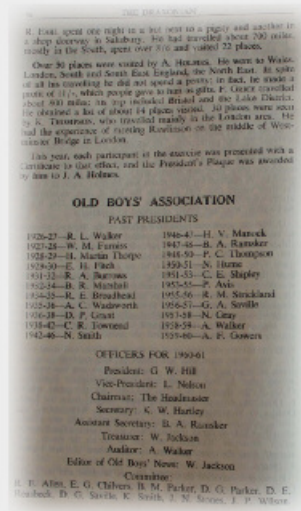
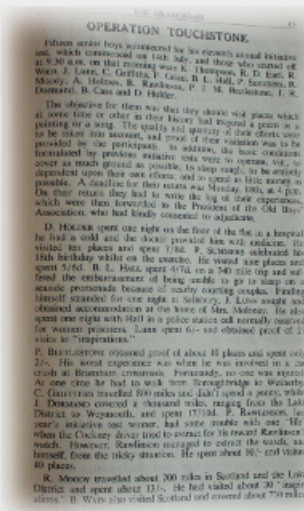


Top l to r.

K Thompson, RD Earl, BE Wain, JD Lunn, C Griffiths, B Cass
BL Hall, CR Moody, JR Dormand

Front l to r.

JA Holmes, D Holder, RG Rawlinson, P Summers
F Grice, PJM Beetlestone



Senior pupils of Drax Grammar School setting off on their annual initiative test, this day. With 61 travelling money...

The Draxonian

Past Pupil Profiles

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Matthew Torn



Years at Read:

1997-2011 (Head Boy 2010-2011)

A levels studied:

Geography Business Studies and PE

Pathway since leaving Read:

Joined the rugby academy at Bishop Burton for three years. Alongside the scholarship I got my degree in BSc Sports Coaching development and fitness.

Did a PGCE ready for teaching at York St John and 5 years later I'm in an established primary school teaching at a lovely school and became the PE coordinator.

Memories of Read School:

Small classes I loved, but the opportunity through sport I gained was so valuable. I enjoyed the Sixth Form with some very good friends.

Becoming the captain of the 1st XV rugby was a highlight. I played in all the sport teams - Rugby, football and cricket. Represented the school in various Rugby sevens tournaments, most successful one being held in Fylde.

I did my Duke of Edinburgh Gold award whilst at school, the leadership map reading and working as part of a team is always a huge benefit.

The benefits of the Sixth Form: small class sizes means more opportunity if you don't understand something.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

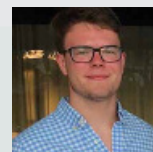
Enjoy your school years - they go so fast and cherish every moment. School is the pathway for many opportunities, once you apply yourself you'll be aiming for the top. But most of all, smile every day. Happiness is the true key in life. I loved school life that much, I'm still involved!



I loved school life that much, I'm still involved!"

Past pupil profile

Kallum Stewart



PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Years Studied at Read School:

Secondary (2009 - 2013)
Sixth Form (2013 - 2015)

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form:

A-Levels - Mathematics (A), Physics (A) and Design & Technology (B)
AS Levels Further Mathematics (A) and Spanish (C)

Pathway since leaving Read:

2015-2020 - Mechanical Engineering Master's Degree at The University of Nottingham (predicted a First Class Honours)

Multiple industrial spells completed at: Rolls-Royce plc and Balfour Beatty

Track Cycling Success - Multiple time Scottish Champion and Scottish Record Holder: British University Sports Medalist and Top 10 ranked within British National Championships for the last 3 years

Memories of Read School:

Fond memories of boarding from 2009-2015, friendships were made that remain to this day

Sixth Form was a small and close-knit group. The reduced class sizes in this period gave excellent teacher to pupil contact time and significantly helped each individual develop within their chosen subjects.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards completed. This scheme was challenging but very rewarding and is highly regarded within industry.

Sport was a strong focus during my time at Read School's Sixth Form. The attributes and values instilled in me by the sports staff have greatly aided my progression into elite sport.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

Firstly, come to an Open Day to understand the vast amount of subjects, activities and sports that Read can offer to potential students.

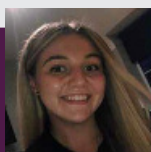
Speak with the Sixth Form staff to appreciate their UCAS expertise and previous experiences. They are incredibly supportive with your progression into further education or employment.

If there is a subject, sport or activity that you are passionate about but doesn't feature on the brochures, speak with the staff about potentially facilitating this. This happened for a small group of students in our Lower Sixth Form year wanting to study further mathematics. The staff managed to facilitate our desire to study this additional subject alongside our existing A-Levels.

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Elizabeth Townsend



Years Studied at Read School:

Sixth Form: 2016-2018
(Head Girl 2017-2018)

Secondary school:

Carlton Holy Family

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form:

I studied at Read for the two years of Sixth Form, before moving onto university. I studied History, Psychology and English Literature at A-Level throughout my time here.

Pathway since leaving Read:

Since leaving Read, I have completed my first year living and studying at Leeds Beckett University, studying Primary Education. I am currently in my second year and in the middle of my placement at a local primary school in Leeds.

Memories of Read School:

Read gave me experiences that were both educational and exciting. Within my first week at Read, we were taken on a team-building day where friendships were made. These lasted throughout my time at Read and further.

Many of the experiences that Read School provided me with have been important within my journey of becoming a teacher. Alongside my three A-Levels, I helped out in the Junior school in my free periods which really set me on my current career journey.

Read teaches you to become self-managed, independent and have a strong work ethic. This is alongside making lifelong friendships, creating amazing memories and in general just having a great Sixth Form experience.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form.

Overall, I would recommend Read School Sixth Form to everyone as I thoroughly enjoyed my time there! My advice for someone looking to join the Read School Sixth Form would be to speak to as many people as possible throughout the school, as everyone is willing to help you as much as possible at Read.



Many of the experiences that Read School provided me with have been important within my journey of becoming a teacher.

Past pupil profile

Bobby Zhang



PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Years Studied at Read School: 2012-2014

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form:

Having completed my secondary education in China, I joined the Read School in 2012 at my age of 16 and studied there for two years.

My subjects at A-level were Maths, Further Maths and Physics and I achieved A* A* A.

Pathway since leaving Read:

I enrolled in the mechanical engineering course in the University of Sheffield. After graduating from the university, I am now a member of a structural biomechanics research group in the civil and environmental engineering department at Imperial College, London. My research is to "combine finite element and musculoskeletal model using highly discretised anatomical muscle model".

Memories of Read School:

I was initially impressed by the long history in spite of the small size of the school. I was, however, more impressed by people's hospitality, ranging from pupils and teachers to kitchen ladies. As soon as I moved in, I really felt like this was a place I could call home.

The very first impression for me was that everyone was well-mannered and well-behaved. Teachers were very responsible in their positions and knowledgeable in their professions. One thing that I like about the Read School was the small size classes for pupils in all different years. This allows immediate feedback from the teachers if you have suffered any problems with homework; it is also advantageous in getting along well with your classmates and you are familiar with everybody in a relatively small community.

Boarding Experience.

As a boarder, I enjoyed my leisure time at Read School. There were a number of activities going on during the weekend such as watching movies, ice skating, shopping in the town and so on. The House Master was in office 24/7 to help us solve any questions and there were many social opportunities that to be enjoyed, including rugby and hockey. The Sixth Form common room is a wonderfully pleasant space to catch up with friends.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form.

The days back at Read School were terrific and I cannot express how lucky I was to have the chance to attend the Sixth Form. I would like to take this opportunity to send my sincere gratitude towards my teachers and friends whom I met during my time there - the time in Read seemed to end, but our friendship will be ever ongoing!

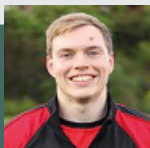
The Draxonian

Past Pupil Profiles

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Robbie Olover



Years Studied at Read School: 1999-2014 (Head Boy 2013-2014)

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form: Physics (A*), Maths (A*), French (A*) plus Biology and Further Maths at AS

Pathway since leaving Read:

Masters degree in Physics at Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford (1st class honours degree) now 2nd year PhD student and tutoring at St Anne's College, University of Oxford

Memories of Read School:

Unrivalled access to teachers with small class sizes which really stretches your knowledge and ensure no gaps. This is pretty similar to the Oxford University tutorial system at times. More academic freedom than ever before which I found very liberating and enjoyable.

You transition to being more on par with teachers for example you have discussions on academic topics rather than the "classic" student/teacher relationship of being told what is correct.

I was 1st XV rugby captain at school and also played for East Yorkshire through all age grades as well as the Scottish Exiles Northern team.

At Oxford I played for all three levels of the university teams, mainly in the 2nd XV and also got to go on tour with the Blues to play against the Croatian National team. I also captained the Colleges XV to a successful varsity victory over Cambridge last year.

As part of my Duke of Edinburgh Gold award I also had the chance to do a work experience programme with the Top 14 French rugby team Union Bordeaux Bègles (UBB) which the school set up for me. This enabled me to indulge two of my passions – the French language and rugby.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

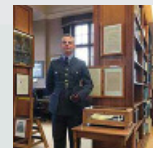
If you're looking for unparalleled access to experts in their subject areas, there's no better place than Read!



If you're looking for unparalleled access to experts in their subject areas, there's no better place than Read!!

Past pupil profile

Alex Smales



Years Studied at Read School: 2007-2013 (Head Boy 2012-2013)

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form: Physics (B), Maths (B), Biology (C)

Pathway since leaving Read:

Since leaving Read I went on to study an integrated masters degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Hull, graduating with a 1st class in 2017.

Following this I went through Initial Officer Training at RAFC Cranwell where I graduated from at the start of 2018.

I then completed RAF Engineering training at RAF Cosford.

After completing my training I was posted to MOD Abbey Wood to be part of the Certification team in the Eurofighter Typhoon Delivery Team which is focused mainly on adding capability to the aircraft which is really interesting and rewarding.

I have been in the Typhoon Delivery team for almost a year and a half and I have really enjoyed my job and I have been able to travel including attending NATO meetings in Munich.

Memories of Read School:

I was at Read School for around 7 years and I really enjoyed my time at the school. I think the friends that I made along the way were the highlight of my time at the school along with some fantastic teachers who helped me discover the subjects that I enjoy.

A memory that I think is one of my favourites is when some cows managed to break onto the front field during a sports day and everything had to stop as the teachers tried to herd the cows away.

I was also very active in the CCF at the school in which I spent 5 years. From this I gained valuable insight into the RAF through camps and station visits which eventually led me to choosing my current career path. This is something I am very thankful to Read for as it was an opportunity I know lots of other schools don't provide.

I owe a lot of my successes to my time at Read and the teachers at the school. They helped me to discover what my strengths were and then helped me to find the right university and career path for me to follow.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

My advice to current students is to listen to the advice the teachers are giving you because it's good advice. Work hard and focus on what you want to achieve. I didn't do as well as I could have at A level because I took my foot off the gas a bit towards the end.

It's never too early to consider what you want to do when you finish school. Look at universities, plan what career you want.

Finally, have fun. I met some great people at my time at Read and had some great experiences.

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Amy Broomhead



Years Studied at Read School: 2008-2015

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form: At A-level I studied French, Spanish and Business Studies

Pathway since leaving Read:

When I left Read I went to Sheffield Hallam University to study Languages with International Business.

Read really helped me make this decision because it was right for me and the course really aligned with what I wanted to achieve from university. I did a six month study abroad semester in Spain and a year-long marketing work placement in Paris.

Once I finished university I used my marketing experience I gained on my work placement to get a job in Sheffield in Marketing where I get to continue to use my languages with our international marketing campaigns.

Memories of Read School:

To be honest I can't pinpoint any favourite memories from Sixth Form at Read because I thoroughly enjoyed it all.

Being a classroom support assistant on classes with younger students, competing in school sports, the foreign exchanges, school plays, even just sitting and chatting in the Sixth Form centre.

Read really supports you not only performing well academically but also supporting your personal development by offering so many extra-curricular activities.

While in Sixth Form I was able to take part in the French exchange, complete my Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, compete for the school sports teams and hold a senior role within CCF where I gained the Duke of Westminster award and was awarded the ILM Level 3 in Leadership.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

My advice for those considering going to Sixth Form at Read is to take every opportunity you get. The joy of being at Read is that it is a smaller Sixth Form which you can really take advantage of everything that comes your way, you're not competing for spaces on trips or schemes.

Once I left, I realise how amazing it was to have class sizes of four to six pupils at A-level. Those close relationships with the amazing teachers at Read means they can really tailor your teaching and work through topics you struggle with, rather than just following the plan and leaving to catch up in your own time.

My main advice would be to really consider the experience you would get from Sixth Form at Read compared to other institutions.

Past pupil profile

Alice Campbell-Wood



Years Studied at Read School: 1997 – 2013 (Head Girl 2012-2013)

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form: French, Spanish and PE

Pathway since leaving Read:

I went on to study at my first-choice university (Leeds Carnegie) and achieved a First Class Honours degree in BSc Sport, Physical Activity and Sport. Memories of Read School.

Over the years, Read provided me with countless opportunities and memories:

Overseas trips, sporting fixtures, music concerts, camping trips and the popular Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. I particularly enjoyed the challenges associated with obtaining the gold award. I learnt valuable skills and made friends for life and to this day I will never forget Mr Gisbourne's words of wisdom "2 pairs of thin socks are better than 1 thick".

During my final year in Sixth Form, I was elected Head Girl and assumed many leadership responsibilities as well as playing a key role in many aspects of school life, including sporting events and the Student Council.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

I felt that the Sixth Form prepared me well to embark upon the next stage of my life. Read School is so much more than a school; it is a close-knit community where many parents are involved as teachers, teaching assistants, administration

staff and members of the PFA. This cooperative and wholehearted approach from people with a genuine interest in the school means that there has always been huge commitment and determination to succeed.

For those considering further study, I would most certainly recommend Read School Sixth Form. I feel that it provided me with just the right sized stepping stone to life outside of school. As a Sixth Former I was given freedom and independence but at the same time felt well supported and always knew that the teachers had my best interests at heart. It was comforting to carry on my A-level journey with those same teachers who had guided me so well through my GCSE studies.

I felt well prepared for university life as I had been provided with many invaluable experiences and leadership opportunities including coaching sport to younger members of the school and umpiring competitive fixtures. Read made me into the person I am today and gave me the confidence, skills and qualifications to chase my dreams.

In addition to working for the NHS, I coach at Selby Hockey Club and am pleased to say that I have recently returned to Read School to coach girls' games. Chase your dreams but always know the road that will lead you home again!

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

The Draxonian

Past Pupil Profiles

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Bryony Chapman



Years at Read:
2008-2015 (Year 7 – Upper Sixth)

Subjects taken at A-level:
French, Spanish, History and Music

Pathway since leaving Read:

After I finished my studies at Read, I went on to study French and Hispanic Studies at the University of Liverpool. Now that I have graduated, I am currently living in London, working for a sports company where I am combining two of my passions, sport and languages.

Memories of Read School:

A lot of my memories came from my involvement in extracurricular activities. Whether it was playing in the sports teams or performing in various music or drama productions you were always encouraged to showcase your talent, and always with a lot of support behind you.

Another was completing my Cold Duke of Edinburgh award. The weekends away for the practice walks and the expedition hold many stories, ones that I still tell today. Spending time with a group of friends, walking through the beautiful countryside with many laughs, some tears but all completely worth it. I was even fortunate enough to meet the Duke himself when I collected my award from Buckingham Palace, so you could say that it was an unforgettable experience all round.

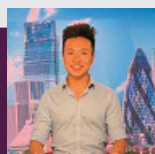
However, as a student, with a love of languages my highlight has to be the exchange programme. I was lucky enough to have participated twice in the exchange programme with Saint-Genès, a school

in Bordeaux. The first time I went, I fell in love with the city, enjoying the beautiful architecture, the great food and a personal highlight, meeting and watching the UBB rugby team in action! But upon my return I was able to get some work experience in the Novotel, completely immersing myself in the language in a working environment, completely putting myself out of my comfort zone, but I got a taste of what I would like my future to be like. The many friends and connections I took away from the experience have also proven useful, and since leaving Read, I returned once again to the city I fell in love with, living there for 6 months and working as a language assistant at Saint-Genès.

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

The good thing about Read is that it prides itself on being a family, something I deem to be very valuable, especially during two crucial academic years. In the Sixth Form, you create a strong working relationship with the teachers who support you every step of the way, from the beginning of the syllabus until the final exam. Even today I still receive messages from many of them, checking in and wanting to hear what I'm up to!

The small classes allow you to have full engagement with the subject, and lessons can be tailored to the students so you end up having a stronger understanding. Additionally, your fellow peers are your support system outside of the classroom, providing advice, jokes and (many) cups of tea every day, and these friendships last after your time at Read has come to an end.



PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Past pupil profile

Nick Huynh

Years at Read:
2011-2017 (Year 8 – Upper Sixth)
Previously studied in home country of Vietnam

Subjects taken at A-level:
Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Business (3A* and 2A, respectively)

Pathway since leaving Read:

Imperial College, London (2017-2021) – MEng Materials Science and Engineering

Future career paths: Most likely Consulting, followed by Strategy/Business Development positions at a blue-chip firm, Engineering and I just wasn't meant to be!

Professional life: I've worked at CNN London and a start-up over the last two summers, doing mainly advisory work, I've also volunteered with Coachlight, as one of their social mobility tutors.

Personal life:

I'm currently the President of Comedy Society – we run comedy workshops and host events to go to Comedy Clubs. I also do stand-up semi-professionally.

I now play American Football (very cool sport, would definitely recommend to current Sixth Formers)

I won the Autumn Students' Taekwondo Championship last year, Beginner's section

Memories of Read Sixth Form:

Cadets, leadership skills, friendships, physical fitness, HUGE CV potential, especially if you hold senior roles.

Small class sizes: I had a lot of interactions with classmates and a lot of help from my teachers which got me the grades I achieved

Boarding house: Independence, a family-oriented atmosphere, taking care of younger boarders. A home away from home and it was lovely to spend time there

Friends: I'm still in touch with the rest of the Sixth Form gang, especially Matthew Roberts who completed a Gap Year Commission at Sandhurst before studying Engineering at Manchester University.

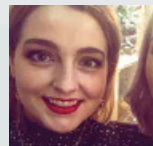
Going to church: It's taught me all the hymns I'd like at my wedding – and how to carry a cross!

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

You will gain experiences and friends for life which is not to be underestimated. The Sixth Form is about a lot more than acquiring A-levels.

Past pupil profile

Kelsey Hutton



PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Years at Read:
1999-2011 (Year 2 – Upper Sixth)
(Head Girl 2010-2011)

Subjects taken at A-level:
Art, English, French and Biology

Pathway since leaving Read:

Since leaving Read I studied Womenswear Design at Parson Paris, The New School of Design for 4 years.

After being selected to present my final collection at the end of year fashion show I won a slot at the Who's Next Fashion Fair in Paris to again show my final collection at their annual fashion show that showcases I graduate from all the top fashion universities from around the world.

From that I was then approached to show my work at a fashion event in Miami. After that I worked for a year in London before returning to Paris to train at Chanel's haute couture school of embroidery Ecole Lesage. On completion of that course I was offered a job at Ralph and Russo which I turned down to take an unpaid internship at Aamir Beading and Embroiderers where I now currently work between London and Mumbai.

Memories of Read School:

I had such a wonderful time at Read Sixth Form, we had such a great bunch of people throughout my time there making all the extra curriculum events even more entertaining.

I loved the annual Sixth Form bonding trip where we got to socialise as a new group of Sixth Formers outside of the school. Even the after-school events were a highlight my favourite was when we had to cook a meal for no more than £5. A test to prepare ourselves for life at uni away from home – it's safe to say half the groups was less than edible but we managed somehow to survive University!

And of course I cherished the opportunity to be Head Girl, something I wanted to achieve from when I first came to know about the position in Prep School. The opportunity to be a prefect, head girl or boy is a great opportunity to learn about responsibility and managing people something that sets you apart from others which is a bonus when applying for universities.

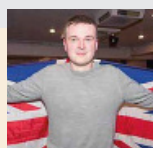
Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

I would definitely recommend anyone to stay at Read School for Sixth Form. The smaller class sizes mean you get more attention as an individual and your Sixth Form years are crucial for starting yourself on your career path.

Having the one on one advisor when you are applying to universities and deciding what you want to pursue really helps with your application and I am sure that is what helped me get accepted to one of the top university for Fashion Design in the world.

Past pupil profile

Sam Barrick



PAST PUPIL PROFILE

Years at Read:
2011-2018 (Year 7 – Upper Sixth)
Head Boy 2017-2018

Subjects taken at A-level:
English, Maths and Physics

Pathway since leaving Read:

Since leaving Read, I have been at Hull University studying Politics. At the end of my first year I was moved from the standard BA Politics course to a more specialised and prestigious course called British Politics and Legislative Studies that includes a year working in the House of Parliament.

To gain accession onto this I had to do an interview and I'm certain that the mock interviews and one to one practice we got for writing personal statement related documents was invaluable in allowing me to move onto the course.

Memories of Read Sixth Form:

Staying at Read for Sixth Form was a privilege that I will always remain grateful for, I was able to do so and it had a number of long-term benefits for my education and future prospects.

Had I been at a state Sixth Form college, I wouldn't have had nearly as many opportunities to improve my CV, interpersonal skills, which prove invaluable in interviews or have such strong focus on my studies, given the small class sizes.

Additionally, the excellent teacher to pupil ratio, meaning teachers know pupils so well that teaching can be tailored to every pupil's respective needs is an invaluable aspect of Sixth Form at Read as you

have the ability to attain higher grades given the increased focus and assistance you will receive.

The academic benefits are by no means the only pull of Sixth Form at Read. At state Sixth Form colleges, the setup is rigid and you are left to fend for yourself. You are given classes to attend and left to write your own University application, with very little guidance and barely told about other options other than going to University.

At Read, a plethora of people came into school to tell us about UCAS applications as well as other opportunities including apprenticeships, diplomas and studying abroad.

Sixth Form staff take the time to carefully analyse, and help improve, applications to University or apprenticeship schemes. This gives every pupil at Read a head start on all other applicants. In addition, there is what is included in these applications. Read gives you opportunity to add a multitude of 'stand out' items on your CV or UCAS Personal Statement.

Personally, I was able to go to India on a World Challenge expedition. In nearly 2 years at University, I have found just one other student who had a similar opportunity.

Read also has a special bond with its pupils, the staff genuinely care about how they do both during and after school. Consequently, they will go above and beyond what is normally expected of them to make you do the best you can. Whether that be by marking practice essays you email during the Easter holidays or by speaking to people they know in corporations to help arrange work placements. This sort of care and attention isn't widespread and something to be cherished about Read.

The Draxonian

Happy New Year

President of the Draxonians



I trust in these uncertain times that you are all keeping safe and well. As you will have noticed in the preceding pages, four significant events in the School's History are commemorated. The first is the 102nd Anniversary of the ending of the Great War with the Roll of Honour of the 13 Old Boys who gave their lives for the cause of Righteousness and Civilisation. The second is the 70th Anniversary of the Unveiling and Dedication of the Memorial Window in the North Aisle of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Drax.

The third is the 66th Anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Library and unveiling of the Memorial Tablet on the Library School Wall bearing the names of the 38 Old Boys who had died in WW2. Fourthly the 21st Anniversary of the Read School Roll of Honour dedicated at the Remembrance Service held in Drax Church on the 14th November 1999 bearing the names of all who gave their lives in the Service of their Country in two World Wars and a further Old Boy killed in action in Northern Ireland.

You will have seen that the School's Remembrance Day Service took place outside this year in the Quadrangle due to COVID. Regrettably, because of this, visitors were not allowed in school and ODs were not able to be represented this year. The Draxonians' Association is now being managed by the Team of Mike Dunne (Vice President), Nicola Mooney (Administrator) and myself. Again, because of COVID, the Winter Reunion/AGM was cancelled with the result that the democratic election of Officers could not take place. The present Team will remain until the next Reunion/AGM which has been re-scheduled to take place in the Summer of 2021. Also, to make it quorate in accordance with the Constitution, they will co-opt extra Committee members in the meantime and present a revised Constitution for approval at the AGM.

As you will have seen, this Winter Edition contains stories from the Draxonian, Memories of Life after School by Captain Peter Holden MBE and Nicola Mooney. There is the Gallery of photos from the Read Digital Archive which includes Michael Pearce's remarkable achievement of playing School Cricket in 7 consecutive Seasons, the Memorial Window and the opening of the Memorial Library with the original Furniture by Robert Thompson of Kilburn. Finally, to bring us up to date, there are reprints from The 6th Form Prospectus with the Profiles of recent Draxonians.

I hope you enjoyed reading the Summer Edition produced by Nicola Mooney. However, her increased work commitments mean she is no longer able to undertake this task. I would therefore like to thank Nicola for the excellent work she has produced not only with the Newsletters but also the new website which is now online. Annabel Arrand, an OD on a one year work placement at School from Harper Adams University, will collate the input for future issues. John Freeman has kindly agreed to edit and produce this edition. If any OD can volunteer to produce future issues, please let us know. The Draxonian is a valuable channel for communicating news about the school and members and three Editions should be issued each year. To do this we need your news, stories with pictures, team photos, life after school, Births and Marriages, so please don't delay sending them.

Safe storage, display, accessibility and cataloguing of the extensive school Archives has been a concern for many years. However, John Freeman undertook this task and the Read Digital Archive along with original documentation is now located upstairs in an Office of the former Head's House (now the Administration Offices). The quiet ambience of the Archive away from the hustle and bustle of School life makes it more beneficial for ODs to carry out their research. During this cataloguing, "The History of the School from 1667 to the mid-1930s" was found. Unfortunately, it was handwritten, undated and unsigned and the author provenance confirmation is continuing. It is vital to bring this History up to date while we still have ODs alive with memories of the school post mid-1930. As a result, I have agreed to write the Chapter on the era of Rev. DP Grant, followed by David Pritchard on RS Adamson and Mike Dunne on AP Henderson. Any interesting contributions to these will be gratefully received as well as volunteers to write the Chapters on later eras.

Following on from the Library story above, the considerable refurbishment of the Memorial Library from OD's donations has been carried out. OD Ken Houghton has contributed a complete set of Harry Potter books for the younger readers.

Finally, a word about Finance. We are taking this opportunity to let everyone know about the 100 Club. This is a fundraising initiative giving everybody the chance to win £100. A maximum of 100 ODs can join and a random winner will be picked each term, so you have 3 chances to win. A joining leaflet is enclosed with this mailing.

The nett proceeds will cover the Draxonians' administration costs including the The Draxonian. A separate letter will be mailed out and I hope as many ODs as possible will join if they are not already members.

In order to remain lawful the Draxonians' Association has to make sure it is complying with the Data Protection Act. Mike Dunne has therefore spent considerable time examining how similar organisations cover this and enclosed with the Newsletter is the Association's Policy Document. Could you please read it carefully and note that the only information we hold on our Database is your name, email and/or postal address and the years you were at the school. Could you also note that you have the right to have your details deleted from the Database by advising the Draxonians' Association.

Finally to close I wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

David Ward
President of the Draxonians

The Draxonian



READ SCHOOL

DRAX

FOUNDED 1667

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