THE HIGH STORRIAN

A Newsletter for High Storrs Alumni - Edition 3 - Spring 2018

High Storrs Homecoming

High Storrs School is excited to be organising our first ever fully-inclusive Alumni reunion event, which will be open to all former students of the school. If successful, we are hoping this will become an annual event, and an important fundraiser for the school.

Saturday 30th June 2-5pm will be the day we're looking forward to 300 Alumni members coming 'back to school' to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, a look around the school and classrooms, afternoon tea, drinks at the professional bar, catch ups with old friends and teachers and much more.

I'm proud to announce the nationally-acclaimed High Storrs Dance Company will be performing at the event. They have recently been asked to perform at the nation youth dance platform UDance for the second year running, and will put on a show not to be missed!

We've got lots of plans for the day, including a look at the archive, students' work on show, music and much more. One of the highlights for many will be the chance to see the school in its fully refurbished glory following our building project back in 2011.

Tickets are selling fast, and I'm pleased to say we're getting a good mix of people from across the years. We only have space for 300 people, so if you haven't got yours yet, don't hesitate—book them now! And why not get the old gang together and book for a group. Click here for more information.

WELCOME TO THE HIGH STORRIAN

Welcome to the third edition of our annual Alumni newsletter *The High Storrian*. We hope you enjoy reading about your old school and your fellow High Storrians. High Storrs is very proud to introduce our wonderful Head teacher, Mrs Claire Tasker.

Claire Tasker at our Y13 Celebration of Success event in December 2017

This year we have been speaking to students and parents even more about the new GCSEs and A Levels. You will probably know from the national press that the first new GCSEs in Maths and English were taken last summer. Students at High Storrs did extremely well and achieved a very impressive number of the highest grades (the new grade 9). 28 students achieved a grade 9 in English (12%) and 31 in Maths (13%), to put this in context only 5% of students nationally achieved this new A** grade! This summer many more subjects (including History, Geography, Languages, Computing, Art, Dance, Drama) become new 1-9 GCSEs. Coursework no longer features in most subjects and the course content is so much more. This is best illustrated through the sheer number of examinations students will have to sit. Imagine two siblings who take 10 GCSEs. The elder brother sat his GCSE examinations in 2016 which totalled 13 papers that lasted 18 and a half hours in total. Some of his assessment was coursework and he was able to sit part of his Science GCSE in Y10. His younger sister is sitting her exams this summer. She is taking exactly the same subjects. She will sit 22 exam papers that will last 33 hours! Quite a difference!

Some of our Alumni will remember a time with no coursework and a lot of content-heavy final exams! But many of you will have experienced the more recent examination system of modular exams and extensive coursework. Some of you will also vividly remember the pressures of revision and exam preparation and the joy of the final exam. I wonder how much stress you felt? A healthy amount that kept you focused and working through the summer term? Or was it much more than that? How does it compare to the stresses and pressures of

your life after school? Higher education? Job interviews? Career? Family? Mortgage etc?

Well-being and positive mental health are rightly key concerns in schools today and it is hard to talk about exams without also talking about the pressures on students (and staff). I have worked in schools for over 20 years and it feels that this issue has never been so pressing. I would be interested to know your views on exam pressure and positive mental health. Has it really increased? What are your thoughts? When you look back on 'exam season' what memories come to mind? And, finally, any words of wisdom for our students?

Thank you all, as ever, for your continued interest in and support for High Storrs School. I hope you all have a great summer … and wish us luck with the exams!

If you'd like to reply to Mrs Tasker in person, please email a.merritt@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk

On 1st March 2018 High Storrs School became an academy and a member of the Minerva Learning Trust. We join Handsworth Grange Community School, Ecclesfield School and Stocksbridge High School as members of this Sheffield-based Multi Academy Trust (MAT). King Edward VII School are also planning to join and we look forward to working more closely with these great schools from across our city.

In many ways being a member of Minerva Learning Trust will not impact on everyday life for staff and students at High Storrs School; same teachers, same staff, same catchment, same special ethos, same Houses, same curriculum offer! Yet we are already enjoying the benefits of our new partnerships – opportunities for our staff in other schools, peers to discuss and share ideas with, support from Minerva leaders and much more. We believe we have found a home for High Storrs where we can continue to develop and thrive; learn from the wisdom of others but retain all that is unique and exciting about our school. In looking at potential MATs we were driven by a strong desire to join a locally focused MAT and one which allowed schools to preserve their different identities. In joining Minerva Learning Trust we believe we have achieved these important aims.

The CEO of Minerva Learning Trust, Anne Quaile. She is an inspirational educator and an advocate for all young people. She already has strong links with High Storrs School, having been a teacher and member of the leadership team here a number of years ago. Prior to taking up the role of CEO she was the Headteacher of Handsworth Grange where she oversaw significant school improvement, culminating in an Outstanding Ofsted Inspection in late 2017.

In academising and joining a MAT it is not our intention to make major changes to any aspect of the school. We want to protect what is excellent and unique, but also draw on the experience of our CEO and colleagues across the MAT to further develop and enhance the education of all our students. **David Mowbray (Chair of Governors)**

ECCLESALL INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL CLOSURE

You may already know that the Ecclesall schools are becoming one primary school from September. The PTA from the Junior school has asked if I can inform the High Storrians of an appeal they have. The committee chair is trying to collect information, stories and photographs from over the years. If anyone would like to contribute to this, or would like further information, please email ecclesalljunioralumni@eptfa.org.uk

SPORT AT HIGH STORRS

- Senior Boys and girls teams came 2nd in the British Schools Orienteering Score champs
- Conrad Reuber was the Y7 Boys winner at the British Schools Orienteering Score champs
- Euan Tryner was the Y8 Boys winner at the British Schools Orienteering Score champs
- Phoebe Mead was the Y9 Girls winner at the British Schools Orienteering Score champs
- Euan Tryner crowned British Schools orienteering champion for the Y8 Boys
- Jamie Lighfoot was awarded silver at the British Schools Orienteering Championships for the Y7 Boys
- Ryan Elliott achieved bronze at the British Schools Orienteering Championships for the Y12 boys
- Teams achievements at the British Schools Orienteering Championships: The Y8 Boys achieved gold, Y10 Girls achieved Silver, Y7 boys - bronze
- 11 students have been selected to represent Sheffield at Cross Country
- Junior boys Cross Country team came 4th in the regional final of the ESAA Cross Country cup
- The Junior boys and Junior girls teams finished runners up in the league at the Sheffield Schools Cross Country
- U16s girls Badminton team came runners up in South Yorkshire
- Y7 Boys Football team have had a very good season. We are still awaiting final standings but they should finish 3rd or 4th in Sheffield
- Y8 Boys Football team are also on track to finish 3rd or 4th in Sheffield
- Y7 Girls Football team came 3rd in the English Schools 5 a-side competition
- Y8/9 Girls Football teams came middle of the pack in 8th place (for the A team) and 9th place (for the B team)
- Y7 Girls Football teams currently stand in 7th place (A team) and 8th place (B team). However, there is still one round remaining so both teams have a chance of qualifying for the finals
- Y9 Boys Basketball team came runners up in the Sheffield league
- 6th form Football team have won the league (which stems across South Yorkshire and Derbyshire)

HIGH STORRS IN 2018 - KEY FACTS

- 59% of our Sixth Form entrants attended High Storrs main school
- 31% of our students are from non-white ethnic backgrounds
- 4 students this year are going on to Oxbridge Universities
- In 2017, 11% of our Y13 leavers achieved 3 A*-A grades at A2 Level
- In 2017, the Y13s achieved A*-B in 52% of the A Levels they sat.
- This year there are 1,618 students on roll, with 1,203 in Main school and 415 in Sixth Form
- In 2017, 69% of Y11s gained 5+ standard GCSE grades including Maths & English
- In 2017, 99% of Y11 students in school achieved at least one qualification

Paul Heiney - Broadcaster, Writer, High Storrian

I left what was then called the Upper Sixth form in 1966, ran joyfully down Ringinglow Road to catch the bus and, in turn, face the wider world. My school days were over. Fast forward over fifty years, and I walked back into High Storrs once again - about a month ago.

Paul Heiney with Summer the elephant

So what's changed? The paint's changed for a start, and we can all be grateful for that. For all that the Swinging Sixties meant to popular culture, it didn't impinge on the Sheffield City Council who were then responsible for the upkeep of the place. They only had one colour scheme which they applied across everything from schools, council offices to public lavatories. It was a sombre green, as you might find in an old funeral parlour, painted to halfway up the wall then topped by a sickly cream, the same colour as a bottle of milk that has gone off.

And talking of milk, there was no smell in the air of the rancid stench of half empty milk bottles. Milk was handed out by prefects at morning break. Mrs Thatcher eventually axed that. Crates arrived every morning, rattling with bottles which contained a third of a pint, and were stored, without refrigeration, somewhere near the steamy teachers' common room. The handing out of the bottles was deeply corrupt. If you were mates with the prefect on duty you might get two, but if you'd crossed him, amazingly, when it came to your turn there weren't any left.

And another fundamental change has taken place. It is now one school. Until the mid sixties it was divided into two; a boy's school and beside it a girl's - the girls were at the north end. But despite their physical proximity, they might as well have been at opposite ends of the city. In fact, punishments were handed out if you were seen talking - yes, just talking! - to the girls. If you put so much as a foot across the undefined barrier, you would be in for a beating. Getting through into the girls' bit was as tricky as getting across the old Berlin Wall. And now, on my return, I see boys and girls barreling down the corridors laughing and joking as kids should. That would have been at least a hundred lines, or a visit to the headmaster.

Talking of which, I briefly met the current head of school. She seemed quite normal, and pleasant! By which I mean that head teachers back then were far from ordinary. They barked like snarling wolves, fixed you with a wicked, watery eye intending to frighten. Everything ran on fear; fear of teachers, fear of prefects, fear of bullies, and the greatest fear of all that the chips would be gone by the time you got to the dining hall.

OK, it wasn't all that bad, and in my later years I had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The old Physics laboratories on the ground floor, and the stinking Chemistry labs upstairs, have all gone, but these became the most important places for me. At the back of the old cupboards was a collection of derelict equipment for demonstrating the principles of static electricity, x rays, and all things electrical. The senior Physics master, Mr Herring, told me to get them all out, get them going, and then give a lecture to the whole year. Me? Give a lecture? It turned out to be a huge success. I discovered a gift for storytelling, even though I might have been uncertain what I was talking about. Such a grounding in 'getting away with' proved useful in my later journalistic years, and standing before half the school and controlling my nerves proved a good foundation for standing in front of television cameras. You never know where education will lead you. Which is why when I see that the 'new' High Storrs offers 'Performing Arts' as a subject, I don't wring my hands in horror as many of my generation would.

The biggest change? High Storrs feels a much happier place. There was always a tension when you came through the doors, but not now. Not everyone's having a great time, that would be too much to expect. But there's something about the atmosphere, which I cannot describe, but which says that this is a decent place. And it always was, it's just that the idea of what's good for kids has changed.

So for that reason, if someone said I had to go back to High Storrs and do it all over again, I wouldn't mind. Even so, every time I crossed that threshold

Paul came to school in March to produce a video for our #Save Classics campaign

Paul filming in one of his old classrooms

High Storrian Blogs

Our school website is home to lots of interesting information about our school, as well as a featuring a regular 'blog' from staff, students and others. We have recently started featuring Alumni blogs here too. I've included a couple below for your to enjoy.

If you'd like to contribute to future blogs, please let me know.

The school is lying to you. Your parents. Everyone, pretty much.

I used to believe their stories that the future was made during your school days. It isn't. The future is malleable, life is long, and there's always time to retrain and do more.

Studying science won't make you a scientist any more than studying sport will make you a professional footballer; and studying English and economics sure as hell won't make you a journalist. The opposite is also true: failing your GCSEs won't confine you to a lifetime of stacking supermarket shelves or peeling onions in a factory; art isn't a doss subject – you might need it later; and the best PhD students I've ever met had to retake at least one year of school or university before they started their doctorates.

Your school days don't define you, and school isn't a prison sentence: it's an opportunity.

This is your one and only opportunity to have a go, make mistakes, take chances, and have dreams without juggling wage earning, rent and family commitments.

You can be serious later. Dare to dream big. Try everything once. Do the things you love, that make you happy, that you can talk to friends about. Work hard, play hard, and have a go even when you'll probably fail – better to fail and tell the story than always wonder if...

I used to think I wanted to be a writer – but I was too scared to try. I loved science, so I trained as a scientist. I studied nonstop from the age of 4 to 26 – and now I'm a science writer and communicator.

I hadn't even heard of a science communicator until 2012... I guess we're always learning. By Rowena Fletcher-Wood (Alumna 2007)

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I left High Storrs back in 1998 before heading to Leeds Metropolitan University (now known as Leeds Beckett) to complete a Public Relations degree.

Since the, I have started my own PR company, Sidekick PR. I love the variety that the PR industry provide, especially working in an agency. You have to be an expert in a range of different topics depending on who your clients are. It's definitely something different every day! Having my own company has also made a big difference to my life as I am in control of what I do and when, so that make my work/life balance easier to manage.

High Storrs is where I met my husband, and we now have three girls. My husband and I are both still in touch with a number of our friends from our school days. One of my favourite memories of High Storrs is the A Level Geography field trip to Scarborough, it was a lot of fun. I had a really enjoyable time at school and look back fondly on all my time there. My favourite teacher was Mr Thompson (Geography), he had such a dry sense of humour. Oh, and Mr Cartwright (PE) who lived next door to me growing up. I also learnt a lot from Miss Higgins in English. I did love Geography, I was quite good at it and just enjoyed the subject. I was in Sm8Py, I can't remember the number of the room but I would still be able to pick it out.

My one piece of advice for current students would be that if you are thinking of doing a degree, go for a course where there is likely to be an obvious job at the end. I don't know why I chose PR really, but I'm grateful I did because it was so specific and therefore I knew the kind of jobs I would be applying for after I left university.

If I could come back to school for one day I would really hope it was snowing... make my way in, squeeze in a Geography lesson and a cheese croquette in the canteen before being sent home... making our way back across the field whilst having a snowball fight! By Eve Worthington (Alumna 1998)

#SaveClassics Fundraising Campaign Update

The current total raised is £24, 431.95 and the Classics Department would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund so far. Particular thanks go to our major donors – Andrew Cook, John Hancock, Alex Jennings and Richard Humphry – who are all alumni of the Boys' Grammar School and have been extremely generous. We would also like to thank broadcaster and journalist, Paul Heiney, another alumnus of the Boys' Grammar, for his time, effort and expertise in producing a short film for us to promote the campaign on social media, which we hope will get it out to a wider audience. The finished video can be viewed here.

We have a major fundraising event coming up at school on the evening of Thursday 24th May when well-known local folk musician and virtuoso guitarist, Martin Simpson, will be performing and donating all proceeds to our campaign. Martin has a daughter currently in Year 8 at High Storrs who is very keen to take a GCSE in Classical Civilisation, hence her dad's offer of a benefit gig. Much of the media attention the campaign has attracted thus far has been in relation to the Latin side of our teaching so we are particularly delighted to be able to promote our other subject area through Martin's generosity. He has added High Storrs to his nationwide tour and it is the only public appearance he will be making in Sheffield this year so if you would like to attend the event, which will have a full bar service, tickets are available here. The ticket sales will provide a huge boost to our current total and guarantee that Martin's daughter and her peers will have access to this most vibrant of GCSE subjects so a huge thank you to him too.

On a lesser scale, the Classics Department will be running a stall at the forthcoming High Storrs Car Boot Sale where we will be selling all sorts of things including donations of unwanted Christmas, or any other sort of, presents. We are also planning a grand raffle based around generous contributions from various local Sainsbury's stores. Should you have anything you would like to donate to either of these fundraising efforts, please contact me at G.Johnson@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk.

In addition to raising money, the campaign has also been about raising the profile of Latin and Classical Civilisation both in school and more widely and this has certainly paid off with our current Year 8 students who have just chosen their GCSE subject options. Twenty-four students have chosen to study Latin to GCSE starting next September, which is a big enough group for the school to fund without us having to subsidise it. This is great news and means that the money we have raised will go that bit further. Senior academics in the universities are also now involved in trying to resurrect the classical subjects in our schools and I have been invited to join an event at the University of Warwick in July at which this will be discussed. I will be suggesting that the most important thing we do is to try to persuade the government that Classical Civilisation really should be included in the English Baccalaureate qualification.

Our campaign will be running until the end of August so if you have not yet donated and would like to, please go to https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-classics or send a cheque made payable to 'High Storrs School Fund' and with 'Save Classics' written on the back to us here at school.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has contributed in whatever way so far. We are thrilled by the support we have received and most grateful.

Gina Johnson

Cressida flying high in Dance

Former High Storrs pupil Cressida Carré has been doing the job she loves in the theatre industry for thirty years now. After attending High Storrs 1980-1987 studying Music and English whilst training at Dore School of Theatre Dance, she studied at Northern Ballet school and later at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. She had a wide and varied thirteen year career as a performer in the West End, regionally and on tour. After being invited to teach dance master classes at a number of London theatre schools Cressida found her love for choreography. Success in this area soon followed and she has been working on this side of the business for seventeen years, as a choreographer and more recently a director. Cressida has won awards for her choreography and is proud to be returning to her home city this May with the touring production of Titanic. This hugely popular production of the show started in a small London theatre before transferring to Toronto and then back into Charing Cross Theatre, off London's West End. With family and many friends still living in Sheffield and a career-long ambition to bring one of her shows to the Lyceum or Crucible, Titanic's Lyceum run in May will be a landmark moment for this former High Storrian's career.

Doing your country and school proud!

High Storrian Kyle Walker is this summer representing his country in the FA World Cup in Russia. Kyle, who plays for Manchester City, left school in the 2000s and has quickly gone on to achieve great things in his football career.

Kyle's former Head of Year and PE teacher Eileen Hetherington reflects on Kyle's time at High Storrs: "Kyle always had potential. I believed in him and am delighted to see him doing so well! He promised he'd buy me a car when he made it big...still waiting for that to happen!"

Good luck Kyle—we'll all be rooting for you and the team!

Memories & Life Since High Storrs, by Paul Connor (left 1968)

I passed the eleven plus from Oakwood School, Norwood Road Sheffield and went to High Storrs in the September of I think 1960. Was put into 2D and my form master was Mr. (Tash) Billington. I can't remember many of my teachers but Mr Griffiths (Griffin?) was my French master and I believe Deputy Head. The headmaster was George Mack.

I have memories of George Mack driving down Knowle Lane at 5mph in his Standard 10 trying to find any pupil not wearing the school cap. Thankfully I didn't get to know him well.

I can remember when he died, my cousin was head boy and went to the service at Sheffield Cathedral.

In the first couple of years I was academically poor, possibly from my Oakwood days who really were there to ensure you passed the eleven plus. I believe I came bottom of the year in French. Funny, because now my French is quite good. My only claim to some sort of fame was my playing Ariel in The Tempest in my first year, Sid Hoffman the English teacher produced and directed it. They covered me in cold green calamine lotion for the part. I had a reasonable singing voice and was in the school and special choir.

It wasn't until the third year that the light bulb moment happened and I was top of the class and was put into 4C the next year. Uneventful until my O Levels and getting the O level prize.

Went into the sixth form and studied Chemistry with Alf Riddler whose famous quote was "You can't mix sheep and goats" referring to Molar and Normal values. Biology with, I believe, Ken Sale who was my inspiration. I did Physics but without Maths A level found it very hard. In those days it was arts and sciences with no crossover. I was made a prefect for some unknown reason. I achieved a Grade A1 at A level in Biology, Oxford and Cambridge exam. I am led to believe it was the highest in that syllabus, but stand to be corrected.

The people I remember at the time: John Thurston, Alan Weston, Ross Cullen and of course Valerie Peck. I still exchanged Christmas cards with John, I wonder what happened to the others and the many who's names escape me.

I haven't been back to the school since leaving, which is very remiss of me.

After I went to Bristol University to study Dentistry, not my first choice as my other A levels

weren't spectacular. The then head rang around and said how do you fancy Dentistry at Bristol? So off I went.

Anyway I qualified in 1972 and entered practice January 1973. I really disliked my time in Dental School feeling that for some reason I didn't quite fit in. Fortunately it was there I met my lovely wife and companion Theresa, the best thing that happened to me. I mixed with her friends so have not any contacts with the Bristol Dental Students I qualified with. Not my choice of career but it has done me well and actually I became reasonably good at it.

Forty years, four daughters, six grandchildren later, I retired after running my own practice, for the last 15 years completely privately.

Now happily retired, and nearing my 70th birthday.

On reflection they were happy, carefree days. You never appreciate them until they are gone and you reflect.

Do you remember this face?

Everyone remembers at least one teacher from their time at school. That special person who stood out for whatever reason! Well you may be pleased to hear that we still have a number of teachers who have worked at High Storrs for over 20 years, so have a look - see if you remember any of them!

Mrs E Hetherington

1979

Miss G Johnson

1985

Mr M Fahidi

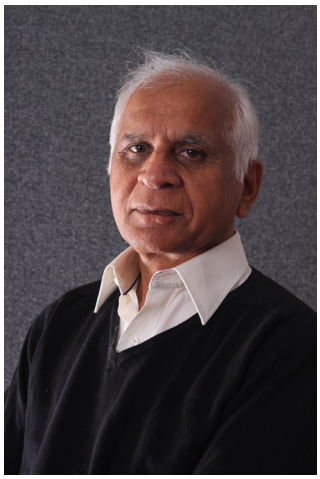
1986

Mr M Joy

1986

Mr M Bennehan

1991



Mr M Akram

1990

Mr J Williamson

1991

Ms C Pender

1992

A HIGH STORRS BOY by George Tyson 1965

A High Storrs boy I'll always be –
as in the lines below you'll see.
And, 'though it's half a hundred years,
the thoughts come back of joy – and tears.
The list of teachers stretches long.
Of some, the mem'ries still are strong;
while others fade into the past,
submerged in that oblivion vast
that, sometime, sweeps us all away –
before the resurrection day
From Dore School I came as a bright, shiny shilling.
The names that now follow my life soon were filling …
God in his heaven was Mr. George Mack.
Stray from his standards – he'd give you a thwack!
Greatly respected and greatly admired,
still in his harness, alas! He expired.
First Mr. Anderson came into view –
Wonderful teacher (between me and you.)
He taught lots of German and sometimes then
he'd play his guitar – and sing "Muss' i' denn?"
Beaumont, then Belmont, taught most some P.E. –
I was excused – so they didn't teach me!
Chemistry's Head was Mr. Alf Ridler.
Been there forever. I was a tiddler.
Mr. Tickner was tall and slim.
I was a dwarf alongside him!
Not many ladies taught us at High Storrs.
Lovely Ma Lupson showed us through the doors
of classical Latin – Ovid, Livy.
To secrets of Rome, we were now privy!
Hoffman for English? It could have been worse.
Now I am writing some passable verse.
Maths teachers we'd two – Tattersall, Walker.
"Mug up your tables. Don't be a talker,"
Calculus coming put me in a fix –
so, in my 'O' level, only Grade 6.
Adams for Music – then 'Benji' Britten.
Loved all the tunes – but failed on the 'written.'
History was taught by T. G. from Knowle Lane.
Getting facts wrong caused detention – such pain.
Known as the Killer, he gave us a scare.
Knowing him better, we saw he was fair.
More Latin was taught by Joe Nicholls – the 'lip.'
Hawk-like, he watched for a solitary slip.
O-level paper – "No second'ry clause!"
But I got a 3 – much cause for applause!
Others who taught us? Well, Thirlbeck and Pett.
Kindly past masters who posed us no threat.
Billington, Williams, Girvan and Coombs.
Into my mind Mr. Griffin now looms.
Vidal-Hall and Smith and Owen,
Taylor – these are names we're knowin'.
The fav'rite name I've saved 'til last;
The greatest one from distant past.
Joe Collier guided me the most.
Of links with him I'll proudly boast.
He taught we should always show
respect to those we do not know.
A 'gentleman' in truth was he,
who showed us what we ought to be.
And so to him: "Auf Wiedersehen!"
I hope, in Heav'n we'll meet again.
(*Nearly forgot the Berlin Wall!*
We weren't let through – no, not at all.
Over there is your girlfriend sweet –
but boys and girls, they just can't meet!)
Farewell, High Storrs! Adieu! Au revoir!
The mem'ries fade each day some more.
For now I'm settled safe at home.
From Sussex I'll no longer roam.

John Sewell (left 1992) Memories

1. A friend who was supposed to talking about "organisms" in a Geography class getting confused and discussing them at length using the word "orgasm". Mr Worral was unperturbed;

2. I did Home Economics for a whole morning each week with a teacher whose name escapes me but who was known as Pinocchio (children are cruel). I remember on a particular day the mate I sat with was absent as he was representing England Schools in a cycle race. I said good morning as I walked passed the teacher who habitually greeted the class by holding open the door for us at the start of the lesson. I made a split second decision concluding that I couldn't face the lesson and walked to the back of the classroom which had a window which opened onto a yard area between the assembly hall, the school and the dining hall. I climbed out of the window and escaped;

3. I faced the wrath of Mr Towle for driving too fast in the school car park. A letter was sent to my parents and I was banned from parking on school premises (ironic that I became a lawyer);

4. Mr Stephenson - top man;

5. Mr Walker throwing chalk at Giddy in most Maths lessons;

6. Mr Matthews - giving Giddy backslaps in PE;

7. Always coming third in cross country. The hellish slog up Trap Lane;

8. Girls;

9. Football - our year had a decent team. I played the odd game for the sixth form first eleven while still in the fifth year. However, when we were in the sixth form we were beaten by the fifth year team. They had Jack Lester playing for them who was twice as good as the rest of us put together. He could do things that we couldn't. They won 1-0; and

10. Climbing over the railings to get to the sandwich shop at Bents Green wearing baggy jeans. The leg of my jeans got caught on the railings so as I jumped down I became suspended upside down. I remember a group of girls were passing as I dangled there while my friends laughed.

Long-serving Staff Members move on to pastures new in 2017-18

This academic year we will have said goodbye to some significant figures in our school community.

Lynne Raven retired at the end of July 2017 having been a teacher and member of Senior Leadership here for many years. Lynne was a teacher of SEN pupils and led Learning Support at High Storrs for many years. She was instrumental in the development of the House system. Julie Bonner also stepped down from Senior Leadership in 2017. Sue O'Connor retired at Easter 2018. Sue joined High Storrs in 1990 and has been a powerful force both as an English teacher and as Assistant Head. We wish them well in their retirements and hope they have a well-earned rest!

Claire Pender leaves us in July 2018 to move on to a Deputy Head role at another school in Sheffield. Claire has also been with us since the 1990s, having taught here since she qualified as a Drama teacher. Claire was instrumental in High Storrs achieving Performing Arts specialism status and in bringing the Arts to the forefront. We wish Claire a successful and happy career as she leaves High Storrs for pastures new.

Tom Barclay (left 2002) - Shooting for the Stars

After leaving High Storrs I bounced around several universities in northern England before moving Northern Ireland where I got my Ph.D in Astrophysics. At the end of 2010 I found myself in the startling position of having a job offer to work at NASA in California. I spent the next 6 years working as a scientist on NASA's Kepler Space Telescope where I was part of the team that discovered over 3500 planets orbiting stars beyond the Sun.

Last year I moved to Washington, DC to work at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in order to fulfill one of my ambitions - to work on the planning and launch of a new space mission. The TESS mission (standing for Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) will launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in a few short weeks, with the goal of finding planets orbiting the nearest stars.

I'm in the science side of the mission, our team is responsible for determining where the cameras will looks and for calibrating the instruments pre-launch, and then once data starts to flow, post-launch. It's been a frantic few weeks, preparing the final details of what we want the do with the cameras during the first few weeks of the mission. We have made all conceivable preparations by testing things on the ground, but nothing can recreate violence of a launch followed by the transition to the cold, vacuum of space. Right now, we are now at the mercy of our engineering colleagues to get us safely into orbit. The engineers I get to work with are humblingly brilliant but rocket launches are hard and failures do occur.

Tom winning NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medal in 2017

Tom in the clean room where the TESS spacecraft is being tested

A few days before launch I'll travel down to Florida's Cape Canaveral where our team will have a stiff drink and cross everything that is cross-able. Assuming all goes well with launch, we'll have a few days to prepare for our cameras being switch on. Once this happens I'll be splitting my time between my home base at NASA, MIT in Massachusetts, and mission control in Virginia. The first few weeks of the mission, known as commissioning, is where we find out whether our instrument is working as expected by performing extensive testing. Commissioning ends and science data starts to be taken about 60 days after launch. All being well, the first new planets will start to be discovered by the end of the year.

In the mean time, I hope you'll be looking forward to a successful launch and seeing the first results from the TESS mission.

A Life in Amateur Dramatics, Christopher Timm (left HSS 1984)

In response to an advert I saw at High Storrs, when I joined the 6th form there in 1982, I joined what was then known as 'Hallam Theatre Club' and trod the boards, did set construction, set design, and even stage managed their production of 'Outside Edge' at the Library Theatre in Tudor Square, Sheffield - before I moved to London with work in March 1986. And so my interest in amateur dramatics was born and kindled. Upon my return to Sheffield, I then got involved with WEADS - Walkley Ebenezer Amateur Dramatic Society - and subsequently took the lead role of 'Jack' in their pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk' - a real coup, as I was a bloke and the principal male parts tended to be and still do get performed by females. I then appeared as 'Prince Sapphire' in their panto 'Ali Baba & the 40 Thieves'. I had also joined Dore & Totley URC Amateur Dramatic Society, now defunct, and trod the boards and helped backstage in their farces/comedies which they performed. Work took me to South Wales in 1994 and after a hiatus of c.18 years - working / raising a family / voluntary youth work - I cut my teeth again with a local amateur dramatic society, Llanyrafon Drama Group - in the principal role of Dr. Herman Glow in NHS comedy 'Cut & Run', followed by the role of a psychiatrist Dr. Chapman - for which I mastered a German accent - in the farce 'Cash on Delivery!' I also did panto with LDG, in which the last time I performed with them, for 'A Christmas Carol' in 2013.

Anyhow, I never ventured into acting professionally, though I once hoped for this, but both my daughters have followed their father's artistic interest, with my eldest in her 2nd year at the Backstage Academy (Wakefield) studying for a BA Hons. in "Live Events Production", and my youngest is taking a gap year - following her 'A' levels - to re-apply for auditions for a BA Hons. degree in "Acting"; she is also undertaking a 2nd year of a (part-time) 'Young Actors' course at The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama (Cardiff).

Alas, I digress, my jobs have involved exciting places to work - as a Civil Servant in London (employed by the Lord Chancellor's Dept. - now Ministry for Justice) I had a period working in The Crown Office in Chancery, at the House of Lords, serving under 3 Lord Chancellors at the time: Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, Lord Havers, and Lord MacKay of Clashfern). I have also travelled to Eastern Europe when I worked in the Steel Industry.

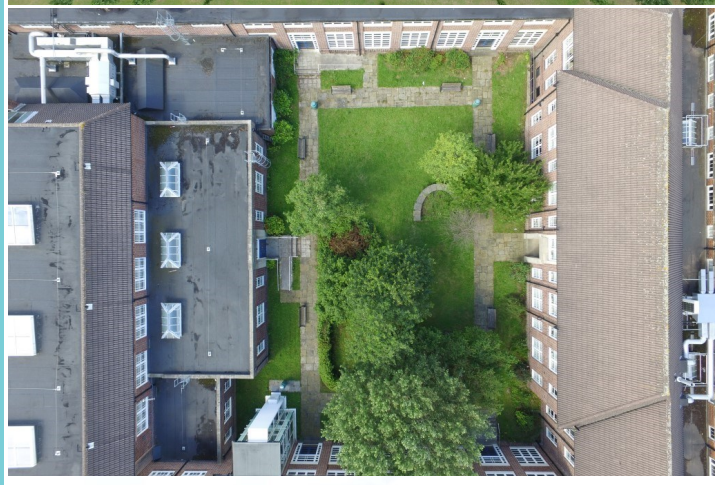
I would love to share my experiences at some point in the future with the young people at High Storrs, but will have to "park that" for the time being.

Memories from Les Ball (left HSS 1958)

It is a amazing how often the school comes into my everyday life for which I especially my thank the team of teachers who encouraged me to optimise my talents – mainly on the Science side. I'm so grateful to the school for putting the knowledge and confidence into me to enable me to gain a First Class Hons Degree in Chemistry at Leeds University (1965), and subsequently a PhD in Natural Products Organic Chemistry (1971) at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada. After a couple of Post-Docs in Sussex then Sheffield, I had 21 years as a Detergent Chemist at Unilever Port Sunlight.

I am particularly indebted to three High Storrs teachers: Joe Collyer (German), Alf Ridler (Chemistry), and "Pole" Robinson for their excellent contribution to my career during my 1951/2 and 1954/8 stints at the school. With regard to the first named I can still remember the sequences of German prepositions An, Auf, Hinter, Vor, In, etc AND Fur, Um, Durch, Bis, Ohne, Wieder, Gegen – i.e. the latter sequence had the mnemonic FUDBOWG. With respect to Alf, expressions such as "Science Begins with Observation" still ring loudly. Pole also was inspirational in his enthusiasm for the teaching of Physics as it applied to everyday life and he always taught the subject in a easily understandable way and with humour.

Never before seen images of High Storrs School were taken by former student Robbie Lough using his drone camera.
We were blown away by the images he captured. Thank you Robbie!



INSPIRATIONAL TALKS BY EX-STUDENTS TO Y12

In October 2017, we welcomed a group of Alumni members back to their old school to meet our Sixth Formers as part of an annual event focusing on career paths and opportunities.

An aspirational keynote speech was delivered by alumna, Leslie Evans, who is the Permanent Secretary for Scotland. This was followed by a variety of Q&A sessions led by our group of Alumni about their careers and professional journeys. We were thrilled to have such high quality and varied talks to offer out Y12 students, including the Head of Gender Equality at Dept for International Development, a Lawyer, a Tribologist, a Consultant Surgeon, an Architect and many more.

Chris Dyson, Tribologist, said "being back at High Storrs after so many years was brilliant. I really appreciated how friendly everyone was and how much the school has developed since I left. The students in the group I was with were brilliant, attentive and asked lots of highly relevant questions about careers in engineering - They all seemed keen on engineering, which is great."

The group enjoyed a tour of the school and a lunch in the students' canteen! Many of them hadn't been back to school since they had left and were thrilled to see the benefits of our Building Schools for the Future refurbishment.

We are already in the process of organising our 2018 talks and have been overwhelmed by the responses from ex-students willing to come and take part. If this is something you feel you would be able to do for our students in coming years, then please get in touch.

Historic Robert Thompson 'Mouseman' lectern to be refurbished

We are pleased to report that our very own 'Mouseman' lectern will finally be refurbished in 2018. The lectern, originally bought for the Girls' school in the '60s in memory of pupil Jacqueline Twyford. Unfortunately, over the years it has fallen into disrepair following decades of usage. Thankfully, our wonderful Alumni have helped us raise the money to cover the refurbishment costs. I'd like to thank the Evans family for their major contribution, as well as the numerous Alumni members who have so generously given to this cause. I look forward to sharing photos of the finished article.

Stuart Nettleship - Back to school to offer Music workshop

Former student Stuart Nettleship spent the day with us last year to offer a Music workshop, centred around composition, to our Sixth Form Music students.

Stuart, who attended High Storrs Grammar School for Boys from 1964-1971, is now a composer and conductor working in and around York.

For more information on Stuart's work, go here www.nettleshipmusic.com.

Nick Appleyard - Vice President of Siemens comes back to school

Last year we were lucky to have former student, Nick Appleyard (1987 leaver) come back to school to work closely with a group of Sixth Form Economics students. Nick, who is the Vice President of Siemens in the USA, kindly gave time out of his busy schedule to guide and inspire our students.

"Thank you for the opportunity to tour High Storrs and work closely with your students. It gave me some valuable insight into how the future work force is thinking. There were some good questions asked...a smart group of folks."

Grace Clough MBE (2007 Alumna) received an honorary doctorate from Sheffield Hallam in November 2017. She is a Paralympic Games gold medallist and double world champion rower. She took up rowing in 2013 after being scouted at a Paralympic talent day. By 2014 Grace had moved to London to train as a full-time athlete and her athletics career took off. She went on to win gold in both the 2014 and 2015 World Championships in the mixed cox four team before making her Paralympic debut in Rio 2016, again taking home gold. She was appointed an MBE in the 2016 Queen's New Year's Honours list for her services to the sport.

John Dickson

I left High Storrs in 1963 with A levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry to study Electronic Engineering at Sheffield University. After graduating in 1966, and a couple of years with the no longer existing Plessey Telecommunications Co. I joined Texas Instruments in Bedford, England. TI was then one of the world's leading manufacturer of semiconductor devices. I stayed with TI for fourteen years working in Nice, France, and Plymouth and Bedford, England. From TI I moved to International Computers (ICL) in the UK where I stayed until the end of 1990 when I was the Chief Operating Executive of the company. I then moved to California to manage a small silicon chip company. In 1993 I joined AT&T in New Jersey to manage that company's microelectronics business.

Ultimately this business was spun out as an independent company in 2001 from AT&T's successor company, Lucent Technologies, under the name of Agere Systems. At the time this was the second largest tech industry initial public offering (IPO) in US history raising $3B from investors, and the company's revenue was $6B annually. I was the chief executive officer (CEO) of Agere until my retirement in 2005. I am now retired in Northern California.

School Traditions

Somebody really put the wind up me in the summer of 1949: all the first years at HSGSB would be chased, rounded up and ragged on the first day of the autumn term – "fagging" it was called. And it was a tradition, nothing personal. To me that was neither reassuring nor less frightening; but in the event the experience was not as harsh as I had expected – some shouting and hooting, easily cornered, and then shoe laces tightly knotted, ties pulled about, blazers tugged at, that sort of thing. The worst predicted horror was having your head pushed down the lavatory pan and, at best, having it flushed with water; this was not inflicted upon me although I am not sure I ever got over my distaste for that dark place.

The enthusiastic creation of tradition became important to schools like ours in the late 40s and early 50s, eager to establish themselves in the new order of things, if our behaviours and values were to reflect the positive features of Greyfriars or Tom Brown. Not, of course bottom-up traditions like the one I've described, but top-down requiring, for example, a strict observance of dress codes (particularly the wearing of the odious cap at all times in the streets and cricket whites on Sports Day), the development of the House system involving sport, of course, and house Christmas parties including an authorised shindig called British bulldog, and then Lord Dismiss us with Thy Blessing at the blessed end of every term. Most of us got on with all this, encouraged undoubtedly by that other imported robust public school tradition, corporal punishment.

Traditions generated from below were largely unsupervised, randomly organised and sometimes dangerous - younger pupils playing a leaping, diving and crushing game called Finger, Thumb and Rusty or running madly about the Roughs, for example. A heavy snowfall could trigger a call to snow ball arms, Sixth Form versus the rest, a tradition which seemed to me then to have its roots in the mythical past: how it began, who issued the challenge – an individual, a gang, the mob? – I do not know, but this is what happened to me, then a Sixth Former, on one of those occasions.

In the morning, snow fell thickly. It lay invitingly on the school field, diverting the attention of desk-bound scholars. After lunch, desultory snow balls were flung, increasing in intensity until the Sixth Form was called out and I, with my peers, trudged out to be met by a barrage of flying ice, snow and anything that came to hand. I was eventually felled by a volley of these missiles and in particular by a burly youth who leapt on my back and, with his arm around my throat, began to throttle me as I lay in the snow. Luckily, the heaviness of my fall, face down, precipitated a substantial nose bleed, made vivid against the whiteness of the snow. The enemy fell back; I made my way to the lavatories and sinks. There was no avoiding them.

In later years, I considered the absence of teachers on these boisterous occasions. Where were they? Perhaps in a staff meeting arranged to discuss the adoption of best public school practice, or marking or preparing for the afternoon, or simply resting, some puffing on their monstrous pipes? *John Bailey (1949 – 56)*

Obituaries & Notices

Jane Hyatt nee Hibberd (written by Mike Hyatt) passed away in January 2017 due to cancer at the age of 59. Jane was a pupil at High Storrs from 1968 to 1975. She sat the last year of the 11 Plus in 1968 and joined the girls half of the school that year. At the end of the first year the boys and girls schools were put together and her half of the form was put with a boys half which contained her future husband. She spent all her working life in computers, the last 26 years at HSBC in Sheffield. She left behind two children and two grandchildren.

~

Betty McPherson passed away on Wednesday 19th July 2017 at Rose Cottage Nursing Home. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease a couple of years ago but until the end of 2016 had been living at home. Her daughter wrote "In early 2017 she was moved into care as her condition worsened. Behind the confusion and lack of cognitive ability typified by the disease there were still sparks of Mum as we remembered her, discussing why Latin nouns have declensions and picking up grammatical errors in speech.

We all met at the home in June to celebrate Mum's 94th birthday. She was obviously pleased that we were all there with her and it gave her chance to see her grandsons, Bryn, Gareth and Alex."

~

Michael Law (1953-58), who was brought up in Valley Road, Meersbrook and was employed for all his working life by Wm Monks (Builders Merchants), rising from office boy to director, passed away in August. He had been suffering from Parkinsons and dementia for a number of years.

David France writes "Michael was a personal friend in our time at school and we were in The Woodcraft Folk together. He came from a line of Left Wing politicians and trade unionists who were well known in Sheffield and Michael had that same streak of rebellion which sometimes earned him a rebuke from teaching staff. But he was unfailingly smartly dressed and loved being "one of the lads". I was very sad when I called to see him earlier his year and Pauline advised me against it because he had lost all memory and the will to communicate."

~

High Storrian and microbiologist, **Geoffrey Schild**, passed away in October aged 81. Hid much to help halt the spread of influenza, polio and Aids. It was he who proposed the concept of a universal flu vaccine, a goal still sought today. Les Ball writes "Geoffrey gained a degree in Microbiology at Reading University in 1958, then a PhD at Sheffield University. He spent many years as a microbiologist at Lodge Moor Hospital under the supervision of Sir Charles Stuart-Harris (a name I remember from my own Sheffield and High Storrs days), and becoming a leading expert in the search for a universal flu vaccine. For which he gained a CBE in 1993."

~

Helen and John Scholey write: "Our daughter, **Rachel Scholey**, attended High Storrs 2004-2009 after transferring up from Ecclesall Junior School. Her first form tutor was Mr Gourves, but in her second year, the classes were split up into mixed aged classes and continued in that way until she left to join the Sixth Form at Sheffield High School (High Storrs did not offer the option of A Level Music at that time).

Her favourite subjects were Classics/Latin with Miss Johnson/Mr Everitt and Music. She later went on to graduate from Leeds University in 2015 with a 2:1 in BA Music. She had just commenced a Masters course in Music Therapy at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge and was in fact on her way back home when she was involved in a 4 vehicle collision on the A1. She passed away on 28th December 2017, aged 24yrs. We miss her desperately."

~

Science teacher and long-serving staff member, **Chris James**, passed away early in 2018. The school community was very shaken by Chris' passing and joined together to remember her and the huge contributions she made to High Storrs.

High Storrs Print For Sale

This stunning print of the school was made by a previous member of staff Steve Owen who also produces prints featuring other famous landmarks in Sheffield.

He sells the prints framed in A4 (£25) and A3 (£30).

Contact him directly should you wish to purchase one.
Phone: 07843 239660 or email: stevenowen@hotmail.com

If you'd like to contribute to future editions of the *High Storrian,* or if you'd like to get more involved with your old school, please email Abi Merritt a.merritt@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk

Archive of Photos Online

I have started the pain-staking job of adding scans of school photographs to the school's Alumni pages of the website.

This has begun with Year Of...Class photos from recent decades, as well as some other interesting photos and documents I've come across.

This job is by no means complete, and I hope to continue to add to the archive on the website over the coming months and years. Basically, whenever I can find a spare minute!

So take a look and if you'd like to contribute any photographs, please send them over to me by email. They'd be much appreciated. Archive of photos.

Class of 1972

Class of 1984

High Storrs School: A Journey

This wonderful book, printed in 2011 to mark the unveiling of our new school, is available to purchase at a reduced rate of just £2.

The book details the school and pupil history and includes numerous photographs.

If you'd like a copy, please send an email to Abi Merritt a.merritt@highstorrs.sheffield.sch.uk

Unfortunately we are unable to send the book overseas.

Examples of how HIGH STORRIANS have helped out at school in the past year:

Ways to Support High Storrs School

We are often asked by our Alumni: "How can I get involved?" Sometimes it's by giving a talk, or helping a student out with interview prep; but often it's a financial contribution which the school so desperately needs.

In the past Alumni have set up legacies in their wills, or sponsored an annual award for the students at their celebration assemblies. There is also the option to sponsor an element of the school year, such as the sports presentation evening, the annual school production or the Christmas Fayre, for example. Of course, we will always welcome your kind donations in whatever form they come.

For more information on how to get involved, take a look here to look at financial contributions and here for information on events and opportunities. Thank you

HIGH STORRS SCHOOL - MAIN HALL

THURSDAY 24TH MAY - 7.30pm (Doors 7pm)

Tickets £15 via ticketsource.co.uk/high-storrs-school

Benefit gig to raise funds for High Storrs School's #SaveClassics appeal justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-classics

High Storrs School presents

GUYS & DOLLS

sponsored by morfittsmith

Monday 9th July - Thursday 12th July 7pm

Matinee performance Thursday 2pm

High Storrs School Main Hall

£15 (£10 Concession)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/high-storrs-school

On sale from Wednesday 18th April 2018

A Musical Fable of Broadway

Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon

Music and Lyrics by
FRANK LOESSER

Book by
JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk

High Storrs Car Boot Sale and more!

Sunday 13th May
and **Sunday 17th June**
10am - 1pm
£1 entry or **£10 pitch**
Raising money for the School Fund

NETHER EDGE PIZZA COMPANY

For more info: highstorrs.co.uk or 0114 267 0000
Book a pitch: ticketsource.co.uk/high-storrs-school