



Westcliff High School for Boys

Alumni Network Newsletter

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Issue 1 - Autumn 2016

WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER, MIKE SKELLY

I am delighted to introduce our first issue of the WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter.

January 2016 saw the launch of the School's Community Development Office (CDO), which aims to support WHSB's existing work with its wider community, and to extend the scope of that work to further enhance and strengthen our School community.

A key objective for the CDO, working alongside the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni include all former students and past and present staff. We wish to contact WHSB alumni who presently have no link with the School or the OWA and who would like to make contact and keep up to date with School news.

We hope this termly Alumni Network Newsletter and planned future networking social events, together with the Old Westcliffian LinkedIn and Facebook pages, will support our Alumni to reconnect with one another as well as the School. Our Alumni is a valuable source of inspiration to our current pupils and we are always delighted to reconnect with our former pupils.

We would be pleased to see you at our forthcoming Christmas events, or at our Alumni Network Social (see overleaf). Please take a few moments to register to join the WHSB Alumni Network, and/or the OWA, via the School's website. Select "Community" from the menu, followed by "Alumni Network and Old Westcliffian Association". You will receive password information enabling access



to our secure "Alumni" area of the website. Further information can be obtained by contacting the CDO. The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

ALUMNI PROFILE: CLLR DAVID NORMAN MBE



Old Westcliffian (1955 to 1960) and former Southend Mayor, David Norman MBE, is a Local Councillor for Southend's Victoria Ward. A retired Trades Union Officer, who was first elected to the council in 1965 at the age of 21 he is now a member of the council's Development Control and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committees.

David was awarded his MBE in 2014 for services to adult education. He has been associated for more than 20 years with Oxford University's Ruskin College, being Chair of their Governing Body for ten years, having piloted many adult education initiatives and being key to the college's relocation

to a new building. He said: "I'm proud that my work with Ruskin College in particular has been recognised. I feel passionately committed to adult education as it can offer so many people a second chance at building a better life for themselves."

In addition to his Oxford University Philosophy, Politics & Economics degree, Councillor Norman was awarded an honorary Open University degree in 2011. David is currently a Local Authority Governor at Westcliff High School for Boys and the current President of the Old Westcliffian Association. He lives in Leigh-on-Sea with his wife, Jane.

OUR CENTENARY IN 2020

In 1919, as a result of the town's expansion post First World War, Southend's Education Committee decided a new Intermediate School was needed for boys and girls. "Belsfield" at 110 Victoria Avenue, a two acre site, was purchased at a cost of £7,000 (the equivalent of £148,000 in today's money). The School was originally called the "Commercial Secondary School" and opened on 27th April 1920. Buildings not far away behind the Chelmsford Avenue Congregational Church were also brought into use. By August 1921 the school's name was becoming a little confusing so it was renamed "Westcliff High School". By 1922, 372 children (boys and girls) were on the School's roll.

Westcliff High School for Boys moved to its current site in 1926 (the Girls School followed in 1931). The Boys' School's Foundation Stone was laid in 1925 by the Chair of Governors,

Alderman William Miles OBE.

Today, Westcliff High School for Boys is one of 164 (plus 69 in Northern Ireland) remaining fully selective state-funded schools in England. and has been rated four times by OFSTED as an "outstanding" School and placed by the Sunday Times in their list of the top 20 State Schools in 2015.

As we fast approach the School's Centenary, the Community and Development Office has been tasked with collating and cataloguing both existing and newly found archive material. Our aim is to detail key events in the School's history in a time-line, by decade, incorporating individual recollections from alumni. By 2020, there will be a wealth of interesting material for everyone to view via the School website in celebration of the first 100 years of Westcliff High School for Boys!

So if you, your father or mother,

grandfather or grandmother have a story to tell, we want to hear it. Likewise, if you have any old photographs, memorabilia, tales of pioneering Westcliff High School folk and Old Boys (and Old Girls) through the decades that are worthy of mention, please do get in touch 01702 475443 or via email community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We promise to look after and return any treasured possessions!

1920 2020

ALUMNI NETWORK AUTUMN 2016 SOCIAL



Our first WHSB Alumni Network Social event will be held on Thursday 20th October 2016 at Davy's Wine Bar, Minster Court, Mincing Lane, London EC3R 7BD from 5.30pm until 7.30pm (a stone's throw from Fenchurch Street Station). Come and

meet our Community Development Office team together with members of staff and other WHSB Alumni.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible so do spread the word. It is hoped that these social



events will take place twice a year, with one meeting in London in the Autumn and the other taking place either in School or somewhere local to the School during the summer. Let us know your thoughts on where and when.

DAVY'S

Est. 1870

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

This year WHSB has enjoyed a tremendous set of A Level results. Over 15% of our entries were graded A* and 44% of all entries were graded A*/A. Nineteen students gained two or more A* grades and forty-seven students achieved at least one A* grade. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including nine students who have secured places at Oxford and Cambridge. The School also achieved its highest AS results in the last four years.

We also had outstanding GCSE results with 37% of entries graded A* and 72% of entries graded A*/A. One-hundred and nine pupils achieved eight or more A*/A grades and seventeen pupils achieved ten or more A* grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.



OWA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2016

On Friday 9th September the Old Westcliffians celebrated 90 years of the association at their Annual Reunion Dinner held in the School Hall. Past pupils and staff spanning eight decades enjoyed an evening of splendid company, fine food and reminiscing.

Chairman of the Old Westcliffian Association and Southend Councillor David Norman said "in 1926, former students set up the Old Westcliffian Association to enable them to keep in touch with both the continuing development of the School and each other. We are always looking to make contact with past pupils who no longer have a link with the School."

Old boys and girls range in age from recent school leavers who are 18 years old to 94 years of age and come from all over the UK and around the world. Many members still live locally, demonstrating the School's strong links with the local community, with their children and grandchildren attending the School.

Headmaster Mike Skelly said "We thank the Old Westcliffian Association for their continued support for the School. It is very pleasing to see that so many Old Westcliffians have continued their link with the School throughout the years. As the School approaches its Centenary in 2020, we now have past as well as current pupils and staff who are or will be fourth generation Old Westcliffians!"

The next OWA Annual Reunion Dinner will take place on Friday 8 September 2017



ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT IN CAREERS & WORK-RELATED LEARNING

In the past, the School has held a number of successful, industry sector specific careers evenings. Past students have spoken about the paths their careers have taken, how best to tackle university courses, the world of work and the benefits of hindsight!

We would be very interested in hearing from members of our Alumni Community who would be prepared to come and talk to present students about what they have studied at university, and their jobs or professions (across all sectors).

In addition, our students in years 11 and 12 are instructed to actively seek periods of work experience during the summer break. They would benefit greatly from any work experience placements that our Alumni may be able to offer in their own companies or facilitate with their employers. The employment sectors we particularly wish to target for our students include those where the STEM subjects are most relevant together with Banking and Finance, IT, Law and Medicine.

If you can help, please contact our



Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or email community@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

WHSB DOCUMENTARY BY LIAM HEATHERSON



Liam Heatherson (Old Westcliffian 2007 to 2014) from *Beyond the Point*, a local award-winning historical film making organisation based in Canvey, Essex, has now completed his documentary about the history of Westcliff High School for Boys. Liam achieved A* A* A at A-Level and has just finished a gap year prior to embarking on a history degree at the University of Exeter in September 2016.

Liam said "I'm really glad to have finally completed it, it has taken a long

time! Some parts of the video show things now long gone so in a way it has archived the school even in the recent years when I was there!"

Liam presented an exclusive first showing of his documentary at this year's Old Westcliffian Association's Annual Dinner.

The documentary will officially be available to view later this year on BTP's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/BeyondthePointTV>.

FORTHCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS FOR ALUMNI

Christmas with the Big Band

Friday 9 December 2016 at 7.30pm

We look forward to welcoming you to our ever popular, seasonal spectacular with all the festive favourites being played by WHSB's own Big Band and Junior Jazz Band. A night full of Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit with a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. This is a "Bring Your Own" drinks and nibbles event. Tickets are priced at £8 for adults and £5 for students and concessions.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday 19 December 2016 at 7.30pm

You are warmly invited to the School's traditional service of Lessons and Carols, an opportunity for our School and Alumni Community to come together in what promises to be a rousing evening. Mince pies and coffee will be served afterwards. Tickets are free but places must be reserved.



Tickets for all events are available to purchase at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> or via the TicketSource Box Office on 0333 666 3366 (please note that a booking fee of £1.50 will be charged for telephone bookings).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



Jemima Clarke
Community Development Officer/
Uniform Shop Manager

I attended Westcliff High School for Girls, leaving in the 1980's to work in London. As a Human Resources professional, I spent 13 years working for accountants KPMG followed by a US law firm, a Japanese Bank and a PR firm all in the City.

I have four children, two of whom are currently at Westcliff High School for Boys. Since giving up full-time work to raise my family in 2000, I have run two School Parents' Associations (one here at WHSB!) and spent six years on the Governing Body of a local primary school.

I am delighted to be working in the Community Development Office and am particularly excited to see the growth of the alumni network.

Nicki Weller
Community Development Officer/
Careers & Work-Related Learning
Co-ordinator

I met Jemima at WHSG as a student, far too many years ago to recall! We are both local girls who have been born and bred in and around Leigh-on-Sea, still living here to date.

For the past 25 years, I have been in the recruitment industry, working in the city and San Francisco as the top Consultant in the country for Adecco and also, as one of their National Accounts Managers, winning, implementing and overseeing various multi-million pound contracts.

I started working at WHSB three years ago as an Invigilator, moving on to the C&WRL role in 2015, and the CDO role at the beginning of 2016.



LAST WORD

Please follow Westcliff High School for Boys on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. We would be delighted to welcome you back to the School to see what is going on.

In addition, the Old Westcliffian Association have accounts on Facebook and Twitter where you will have the opportunity to network and keep in touch with other members of the WHSB Alumni Community.

We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter which will be published termly, with the next scheduled for Spring 2017. Please contact Jemima or Nicki in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.



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