



NULLIUS NON MATER DISCIPLINAE
1552

OL review

The Old Leodiensians Association



Issue Number 21
Summer 2012

Welcome to the Summer issue of OL Review

Welcome to your new-look OL Review. We hope you like its fresh, modern appearance and its mix of news, views, pictures, memories, appeals and achievements.

As ever, thank you to everyone who has submitted articles for this edition. We need you to keep the stories coming in please...

We also want your views on the best way of staying in contact with our alumni in the future. We are conducting a survey to ensure that our alumni activities are engaging and represent the best use of funds.

Your views really matter to us. Please help us by taking five minutes to fill in the enclosed survey or complete it online by visiting www.gsal.org.uk/alumni.

Helen Clapham
Director of External Relations



OLS RESPOND TO HOWARD'S APPEAL

An appeal for information on an Officer Training Corp (OTC) cap badge in the last edition of OL Review has provoked huge amounts of interest and produced some enlightening responses....

Full story inside... PAGE 6

inside this issue

FEATURES

Teacher Succeeds Where Madonna Fails
[PAGE 4](#)

Joe Plays His Part In Dramatic Boat Race
[PAGE 5](#)

James Brining Takes The Lead At West Yorkshire Playhouse
[PAGE 8](#)

SPECIAL FEATURE

Howard's Appeal
[PAGE 6](#)

REGULARS

President's Message [PAGE 2](#)

Calendar of Events [PAGE 3](#)

News From GSAI, [PAGE 10-12](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geoff Newton, an OL, the Executive Director of The Tennis Foundation and a member of the Olympic Committee, was our main speaker at our annual London dinner in February this year. His talk inspired me to research as to whether we have or had any Olympians within our ranks.



In June the Olympic Torch relay reached Leeds and within two months the great Olympic spectacle will begin in our nation's capital. So, what a timely moment to investigate our school's great Olympic heritage. Surely the Alumni must be filled with heroes who've represented

Team GB (as it is now called) at venues in such places as Barcelona, Tokyo, Los Angeles and Beijing. Or, perhaps, they've competed on the wintry slopes near Vancouver, Lillehammer, Nagano or St Moritz? Or maybe not!

Now I must stress that I don't hold any meaningful research qualification but I can find my way around Google and Wikipedia (!) and the results are not quite as I might have imagined. To tell the truth, I can't identify a single OL or OG Olympian to date. Yes we have golfers and rugby players who have competed at the highest levels - and I wasn't a bad cross country runner myself(!) but Olympians? Maybe one day in the quest for yet more abnormal Olympic events such as laughing, we may have some success with one of our comedians!

Perhaps our Olympic heritage will start in 2012. It's wonderful news that our own GSAL pupil Hannah Starling has already been picked for Team GB's diving squad-and Gordon Benson had the honour of carrying the Olympic torch through York.

Our Olympic future is looking rosier! So, we shall leave our Olympic annals to our younger torch-bearers and wish Hannah the very best of luck. And if ever the Olympic flame passes through Leeds again in subsequent decades and centuries, maybe our Alumni will offer a more notable place for Olympic research!

Talking about research; please peruse our OL website and see what is on offer. The race is on for record attendances at all our forthcoming events.

My best wishes to you all.

David Bell
President

...Event News

Developing the GSAL events calendar

The external relations team is currently working with alumni council members and friends of GSAL to develop an annual calendar of events which will appeal to a wide audience of alumni and friends of the school. These events will provide further opportunities to re-visit GSAL and share experiences with friends old and new, whilst helping GSAL maintain relationships with current and former pupils, staff and friends.

The survey included in this newsletter also provides an opportunity for you to give us your feedback on current GSAL alumni events and communications, and any additional comments or suggestions will be welcomed.

Paul Hare to provide the keynote at November's speech day

OL Paul Hare has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for GSAL speech day in November. Paul was the British ambassador to Cuba from 2001-04 and now lectures on Diplomacy and Cuba in Transition at Boston University. He served 30 years in the diplomatic service and has been designated a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order by the Queen.

Paul is also an established author - his novel *Moncada: A Cuban Story* was published in 2010 - and he is an invited contributor to the *New York Times* and *Miami Herald*.

Exciting new partnership approach provides excellent benefits for GSAL

GSAL is currently developing a number of partnerships with not for profit arts, cultural and sporting organisations in Leeds, West and North Yorkshire. These include sponsorship of the Ilkley Children's Literature Festival, collaborative events and workshops with Harrogate Theatre and half term activities at Leeds City Museum. By working with these organisations there will be an opportunity to further enrich GSAL's curriculum and the pupil experience and extend work with partner schools, whilst helping to raise the School's profile across the region.

The first headline names for this year's Ilkley Literature Festival, which is the largest literary festival in the north of England, have just been announced and include Jeremy Vine, Michael Palin and Michael Morpurgo. For more information and to join the festival mailing list visit www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk

Spotlight Events

An evening with Stuart Lancaster, England Rugby Head Coach

Saturday 29 September, the Assembly Hall, doors open at 7pm

GSAL is hosting an exclusive evening with special guest speaker Stuart Lancaster, England Rugby head coach. The event promises to be a sell out and includes a cocktail reception, three course dinner, an after dinner speech and question and answer session with Stuart. Tickets are £65 and profits will contribute to the school's bursary fund. To join us for this exciting event visit: <http://stuartlancasterdinner2012.eventbrite.com> or contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

Alumni Lounge at Open Morning

Saturday 13 October, 9-12noon, GSAL | Free event

Would you like to share your memories of the school with prospective parents and pupils? Our Open Morning events are extremely popular and attract around 200 visitors to the school. The Alumni lounge at October's Open Morning will provide an informal, comfortable setting where visitors can enjoy some refreshments and chat with alumni about their time at the school. It will also be a great opportunity to visit the school and catch up with fellow alumni. If you are interested in visiting the Alumni Lounge at Open Morning contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

GSAL Business Networking Group welcomes guest speaker Paul Dunn

Monday 15 October, 7pm, GSAL | Free event

Guest speaker is Paul Dunn the 'Wizard of Wow!' (www.pauldunnonline.com). Paul is the marketing guru behind the success of many ground-breaking business ventures including his own initiative Buy1GIVE1. BNG events are free and open to members of the GSAL LinkedIn Network. Search for 'GSAL Business' on LinkedIn or contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

Leeds Lunch

Friday 23 November 2012

This year's Alumni Leeds Lunch is taking place at the Food Academy in Leeds. The Food Academy is run by Leeds City College in collaboration with the Flannels retail group and offers a delicious and varied lunch menu in a contemporary art gallery setting. Lunch is priced at approx £25 for three courses. To book your place at the Leeds Alumni Lunch contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

GSAL Bursary Fundraising Golf Day

Friday 7 June 2013

Bursary fundraising golf tournament, dinner and auction at Leeds Golf Centre. The event aims to raise bursary funds for one Year 7 boy and one Year 7 girl to attend GSAL and promises to be a fabulous day of golf, networking and engagement

- Refreshments on arrival
- 18 holes of golf
- A meal and prize presentation
- Fundraising auction with guest auctioneer Peter Jolly

Additional guests can attend the dinner and the exclusive auction of 'things that money can't buy!' To register your interest for this event or to find out about sponsorship opportunities please contact alumni@gsal.org.uk

OLA Events Listings

Events are at GSAL unless otherwise stated and are open to all but places must be booked in advance. There are three ways that you can make a booking;

- Through our on-line booking facility www.gsal.org.uk/alumni
- Sending an email alumni@gsal.org.uk
- Calling Victoria Marshall on 0113 229 1552

Leeds Flower Show – Saturday 4 August lunch and guest speaker Lizzie Balmforth, Curator RHS Harlow Carr, start at 1pm and then visit the flower show after lunch. Free event

Stuart Lancaster dinner – Saturday 29 September in the Assembly Hall, start at 7pm. Tickets £65, profits will be invested in the school's bursary fund.

Alumni Lounge at Open Morning
Saturday 13 October, 9-12noon. Free event

Dr Abigail Harrison Moore 'Thomas Chippendale - Fashioning the Great Houses of Yorkshire' – Saturday 13 October, Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, start at 1.30pm. Free event

Paul Dunn, The Wizard of Wow, GSAL Business Networking Group – Monday 15 October, start at 7pm. Free event

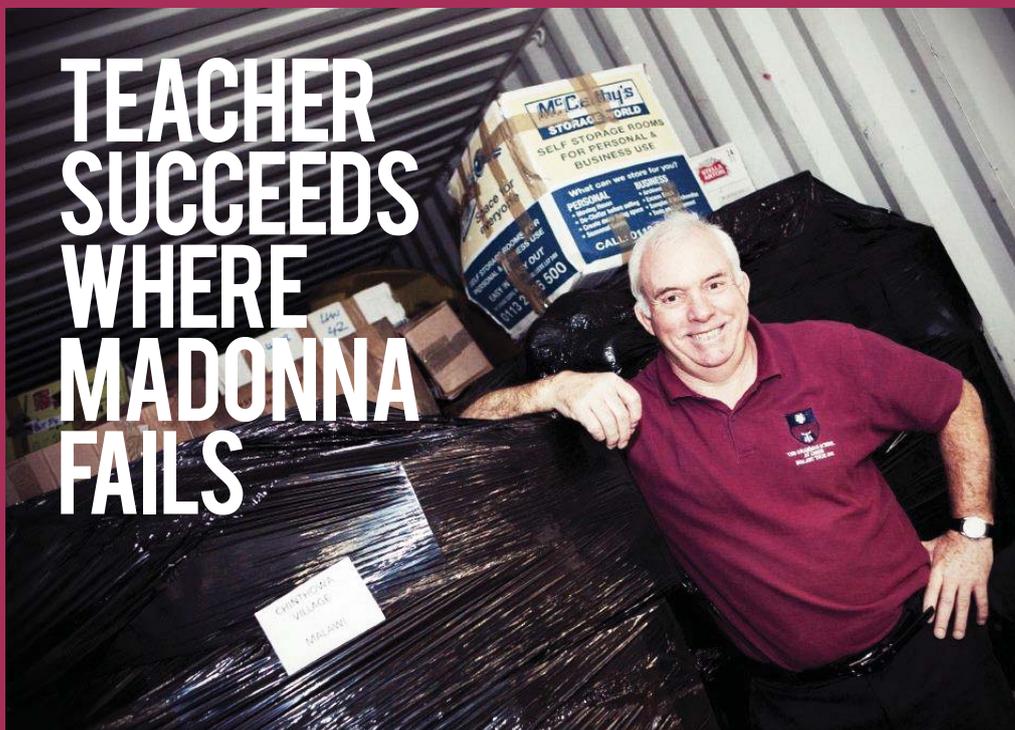
Leeds Model Railway Exhibition – Saturday 27 October lunch and guest speaker Philip Benham (North Yorkshire Moors Railway), start at 1pm and then visit the exhibition after lunch. Free event

Leeds Lunch – Friday 23 November, 1pm at the Food Academy. Tickets £25

2013

OLA Annual London Dinner – Friday 22 February. Gray's Inn, Holborn. Tickets £50

Golf day for bursaries – Friday 7 June, all day, followed by dinner and auction at Leeds Golf Centre. Tickets for golf £300 (for a team of 4). Dinner £30 per head. Further details to follow in the next newsletter.



[ABOVE] BARRY HELPS TO LOAD ONE OF THE LORRIES BOUND FOR MALAWI.

Madonna may have failed to impress the education officials in Malawi, but a former LGHS and GSAL teacher has certainly succeeded, raising over £250,000 to build classrooms, libraries and day centres.

Retired science teacher Barry Brindley, who continues in his role as Malawi co-ordinator at GSAL, has dedicated 25 years developing strong working partnerships with organisations in Malawi to support the youngsters who live there.

His fundraising effort began in 1988 when Barry returned from 14 years spent teaching in Africa, the last six years at the Kamuzu Academy in the Kasungu district of Malawi. He wanted to give something back to the country by developing links that would provide scholarships, educational facilities and medical supplies.

Through the support of pupils and parents from school and local groups, Barry has raised over £250,000.

The funds have built classrooms, libraries, day centres, science laboratories, and have provided much needed medical and educational equipment, with at least one large container of supplies sent to Malawi each year.

He said: "I may be no global superstar, but the work we have done in Malawi has made an impact on a world stage. The school and I have a deep understanding of the support this country needs and have worked hard to establish successful partnerships with organisations."

"When I first visited Africa I was just a young university student, but I immediately fell in love with it. I met so many wonderful people and received so many treasured gifts that I had to do my part to help those children who live there."

To continue his good work, and pass on his knowledge of the people, economy and culture of this developing country, Barry organises a biennial tour to Malawi for GSAL's sixth form pupils. The 23-day tour of the country gives them an opportunity to see the results of the school's fundraising work.

Barry has also formed a charity called the Zikomo Trust - which means 'thank you' in Chichewa - to promote the work and links established by GSAL.

MICHAEL GOVE'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR GSAL'S MALAWI PROJECTS

Barry Brindley, staff and pupils at GSAL, have received a well-deserved tribute from the Government for their work in Malawi.

A message of support from Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, pays tribute to what has been achieved over the years. It follows a letter which Mr Brindley wrote to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, asking him to support the work that is being done in Malawi.

The message says: "I would like to pay tribute to the pupils and staff at The Grammar School at Leeds for your dedication in helping to bring the wonderful world of learning to those less fortunate than us in Malawi. The longevity of the help you bring, 25 years of selfless assistance, and the generosity shown through the raising of £250,000 is to be truly admired. I hope your assistance will continue to improve the lives of the children of Malawi. "Please accept my best wishes for all at The Grammar School at Leeds."

Where are you now...?

We love to hear news of OLs. What you are doing, where you are in the world, your achievements, celebrations, changes of career, memories of school, retirement... you name it, we want to hear about it.

If you have any news and photos you would like to share with us at OL Review, please email them to

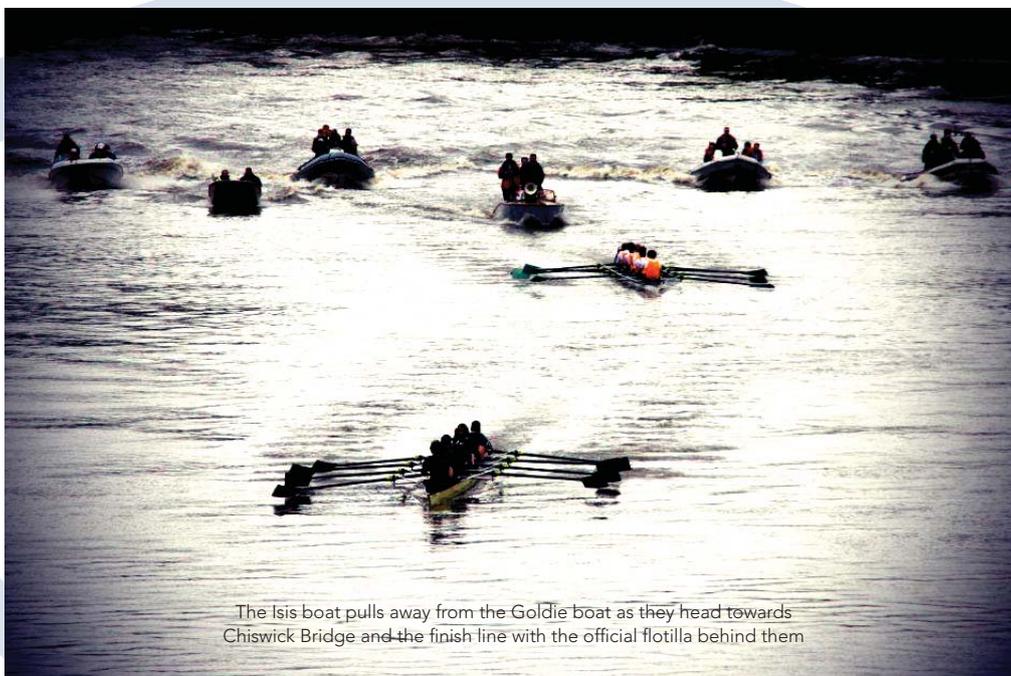
alumni@gsal.org.uk, or by mail to Helen Clapham, Director of External Relations, The Grammar School at Leeds, Alwoodley Gates, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 8GS.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our alumni and often receive calls or emails from GSAL alumni groups or individuals who are organising reunions or social get-togethers all over the UK and further afield.

If you would like us to help you re-connect with alumni you have lost touch with, then we may be able to forward a letter or email for you. Similarly if you are holding any events that you would like to promote via our alumni communications, please contact us at alumni@gsal.org.uk



The Isis boat pulls away from the Goldie boat as they head towards Chiswick Bridge and the finish line with the official flotilla behind them



Joe plays his part at dramatic boat race

Talented young rower Joe Dawson (OL 2010) took his place among this year's Oxford squad for one of the most dramatic races in the history of the Oxford and Cambridge University boat race. Joe, one of the youngest members of the squad at just 20, was among the eight rowers in the Isis boat which races against Goldie, the Cambridge reserve boat, an hour before the main event.

However celebrations of an Oxford win by five lengths - and news that they had broken the reserve boat record - came to a stop when a series of catastrophes hit the Blue race. First a protester swam into the path of the boats and the race was halted, to be re-started half an hour later. Minutes into that race, one of the Oxford team broke an oar, effectively putting them out of the competition and allowing a Cambridge victory.

But the drama was not over yet. Alex Woods, Oxford's bow man, collapsed after crossing the finish line and was lying unconscious in the boat, having given everything to try to prevent his team's loss.

Joe said: "Having won our race against Cambridge, we went from total elation to huge disappointment for our team mates. Because it hadn't been a clean race, and because of all the disruptions, it was a huge anticlimax to the day. The worst thing was that Alex Woods, a well liked member of the team, was unconscious in a medical launch."

Thankfully Alex has made a full recovery and Joe is looking forward to more rowing with OUBC throughout the summer at Henley and possibly in China. He first took up rowing four years ago while still at school, after watching the event at the last Olympic Games, and rowed on Roundhay Park Lake with Leeds Rowing Club.

He said: "I was never one of the sporty ones at school, third team rugby was about the furthest I got, but I liked the look of rowing."

"Training is hard but rowing is quite a purist sport. The hard work you put in throughout the winter months is usually rewarded, and the better boat tends to win - it's not like football or rugby, where there is sometimes a feeling that the weaker side had more luck and came out on top."

Last year Joe captained the first boat for his Oxford College, Corpus Christi, where he is studying classics, and this year was picked for the Oxford University Boat Club (OUBC) squad. Training plays a huge part in his life but his university tutors have understood the demands placed on him and arranged lectures and tutorials around his schedule.

"Fitting work around training was pretty difficult," he said. "In the run up to the race we were travelling to London to train for up to five hours at a time so that we could get used to the tides. One member of the team used to rise at 4am to get a couple of hours in before he trained."



A delighted Joe after the Isis boat win

The squad trained for six hours a day, six days a week, both on the water and in the gym, starting at 6am. All the hard work was worth it and Joe is aiming to make it into the squad again next year and, hopefully, a place on the Blue boat in the future.

OLS RESPOND TO HOWARD'S APPEAL FOR OTC INFORMATION

An appeal for information on an Officer Training Corps (OTC) cap badge (pictured right) in the last edition of OL Review has provoked huge amounts of interest and produced some enlightening responses.

OL Howard Ripley asked when the original cap badge (pictured) was changed to the Duke of Wellington's coat of arms, and why was this chosen over the local regiment The West Yorkshire regiment or The Leeds Rifles. Richard Marshall (OL 2002), a keen collector of WW1 militaria since his school days, has come across an entry in the catalogue of the National Archives which shows that Leeds Grammar School OTC made an application in 1922 to adopt the cap badge of the Duke of Wellington's regiment.

He is hoping to visit the Public Records Office again later this year when he will request the file to find out more about its contents. In the mean time he has sent Howard Ripley details of some fascinating LGS OTC items which he has collected over the years, including a photograph which clearly shows cadets with the 'hanging sheep' badge on their caps and the OTC/Leeds shoulder titles.

[Left to Right]

Cadets on camp around 1920-22.

(Photo courtesy of Richard Marshall)

Close-up of a cadet, clearly showing the 'hanging sheep' badge on his cap. (Photo courtesy of Richard Marshall)



"My collection also includes a bamboo swagger stick with white metal top stamped with the Duke of Wellington badge, and, underneath, the initials L.G.S.O.T.C.," he said. "I have always assumed that this is inter-war."

Another response to the query came from OL Raymond Curry who said that public schools had volunteer corps from the mid-1800s, although the OTC was founded in 1908 after the Haldane Reforms. He explained that OTC force continued until some time between 1939 and 1942 when the Junior Training Corps became the section for schools and the OTC for universities.

According to Raymond it was badged Duke of Wellington regiment by then, so he felt that any date of translation to that badge may well have been when it changed from OTC and became the JTC.

"At any rate, all CCFs were affiliated to a regiment. The DWR was The West Riding Regiment and Leeds was (and still is) in the West Riding. Some other public schools in the West Riding, like Sedbergh and/or Giggleswick I think, were also affiliated to DWR so presumably we 'joined the same club'."

John Alletson (OL 1953) wrote that the OTC became the JTC in 1940 then became the CCF in 1948. And he threw some light on why the school may have chosen the Duke of Wellington regiment.

He said: *"Now under the control of the War Office, a Regular or TA Regiment had to be appointed as a sponsor for training and advice. At this time the TA was still in the midst of yet another reorganisation and the West Riding was probably selected as the most stable or possibly because a master had served (R W Whitmore?)."*

"I think the 7th (Leeds Rifles) Battalion West Yorks was a tank unit then and was to merge with the East Yorks in 1958 whilst the Duke of Wellington (West Riding) continued unchanged till 'Options For Change'."

"I RECALL BRIEFLY THE JTC NAME AT LGS BUT THIS CERTAINLY BECAME THE CCF WHEN THAT WAS FORMED NATIONALLY IN 1948." SAID RAYMOND CURRY

He said: *"Most interestingly, two officers in the picture are clearly wearing a bronzed (i.e. Officer) version of this badge and the ribbons of the WW1 trio. This presumably dates the picture to 1920-1922; perhaps the summer camp of 1921."*

Richard also has a unit photograph dated around 1932 which shows cadets wearing the Duke of Wellington cap badge.



Gordon's moment to shine with the Olympic flame

U6 student Gordon Benson found time during his busy schedule of A level exams to travel to York and run a leg of the Olympic torch relay.

Triathlete Gordon was nominated for the honour of torchbearer by UK Athletics in recognition of his silver medal win at the Youth Olympics. Gordon, who will be starting university in September, has his eyes on the prize of a place in the GB squad for the 2016 Olympic Games, and plans to combine his studies with triathlon training.

His delighted mum Elaine Benson said: "It was a very proud moment - for Gordon, for his family and friends and all the people gathered to watch. It was a wonderful occasion that brought the whole community together to support each one of the torchbearers.

"We appreciate the 100 per cent support the PE department at GSAL have shown Gordon, encouraging his swimming and running and steering him towards the triathlon."



Gordon carries the Olympic torch in York

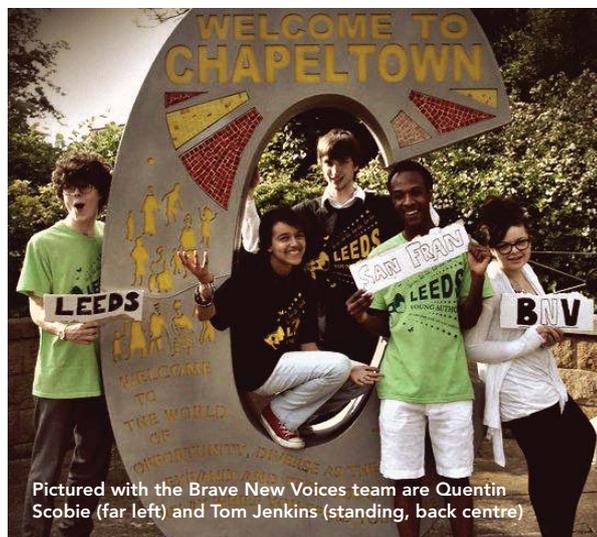
Poetry Slam In San Francisco

Sixth formers Tom Jenkins and Quentin Scobie will be part of a team of five representing Leeds at the international poetry slam competition, Brave New Voices, in San Francisco.

The students impressed the team selectors by performing their original poetry at the school's own poetry slam, 'Speak Up!' in March 2012. They will travel to the USA in July to perform with their team mates from Leeds Young Authors.

English teacher Mrs Jenny Webb said: "Tom and Quentin won over the judges with their writing skill and powerful stage presence. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a huge accolade for these boys who had never 'slammed' before this year!

"They are a great inspiration to our young aspiring slam team from Y8 and 9 who are competing at the UK national competition, 'Shake the Dust' in June."



Pictured with the Brave New Voices team are Quentin Scobie (far left) and Tom Jenkins (standing, back centre)

New Data Protection Regulations Are 'Hot Topic' For GSAL Networkers

A series of 'Hot Topic' seminars has been launched at GSAL with a session on the new Data Protection regulations. The aim of these small seminars is to address current 'hot topics' in specific areas of business to complement the main termly Business Networking Group (BNG) events, which have proved hugely popular at the school.

The first 'hot topic' session was run by OL Phil Brining, managing director of Absolute Data. It provided an overview of what the new regulations could mean to how businesses manage data generally and for people involved in sales and marketing specifically. There were practical suggestions

on how companies can prepare for the changes and how, with careful planning and consideration, the new legislation could provide some business benefits.

The BNG was established just over a year ago as a platform for parents and alumni to meet at the school to make contacts and exchange ideas. It meets once a term and features a guest speaker to share the latest thinking on topics like effective leadership, influencing and persuasion skills, generating business leads and optimising social media. The 'hot topics' events are being organised in response to feedback from BNG members.



Photographed at the event are (L-R): Carol Arthur, of Northern Lights PR, who collaborated on the event, Phil Brining and Helen Clapham, director of external relations at GSAL

JAMES TAKES THE LEAD AT WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

OL James Brining is stepping into the role of a lifetime as he returns to his native Leeds to take over the West Yorkshire Playhouse.



**'RIGHT FROM THE START
I LOVED DIRECTING
AND THAT FEELING OF
STANDING OUTSIDE THE
PROCESS LOOKING IN
WORKED FOR ME.'**

His appointment as artistic director makes James the first home-grown director to take charge of the theatre since it opened its doors in 1990. James is following in the illustrious footsteps of former directors Jude Kelly and Ian Brown, and sees his arrival as heralding a period of change - in more ways than one.

He said: *"Jude and Ian actually worked together for a while at the Playhouse before Jude left and Ian took over from her. I am completely new, so I will bring a totally fresh perspective, but that doesn't mean that I will necessarily make changes for the sake of it. I want to retain a lot of the last 20-odd years as well as explore new opportunities."*

"Even though I have not lived in Leeds since 1989, I have visited four or five times a year and have always kept up with what has been happening at the Playhouse."

James attended Leeds Grammar School from 1979-86 but credits his desire to work in the theatre to his time at Cambridge University rather than school.

"I do remember in my first year at LGS, having a part in the school production of Oliver, which featured

both staff and pupils. However, drama and theatre did not play a great part in my life then, and my time at school was taken up with lots of other activities like cross country running, trumpet and choir."

He does recall, however, enjoying school trips to the theatre with head of English (at the time) Ian Brinton and English teacher Stuart Dorian. Another fond memory is of his Lawson House master, Steve Field, who retires this year as Deputy Head (Activities) after 38 years with the school.

James is the youngest of three boys and, after attending Carr Manor Primary and St Matthew's Middle School, he followed older brothers David (OL 83) and Philip (OL 84) to LGS. From there he went to Girton College, Cambridge, to read English. He said: *"I had a brilliant time at Cambridge and that's where I became involved in theatre. I started out acting but I soon realised I was not that good and by the end of my first year I was directing."*

After graduating James moved to Newcastle to set up a small theatre company working in the community. This was followed by stints in theatres in Basingstoke and Richmond

in Surrey, before he headed for Glasgow in 1997 to TAG theatre. TAG began as the Theatre in Education arm of the Citizens Theatre then became known for strong productions aimed at audiences under 25.

His next move was to Dundee Rep in 2003 as artistic director. During his nine years there, the theatre won many accolades and was nominated for more Theatrical Management Association Awards for theatre in Scotland than any other venue.

Now aged 43, and with a wife and four children, James is heading back to Leeds.

"Returning to Leeds to work at the Playhouse was never part of some big career plan that I had for myself, but this job has come up at just the right time in my life. I was ready for a change and the Playhouse, in terms of scale and size, is a logical step."

Ahead of the family's move, and taking over the theatre in August, James spent seven weeks at the Playhouse before the summer to immerse himself in his new surroundings.

Speaking at the time, he said: *"This is really valuable for me. I am living in a flat in the city centre and walking to the theatre every day where I can absorb, process and get a feel for the culture and the organisation."*

"I will still be staging the big, epic work which the Playhouse does so well, like Shakespeare and musicals. However, I am fascinated by the relationship between a theatre and its city. It should be a mirror of the city and reflect the lives of the people who live there, so I want to tell stories which will mean something to the audience."

"One of my ambitions for Leeds is that people who don't think of themselves as theatregoers will want to come to the Playhouse to see what's going on."



Sue Nelson with Amelia Dawson-Kavagh and Charlie Marcús

GSAL Welcomes Space Boffin Sue Nelson

Science writer and broadcaster Sue Nelson admitted to an obsession with space when she delivered her talk *Blondes, rockets and a life scientific* at GSAL. Sue, whose talk was the second of the Mark Bailey lectures, a series of public lectures in honour of GSAL's former head, spoke of how she wanted to be an astronaut at the age of 14 and wrote a letter of enquiry to NASA.

They wrote back, enclosing a technical manual for the space shuttle and advising her to keep studying her favourite subject, physics.

In the week that marked 50 years since the UK space programme lifted off, Sue told an audience at GSAL that, despite not making it as an astronaut, she feels she does the next best thing. As a science writer and broadcaster, she can indulge her obsession with space to produce the monthly Space Boffins podcast, as well as delving into the rich variety of work undertaken by scientists from all walks of life.

She recalled meeting scientists who had been instrumental in developing man's knowledge of space, from the only surviving member of the early 'Harvard computers' who worked in US astronomical observatories, to famous astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Gene Cernan and Britain's own Tim Peake.

Sue has also encountered many 'citizen scientists'.

She said: *"All the scientists I've met love their jobs, and I wish I'd been clever enough to be one! I am lucky to do the next best thing, having the chance to research many fascinating scientific topics. There is no such thing as an ordinary day, and you'll see that science covers anything you want it to."*

In Search Of A Silver CCF Cup

Can any OLs help us trace a silver cup which was donated to Leeds Grammar School in 1952 by Raymond Curry? Raymond was keen on the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and donated the small two-handled solid silver cup when he left school.

He said: *"It was to be awarded for something like 'the smartest cadet on the annual Inspection parade', or some similar event. I wonder if it has survived."* Work is currently underway at GSAL to record material, information and artefacts in the archive room, but so far the cup has not come to light.

However, as Raymond pointed out, it may have been presented to a winner at some point in the past and not collected back in for the following year. So if anyone knows of its whereabouts, please get in touch by emailing alumni@gsal.org.uk.



The new team are (L-R): James Roberts, Charlotte Martin, Leah Weerasinghe and Tom Wilcox

New Head Boys and Girls Appointed

Congratulations to L6 students Charlotte Martin, James Roberts, Leah Weerasinghe and Tom Wilcox who have been named as new head boys and girls following a rigorous selection process.

All are looking forward to their new roles and speaking on behalf of the team, Charlotte said: *"It's a real privilege and we are really excited about the role that we will play in the development of the school."*

As well as being role models for younger pupils, the head boys and girls represent the school on public occasions, such as Speech Day, when they make a speech. They also organise sixth form events, like the leavers' ball next summer and compiling the year book.

Head of the sixth form, Aaron King, said: *"As I say farewell to an extremely impressive head boy and girl team, I am delighted to be welcoming in four new heads of school of such calibre. I look forward to seeing them not only follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, but develop the role of sixth form student leadership still further within GSAL."*

Anyone for Tennis Racket Restringing?



Jonathan and his trusty restringing machine

Talented young Nationals tennis player Jonathan Gray has come up with a solution to the high cost of racket restringing which is helping to fund his sporting career.

The Y10 student saved up and bought a second-hand restringing machine from his coach to set up his own business, JEG Rackets Restringing. Now the enterprising 14-year-old charges £10 to restring the rackets of fellow tennis players.

He said: *"It was costing my parents too much money every time I needed to have my rackets restrung, which can sometimes be as often as three times a week, but this solves the problem."*

Ms Karen Ward, Jonathan's GCSE business studies teacher said: *"By identifying a gap in the market and attempting to fill that gap using his own knowledge and expertise, Jonathan has demonstrated all the necessary qualities needed to be a successful entrepreneur. I am sure he has a bright future ahead of him."*

As one of the top 16 young tennis players in Great Britain, Jonathan was recently selected to train at the National Training Centre in London. He plays national club tennis league for Sheffield and trains there twice a week at the Graves Club, as well as playing for Batley tennis club, south Leeds. To top it all Jonathan is also a member of the Yorkshire County U16 squad, plays for the GSAL U16 tennis squad and has recently started playing in the men's team of Calas, based in Marseille.

Jubilympic fortune for the 4tunes



The 4tunes (L-R): James, Callum, Jonathan and Desmond, perform at the Jubilee garden party

GSAL barbershop quartet, The 4tunes, experienced their own brand of 'jubilympic' fortune with performances for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic torch relay in Leeds.

The singers, U6 students Callum Kenny, Desmond Lau, James Nehaul and Jonathan Pipe, had the honour of singing at a garden party in Leeds to celebrate the Jubilee. They also sang for the Olympic torch relay as it passed through Headingley.

The quartet has built such a strong reputation that they are now being booked on a semi-professional basis.

Desmond and Jonathan also played for the Olympic torch relay outside Leeds Town Hall as part of the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra, performing a selection of film music including, of course, Chariots of Fire.

Philip Receives Special Physics Award



Philip Boyle Smith

L6 student Philip Boyle Smith has received a special award for his performance in the British Physics Olympiad.

Philip was one of just five students awarded a national prize for their year group, which places him in the top five physicists of his age in the country.

The British Physics Olympiad is a national competition for students in Y11 to Y13 and aims to promote the study of physics and recognise excellence in student physicists.

The competition gives top students the opportunity to test their knowledge and see how the problem-solving skills learnt in physics are applicable in the real world.

Devon Miller Named Youth of the Year



Congratulations to Devon Miller, who has been named RAF Menwith Hill Youth of the Year 2012 for his dedication to scouting and the youth movement programme.

To qualify for the award Devon participated in community work and demonstrated strong leadership skills, as well as writing essays about his chosen role model and what he hopes to make of his life. He also had to prepare a TV presentation about himself.

The award was made by the United States Air Force in Europe (USAFE) and in a letter Ricky L. Harness, the Chief of USAFE Services, wrote of his honour in recognising Devon's accomplishments and offered his *"heartfelt best wishes for your continued success."*

As part of the award Devon will go on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington DC this summer which will include a visit to the Pentagon. He will also represent Menwith Hill at Garmisch in Germany, spending a week with the Youth Centre.

During the 10 years that he has been a member of the scout movement, Devon has held numerous youth leadership positions within the troop. He was also elected into the Order of the Arrow, a national honour society within the Boy Scouts of America. He participates in the programme's monthly outdoor activities including camping, canoeing, hiking and rock climbing.

Devon, originally from Hawaii, is currently living in Harrogate with his family while his father is working at the Menwith Hill base.

King of Shaves Shares Formula for Success

'Anything is possible' was the message from entrepreneur and founder of King of Shaves, Will King, on a visit to GSAL.

Will shared his formula for business success with GSAL's Business Networking Group, encouraging his audience to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, even in these difficult economic times.

He explained that any business can succeed with passion, desire and dedication to make it work; a message that resonated with many prominent Leeds business owners in the audience.

Earlier in the day he also met students from the company 'DELicious', who recently triumphed in the Leeds Enterprise Advisory Programme (LEAP), winning the award for Best Enterprise Company.

From Will's humble beginnings making bottles of shaving oil on his kitchen table, to becoming the third largest brand in the £55bn razorblade market behind Gillette and Wilkinson Sword, he regaled his captivated audience with tales of his entrepreneurial journey and how he cuts it in the digital world with his innovative use of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to build his fan base and position the brand.

Head of A level business studies, Karen Ward, who founded the GSAL Business Networking Group, said: *"This event marks the first anniversary of the networking group and who better to speak of business achievements than entrepreneur Will King. We are both passionate about inspiring enterprise in people of all ages and this event did just that. We were very lucky to have him join us, especially with his many diary commitments."*



Will King meets members of the DELicious team Eilidh Campbell (left) and Sophie Kay

The group brings together business owners from across the city and gives them a professional platform in which to network and share best practice. It has been a huge success and has provided parents with an opportunity to meet leading business personalities across different sectors.

GSAL lifted the prestigious Daily Mail RBS U15 Cup in a thrilling final against The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. The youngsters, making their debut at Twickenham, beat the 2010 and 2011 holders 12-17.

The first half was fast flowing with the holders scoring the first try of the match early on and although they failed to convert this, taking a 5-0 lead. However, this lead was not to last long as 12 minutes into the first half GSAL came back with a powerful try by Tom Gorman, which captain Sam Ward converted giving GSAL a 5-7 lead.

Ward strengthened the lead with a penalty kick in the dying minute of the first half, making the score at half time 5-10. The second half started off with some great kicking by fly half Jonny Haslem to the accompaniment of drumming from many GSAL supporters in the stand. Seven minutes into the second half flanker Will Shepherd scored a text book try right in the centre, which Ward easily converted, pushing the score to 5-17.

The defending champions fought back bravely but an impressively strong tackle by full back Gorman stopped the determined High Wycombe attempt in its tracks and showcased the excellence of the Leeds defence, which was evident throughout the match.



The jubilant team with their trophy.

Nonetheless the High Wycombe squad was not defeated yet. In the last few minutes before injury time, they scored a hard won try, which they managed to convert. However the stamina and Yorkshire grit of the Leeds squad paid off and saw them lifting the cup with a final score of 12-17.

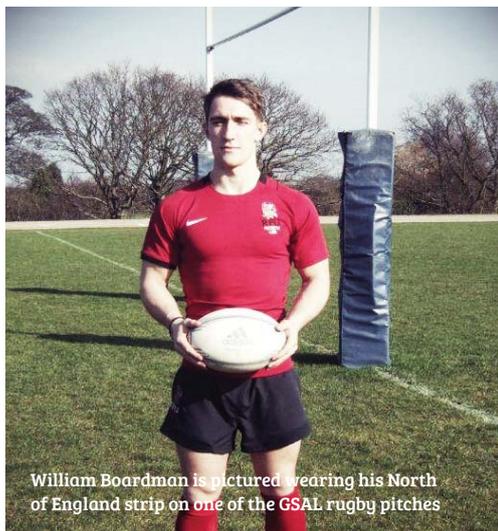
The day might have been overcast at Twickenham and in Leeds, but the hearts of the GSAL players and their supporters - both those who had made the 400 mile round journey to London and those at school in Leeds watching on the big screen in their lunch break - were full of pride.

It was the culmination of a challenging battle which saw the undefeated GSAL up against strong teams, such as Whitgift in the quarter finals and Trinity College Croydon in the semi-finals. Coach Owen Edwards said: *"The character showed by the team throughout every round has been faultless and they couldn't have been more deserving. They are a great bunch on and off the rugby field."*

"It was a superb Twickenham debut - to beat RGS who have such a strong record at Twickenham is amazing."

SQUAD

Tom Gorman, Max Kay, Will Newett, Tom Megson, Chris Bridge, Harrison Brown-Raw, Jack London, Jeremy Huitson, captain Sam Ward, Gerard Ellis, Charles Etchels, Simon Philips, Dom Hardman, Will Shepherd, Harry Francis, Jonny Webster, Jonny Haslem, Ben Townsend, Ed Collins, Elliot Bloodworth, Luke Powderly, Harry Bolser, Harry Mawer and Joe Hunter.



William Boardman is pictured wearing his North of England strip on one of the GSAL rugby pitches

WILLIAM PLAYS FOR NORTH OF ENGLAND RUGBY

Skilled rugby player William Boardman U6 has been selected to play for the North of England squad.

Will, who usually plays in centre position, played in one of the back three positions in his debut game against the Midlands. Unfortunately in the last few minutes of the game, Will had a try disallowed but the North came back with a penalty kick which was converted to give them a one point victory overall with a final score of 32-31.

Will also played in the match against the South-East, which the North won 14-10. He is a dedicated player who is captain of the Yorkshire U18 squad as well as the GSAL first XV squad. He also plays for Otley RUFC, which is believed to be one of the oldest clubs in the country.

John Mackenzie, head of rugby said: *"Will has excelled in the 1st XV squad for the past three years. He has led the 1st XV with distinction this season, and thoroughly deserves his recognition at county and regional level."*