

OLD FLAMES

Autumn 2023

The Old Silcoatians' Newsletter

Welcome from our Alumni Officer, Mrs Corrina Slaski.

Dear Old Silcoatian, as newly appointed Alumni Officer, I am delighted to relaunch our Old Flames newsletter. This newsletter relies on your contributions, so if you have any memories, stories, anecdotes or photographs, please forward them to me, for potential inclusion in future editions.

More information regarding events and communications can be accessed via our updated Facebook page and new LinkedIn group. Please contact me with any Alumni related feedback.

I would, at this point, like to welcome our new members, i.e., 2023 leavers. We hope that Silcoates has prepared you for your life after School, and that you will come back and visit again soon.



SILCOATES WALKWAY OF SUCCESS

We have regenerated our pupil (formerly the main) entrance, to showcase Old Silcoates. To the right, as you walk in, there are seven inspirational Alumni, and to the left, a few of our class of 2023, and what they are doing post Silcoates.

If you are happy to be featured on the 'Walkway of Success' or would like to nominate a former pupil for our Year 11 vote, please do contact me.

For those who may be wondering, our Heads of School boards are still proudly on display and can be viewed in the new main entrance (formerly the Headmaster's house).



This year's *Silcoates Seven*, as voted for by current Year 11 pupils include:

- **HARRIET HOBBAH** - Head Girl 2011-2012, Studied at Newcastle University. Harriet is now a General Dental Practitioner;
- **KARIM A. A. KHAN KC** - Left Silcoates in 1988, Studied at Kings College London, now The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister and King's Counsel;
- **ALICE LIGHTFOOT** - Head Girl 2010-2011, Studied at the University of Birmingham. Alice is currently an Associate at Watson, Farley & Williams international law firm;
- **PETER MOOR** - Left Silcoates in 2016, Studied at Queens University Belfast and Ulster University. Peter is now a UTV journalist at ITV;
- **PHOEBE STEAD** - Left Silcoates in 2016, joined the Royal Navy, featured in Channel 4's 'Warship at Sea' documentary. Phoebe is a Leading Seaman Underwater Warfare Specialist;
- **WILLIAM STEAD** - Left Silcoates in 1864, served on the original Silcoates Old Boys Association in 1897. William was a newspaper editor and journalist, he wrote a series of articles in 1885 whilst at *The Pall Mall Gazette* in support of the Bill dubbed the "Stead Act" that raised the age of consent from 13-16;
- **TIM STIMPSON** - Head Boy 1991-1992, former professional rugby player, playing for Wakefield, West Hartlepool, Newcastle Falcons, Leicester Tigers, Perpignan, Leeds Tykes and Nottingham, England and the British and Irish Lions. Tim is now a motivational speaker, delivers wellness and performance programmes and is an associate of *Hedkayse*, impact protection.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2023

Old Silcoatians are invited to attend our **Christmas Fair**, which will be held on Friday 1 December, in the Main Hall and Chapel.

March 2024

12 - 14 March sees the School production of **'The Sound of Music'**. Details of how to purchase tickets will be publicised nearer the time.

May 2024

The Old Silcoatians' Day will be held on 11 May – please get in touch to register your interest.

June 2024

It would also be lovely to see Old Silcoatians at our annual **Summer Ball**, which is being held on 29 June. Why not use this event to organise a reunion, particularly if it is ten or twenty years since you left?

July 2024

July sees the return of our **"Speed Dating" Careers Event and mock interviews**. An invitation to take part in these important calendared events will be communicated in due course.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

Last term, we held our Old Silcoatians' Day, and it was, as always, an amazing day, uniting Old Silcoatians with each other and our current students. Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Netball were played, and Old Silcoatians took on current Silcoatians in the morning, followed by a very pleasant lunch in the Main Hall. It is always a delight to see our community join together.





Our ever-popular Careers “Speed Dating” event was extremely successful last term, with over 40 professionals, made up of former and current parents and Old Silcoatians, spending time with our Year 10 pupils. It was a great opportunity for them to meet volunteers from a range of careers, ask questions and hear about a variety of roles available to them after School. Amongst our guests were representatives from the armed forces, construction, finance, games development, hospitality, law, medicine, pharmacy, police, real estate, retail and textiles. We would like to thank all who attended. Please contact me, if you would like further information regarding this great event.



This term we held our Acts of Remembrance, with the whole School coming together on Friday 10 November, and the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November: both were very moving, with the Friday seeing our Sixth Form students place the remembrance crosses, accompanied by a pupil from either Year 1 or 2, as our Heads of School read out the Roll of Honour. The Sunday service was well attended by Old Silcoatians and the service was conducted by Revd Dr Janet Lees, former School Chaplain. Refreshments were served in the Dining Hall, following the service, giving all the opportunity to chat and share news. A tour of our new Careers, Marketing and Admission Suite was also given to those who wished to see it.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Michael Binns has been in touch and has provided some Rugby photographs. He attended Silcoates from 1953 – 1959 and is now 82 and living in Australia. He would love to hear from anyone in these photographs and can be contacted through the Alumni Office. Could you help us with the missing names?

The 1955/56 First XV team members are:

Front row from left to right – TBC, Shorrock, Whitaker?, Kaye, Heron, Rymer, TBC

Back row from left to right – Oakenfold, TBC, Wardley, TBC, Weatherill, Graham, Young, Burrows



The 1956/57 First XV team members are:

Front row from left to right – Payling, Graham, Shorrock, Rymer, Heron, Oakenfold, Maxwell

Back row from left to right – Ruddy, Wardley, Weatherill, Bramham, Binns, Johnson, Blacker, Firth

The 1956/57 Sevens team members are:

Front row from left to right – Heron, Shorrock, Rymer, Graham, Oakenfold

Back row from left to right – Wardley, Payling, Maxwell



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These are the members of the victorious win against the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School – October 1955. It was apparently the first time that the Silcoates First XV had beaten them. Frank Spencer (The Headmaster) was so pleased that he gave the whole School a half day holiday.

This is a photograph (circa 1958) of the 220 yards race. The photograph looks as if it was a draw between Oakenfold and Graham. However, Mr Dakin was at the finish line and he pronounced that Oakenfold was the winner.



If you have any memories to share, please do contact us via email.

HONOURING OLD SILCOATIANS WHO HAVE PASSED

Sadly, each year, we hear of the sad passing of Old Silcoatians. These dear Alumni are remembered at our Remembrance Service and their obituaries are posted on The Old Silcoatians' Facebook page. If you wish to notify us of the passing of a relative or friend, please do so by emailing alumni@silcoates.org.uk

Thank you, as always, for your support,

Corrina Slaski

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SILCOATES