



Queens' Alumni News

Issue 2 December 2021

Welcome to the second edition of the **Queens' Alumni newsletter** where you can learn all about how our past students have got involved with helping our current students.

'Where are they now'



Claire Wolf a Drake House student from September 2006 to July 2013 contacted us on behalf of the production company Dot to Dot where she was a researcher. Claire organised in May for three Year 7 students to produce a piece of Art for the South canteen, the television programme was Make away takeaway but we have not been able to talk about it until the programme had been aired! It was a full day but the result is fantastic, check it out next time you are in school!



Former students returning as staff

Owen Abderrakib AH 2013-2020

Polly Jenner NI 2006-2014

Paul Drewett AW 2004-2011

Tracy Jenner nee Clark SV 1974-1979

Lauren Hall NE 2010-2017

Julie Kenny nee Perrotton DF 1975-1980

Sam Harris NI 2010-2017

Lewis Lamb NE 2010-2017

Becky Holder DP 2007-2015

Mitesh Mistry SG 2009-2016

Ruth Humphry-Ingram AH 1998-2004

Carole Phillips nee Meehan SG 1977-1982

Ryan Hunter DF 2010-2017

Jayne Porter SA 2009-2014

Jake Hurst DP 2008-2015

Sarah Thorn SP 2006-2013

Alfie Jenner NE 2009-2016

Mick Swift Drake through and through

If there are any news items or information you would like included please email Mrs Davies

daviesch@queens.herts.sch.uk.

To join our Alumni please register using futurefirst.org.uk

Past students inspiring the current students

Jessie Bedrossian left Queens' back in 2014 after finishing her A Levels. Jess came back into school in October to help the Year 11 drama students with a vocal workshop! The Drama department are lucky to have such great Alumni support.



Dare to Know? Career enrichment lectures that are designed to inspire



29th November 2021: **Brandon Graft**, talked to students about his route into Aviation school Leading Edge in Oxford. Brandon first worked at Waitrose as a delivery driver after completing his A Levels to make money and to delay being on a fluctuating job market after completing his course. It was a rigorous application process which he started in September 2020.

Brandon started in January 2021 and after passing 14 exams over 6 months land based he is now working towards his 200 flight hours he will need before taking his Commercial Pilots License. It was eye opening to find the course costs £100,000 and even then he will need to take a conversion test with an airline that can cost another £30,000 to fly with them.



9th December 2021: **Nikhita Gallimore (now known as Kiki)**, talked to students about her solicitor apprenticeship at Mishcon de Reya LLP. Not an easy option to take straight after A levels but certainly a way to avoid University fees while obtaining great work experience and a full time job at the end.

Kiki joined Queens' in September 2014 and though she was a Newton student seemed to know Mr Swift very well as he stopped to say hello to her! Kiki opted to take her A levels at St Clement Danes in 2019 where she took English with Mr McKeown a past Queens' teacher.



Ms de Groot caught up with ex-student Lauren Hall (a member of Newton House since 2010) who has joined the History department.



1. What has changed most about the school since you were here?

- I think the obvious answer would be the house system! Since I left there have been changes made and now students are organised into year groups as well as their Houses. This is good because they get more tailored and specialised support.

2. What has changed least about the school since you were here?

- The commitment to sport! Only at Queens' do you see multiple teachers staying behind after school to cheer on students in their football game or other sports. Major credit is due to the PE department for running such a wide variety of clubs and sports after school. Sport is like the ethos here, and there is something for everyone.

3. What was your favourite school lunch?

- It has to be the pizza and chips on a Friday. Bonus mention to the chocolate brownies with beetroot - I remember my dad loved those, every parent's evening he would make a beeline straight for the canteen to 'try' a piece.

4. Who was your favourite teacher (apart from your Maths teacher of course!)?

- Not just saying this but I do think you were one of the best teachers I ever had. I think Mrs Fretwell has to be my favourite teacher though. She was my go-to teacher from such a young age, and she taught me every year from Year 7-13! Without her I do not think I'd have a degree in history, let alone be a history teacher.

5. What was the best thing about your Year 7 trip, and where did you go?

- We went to Wales when I was in Year 7. The best thing was spending time with my friends outside of school.

6. What was the worst thing about your Year 7 trip?

- The food!

7. Words of wisdom to current students:

- Get involved. At Queens' you get out what you put in!

8. What was the best thing about going to University?

- The best thing about going to University, for me, was the independence. I thought I was really independent at sixth form, and then I went to Leeds and was really surprised at how much I actually had to do. Being 200 miles away from home meant that I had to solve daily problems myself and learn how to do the tasks that my mum had kindly always done. There were upsides to this though, no one could tell me what time dinner was, or what time I could be home. The freedom to make your own decisions is what university is all about.

9. What is your favourite new House name?

- I think Seacole. However, I do think Attenborough really suits the culture and ethos of what was Auden House.

10. What extra-curricular activities did you do when you were at school?

- Football, netball, basketball and rugby for most of lower school. Then when I got older I played football and coached netball - this was so much fun, I loved having an opportunity to get involved in lower school. In sixth form I was also involved in debating - this was intense but I learnt so much. One of the highlights of my time at Queens' was when I debated the Headteacher, Mr Morrell, in front of a crowd of hundreds of students and staff.

11. Did you ever get a detention and if so what for?

- I never did!