



Queens' Alumni News

Issue 1 July 2021

Welcome to the first edition of the exciting **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'



My name is Dr Thomas McDonnell, I have a PhD in Immunology/Medicine from University College London and am currently a Fellow in the Department of Biochemical Engineering at UCL. I am a research scientist who works on autoimmune disorders, looking at why people get them and how we can treat them. After leaving Queens' I undertook a Biomedical Sciences degree at the University of Hertfordshire which I passed with 1st Class honours, while undertaking a year working in Virology in the Centre for Infections Diseases in the Health Protection Agency. From there I moved on to work at Great Ormond Street in the Free Foetal Genetics department where I published my first research paper and helped develop technologies for testing unborn babies for genetic abnormalities using only the mother's blood. These methods, and derivatives of them, have since been adopted

NHS wide. I then undertook a PhD in the Division of Medicine at UCL which saw me develop a novel new therapeutic approach to an autoimmune disorder called Antiphospholipid Syndrome. In my 4 years undertaking the PhD I patented the therapeutic I developed and published several papers. This work led to a £3.5 Million grant to develop the therapeutic further up to 1st in man trials. I then carried out various Post-Doctoral projects before earning a Fellowship in Structural Biology at the Department of Biochemical Engineering at UCL.

Current staff in school

Hazel de Maeijer SG 2009-2016

Tracy Jenner nee Clark SV 1974-1979

Paul Drewett AW 2004-2011

Julie Kenny nee Perrotton DF 1975-1980

Sam Harris NI 2010-2017

Carole Phillips nee Meehan SG 1977-1982

Becky Holder DP 2007-15

Jayne Porter SA 2009-2014

Ruth Humphry-Ingram AH 1998-2004

Sarah Thorn SP 2006-2013

Ryan Hunter DF 2010-2017

Mick Swift Drake through and through

Polly Jenner NI 2006-2014

If there 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

Since leaving Queens' School after 'A' levels, I trained to become a property professional and have responded to a stream of challenges throughout my career. In order to ensure that my experience and qualifications are relevant to the demands of the housing service, I have continuously sought to develop both my skills and competencies through attendance at CPD seminars and training events, as well as undertaking further study by distance learning, (having gained an MBA in Construction and Real Estate by this method of study).

Whilst employed as Development & Technical Services Manager by Spitalfields Housing Association, I implemented strategies to drive forward the business plan in order to promote Spitalfields' products and services, applying swot analysis, (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), in order to ensure that Spitalfields Housing Association was recognised as a brand leader in the 'Housing Choice' competition organised by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

In this role, I also developed the asset management strategy for the organisation, including organising stock condition surveys to ensure compliance with the Government's 'Decent Homes Standard' and sustainability agenda.

In this role, I also developed the cyclical works programme, based on both the capital and revenue budgets, to ensure that the stock met the statutory minimum requirements and that expenditure was based on economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

As both Press and Communications officer for both the London and Eastern regions of the Chartered Institute of Housing, I have contributed to both regional and national housing issues, (I represented the C.I. H. On BBC's 'Breakfast Time' to discuss the problem of hidden homelessness).

More recently since retirement, I have taken on the role of Secretary for the Ranworth Patient Group, in order to promote the needs of vulnerable groups within the local area of Clacton on Sea.

As a professional surveyor, I became a 'self starter', developing a 'can do' attitude and became comfortable with the role of 'change agent' to deliver cultural transformation in order to deliver customer focussed services, improving the organisation's financial performance to achieve best value, (economy), efficiency and operational effectiveness.



Since retirement I have more time to support my beloved Norwich City (OTBC!).

Graham Seely,
MBA., BA(Hons)., FRICS., FBEEng., FCIIOB., FCIH, Dip.Proj.Man., (CEM)., Dip.Surv.
(CEM).

Past students inspiring the current students

Jessie Bedrossian left Queens' back in 2014 after finishing her A Levels. After taking some time out to travel, Jess began re-auditioning for drama schools. She went on to train at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts on the BA Acting course, graduating with First class Honours in 2019. Since then she has performed in The Shakespeare Globe's Theatre one woman play 'I am Karyan Ophidian' as part of their 'Shakesfear Festival' over lockdown in October 2020. Jess is currently working on some theatre and TV projects that hope to resume after lockdown. Over lockdown, Jess has been working with some of the fantastic GCSE and A Level students at Queens and has enjoyed helping them with drama, and loved reconnecting with the two brilliant teachers Mrs Billinge and Mrs Jones!



Ex-student Jordan Uzoho has offered to do some mentoring as he wanted to give back to the school. Jordan is currently an Associate Consultant at a Strategy Consultancy. Essentially, the role is advising Pharmaceutical and Biotech companies on high level decisions in an unbiased fashion, using deep industry knowledge to deliver optimal results on aspects such as brand strategy, launch and scenario planning. Previously, he was an Account Manager for a Medical Device company and he is just about to complete a Masters in Public Health. Jordan is working with some Year 10 boys, offering a group and individual mentoring. Jordan said 'I'm very excited to be working with the students of Queens' and hopefully I can add some value and guidance that could be useful for the future. Queens' was always good to me, so I think it's important to give back.'



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

25th June 2021: **Liam St Denis**, talked to sixth form students about his work for a Housing association in Borehamwood and his new decision to follow a career in finance having enjoyed working with numbers.

It has taken Liam a few years to work out what he wants to do, having started with Public services at West Herts college then completing a joint Criminology and Psychology degree at Southampton University.

The Zig-Zag nature of Liam's career impressed the students!



6th July 2021: **Mohammed Ghuas**, talked to students about his route into a job as a corporate lawyer for Clifford Chance. He talked about his gap year working at Tesco, internships one organised by Mrs de Groot and the constant applications for graduate placements. The tenacity to keep applying after many rejections is all part of a Lawyers makeup.

The talk was attended by our Law society a group of year 12 students who were all keen to pick Mohammed's brains, he stood up well to the barrage of questions!

We have started many other career groups in the sixth form.

Ms de Groot caught up with ex-student Ivana (a member of Drake House since 2009) who was visiting the school as part of her teacher training.

Ivana left Queens' school in 2016 and went onto Reading University to study Maths. She is currently studying to become a Maths Teacher.



1. What has changed most about the school?

The staff

2. What has changed least about the school?

The building (apart from the newgates)

3. What was your favourite school lunch?

Chicken Burger Tuesday

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

Mr Foxall

5. Who were your form tutors?

Mrs Lavin & Mrs Billinge (Miss Rosen)

6. What was the best thing about the Year 7 trip to Ingleton?

The White Star Caves

7. What was the worst thing about the Year 7 trip to Ingleton?

The Hostel food

8. Words of wisdom to current sixth formers:

Make sure you actually do revision during the year, don't just leave it all to the end.

9. What was the best thing about University?

Moving away from home!

10. What is your favourite new house name?

David Attenborough

11. What is your career aim?

To be Head of Maths (but of course!!!)

The Inter-House Sports' Day had to run a little differently this year due to COVID restrictions and so took place on the field with all students participating in a variety of sporting activities. The grass track wasn't conducive to records being broken, which gave us a moment to reflect on some of our most long-standing school records. Here are some that still stand from last century!! You may recognise some of the names...

Year 7 Girls:

Long Jump	4.28m	R Taylor (N)	1976
High Jump	1.32m	Zoe Walker (N)	1997

Year 7 Boys:

400m	67.6s	R Badrick	1987
800m	2.21.95m	C Turner (N)	1997
High Jump	1.41m	A Bestwick (D)	1988
Triple Jump	9.23m	Gareth Styles (A)	1993

Year 8 Girls:

Discus	23.10m	K Malone (D)	1976
Javelin	21.35m	E Elliott	1980

Year 8 Boys:

100m	12.13s	M Hunt (S)	1995
200m	25.52s	M Hunt (S)	1995
1500m	4.54.53m	C Leech (D)	1989
Javelin	33.82m	S Brown	1983

Year 9 Girls:

75m Hurdles	12.4s	S Robertson (D)	1973
800m	2m.26.7s	M Walker (N)	1980
Long Jump	4.71m	K Asprey (D)	1989
Discus	27.50m	K Malone (D)	1977

Year 9 Boys:

800m	2.09.8m	C Turner (N)	1999
1500m	4.42.9m	C Turner (N)	1999
Long Jump	5.38m	M Ashworth (S)	1991
Javelin	44.13m	J Green	1997

Year 10 Girls:

100m	11.46s	M Ashworth (S)	1992
1500m	4.25.1m	G Arnell (N)	1972
High Jump	1.78m	A Bestwick (D)	1991

Year 10 Boys:

80m Hurdles	13.0s	S Robertson (D)	1974
400m	62.4s	M Walker (N)	1981
800m	2m.36.4s	M Walker (N)	1981
Long Jump	4.73m	J Wyatt (S)	1971
High Jump	1.48m	L Flowers	1997
Shot	8.45m	E Cowe (A)	1989
Discus	29.00m	T Crawford	1979
Javelin	27.20m	T Beavis (S)	1981

