

OSE Association  
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Dear All,

In this day and age my OSE letter begins to feel rather a dated means of communication but as my family tell me, my way of life is still geared to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

However there is certainly nothing dated about the present St. Edmund's which is at the forefront of our country's educational developments. The Governors, Adam Walliker and his team are leading the way successfully forward and the school is flourishing in all age groups (junior and senior) with total numbers well over 300. Some of you older OSEs may regret that it is no longer a full boarding school, but there is flexi boarding during the week and the monthly boarding 'theme' nights are extremely popular. In fact, as an aside, very few children in private schools board today and St. Edmund's, together with others in the area, have become much more local in their catchment.

Academically the school is definitely riding high with numerous awards both to our own and other senior schools. On the games front, there are multiple fixtures with both private and state schools over a wide range of sports. These include cross-country and biathlon events, and tournaments in football and cricket taking place throughout the year. The interest and participation in Music remains extremely high with many pupils either playing an instrument in the main orchestra or one of the many ensembles or singing in one of six different choirs. This summer the Chapel and Chamber choirs are on their biannual tour, this time to Tuscany where they will be giving performances in Florence, Montecatini, and at Lucca Cathedral. Looking through the term's calendar, the variety of curricular activity is impressively wide, so do click onto the website, [www.saintedmunds.co.uk](http://www.saintedmunds.co.uk) to give yourselves an idea of all that is going on.

As you will know, over the last few years a great deal of new building and refurbishment has taken place and now there are plans for a new sports hall adjacent to the cottage where the boys' gardens were situated. However, despite all the developments and growth in numbers, the one thing you will find that has not changed when you go through the front door is the friendly, welcoming atmosphere and indeed the whole ethos and culture of the school remains unaffected.

Now, turning to OSE matters, the Chronicle in its old printed form is unlikely to continue. There is a termly review for parents and of course some of our news does appear in this and following Michael Nicholson's suggestion, there is now an OSE page on the school website with a Facebook link for you to log onto. Just one or two names to mention; Jonathan Dimpleby (1953-57) came back and gave away the prizes on Speech Day last July, entertaining everyone with his memories of the harsher times of his years at the school! Then I had the good fortune to see William Gaminara (1964-1968) in Ibsen's 'An Enemy of the People' at Chichester Theatre recently. He has had a great acting career both on stage and screen and took the opportunity to come and look round the school to refresh his memories at the beginning of May. Guy Farley (1970-76) has gained a considerable reputation as a composer. He has worked with numerous artists including Duran Duran and has won awards for both the film and television scores he has written. Robert Hardman (1973-78) is a leading expert on all matters to do with our Royal Family, presently writing for the Daily Mail. It was he who wrote and directed the wonderful film 'The Queen at Ninety' broadcast over Easter, interviewing different members of her family. I noticed as well that brother Hugo Hardman (1974-80) featured in a recent article in The Field. Having sold his successful coffee business he has now started a new venture, 'Chalk Stream Foods' selling trout to restaurants which is rapidly gaining market share.

Last October Philip Cayford QC (1960-65) very kindly hosted our Reunion at his chambers in Bedford Row up in London and it was lovely to see over sixty of us there to share a most enjoyable evening. This year Adam and I would like to invite you to a lunch at the school, so that you can take a trip down memory lane and see for yourselves all that is going on. This will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 12noon onwards. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible either then or at the Summer Fete which is being held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

Finally my thanks to Jason Batten, Emma-Jane McEwan and Emma Walliker for their help in keeping you up to date with life here at St. Edmund's.

Best wishes

TONY PULL