

# TWYFORD LIFE



The magazine of the Twyford Society: Autumn 2022 – Winter 2023

ISSUE 20



A very warm welcome to Twyford Life! We have enjoyed a fantastic year on so many fronts – much of which you can read about in this latest edition. Keeping in contact with our alumni is so important to us and I hope you enjoy hearing about just some of the many highlights and news that the year has brought.

Educating the next generation so that they can go on to lead successful and fulfilling lives is a great privilege but also a monumental challenge. We are preparing pupils for jobs that don't yet exist, in a world where technology changes at an ever-increasing rate. At Twyford, we have been looking closely at our approach to pedagogy, trying to strike the balance between imbuing pupils with the right skills and values needed for the modern workplace as well as ensuring they are 'exam ready'. It is therefore always interesting to see the many and varied paths our alumni take, from entrepreneurs, business leaders and medics, through to actors, artists and lawyers. The Twyford community covers almost every base it seems! I'm pleased to report that the quality of Twyford pupils remains extremely high and the future jobs market will be lucky to have them.

Talking of interesting careers, it was wonderful to welcome back Old Twyfordian, renowned artist and centenarian, Anthony

Eyton, to open our Art and DTE (Design, Technology and Engineering) exhibition in honour of his work and career. His recollections of Twyford were fascinating (what a different world!) and it was a most uplifting occasion.

Boarding at our new facility, Orchard Close, has been a great success. Indeed, so good are the facilities that there are rumoured to be complaints that senior schools don't compare favourably! 49% of pupils have boarded at least one night and its popularity remains high which is encouraging to see. The old dormitories have sympathetically and effectively been transformed into new classrooms, meeting areas and changing facilities for Year 7.

Our sports teams have continued to enjoy much success and all pupils have had the opportunity to represent the School this year in a range of sports. Of particular note has been the growth of girls' football – something we will be seeing more of over the next few years. Our new multi-use games area has enabled us to provide

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excellent cricket practice facilities in the summer and also an additional space for netball and hockey in the other terms.

Under new leadership, drama has flourished this year. A colourful, lively and inch perfect production of *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Year 6 and 7 was the highlight but, there have been other opportunities for pupils to perform on stage too. Our musical endeavours have been many and I'm pleased to report that more children than ever are learning a musical instrument. The Senior Choir has sung beautifully and at a range of venues. My particular joy is hearing them perform in our atmospheric chapel during our regular family services.

I thank you all for your continued interest in, and support of, Twyford. It really is a very special school with a big future. I hope to see some of you at various events over the coming terms and, if you are ever in the area, you would be very welcome to visit.

**Andrew Harvey** Headmaster



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Pre-Prep Highlights

Pre-Prep has continued to be one of Twyford’s greatest strengths with our new Head of Pre-Prep, Abbey Fecher, at the helm. Abbey joined the Twyford community in April of 2022 and has been a beacon of inspiration, leading Pre-Prep into a new chapter, whilst demonstrating an unwavering dedication to our youngest learners.



### What came first, the chicken or the egg? In Pre-Prep’s case, the egg!

A child centred approach is at the heart of my ethos for learning, so there was great egg-citement in May 2023 when our eggs and incubator arrived! Our pupils went on an incredible learning adventure as they witnessed the miracle of life unfold right before their eyes. Under the careful supervision of our dedicated teachers, our young learners had a unique hands-on learning experience which allowed them to observe the hatching process, from the first peep to the adorable fluffballs that emerged.



As the hatchlings grew into chicks and then small chickens, pupils also got the opportunity to handle them and suggest names for our new feathered friends. Sunshine was the first to be born, followed by Moonlight and Stardust.

At only a week old, we also adopted our two Twyford ducklings, Puddles and Waddles and now our feathered five live free range within the Pre-Prep grounds, bringing a touch of rural charm to our School. Next time you visit, you may spot them joining in Forest School in the woodland, strutting across the Headmaster’s lawn or making a beeline for a delicious match tea!



### Twyford Traditions

I have continued to nurture a number of Twyford traditions, the Golden Book is featured during Assembly each Friday, the annual Reception Nativity continues to be a highlight of the Festive season and the Year 2 magical Christingle service that captures the spirit of the Christmas season. Pupils still have a wonderful time on Avon Beach for Beach Week, hunting for crabs, having fish and chips for supper and enjoying the simplicity of sand between their toes.



### Nursery Evolution

Nursery has seen the greatest evolution since I arrived at Twyford, as we now have a dedicated class for our Little Acorns (2-3 year olds).

After a renovation project for both of our Acorns and Oaks classrooms and recruitment of new staff, we began the 2022/23 academic year with much improved provision for our youngest pupils. We opened our Acorn class with just 6 pupils and now we have 20 children who attend at various points during the week with up to 13 per session, as well as an ever-growing waiting list.



### Grandparents’ Tea

As a new event to our calendar, Pre-Prep welcomed some very special guests — our children’s beloved grandparents. The afternoon began with an exciting tour of Pre-Prep, allowing pupils to be the tour guides and for grandparents to experience firsthand the vibrant and dynamic environment where their grandchildren spend their days. Pupils showcased their classrooms, introduced their teachers, and shared stories about their daily routines and favourite activities. Grandparents marvelled at the colourful artwork displayed in the hallways, as well as exploring the School’s library, Forest School and cookery room. After the enlightening tour, everyone gathered in our beautiful Mulberry Pavilion for a delightful afternoon tea.

This event was a heartwarming reminder of the importance of family and community in our School, and we look forward to inviting our grandparents back again next year.

### Summer Celebration Service

The Summer of 2023 marked Pre-Prep’s first ever Summer Celebration Service where the whole Pre-Prep came together in the marquee to mark all the incredible moments and achievements throughout the academic year. Form Prizes were awarded to pupils for achievement in areas such as progress in learning, kindness towards others, growing in confidence and having a positive outlook. It was wonderful to see so many of our Twyford Learning Qualities represented through the awards.

The Celebration Service also marked the end of Pre-Prep for Year 2 and pupils shared their most special memories of their time since arriving in Nursery. There was not a dry eye in sight as they told stories, reflected on their journeys, and sang their hearts out to ‘When I grow up’ from *Matilda the Musical*.

**“As you get ready for the next adventure, remember that success is not merely measured by accolades or academic achievements, but by the choices we make, the kindness we show, the direction of our moral compass and the positive impact we have on others.”**



### Holi Day: Colour Run

Last March in Pre-Prep we celebrated Holi, the Festival of Colours which is a time of joy, love, and togetherness in Hindu culture. At Twyford we believe in fostering a multicultural and inclusive environment and celebrating Holi was just one way of embracing this.

Despite the Arctic temperatures, our Pre-Prep children approached the day with unwavering enthusiasm. They participated in our very own Colour Run, a lively and colourful event that had everyone beaming from ear to ear. Even those who may have felt a little tentative at the start soon found themselves fully immersed in brightly coloured powder and begging for more!



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World Book Day

There are certain days in the School calendar I embrace with sincere gusto and World Book Day is one of them. In the days leading up to World Book Day, our children engaged in a variety of activities that celebrate the joy of reading. They had the opportunity to participate in puppet workshops, allowing their creativity to flourish as they brought characters from books to life. They also had the privilege of meeting a real-life children's author, Margaret Sturton, who shared her experiences and stories.

No matter what happens in the world and how our own stories unfold, Cinderella shall go to the ball, Jack will always climb the beanstalk, Jeremy Fisher will be seized by a great trout, Charlie will win a Golden Ticket and the hungry caterpillar will turn into a beautiful butterfly. It's all these well-known adventures that keep our childhoods alive and sprinkle a little magic on the Pre-Prep years.

Abbey Fecher  
Head of Pre-Prep



Fun Facts about Miss Fecher

**Favourite school lunch/pudding?**  
Anything with CHOCOLATE, except birdseed though, I still can't quite get my head around that one.

**Favourite Animal?**  
Frog

**Favourite childhood book?**  
The Wishing Chair

**Most spontaneous thing you've ever done?**  
I was climbing up a mountain in Queenstown, New Zealand when I was approached by a paragliding company who asked if I would like to paraglide down. I said no and walked on. Five minutes later, I realised I had to seize the day, so I sprinted back and the next thing I knew I was attached to parachute and running as fast as I could, bare foot, off the side of the mountain!

**What's the most memorable place you've ever travelled to?**  
I stayed on a desert island for three days in the Philippines with a group of fellow travellers. No phone signal, no running water and I slept under the stars. I have never experienced tranquillity quite like it.

**If you could invite any historical figure to dinner, who would it be?**  
Queen Victoria

**Favourite quotes:**  
'Don't look back, you're not going that way' and 'The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.'

Prep Highlights

Life in the Prep School is exciting and rewarding in equal measure. Each child's journey is different. Every single pupil is challenged positively in a variety of ways each day. These can range from researching and presenting about philosophy to personal reflections on academic work and looking at next steps in a pupil's individual learning journey, to SCUBA diving or perhaps even performing in a lunchtime concert. The ability to provide a safe environment for Twyfordians to understand themselves and how to interact with each other is vital in the development of every individual and we are proud of all that the children achieve in their time with us. Everything is as important as the next thing and we are fortunate that the array of opportunities and skills on offer here mean that quality is never diluted in any area.

Year 3

The Year 3 children travelled to Foxlease for their first ever residential trip in the Summer Term. Seeing the children away from home and tackling activities that take them out of their 'comfort zone' is always a joy to behold. Self-belief and confidence increase as the hours go by. As ever, the accommodation was very comfortable and the children enjoyed their stay. Aside from the excitement of sleeping away from home, all of the pupils had the opportunity to experience a variety of activities, such as tunneling, zip wire and abseiling. In a world where the future needs resilient, resourceful and positive people, this kind of trip is so valuable for all involved... and, most importantly, very good fun!



Year 4

One of the highlights for Year 4 was most definitely the residential to Calshot. The children skied on the dry slope, went climbing, kayaking, sailing, as well as honing their archery skills. They also completed the initiative course outside – this is where the children had to work together as a team to achieve a goal. For example trying to keep a giant see-saw afloat in the middle. In the evenings the children had the egg drop challenge, where they had to make a contraption to soften the blow of the egg being dropped from the top of the hanger. They could only use recycled items provided that night. The children also worked in small groups to complete hanger orienteering. A big favourite evening activity was ringos on the dry ski slope. Another highlight was our trip to the Ancient Technology Centre – where the children were able to step back in time to see what it would have been like in Saxon/ Viking times. Here were some of the activities we did – blacksmithing, rope making, weaving, cutting and sawing wood to be used for firewood or to make a fence and warrior training – where the children used replica shields to see what it would have been like in battle. The children also had a go playing Viking games as well as trying to work out the answers to riddles.



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Year 5

Year 5 ventured out locally to take in the wonders of Winchester Cathedral and find out about the rich history of the building and its significance over the centuries, but particularly the Middle Ages (which tied in nicely with the History curriculum). They had an opportunity to explore what the life of a monk would have looked like and what the day-to-day running of a religious building would have entailed. It never ceases to amaze how such an incredible building often drifts into the background on shopping trips or lunches out; by focusing on the cathedral, the children not only had the opportunity to see one of the most impressive religious buildings in the land but also realise that sometimes it is the things which lie on your doorstep that can be the most interesting.

Year 6

At the end of the Summer Term, the Year 6 boys and girls had the opportunity to take part in a silent disco on Home Close Field. Having the chance to say goodbye to a few of the year group who were heading off to senior schools, it served as a great chance to kickstart the end of school year events. Silent discos did not really exist in the day of the staff present, but they all enjoyed themselves as well experiencing something new, though some of the music was lost on them! The dance moves on show from the children were creative and, at times, unlike anything that has ever been seen before. A big thank you must go out to all of the parents who helped with the organisation of the event, which was loved by all. The event was a fitting end to what had been a fantastic year for a lovely cohort.

Year 7

In late September, the Year 7 cohort made their annual pilgrimage to Normandy to immerse themselves in French-speaking culture, take part in challenging activities and marvel at some of the most historically-significant sites that the region has to offer. We travelled by coach and ferry to Château de la Baudonnière, just on the border between Normandy and Brittany. The château caters beautifully for English schools in their goal to improve children’s French and ensure that they have lots of fun doing so.

Over the week, the children took part in activities ranging from orienteering to assault courses and climbing to archery. All of these endeavours were instructed in French and the children’s vocabulary expanded noticeably over the time spent there. The children also had the opportunity to venture out to a local market, as well as a memorable trip to Mont Saint-Michel where the sun shone and ice creams were eaten, whilst taking in the beauty of this most individual of landmarks. On returning, the entire year group (and staff!) were exhausted, but there is no doubt that a fantastic time had been had by all.



Year 8

In June 2023 Year 8 travelled to the small village of Ponte Di Legno at the foot of the Dolomites mountain range for their Leavers’ Trip. The children enjoyed a wonderful week of activities including mountain biking, mountain trekking and white water rafting: the highlight for many. Memories of Mr Riddle’s struggles during the mountain



trekking and Mrs Clarkson forgetting to swim in the rapids and having to be rescued by the instructors, will live long with all who were present! The hotel accommodation was superb, set in a beautiful location at the foot of the mountains and bordering the river. Within the hotel, the children (and staff!) enjoyed wonderful and varied Italian food, access to a swimming pool and rooms of high quality with astonishing views. The children were impeccable in terms of their engagement with the activities, behaviour and respect for each other. The staff all agreed that the way the group of children behaved contributed just as much as all of the activities and events to the enjoyment of the week. The final evening of song and dance in the village square (watched by parents back home on the village’s street camera!) was a fitting end to a memorable week.



Drama

Drama has been thriving here at Twyford School, and this past year has seen a myriad of events and performances from our major Year 6 & 7 production, to smaller scale performances in our ever popular Junior Drama Club.

This year has seen the introduction of a ‘Props and Set Design Club’, run with DT’s Mr Russell-Sealey, and our budding young designers have made a stunning array of items, including a scale model of our very own stage. Our pupils are excited to be preparing staging ideas for our upcoming production of ‘Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat’ in 2024, and we are proud to be developing our opportunities both on and off the stage, by teaching the fundamentals of backstage work.

We have a growing Shakespeare club, where we inspire our pupils to access the Bard’s work from a whole new perspective. The Year 8s also perform a selection of Shakespeare scenes at their summer leaving ceremony, workshopped and directed by professional visiting actors. Our Year 8s have also performed their own devised scenes to our Pre-Prep children, to get them enthused about all the exciting drama events to come as they move up through the School.

Preparing our pupils for the real world has also been a key focus, seeing an introduction of a Year 6 & 7 Public Speaking Competition, where the winners perform their speeches in front of the entire School!

Finally, this Autumn 2023 we have put our first set of candidates in for LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exams since 2022, with plans to grow this throughout 2024.

Drama has really been bursting with energy, and our pupils are as keen and confident as ever. It has been a wonderfully successful year, and we can’t wait for next year’s creative adventures.



Senior Years at Twyford

To recognise and prepare our older children for the more independent world of senior school we have created a sixth form style approach to their final two years in 7 & 8 at Twyford. Bespoke separate academic and social spaces have been created within the School to allow these children to explore their own independence with its increased responsibility. For Year 7s they are enjoying the newly refurbished ‘School House’, with state of the art classrooms and changing facilities. Originally built and used as dormitories, these wonderfully light and spacious rooms create a thriving hub for life in Year 7. ‘Saxon Court’ is home to Year 8 with modern classrooms and changing facilities and a spacious outdoor area in which to socialise and play table tennis during break times.

These formative years in Years 7 & 8 are structured to recognise evolving needs socially, emotionally and physically, to allow them the space and time to learn and grow, preparing them for the next stage of their academic journey. Trips home and away for both year groups provide a solid foundation for promoting confidence and independence. As part of the French curriculum, the Year 7s head to France for a week and an outward bound trip to Wales in the Summer Term.

Year 8 enjoy a week’s trip to Italy in June as well as enjoying academic trips throughout the year and regularly welcoming inspiring visiting speakers to the School. Both year groups take on increased responsibility over these two years as pupil leaders, prefects, peer supporters and house captains; roles which encourage collaboration, leadership and confidence.

Academic progress and achievement is high on the agenda. A set of pupils work towards academic scholarship exams and Winchester Entrance exams. These are challenging papers across a full range of academic subjects. We also prepare pupils for their interviews or scholarship assessment days at their senior schools which may include group discussions and debates. Other sets of pupils work towards 13+ Common Entrance in English, maths and science. Pupils take additional papers in maths and some other subjects. History, Geography, French, RS and Latin are assessed using our unique PSB (Pre Senior Baccalaureate) framework. Assessments include presentations, projects, debates, essays and exam style questions. The assessments run each term over Year 7 and Year 8 resulting in a set of academic grades that are shared with senior schools.



# TRANSFORMATIONAL BURSARIES

### The Wickham Foundation

This year we launched the Wickham Foundation, our campaign to raise money and facilitate transformational bursaries at Twyford in Years 7 and 8.



### Our Vision

Children have one childhood: everything we do at Twyford is focused on making our pupils' time with us as happy and fulfilled as possible.

We are also committed to opening up places for children for whom Twyford is the right school, but whose financial circumstances mean that an independent education would not be possible without significant support.

By offering transformational bursaries, we will be creating extraordinary opportunities for children who otherwise would not be able to benefit from everything that a Twyford education offers.

Transformational bursaries are at least 110% of the fees – covering tuition, weekly-boarding, trips, instrumental music lessons, uniform, travel, additional clubs and even pocket money when required. It's a wraparound bursary allowing a pupil to experience Twyford in the same way as everyone else. It's a life-changing gift.

We want to begin by offering one transformational bursary for a pupil joining us in Year 7 in September 2024, which would fully support them for two years. We then plan to offer a two-year transformational bursary to at least one Year 7 entrant each year.

### A History of Philanthropy The Wickham Foundation

Twyford has a long history of being a philanthropic community. The School itself was gifted into a charitable trust by its last owner, Bob Wickham, who became Headmaster of the School in 1937 – the fourth from the Wickham family, whose close association with Twyford began in the 1820s. Over the course of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, the family improved the School buildings and added land to the School's estate, much of which was transferred to the ownership

of the Twyford School Trust after it was established in 1956. The Wickham family were owners or Headmasters of the School for 150 years. In recognition of the family's transformative generosity and their long association with Twyford, we are launching the Wickham Foundation, a fund to provide transformational bursaries for pupils joining Twyford for Years 7 and 8, living in communities where opportunities to flourish are limited and who have particular talent or potential on the academic front, or in music, art, drama or sport.



### Partnership

#### How SpringBoard and Twyford work together

We are partnering with the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation to implement our bursary programme. SpringBoard are a social mobility charity focusing on harnessing the power of educational opportunities at some of the UK's leading schools to benefit young people who need them the most. SpringBoard help Twyford to identify children that are the most in need of, and most likely to benefit from, a weekly-boarding school education.

SpringBoard will make sure that Twyford's bursary applicants are well matched to the School and provide help and support to ensure that the children placed at Twyford are happy and successful here.

SpringBoard's impact assessments clearly show that through transformational bursaries, it is possible to achieve life-changing outcomes for disadvantaged and vulnerable children in terms of both their academic progress and their future career prospects.

This in turn increases social mobility more broadly, through a 'ripple effect' that those children's successes play in raising aspirations within their home communities.

- What SpringBoard pupils say:
- Pupils "strongly agree/agree" that they are gaining:
- more opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds (93%)
  - better qualifications (93%)
  - a better chance of getting a good job (86%)
  - more extra-curricular opportunities (91%)
  - greater confidence to succeed in life (81%)
  - more chances to excel in something they are good at (84%)

(Source: SpringBoard Annual Pupil Survey, 2021)

When asked to describe their time at boarding school in three words, SpringBoard pupils most frequently chose **fun, exciting, enjoyable, interesting, challenging, friendly.**



### Join us

We know that when our community joins together, we achieve extraordinary things. Thanks to our Twyford family and friends, we will be able to increase educational opportunities for more children through the Wickham Foundation for transformational bursaries.

Our initial target is £320,000: this will enable us to award a weekly-boarding 110% bursary to a pupil entering Year 7, each year for the next five years.

£200

21 families each giving £3,000 (£200/month)\*  
= one 110% bursary for Years 7 and 8

£100

43 families each giving £1,500 (£100/month)\*  
= one 110% bursary for Years 7 and 8

£40

107 families each giving £600 (£40/month)\*  
= one 110% bursary for Years 7 and 8

£1,500 provides uniform and sports kit for a bursary recipient and  
£800 provides one peripatetic music lesson for the year

\*Figures shown are Gift Aided, Eg. £100 = £125 with Gift Aid.



Twyford Rebranding Reaps Rewards  
Twyford School win award at the Independent School of the Year Awards

Hot off the Press, we are delighted to announce that at November’s Independent School Of The Year Awards, Twyford School won the Marketing Award for Effective Brand Communication “for clear and powerful messaging across online and offline marketing.”

In 2022 we embarked on a re-messaging and rebranding exercise. From the outset we wanted this to be a reflective and collaborative process. A mix of children from various year groups, staff, governors, parents and grandparents were involved in three stages of interviews to better understand the beliefs, expectations, culture and values, the positives and negatives, that shape the Twyford personality.

Following this extensive research phase and, working alongside Robert Fletcher & Partners and Haime & Butler, a new vision under the relatively new Headship of Andrew Harvey, was developed. The intention was to build on the current foundations of success at of the School and, areas of identified improvement, into an evolved and dynamic brand of education; to create a nurturing and thriving learning environment where

everything is in one place, where there is room to make mistakes and the space to put them right; a place offering each and every child a complete education.

We undertook a complete overhaul of the existing School brand from a simplified new School crest to new typography, colour palette and photography. The concept of ‘It’s All Here’ was introduced to reinforce the fact that every important aspect of a young child’s education is here in one place and used ‘narrators’ to tell their stories and reinforce all key messages.

From high level communications aimed at prospective parents to all internal communications, from advertising to a complete signage pack, we delivered a thorough re-brand project.

At the end of 2022, we proudly launched to the Twyford community this vision, our new brand, an exciting film and prospectus and the direction this School is travelling.

IT’S ALL HERE.  
TWYFORD.  
THE COMPLETE EDUCATION.

“Our role here at Twyford is to give each child the most complete education – academic, cultural, emotional, physical – so that they, each and every one, can have the best start at living their best life, for themselves and for others. It is as simple as that.”

Samantha White, Twyford’s Head of Marketing believes the new strapline perfectly encapsulates the School’s ethos:

“It’s a strong public statement of our personality and a confidence in what we stand for; a reflection of who we are now and our direction of travel, which is exactly what we had intended.”

She continues,

“We try to give parents honest, authentic insight into the kind of school we are. When they come for a visit, they recognise the School that they have already engaged with through our online film or read about in our prospectus. In both, we show the myriad of ways in which a Twyford pupil can thrive here, in and beyond the classroom, by visually portraying the Twyford experience. Parents and children see that it really is “all here.” What we say we offer for each child, does happen. To coin a phrase, it’s as simple as that!”

Rebecca Andreae, Registrar, and Samantha White, Head of Marketing with the trophy.



ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



**Bob Wickham Legacy Society Lunch**  
In December 2022, we celebrated 100 years of the Memorial Library with an Alumni lunch for our Bob Wickham Legacy Society. Chef Dean cooked a chicken pie decorated with 100 on the crust. Funded by Old Twyfordians in 1922 in memory of those who lost their lives in the First World War, the library is central to the children’s week at Twyford and has played a role throughout its 100 years and will continue to do so.



**Avington Family Golf Day**  
May half-term started swingingly with over 40 boys, girls, parents, alumni, grandparents and teachers taking part in a fun afternoon of golf at Avington, followed by a delicious ‘Tea on the Tee’ provided by Chef Dean. The Headmaster, Andrew Harvey, came second, his team robbed of victory by Jesse He, Wally Xu, Stephen Cheung and Aedan Cheung and everyone loved the new Twyford School golf balls. Close to £400 was raised for the Wickham Foundation. Nearest the pin winners were Dom Britt and Bodie Lawton and longest drive winners were Liza Hunt, Sean Dolphin and Jesse He.

**Opening of our new multi-use games area**  
We welcomed Hampshire Cricketer Keith Barker and Southern Vipers captain Georgia Adams to Twyford School on Saturday 10th December 2022, to formally open our new MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and cricket nets.

The all-weather surface complements our existing astroturf and hardcourt netball courts whilst also providing first class cricket practice facilities for the boys and girls all year round.

Fundraising for the MUGA took place amongst the Twyford School community and was generously kick-started by a departing family who proposed replacing our well-worn older nets. The project evolved when the opportunity presented itself that by re-orientating the existing nets and expanding their footprint, the area could provide sufficient space for an additional netball sized court whilst also incorporating four lanes of retractable cricket nets. Dividing the area of the court by the remaining sum required resulted in the cost “per square” being £50 which meant the project was accessible to many. Seventy families amongst the Twyford community generously contributed to the fund.

Keith, fast bowler, and Georgia, Captain of the Southern Vipers, formally opened the MUGA and then a couple of intrepid Year 8s faced their bowling in the nets!

December also saw the Christmas Cracker Fair taking place and a crowd of parents gathered to see the opening with a mulled wine and mince pie in hand. The Parent v Staff netball matches then took place – netball replacing football due to the frozen pitches!



**Career Speed Networking**  
The Summer Term saw our first ever career speed networking event – speed dating for jobs! Sixteen busy, talented, engaging, entrepreneurial and inspirational parents came into our new boarding house, Orchard Close, to talk to the Year 8s as part of their leavers’ programme, some even brought props!  
Under the shade of the boarding house trees, the children learnt about everything from being a chef to a barrister, a coder to a stylist and much more.





ALUMNI AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
UPDATE



**Anthony Eyton Opens Twyford School Art Exhibition**  
Royal Academician and Old Twyfordian, Anthony Eyton RA, paid a very special visit to Twyford School to open the Summer Art and DT Exhibition in May.

Anthony Eyton celebrated his 100th birthday in May this year and was recently nominated for an OBE in the King’s Honours list. He paid homage to the artwork of Years 6, 7 and 8. Anthony had been particularly impressed by the Year 6 paintings, inspired by his own work ‘Chairs’, which had been collected together in a book and sent to him to celebrate his 100th birthday. He was delighted with the book and described it as ‘outstandingly good’ and created by the ‘Year 6 magicians with their genius paintings being full of light and joy’ inspiring him to see the world afresh.

Anthony also kindly donated a selection of ‘Juvenilia’ drawings which he had drawn 93 years ago whilst he was at Twyford. They were very good even then!

Anthony Eyton, recently described as the greatest living Landscape artist, still paints every day. In his address to the pupils, he recalled how he always drew in a notebook, even in his school days and how his brush or chalk were always his weapon! Anthony also visited the School Chapel, Upper School and Library bringing back many memories.

The Art and DTE Exhibition was held in the Mulberry Pavilion in the School grounds. It showcased work from Years 6, 7 and 8 and included fabulous papier maché jellyfish hanging from the rafters, ceramic portraits of the Year 8 leavers, DT wooden automata toys, perspex clocks, ceramic sweets, paintings and drawings showcasing a great array of talent. The Exhibition was open for a week to enable our whole community to visit and enjoy the work. Our thanks to Mrs Gayle Hadaway, Lianne Hinxman and Mr Sam Russell-Sealey for all their hard work.

**Twyford Society Connect**

A reminder to please join the Twyford Society to stay in touch. Hopefully you will have received an email or letter earlier this year outlining how to join our new digital platform. Now, more than ever, we understand the importance of community and a sense of belonging.

Please take a look and sign up today, if you haven’t already, by visiting:

[twyfordsociety.twyfordschool.com](mailto:twyfordsociety.twyfordschool.com)

Key benefits to joining:

- Reconnect with the wider community
- Update your contact details, create a profile, and choose your communication preferences
- Share your stories and photographs in the ‘Have Your Say’ news section
- Sign up to reunions and events
- Access old school photographs from the archive
- Catch up on the latest news from School.

Any questions please email:  
[fmcintosh@twyfordschool.com](mailto:fmcintosh@twyfordschool.com)



**Twyford Celebrates the 100th pupil taking part in The Grange Festival**

Sunday 2nd July saw the final production of Queen of Spades closing the 2023 Grange Festival.

Over the last decade 100 pupils from Twyford have taken part in a great range of operas at The Grange, amongst them the Queen of Spades, Oliver, Albert Herring and Macbeth. The children immersed themselves in this wonderful opportunity and experience of working with a professional opera company, involving rehearsals through the Summer Term in London and finally moving to The Grange for rehearsals and the performances themselves.

This year, 12 Twyford School pupils took part in the opening scene of ‘The Queen of Spades’ which received five star reviews from many publications. The children even

enjoyed a curtain call on Sunday night much to the pride of the School!

To celebrate this landmark of our 100th pupil being involved, the School invited all families and Twyford alumni of the Grange to take part in a gorgeous evening of drinks, picnics and performance.

Our thanks to The Grange for their hospitality and beautiful setting.

All children at Twyford School have a class music lesson throughout their School journey from Nursery to Year 8 and 75% of children learn an individual instrument. The junior and senior choirs produce wonderful music, along with the string orchestra and wind bands. The Music Gala on the last day of the Summer Term showcases their talent.

Twyford School is winner of the Best of the Best “Great for Music” in the 2023 Week Magazine’s Independent Schools Guide.



**James Bond Ball – Summer Term**

The James Bond Ball marked a full return to action for all School events. Over 300 parents, teachers and alumni gathered for an amazing evening of cocktails, dinner, luge shots from the iced James Bond revolver and a fabulous live auction managed by parent, Charlie McCowan; who thankfully mastered the art of spotting bidders over foliage and calming the very excited crowd.

The main aims of the ball were fun and

funds. Twyford is looking to support two children in Years 7 and 8 with full transformational bursaries in conjunction with the Royal National Children’s SpringBoard Foundation. The ball raised over £40,000 with funds still coming in so we are all set for our first SpringBoard pupil to join us from September 2024. If you are interested in supporting us and would like to hear more, please contact: [fmcintosh@twyfordschool.com](mailto:fmcintosh@twyfordschool.com)



**Lucia Kendall**

In September, many of the girls were treated to somewhat of a privilege when we managed to coax Lucia Kendall back to Twyford to deliver some football coaching to the girls. Women’s and girls’ football is really developing nicely off the back of some truly inspiring performances from the Lionesses. Lucia played in the boy’s football teams when she was a pupil at Twyford and has gone on to forge a career in professional football, playing for age group England teams and she has even captained the Saints Women’s first team this season. She is actually the first professional footballer that Twyford has ever produced in Twyford’s 200 years! We were very fortunate that she was prepared to give up an afternoon to come in to inspire some of our young girls. Apparently, she has promised the Twyford girls a ‘cheeky chicken’ or a ‘stack the shelves’ goal celebration when she next scores for the Saints!

CHARITY NEWS

**Academic Year 2022/23**

Last year saw a busy, productive, and enjoyable year for the Twyford School community in terms of raising money for our School charities.

As usual we began the year with an amazing response to our Harvest Festival collection for the Beacon in Winchester. This was quickly followed by collections for the British Legion Poppy Appeal raising £688, Children in Need £1906 and Comic Relief £644.



The School’s nominated charity for the year was Abby’s Heroes, which is a local charity supporting children receiving cancer treatment and their families at University Hospital Southampton. Money was raised through the fantastic support of the PTA in arranging the Christmas Extravaganza, Carol Service collections, mufti days, pancake races, pupils arranging bake sales, Easter raffles, staff and friends sponsorship for taking part in the Southampton 10K or half marathon event and sponsorship raised by pupils taking part in a triathlon.

All this team effort resulted in a remarkable final total raised of £11,426. Such an incredible achievement by the Twyford School Community.

Many of you may remember that the chosen Charity for 2021/22 was the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. As part of the fundraising activities for this charity we offered tree sponsorship for planting to mark Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee on Home Close Field. These trees have now been planted and we look forward to them maturing and becoming part of a new mountain bike track for pupils.

This year the pupils have already voted for their nominated charity and we are very much looking forward to concentrating on raising much needed funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

**Jenny Fowles**

Head of Charities 2022-23

**Emma Stewart**

Head of Charities 2023-24



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Boarding at Twyford School

After starting a school in about 1787, the vicar, the Revd. Liscombe Stretch taught and housed his pupils in the Vicarage (now Mildmay House). It wasn’t long before space became rather tight. In 1808, the Revd. Stretch was joined in Twyford by his nephew, the Revd. Liscombe Clarke. It is evident that after his uncle obtained the lease on what is now the front part of the present school, Mr Clarke moved in and, at some stage, moved the School from the vicarage to this house. It is generally accepted that this happened in 1809. The 37 boys at this time probably slept in the attics! Clarke quickly started a building programme which included the dormitories familiar to generations of Old Twyfordians as Long Room and Two Rooms.

After the appointment of the Revd. James Bedford in 1815, building continued with initially two classrooms to the east of the main building. Following the construction of Upper School in 1819, the uppermost classroom was converted into a dorm, Great Work Room, and another former classroom became Old School Room. The New School Room and the classroom below it were added by the Revd. Charles Wickham in 1893 in a space previously occupied by a gymnasium.

In 1888, a few weeks after the arrival of Charles Wickham, the School was hit by measles. As a result, the dorms were fitted with partitions or cubicles, as they were then known. These partitions were often perforated by spy-holes, through which boarders illicitly communicated with their neighbours. More dormitories were adapted from later additions to the building: North Room (1893), New Room (1897) and West Room (1901).

Further work followed the terrible diphtheria outbreaks in 1896-1897, including a new upstairs washroom, the raising of dormitory ceilings (resulting in the loss of the old attic spaces) and the insertion of new windows.

In 1902, the dormitories all had their names put up on boards above the doors. These were still in place until this year’s changes but are now on display in the new boarding house.



Bob Wickham (Headmaster 1937-1963) who arrived at the School as a pupil in April 1914, left us a vivid picture of what he saw and experienced at that time. He spent his first night as a pupil in Great Work Room in the bed next to the door. The dormitories had board flooring and no central heating. There was a row of wash basins down the centre of the room which were filled each morning with tepid water in which the boys would, after a fashion, wash. Physical conditions were spartan – with cold baths every day, primitive lighting and heating, and earth closet sanitation. The day ended for the ‘late beds’ with chapel at 8.15pm. As the boys went up to their dormitories or for their weekly bath they shook hands with the teaching staff who had gathered in the central hall. The dorms were lit by paraffin lamps, extinguished punctually at 9.00pm by the Headmaster, Mr McDonell.

Bob Wickham was headmaster during the Second World War. Boys often had to evacuate the main building and sleep on bunks in the School’s air raid shelter, usually returning to their beds at some time between midnight and 1am. In 1940, Two Rooms was temporarily used by officers of a squadron of the Royal Lancers who were

on exercises in the area. The ‘other ranks’ slept in the gymnasium.

The dormitories were extensively refurbished in the 1980s; carpets were fitted, and central heating added to three unheated rooms. Although the first ‘regular’ girls started at the School in 1985, the first girls’ dormitories weren’t added until 1994 in the timber boarding ‘pavilion’ in the chapel garden, in use until very recently as maths and geography classrooms. Some girls had moved into the main building in 2004, the remainder following in 2008 after another refurbishment of the boarding accommodation.

Arguably, the most important developments in boarding at Twyford School have occurred in the last three years.

Orchard Close, an ‘Arts & Crafts’ style house in Bourne Lane, which had been designed by the Revd. Charles Wickham, had been used as an old people’s home for 60 years. In March 2020 it was announced that the home was to close, and the School quickly realised that the purchase of Orchard Close would provide state of the art facilities and free up much-needed space in the Main School. The purchase of Orchard Close was completed in January 2021 and work



started later that year to provide 17000 sq ft of accommodation for up to 84 boarders, in rooms that sleep a mixture of 3, 4, 5 and 8 students; dedicated arts & crafts and home economics areas; a music practice room; two common rooms; an Xbox/PlayStation zone; a sick bay and accommodation for three members of staff. The boarders moved into their new accommodation in April 2022. Appropriately, given the setting of Orchard Close, all the new dormitories are named after trees: Mulberry, Lime, Birch, etc.

The ‘old’ dormitories in the main building have now been converted into a new base for Year 7, including classrooms, toilets, and girls’ changing facilities. In addition, there are new office spaces, a large meeting room and a room dedicated to Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA).

Time moves on and, despite all the changes, the boarders’ routines in Orchard Close would be familiar to many Old Twyfordians.

We would welcome reminiscences – and photographs, if you have any – from your time in the old boarding house.

**Andrew Keeling**  
School Archivist



## From the Boarding House September 2023

We have been delighted with the impact that our new staff members have had in the boarding house. Miss McGill has quickly found her feet, so too have our new gap students, Mr Thomas, Mr Hasty and Miss Kime. Miss Kime remembers her time in the house as a pupil at Twyford with such fondness, only a few years ago!

It has been full steam ahead in Orchard Close. Pupils in Year 4 have had their trial boarding night and we congratulate all 36 children who have experienced a night in the house for the first time! The pictures show it all really! It really was a pleasure to provide this experience for the children and they impressed us with their approach. I was also very impressed with our regular Monday night boarders who helped to guide the trialists through the evening and nightly routines. Maintaining an approachable, supportive and friendly culture are probably the best adjectives that describe the role that they have played with the trial boarders.

**Gregg Lewis**  
Head of Boarding





## GREETINGS AND GOODBYES

### Chloe Coppelin

I spent a wonderful 9 years working as a drama teacher in the Prep School. I was always inspired by the vibrant energy and eagerness that the children had towards their learning, and the innate sense of confidence that they had on the stage.

During my time at Twyford I discovered the enormous benefits that drama has in early childhood development; witnessing the younger children exploring the world through their imaginations, and seeing their self-expression flourish was incredibly rewarding. I wanted to look into this further, which is when I found Debutots.

Debutots is a nationwide franchise, running story based drama classes for children aged 0-7. I have been developing this business within Southampton and Winchester for the past year, teaching drama classes in nursery settings, and in schools to KS1 children. It's lovely to come back to Twyford each week and run the after-school drama club for the Pre-Prep children, we go on all sorts of imaginative adventures together!

I hope to reach as many early years children as I can through Debutots, as I truly believe that drama can be transformative in shaping young minds.

### Diana Todd

Diana Todd was a well-loved member of the Twyford Community from 2012 until her retirement in January 2023. During her time as Music Department Administrator, she scheduled approximately 100,000 music lessons for Twyford children! Di created a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the music department. Class teachers, IT staff, admin staff and the Head would often chat to her. Di is now dividing her time between grandchildren, Spain and the golf course.

This term we caught up with Elle O'Mara on what it's like being an Old Twyfordian, now working at Twyford as Head of English!

### When did you know you wanted to work at Twyford?

I always knew I wanted to work at Twyford, from when I decided I wanted to go into teaching, but I wanted some other experience first, so what better than going to one of our main rivals, Farleigh, and teaching there for 5 years!

### How did you feel at your interview?

I was certainly nervous but not because came here but because the School meant so much to me and I was dead set on working here!

### Has the School changed much?

Twyford really hasn't changed much, which is very comforting. The biggest change, which impacts me directly, would be the addition of Saxon Court.

### Do you still have good friends from your Twyford School days?

Some of my best friends in the world are still my Twyford friends which is very special! Twyford helped us form really solid foundations within our friendship groups and I have no doubt it will continue doing so for future generations.

### What's your favourite School dinner?

My favourite meal is tricky because the food is all lovely, and the puddings are obviously incredible, but the main meal that stands out to me, more as a memory than what we currently have, is the tuna pasta bake! I've tried so many times to recreate this childhood memory, but it has never quite turned out the same.

### Are any of your teachers still here?

I have lots of my teachers still here, which I love! I work very closely with Mr Lafferty, who has known me since I was a baby and who taught both me and my two older brothers; Mrs Harfield, who was my Year 5 teacher and one of the main reasons I went into teaching; Mrs Clarkson, who hasn't changed in the slightest; and I obviously took over from Mr Christie, who taught me for my last three years at Twyford.

We are always looking for great gappies at Twyford. We caught up with Cecelia aka 'Bubble' Kime on how this last term has been.

### What made you want to work at Twyford?

Being at the School myself from reception to Year 8 and boarding from Year 6 to Year 8, I spent a lot of time with gap students. They made School and boarding such a fun atmosphere and I wanted to be able to provide that to the current students now. I also had such happy memories of Twyford that I wanted to come back!

### Was it very nerve racking coming for an interview where you have been a pupil?

Definitely – being an ex-pupil made me feel even more pressure to make a good impression. But it was also nice being interviewed by Mrs M who was my boarding matron when I was here and having a friendly face helped settle my nerves.

### What are the biggest changes since you were a pupil here?

The boarding house. When I was here there were only about 6 dorms all located in what is now the Year 7 block.

### What things are still the same?

The Twyford slang like 'bevers' and 'backcourts', Wednesday match days, the food, and most of the teachers are the same!

### Are you still in touch with many friends from your year?

Yes, I am still in touch with most of them and see them a lot. I'm going travelling around Asia with two friends from Twyford and in the summer a group of 8 of us ex-Twyfordians went on holiday together. Most of us all live so close to each other that we can see each other a lot which is really nice.

### What's your favourite thing about Twyford?

Everything – but my favourite year here was definitely Year 8.

### What's your favourite meal?

Roast and birdseed.

### What's the funniest things that's happened since you have been working here?

A parent from another school at a match thought I was a student in Year 8 and said 'well played' to me.

### Are there any teachers still here who taught you?

Most of them – Mr Lafferty, Mr Keen, Mrs Crook, Mr Goldsmith, Mr Riddle, Mrs Clarkson, Mr Brett and lots more.



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