

# Sir Roger Manwood's School



## Autumn Term 2022

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

This seems to have been the term that was never going to end! There has been a high level of illness amongst both and students over the past few weeks, but we finally managed to get to the finishing line!

This has been a very busy term to say the least – we have had:

- Welcome Evenings for parents of students in Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 at which the Heads of School explained the structure of the year to come
- Parents' evenings for Years 7, 11, 12 and 13
- Our first ever Alumni Family Day
- A recording of Radio 4's Kitchen Cabinet programme, with alumnae Zoe Laughlin on the panel
- 3 Open Mornings
- A Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Harvest Assemblies
- An impeccably observed whole school Remembrance Assembly
- The Sixth Form Open Evening
- The Carol Service
- The Christmas Quiz
- Speech Day
- GCSE and A Level Celebration Evening
- And not forgetting, of course, the visit from our friends at Ofsted!

All of that was on top of the activities that you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. When putting this newsletter together I began to realise why it is no wonder the staff are so tired!

However, emails like these do make the tiredness worth it:

"Just a short email to say what a super evening last night' Sixth Form Open Evening was. Very informative, engaging and motivating for both myself but more importantly for my daughter. We particularly enjoyed the stands in the sports hall. Staff and pupils' subject knowledge was clearly evident and everyone spoke about their subject passionately. Mrs Lawrence did an excellent job of convincing my daughter that English was a good, versatile option to take with her other chosen subjects. Well done Mrs Lawrence – she has finally chosen her third option! We gained the most from speaking to the current sixth formers who all spoke eloquently about their experiences, subjects and their aspirations for the future. Credit most go to the staff for inspiring and stimulating the current cohort. My daughter is looking forward to this next chapter in her school life".

"Please find attached your social media report for your social media adverts for the Sixth Form Open Evening. I know it was a very busy event as I was there myself last night. I thought Manwood's came over brilliantly, and lots of friends from other schools said exactly the same".

"I came to the Sixth Form Open Evening at the school yesterday with my son. I would like to say a wholehearted thank you for such a well organised event. We were really impressed with the

stands and the information on display, and the enthusiasm with which all staff gave details of the A Level courses and answered our questions. I would like to say a particular thank you to a very lovely year 12 boy who talked so clearly and articulately about Biology at A Level. We stood chatting with him for around 10 minutes and he was very patient with all my son's questions, and spoke very passionately about the subject. Please pass on our thanks to him [note from Mr Hunter – we found and did!]

"My wife and I attended our first Speech Day this afternoon to witness our daughter receiving an award and I just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the occasion. It was all very well organised and the students represented the school impeccably. It was also great to see so many children receiving an award. We were also extremely moved by the words of Ms Dore and are grateful for her address to us and the pupils".

We have had the pleasure of having 7 German students with us this term in Year 12. They will be going home in mid-January so this will be the only chance I get to mention them in a newsletter – it has been an absolute delight to have Liv, Felix, Lena, Tabea, Marei, Alina and Hannah with us and we wish them all the best for their futures. If ever in the area, do please come back and see us. I must admit that before joining Manwood's I never knew about this commendable part of the German education system – students can apply for a leave of absence from their schools in Germany for up to a year in order to experience another education system. Manwood's has welcomed such students into boarding for many years, and we expanded that 7 years ago to take day students too.

I wish a restful holiday to all members of our Manwood's community - students, parents, carers, extended families, alumni, staff, and governors. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 4 January 2023, which is **WEEK 1** in the timetable.

Mr Hunter

**Headteacher**

## STUDENT NEWS

**Alex Dack** (Year 11) spent 4 days at Loughborough University at the beginning of September competing in the School Games Finals against young people in Years 11 and 12 from across the UK. He had a fantastic time competing in an aquathlon, bike skills test, cycle race and mixed team relay (where he won a silver medal). The event was like a mini-Olympics, even down to having an opening ceremony and all the athletes staying together on campus.



**Isobel Dill Russell** (Year 10), **Elizabeth Anstis** (Year 12) and **Ted Dill Russell** (Year 13) took part in the South East Region Young Volunteer programme with Swim England, which involved helping to support at swimming events and taking part in online workshops. The programme awarded Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates based on the number of volunteering hours completed. Congratulations to all three, as they each achieved the Gold Award. All three volunteer with the Dover Lifeguard Club - Ted is the Dover Lifeguard Club Captain and both Isobel and Elizabeth support the Learn to Race swimmers on a Thursday night at the Club.



At the end of year CCF Parade in July, **Ted Dill Russell** (Year 13 now, then Year 12) was promoted to Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major of the Sir Roger Manwood's CCF Contingent. This is the highest Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) rank within the CCF that a Cadet can progress to. To be selected for the role, a Cadet needs to have completed a number of proficiencies and be of good standing amongst the contingent members.

Ted has always loved cadets - he first joined when he was in Year 7 as a band member and has continued to this day. He says that CCF is the highlight of his week.

The photograph shows the outgoing RSM (Jacob Coombes) passing on the regimental baton to Ted.



Ted also played the drums at an event at The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square on 14 November with His Majesty's 1st Foot Guards 1815 Drum & Fife Corps. He was playing with the group as part of a fundraising event for the veterans' charity *Waterloo Uncovered*, which combines an archaeology project on the battlefield of Waterloo with support for veterans and the military community. The gentleman right at the back playing the flute is Jack West-Sherring who was School Captain and CCF Regimental Sergeant Major at SRMS in 2012-13.

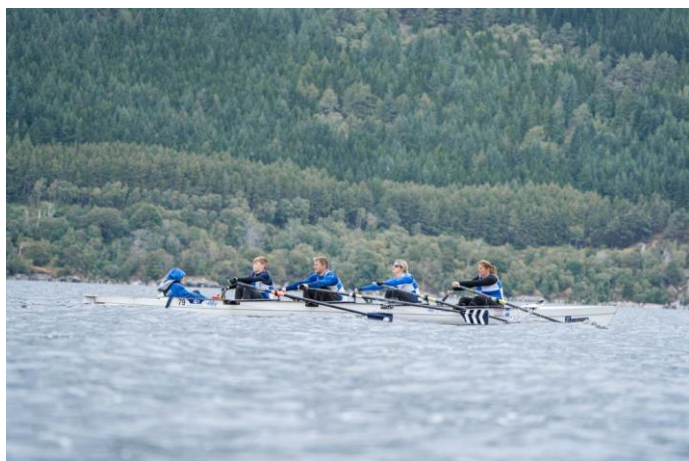


72 students attended the **Year 7 Film Night** at the Empire Cinema in Sandwich on Wednesday 1 November, and over 40 of their parents were at the parents' get together held while the students were watching the film. The turnout was very pleasing. It was an enjoyable evening for the students and for their parents. Many thanks to Mrs Lim and the Friends of Manwood for organising the event.



**Alex McArdle** (Year 8) is a member of Dover Rowing Club and took part in an event called *Monster The Loch* over the week end of 17-18 September. This endurance event involved rowing a 21 mile course across Loch ? in Scotland. He rowed in a crew alongside his mum, dad, and a close family friend. Alex was the youngest rower in the event on the day, but is also the youngest rower ever to take on the event to date. His 10-year old brother was the cox of the crew, and not to be outdone, that also made him the youngest cox in the event! The crew were expecting to

take around five hours to complete the course, but actually completed it in 3 hours and 45 minutes, with Alex demonstrating an incredibly positive attitude throughout, and showing true grit and resilience – his mum commented that he coped better with the event than the adults in the crew did! Many congratulations to the family McArdle (and family friend, Emma).



**Naomi Williams** (Year 10) is a member of a board of the British Youth Council. On Monday 17 October she attended a meeting at Westminster between representatives of the Learners Council of the Federation for Education Development and the Children's Commissioner inside the Department for Education to discuss the themes from the 'Big Ask' report.

**Michael Richardson** (Year 11) is a member of the UK Youth Parliament. On Friday 4 November he had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and participate in a debate in the Commons Chamber. His speech was on poverty and the impact on young people. Mr Ross read it and commented that it was a great speech.

**Eddie Hayes** (Year 8) won a competition run by Dover Castle and on Wednesday 9 November, attended the ceremony to bury the Time Capsule that contained his art work.

During December, **Caitlin McAuley** (Year 11) performed in the Mother Goose pantomime at the Sarah Thorne Theatre in Broadstairs.



**Isla Davis, Naomi Hackett, Luca Roderick and Jamie Segelbacher** (all Year 7) are Tennis Leaders at Deal Parochial School. They from our visit to the National Tennis Centre last Wednesday. It was fantastic that they could join Deal Parochial for the day and they were a credit to their parents and Manwood's. The photos are of them with Ryan Peniston, who is Ranked 5 in men's tennis in Great Britain, and of them in front of the Natinal Tennis Centre's trophy cabinet - which includes Emma Raducanu's US Open Trophy.



Members of the Eco Society attended the Kent Green School Awards in Ashford and picked up first prize in the Energy Conservation category for our solar panel project (345 panels installed in the summer holidays cutting our electricity use by 25%). The award is a great accolade for everyone who got involved in that project - students, staff, parents & alumni.



**Cameron Arter, Baxter Holland, Even Potter and Daniel Watkins** (all Year 9) are on the Saracens' Rugby Club U14 Developing Player Pathway and were selected to play for Saracens in 10-a-side intra-county tournament (Hertfordshire, Essex and Kent) on 20 December. Congratulations to all four of you, and good luck with your dream of one day playing for one of the top rugby club sides in the country.

Congratulations to **Naomi Williams, Michael Richardson, Thea Dean** (all Year 11), **Samuel Anker** (Year 10) and **Thomas Mills** (Year 8) who have all been elected to the Kent Youth County

Council. Naomi, Michael and Samuel will be representing the young people of the Dover District, Thea will be representing the young people of the Thanet District and Thomas will be representing the young LGBTQIA+ community in Kent.

**Gracie Jackson** (Year 12) has been volunteering on the NSPCC's 'Young People's Board for Change', representing Kent, for the past year and a half. This is a group of 15 people from across the UK who are 'the voice of young people' and help with lots of campaigns, services and resources by providing a young person's perspective. During her time on the Board, she has had the chance to take part in a large number of unbelievable opportunities - most recently, she attended a parliamentary reception at the House of Lords in order to promote (and campaign for further improvement of) the Online Safety Bill. As you may have seen in the news, the Online Safety Bill is a piece of legislation that aims to reduce dangers online, specifically those that young people face, by, for example, putting greater responsibility on technology companies (e.g. Meta, Google, etc...) to proactively put specific systems in place to try and keep their platforms safe, as opposed to merely being reactive when problems occur. These operations would hopefully be regulated by the independent company, OfCom, if the bill is passed. At the end of November, she was invited to attend an influencing event at the House of Lords, which, in her words "Was awesome"! Two of the young people on the Board made speeches, then they spent the following few hours chatting to the peers, Lords and Baronesses, about the Bill and their own experiences of the online world. It surprised Gracie how interested the adults were in what the young people had to say, and thinks they were able to change their minds and provide a new perspective on some of the important issues, which leads her to hope that some change has genuinely come about. Gracie says that being on the Young People's Board has been one of the greatest things she has ever done: the Board has played a really big role in shaping some of the recent NSPCC's campaigns and resources, and she has had the chance to attend so many 'cool' events (her words) like the Labour/Conservative party conferences, Parliament and London Pride. Her time on the Board, however, is coming to an end, as the NSPCC begins its recruitment process for the new YPBC. Gracie urges anyone between the ages of 13 and 16 who wants to make a difference to apply. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something really cool". Information about how to apply can be found on the NSPCC website. The deadline is 23rd January.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/board-for-change/>

## STAFF NEWS



Mrs Boyes ran the Chicago Marathon in October and was very pleased with her time of 3 hours and 49 minutes. She said it was an amazing experience and she loved every minute of it! Her time was good enough to now qualify her for the New York Marathon... so watch this space! Well done Mrs Boyes from everyone at SRMS.



## SUBJECT NEWS

### CAREERS

On Tuesday 29 November, Pfizer came in to speak to Year 11 and Year 13 about degree apprenticeship opportunities. Two of our ex-students, Ella Gibbons and Jack Lavery, were part of the presentation team. They had applied to university so explained how they had changed their mind and had instead come to work at Pfizer under the scheme.



On Thursday 8 December, Ms Borg escorted 15 Year 8 students to a STEM Day at Canterbury Christchurch University. The group spent the day discovering what it is to be an engineer, what light and motion engineering and chemical engineering are. They also undertook powder experiments and watched demonstrations of explosives and fireworks. The photographs below give a flavour of the day.





## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Every year, several students enter the prestigious Arkwright Scholarships competition. This year, one of those who entered, **Cameron Ryan** (Year 12), was awarded one of these highly prestigious Scholarship. Cameron is being sponsored by *Instro Precision* who are based at Discovery Park, and will receive work experience with them during the school holidays. The photograph below shows Cameron receiving his Scholarship at the Awards Ceremony in London in November.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a prestigious award given to students to help them fulfil their potential in engineering by supporting them through their A level and University courses, and linking them with engineering companies. Any students in Years 7 to 10 who are thinking of becoming an engineer can find out more about the Scholarships at [Arkwright Engineering Scholarships](https://www.arkwrightscholarships.co.uk/).

## DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

On Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November in the Main Hall, members of the Sixth Form A Level Drama class presented two performances of Mike Leigh's 'Abigail's Party' which is an iconic 1970's classic situation comedy of manners. Mixing comedy and drama - alongside a Bacardi & Coke - this satire on the social aspirations of the new emerging middle-class in the 1970's was the inaugural production of the first A Level Drama & Theatre Studies class to run at the school for many years. It was also the first play on the school stage for some time. The production was co-directed by the A Level Drama students alongside their teacher, Mr Mount, and marked the launch of 'EXPRESS' - Manwood's new Theatre Company - a legacy group that aims to promote the creation of innovative drama and theatre across the whole school and beyond through a collaborative approach. It was wonderful to see so many people in the audiences for the two shows - including a few who were dressed for the occasion! Thank you to



those who came and offered their support and massive congratulations to the superb cast and production team.

## ENGLISH

On Wednesday 7 December, the English Department took the whole of Year 7 to the Empire Cinema in Sandwich to see *A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story*. This was a filmed version of the acclaimed stage version of Dickens' novel, starring Mark Gatiss as Jacob Marley and Nicholas Farrell as Scrooge. It was a fabulous production and staff and students all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are very grateful to the Empire Cinema for agreeing to put on this event specially for us.

## FRENCH

### National Language Competition

In Year 9, 5 teams of 4 students competed over the course of a week in the National Language Competition 2022 in November. There was fierce competition all week with teams from more than 600 schools across the UK putting their language skills to the test and battling it out for the top spots on the national leader board. It was a closely fought race right up to the very end with teams pulling out all the stops to crack those codes and solve language puzzles! The winning team was from a school in Cambridge. However, our 5 teams did very well: there were 3090 teams competing and all of our teams came on the top 800, with our best team coming 104th. A huge well done to our winning team, Sparkling Faithful Leopard: **Abi Hackett, Amelia Pye, Grace Gaythwaite and Sam Pleasance**.

### Sandown Primary School Visit

On Tuesday 13 December, our Year 12 French students went to Sandown Primary School in Deal to teach their Reception and Year 4 students about what Christmas in France is like. They also delivered a lesson about Christmas in French to their students. Our students were amazing and were an absolute credit to our school. The Year 4 and Reception children loved the lesson and asked them to come back. We are looking forward to hosting a group from Sandown in February.







## GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 Geographers enjoyed their field trip to Sandwich Bay on Monday 10 October to assess the potential for future sea floods. Despite a bit of rain, spirits remained high all day due to a combination of a great group and beautiful landscape.







Year 11 Geographers had a fantastic day in Stratford investigating the impact of regeneration on the areas surrounding the Olympic Park. The ground itself (now called the London Stadium of course) was looking its best on a beautiful autumnal day and the West Ham fans in our group had a special treat!



## HISTORY

### Great Debate

On Tuesday 8 November, **Saachi Uppal** and **Lisa Carr** (both Year 12) took part in the regional heat of the Historical Association's annual Great Debate. The venue was a suitable location since the debate took place in the Gatehouse entrance to the St. Augustine's site of The King's School, Canterbury – built by Abbot Fyndon (1283-1309) and forming the entrance to what was then St. Augustine's Abbey. Saachi and Lisa both performed impressively. Each of them delivered a 5-minute speech on "Why does history matter in 2022?" and fielded post-presentation questions from the judges.

Saachi gave a well-researched talk on the topic of the Partition of India in 1947 and covering some of the unintended consequences that resulted from the creation of India and Pakistan. It was a very thoughtful response to the question of why history matters, drawing upon her family history and emphasising the value of history in providing lessons for the future. Saachi explained how the states had been divided along religious lines, and how members of her family were forced to migrate to flee the violence that ensued.

Lisa utilised her experience as an English Heritage volunteer at Walmer Castle to explore the value of historical sites and how history has shaped the area in which she has grown up. Lisa talked of the excitement that visitors to Walmer Castle get from discovering that the Duke of Wellington died in that chair, or that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert looked into this mirror, or slept in the four poster bed together in late 1842 when they stayed at the castle. She explained the history of the Cinque Ports Confederation and how its role had changed over time, particularly focusing on its importance in the history of the British Navy. Lisa also commented on the significance of the post of Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports, and important decisions made at the castle whilst Winston Churchill was in residence. Lisa passionately argued how historical sites aid the retelling of stories from the past and can help provide a greater understanding of the society in which we live.

Well done to both students for representing the school so well during the competition.



## History Conference - Russia and Revolution

On Thursday 8 December, Year 13 History students took part (online in school) in a conference on Russian history comprising a series of sessions by leading academics. Dr Daniel Beer gave a lecture on the collapse of the Romanov Dynasty, examining the autocracy's failure to meet the challenges of modernisation and to adapt to the rise of mass politics. He showed how the revolutionary movement in 1905 was only contained but never defeated and then explored how the First World War sealed the fate of the Tsarist regime. Professor Catherine Merridale gave a fascinating talk on Lenin explaining how the famous revolutionary was a powerless exile at the start of 1917, before exploring his return to Russia, and analysing war-torn Europe's maladroit response to the events that propelled him to the Kremlin. Professor Robert Service focused on why the Bolsheviks seized power and the importance of individuals such as Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin in the events of 1917. Dr George Gilbert focused on the seismic events of collectivization and industrialisation, and Stalin's cult of personality. The final lecture was by Dr Simon Huxtable who examined Nikita Khrushchev's claim that the Soviet Union would build communism by 1980.



His talk examined the domestic and international factors that led Khrushchev to make his fateful promise, and the reasons that he was unable to keep them.

## MATHEMATICS

Albane Colin-Salingue and Anya Morling Grove both received Merit certificates in the UK Maths Trust (UKMT) Olympiad for Girls, which involved 2.5 hours of problem solving! Albane was frustratingly only 1 mark short of Distinction. Congratulations to both.



26 students sat the Senior UKMT Maths Challenge in October. Albane Colin-Salingue achieved a Gold Certificate and an invitation to the 'Kangaroo' round in November. 5 students achieved a Silver Certificate and 16 students obtained a Bronze Certificate.



## MUSIC

As always, Mr Smith and his team of peripatetic staff ran lots of different musical groups, ensembles and lessons this term - see the list of clubs and societies at the end of this newsletter for details. In addition, the Department was able to develop what it offers our students due to a £750 matched funding bid written by Mr Smith made to the UMR Sound Foundation, which was found by our School Business Manager, Mrs Bunnell. Mr Smith decided to buy a new drum kit to give more opportunities for new bands. In addition, other new equipment has also been purchased recently.



**2 x Yamaha Pacifica  
012 electric guitars**



**1 Yamaha RBX174  
electric bass**



**2 x Fender Champion 20  
guitar amplifiers**



**Mapex Storm drum kit**



26 students from the Year 10 & 11 GCSE Music classes attended a matinee performance of the fantastic touring production of *Les Miserables* at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. Mr Smith and Miss O'Connor commented that they were fantastic ambassadors for the School. We are so lucky to have a theatre so close that can house professional shows like this to enjoy and excite.



## TECHNOLOGY

The Y12 A Level Technology students visited the Turner Centre in Margate in order to undertake research for a project they will be doing in school which requires them to produce a product that could be sold in the Centre's visitor shop.





## ALUMNI NEWS

The Secretary to the OMA, Colin Worman, has been in post since May 1997 but has finally decided that after all these years of sterling work the time is right for him to step down. From now on, all information that used to be sent to Colin should be sent direct to the School and we will include it in each end of term newsletter. The School and OMA would like to put on record its grateful thanks to Colin for having been the Secretary for so many years; I know OMA members would also like to thank him for his efforts too. Colin totalled up how many newsletters he produced over the 25 years – 67 no less!

Our new website portal for alumni will bring together Old Manwoodian Association members, all alumni, whether they are members of the OMA or not, and people who are friends of Sir Roger Manwood's School (for example parents of current or former students) in order to build a supportive network to help the School and each other. It will offer all of the following:

- Regular news and updates from Sir Roger Manwood's School and alumni
- A private platform to reconnect with fellow Old Manwoodians
- Help with the organisation of special events such as reunions and networking events, career and professionally focused events and exclusive ticketed events
- Enable careers networking as alumni will be invited to network with professional alumni and partners both starting out in their careers and those at the top of their field
- Alumni will hopefully offer regular offer work experience, shadowing and job opportunities to current students and recent leavers
- Support the School with its projects and fundraising opportunities.

We are hoping that all alumni will wish to register – it is free and should bring enormous benefits to alumni, current students and the School community generally. Email addresses of OMA members are already stored in the portal (in a secure area) but OMA members do still need to register on this portal. The following link goes to the register page: <https://srms.toucantech.com/>

The School held its first ever **Alumni Family Open Event** on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September. About 50 to 60 alumni took the opportunity to come back to visit with their children, many for the first time since leaving. Our next Family Open Event will be from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 1 July 2023, which is the weekend of the Sandwich Folk & Ale Festival so we thought alumni who live further afield would be more likely to come back for the event as they can make a weekend of it. The website <https://sandwichevents.org.uk/folkandalefestival/> shows what else is on in School. In addition, if you took your A Levels in July 1993, this will be the 30-year anniversary of leaving SRMS. To mark that occasion, one of the year group, James Dillon, is organizing a meal in the school hall for the year group on the Saturday evening. Please contact the School if you were in the Leaving Year Group of 1993, would like to attend and need to be put in touch with James. If you were in the leaving Upper Sixth of 2013, 2003, 1983, 1973 or 1963 why not think about taking a leaf out of James' thinking and organizing a get together for your year group to celebrate your 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> 'anniversary' based around the Saturday morning event in

School? We would love to welcome you back to tour the School, see how it has changed since you left, discover what the School's plans are for the future, and meet up with old friends.

Many of you will have heard of the Manwood Trust. This registered charity has been in existence since 1981 and since its inception two members of the OMA, **Dudley Gore** and **Keith James**, have been the two OMA representatives sitting on its board of trustees, alongside two representatives of the Friends of Manwoods and the Headteacher. Donations from parents and alumni are often directed towards the Manwood Trust so that the School does not breach the cap on the amount it can receive before it can stop claiming Gift Aid. Dudley and Keith are stepping down from their trustee roles after 41 years of sterling service. Keith has found a replacement (thank in advance for your time, **Jonathan Griffiths**) but as Dudley is the current Treasurer of the Trust, an OMA member with experience of being a treasurer, or who works in accounting, would be ideal. If interested please contact the Headteacher on [head@srms.kent.sch.uk](mailto:head@srms.kent.sch.uk). The trustees meet 3 times a year in school. However, in order to cast the net as widely as possible it should now be possible to hold these meetings online, so please do not let distance from School put you off expressing an interest!

**John Horton** (1964-1967) has recently had a book published based on the wartime letters of his parents. The letters cover the period from early 1940 through to autumn 1945 when his father, **Alan Horton** (also an Old Manwoodian, 1922-1928) fought in the Battle of Crete and was captured and held prisoner of war in Germany for 4 years. There are a number of letters written by others including John's Uncle, Major General FC Horton CB, OBE, who was also at the School (1918-1925). John adds: "One does not usually expect to learn about the horrors of war through a series of love letters. Nevertheless, this book provides a rare opportunity to do so. For the duration of the Second World War, Alan and Peggy developed a love and marriage that endured through years of alienation as she remained at home whilst her husband was stolen away by war, first to Egypt and then to Crete. After the battle for the Island, Alan was transported, like many other allied soldiers, by cattle train to Germany and incarcerated in assorted prisoner of war camps for nearly four years. This story is recounted in lively, loving and positive correspondence that displays a mixture of resilience and courage and not a little humour. It provides an interesting and colourful insight into aspects of war seldom explored. The book, entitled "Behind The Wire: A Prisoner of War In Nazi Germany" is well worth a read and is available on Amazon, through the publishers, Pegasus Publishing or from Waterstones. Additionally, to quote the School magazine of Autumn 1941-Spring 1942 one *finds* "A.E. Horton writes very cheerfully from his new camp, which contains officers of all services from all over the world. He has met J.W.S Willey [1920-1925] who is in the same camp." In a separate listing of OM prisoners of war in that magazine his address was given as "Lieut.Horton, a.e. (Army), No.3 Battn. Hut 37, Room 6, Brit. P.O.W. No. 3275, (Oflag XC), Of lag VI B, Germany." John himself, on leaving school, worked in agriculture. He later spent a year at agricultural college studying farm management before spending twelve years in Northern Nigeria working with the Anglican Church as an agriculturalist. Returning to this country, he studied development at Reading University and then joined Tearfund, a Christian relief and development organisation. He was Africa Manager for 14 years and later helped to manage the response to the Boxing Day Tsunami. After a course in theology he was ordained in Coventry Cathedral in 2007. He served initially in a busy urban parish on the edge of Coventry before working with a group of six rural

parishes in South Warwickshire. He retired towards the end of 2019 and now lives in Warwickshire helping, part time, in another rural benefice. Retirement has provided a long awaited opportunity to turn his parents' wartime letters into a book.

Another OM with writing talents is John Ralph PhD (1945-1953), a resident of West Hoathly in East Sussex. He and his wife Pauline bought a 17<sup>th</sup> century house in 1982 which had been the village shop and later an antique shop which they continued to run as a part time activity until 1989. John has spent much time restoring the house, developing the garden and also becoming deeply involved in local history. He started collecting material around 2005 and formally created the West Hoathly Local History Archive in 2008. He has organised annual and biennial exhibitions since then and has written a book about the village with a second one nearly finished. Having developed a number of contacts around the UK and other countries, these are often people with links to the village who are researching their family trees and they have provided valuable photographs and information in return. John has submitted a lengthy text reminiscing his time at Manwood's from which some snippets of his contemporaries are: the **Firminger** twins (1946-1952), one of whom, **Peter** became a teacher at the school (1958-1992), **Gordon Hoare** (1945-1953), who also went to Kings to study civil engineering, **Derek Collins** (1945-1952), who went to Imperial College and **John Collar** (1946-1953), who also went to Kings and did the same degree as the author. John also spent a lot of time with **Graham Beazley** (1945-1950) who lived in Sandwich before his family moved to Ickham near Wingham. Both John and Graham got interested in traditional jazz and used to listen to 78 rpm discs played on an old record player. Graham and some others formed a jazz band and played in one or two Sandwich pubs. He eventually went to the Guildhall School of Music to learn the trombone and also played the double bass in clubs around London which John visited while at Kings College. A couple of memorable characters in the form were **Tony Dixon** (1945-1952), who was most noted for often being in trouble early on but eventually being an ideal member of the CCF and was promoted to sergeant major with the most highly polished boots and best creased trousers ever seen, and **Colin Smith** (1945-1950) who was obsessed with things that went bang and made a variety of bombs and rockets. He eventually became an apprentice with Purdy the famous gunsmiths in London before opening his own gunsmith shop in Ash producing handmade guns for customers worldwide.

We heard from an ex-member of staff this term, who was also an OM – **Chris Riley** – who was a Learning Support Assistant and Cover Supervisor from September 2014 to March 2016. After leaving Manwood's he took up a 9-month football coaching contract in America. When that ended, he returned to England but went back out to the US again in 2018. During his second stint he met his now wife. They live in Norwalk in Connecticut, and recently we worked with the Institute of International Education with their global Fulbright programs, and is now working with Upwardly Global, a company which helps immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers to find jobs within their area of expertise.

We bumped into another relatively recent leaver during the French A Level student visit to Sandown Primary School mentioned above as **Carl Thompson** (2007 - 2014) is a Year 4 teacher there! He has been at the school for 5 years and has taken to teaching like a duck to water.



Old Manwoodian and Geophysicist, **Emma Pearce** (2011-2013) travelled to Antarctica to carry out research on the Thwaites Glacier and how it is reacting to a warming climate. She's just sent us an update. It sounds and looks amazing: "Hello from Antarctica! Since we arrived at McMurdo Station, we've been prepping all 900 seismometers and a hot water drill that we are going to be taking with us to see what's inside the Thwaites Glacier. McMurdo is a cool research station, there is a hut here, called the Discovery Hut (see photo below), which was used by Scott during his attempts to get to the South Pole in 1910. Inside the hut everything has been perfectly preserved for more than 100 years. That includes boxes of 'special dog biscuits', 'Colmans food' and most notably, dried seal carcasses (however, in the last 5 years due to the warmer temperatures, the seal blubber is starting to 'reactivate', and is seeping out - it's a little gross). In my spare time, there's lots of recreation. I've been learning how to cross-country ski and doing some cycling on the sea ice. There's also something called the 'obs tube', which is a metal tube that's been drilled into the sea ice, and at the bottom it's a glass compartment, so you can watch all the seals and sea ice from below (see photo below). In a couple of weeks' time we're taking a Hercules transporter plane out to the Thwaites Glacier and we'll spend 30 days in the yellow tent shown below (no showers!) in the 'deep field'. We sleep 2 people in a tent; they can get a little cold, but we have such thick sleeping bags, we don't notice too much, although the mornings are always extra hard to get out of bed!"



The School has recently become aware that the Professor Donald Longmore who officially opened some new Biology Labs in 1970 was one of the transplant surgeons who in 1968 was one of the three surgeons who performed the UK's first ever heart transplant. We think that Prof Donald Longmore (who was an OBE, FRCSEd, and FRCR) was at SRMS from September 1936 to

July 1943. As far as we can tell he is still alive aged 94 – so if you are reading this Donald, we hope you are keeping well.

The School was very proud see one of its alumni, **Jonathan Akeroyd** (1978-1983) be appointed the Chief Executive Officer for Burberry earlier this term. This follows on from his few years in Milan as CEO of Versace. Jonathan was our Speech Day guest speaker in 2014, when he was CEO of Alexander McQueen. I am delighted that he will be coming back to speak next term – and thank you to Finnbar Burgess of the newly formed Manwoodian Economic Journal (MEJ) for arranging this visit.

We heard the very sad news that **Ashley (Ash) Breeze**, who left Manwood's in 1999, died at the Heart of Kent Hospice at the age of only 41, after a very short illness. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Lauren, and dad, Alan. Several members of staff who taught Ash were able to attend his funeral. A memorial football match for Ash is being held in School on 27 December 2022, while many of his year group were back in the area.

We also heard the sad news that **Marcus Sedgwick** (1979 - 1986) died on 17 November 2022 at the age of 54. He was a very respected writer for young people and we have several of his books in the School Library; indeed, many of his books were shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. Marcus came to the school in 2009 to deliver that year's talk to our students by a practising author.

**William Middlemas** (1931-1940) died in May and kindly left the School £300 in his Will. His sons have designated that cricket kit be bought with his bequest. If any other OMs would like to leave a bequest to the School in their Will, details of how to do so can be found on the School Website (<https://www.manwoods.co.uk/page/?title=Fundraising&pid=48> ). Past donations from alumni are now the Claringbold medical scholarship and various prizes at Speech Day are funded. A growing number are also leaving money to the School to use as it sees fit, which is of enormous help when it comes to funding improvements to the School's fabric. Many UK alumni now pay a fixed monthly contribution to their old university, but not many do the same to the old school, despite state schools being in far greater need of support from their alumni body than universities are. If any alumni would be interested in starting such a regular donation, then details can be found on the same website page as the bequests. As the old Tesco advert said: "Every little helps".

**Malcolm Underdown** (1958-1963) died on 6 November 2021.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

We were excited to host the recording of an episode of BBC Radio 4's Saturday morning culinary panel programme, The Kitchen Cabinet, at School on the evening of Tuesday 20 September. It was the first time the BBC had visited Sandwich for 6 years. The show was hosted by Jay Rayner (Guardian/Observer restaurant critic and Masterchef guest judge). Jay was joined by four experts from across the cookery landscape from food historians to top chefs, food writers to culinary scientists. The discussion was further enriched by questions from the audience and invited persons of local food interest. Our alumna, Zoe Laughlin, was again on the panel.

Miss Lupton, Junior and Senior Charity Committee members, various musicians and musical groups and staff from our caterers, CaterLink, came together on Friday 2 December to organise our first Christmas Dinner for local senior citizens since December 2019. This is just one of the thank you's that came in after the event, from Mr Gill, the Community Warden for Sandwich, Eastry and Ash: "Thank you for yet another amazing community event organised and held by the school on Friday. The Christmas meal, table decorations, entertainment, service and company of the students was outstanding and very much appreciated. I work with many of the elderly, vulnerable and isolated who attended the meal, and I know how much these events have a positive impact on their wellbeing. Thank you for your kindness and generous support of the local community. Wishing all at SRMS a very Merry Christmas.

PC Ruddock, our School Liaison Officer, was presented with a prestigious award for the work he has been doing in local schools. The photographs below show PC Ruddock at the awards ceremony with the Assistant Chief Constable standing to his right, and his Sergeant to his right. Sadly, no one from School was able to attend the presentation itself as it clashed with our Ofsted inspection, hence why the photograph with me had to be taken in School after the event.





Naomi Hackett, Isla Davis, Luca Roderick, Jamie Segelbacher (all Year 7), Ruby Clements, Mia Ellul and Abigail Hackett (all Year 9) are Tennis Leaders at Deal Parochial School and were involved in two events there recently. They generously gave their time from late afternoon to 9.25pm to help ensure tennis took place non-stop during the school's 13 hours and 25 minute marathon which helped raise over £650 for charity ([Deal Parochial's Tennis Marathon - Deal Parochial C.E Primary School \(deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk\)](https://deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk)) and also attended a special training event on 1 November 2022 led by Sandi Proctor, the Vice-President of the Lawn Tennis Association, and Jonathon Dawes, LTA Councillor ([Tennis Leader Special Training at Deal Parochial. - Deal Parochial C.E Primary School \(deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk\)](https://deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk)). The photo shows the students with Sandi Proctor and Jonathon Dawes.



The last two pages details all the clubs and societies that have been running every week.

The very last page shows scenes from the Year 12 A Level Drama production of Abigail's Party.

Break/Lunch	Club	Year
<b>Monday</b>	Art Club (begins after Oct half term)	7-9
	CAMEO	7
	Earth & Sky Group	7-13
	French board games (Week A)	7-9
	French Support - GCSE	10+11
	French Support Club (Week B)	10-13
	History Club	7
	PE Support	10-13
	Reading Group	7
	Recorder Consort	see DPS
	Senior Strings (by invitation)	Grade 4+
	Support Room Club	by invite
<b>Tuesday</b>	Careers Club (drop in club)	7-13
	Drama Club (Week A)	7
	Drama Club (Week B)	8
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Eco Society (Week B)	7-13
	French Support Club (Week A)	10-13
	Handball - boys	10+11
	Junior Charity Committee (Week B)	7-11
	Manwoods Strings (orchestral string instruments - no audition)	7-13
	Maths Clinic	7-9
	Senior Charity Committee (Week B)	12+13
	Senior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	10-13
<b>Wednesday</b>	Table Tennis	7-9
	CAMEO	8
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Elastic Band (wind instruments - no audition)	7-13
	GCSE German Study Club	10+11
	Handball – girls	7-9
	Robot and Programming Club	7-8
<b>Thursday</b>	Table Tennis	10+11
	Brass Group	see DPS
	DT Catch up	7-13
	Handball - girls	10+11
	Maths Clinic	7-9
	Rock Choir	7-9
	Spanish workshop (priority to GCSE)	7-13
<b>Friday</b>	Table Tennis	7-9
	French board games (Week B)	7-9
	Handball - boys	7-9
	Junior Ukulele (ukuleles provided)	7-9
	Manwoodian Editorial Team	7-13
	Percussion (by invitation)	see DPS
	Table Tennis	10+11

After school	Club	Year
<b>Monday</b>	Art Coursework support sessions Football Academy (Boys) Golf Hockey - girls (Week A) Hockey - girls (Week B) Homework Club	10-13 All 7-13 7-9 10-13 7-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	A Level Chemistry Workshop GCSE Physics Workshop Homework Club KS3 Science Workshop Maths Clinic Orchestra (wind and string instruments) Sports fixtures	12+13 10+11 7-13 7-9 10-13 Grade 4+
<b>Wednesday</b>	A Level Biology Workshop A Level Physics Workshop Drama Production (A Level group) Football Academy (Girls) GCSE Biology Workshop Homework Club Jazz Band (by invitation) Maths Puzzles and Fun (Y7 Week A+B, Y8 Week B only) Sports fixtures	12+13 12+13 12 All 10+11 7-13 see DPS 7+8
<b>Thursday</b>	CCF (age 13+) Chamber Choir (by audition) Chess GCSE Chemistry workshop Homework Club Sports fixtures	8-13 see DPS 8 10+11 7-13
<b>Friday</b>	School of Rock (by invitation) Sports fixtures	see DPS



