

# Sir Roger Manwood's School



Spring Term 2021  
Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Well it is so good to have got to the end of our reopening without any cases!

Thank you to all members of the School community for their continued vigilance over Covid 19 precautionary measures, especially to those who are undertaking the twice a week lateral flow device asymptomatic testing and those parents who have followed our request to keep students off when they have mild symptoms of any illness and getting a PCR test done.

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13 on having got through the internal tests that will be part of the evidence required to determine their GCSE and A Level grades. Hopefully they did not find it too much of an ordeal. As some Year 13 told me earlier this week, they are looking forward to being able to take their first proper holiday since May half term last year as they have worked through all the rest revising.

JCQ, the official body that oversees examinations, published a guide for students and parents about how the grading will work this summer. It can be found at

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>, or by googling JCQ Guidance for Students and Parents Summer 2021.

The Secretary of State for Education has written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience. In his letter he outlines his continued commitment to supporting children and young people to recover from the disruption now that they have returned to school and college. The letter also highlights the importance of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing and the vital role this plays in helping to prevent the virus spreading. The letter is published on the [DfE media blog](#) and on DfE's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

I wish all members of the SRMS community a restful holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 19 April 2021, which will be **WEEK B** in the timetable.

Best wishes

Mr Hunter

**Headteacher**

## STAFF NEWS



Jacob Bowman was born weighing 8lb 9oz in early February. Thankfully, Mr and Mrs Bowman and Jacob made it home from the hospital before the snow arrived!

Congratulations to Mr Bowman and his family.



Merida Raymond was born in early March, weighing in at 7 pound and 8.5 ounces. Mrs Raymond and baby are both doing well. As is Mr Raymond!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Raymond.

## STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to **Louis Relf** (Year 8) who got through to the final stages of auditions for the touring production of 'School Of Rock'! It's lovely to hear some positive news and to know that despite all that's going on in the world there is some normality and that some of our students have been able to continue with activities they, like Louis, are passionate about.



**Lily Burman** (Y9) did all of the illustrations for a book her mum has just had published of her lockdown diaries. This was how local media reported the publication:

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/deal/news/mum-and-daughters-lockdown-diary-helps-kids-mental-health-charity-239941/>

Congratulations to **Dylan Thorley** (Y12) who was selected to be a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the County of Kent representing the Sea Cadet Corps. This position is normally marked with attending the Lord Lieutenant of Kent's Award Ceremony, run by the Southeast Regional Forces and Cadets Association. This year, due to Covid-19, the ceremony was conducted on 16 February 2021 by Zoom. Over 200 guests were able to 'attend' and Dylan was virtually presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Badge alongside other Reservists, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and Civilian Instructors who received awards in recognition of their service. Dylan will now join the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Annabelle Colgrain, at formal ceremonies across the county for a year.

It is always a pleasure to receive emails like this one from a parent: "I just wanted to tell you how impressed my children and I have been with the tutoring service provided by the Young Enterprise team. We have been fortunate enough to have secured their services throughout lockdown and have decided to continue with it even though school is now open again. Student X has been amazing with my daughter who is struggling with GCSE maths and he has also helped my son keep up with his French and Maths lessons during lockdown. His enthusiasm and subject knowledge is impressive and he is clearly a chap who will succeed in whatever he decides to do in the future! This has inspired my children to persevere during what has been a difficult time. What an excellent ambassador for the School. Furthermore, I was so impressed by my children's progress that I am now having weekly French lessons myself! The rest of the Alumni Tutoring team have been great too with a professional follow up to me initial enquiry and slick invoicing. If I didn't already know that they were sixth formers I would have thought they were a well-established tutoring business who had been doing this for years. What a great team of pupils to be proud of."

Congratulations to **Annabelle Verrier** (Y11), who successfully passed the first stage of the highly prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship scheme. The notification letter said this: "All of this year's application forms were graded and after careful deliberation, the Arkwright selection panel chose the shortlisted candidates to be interviewed for a Scholarship during April and May. This year the quality of

applications was, as always, extremely high. It is the consistently high quality of all applications each year that ensures the prestige of the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships and I thank you for offering all the candidate/s listed above. All of this year's candidates are clearly destined to secure a successful career in their chosen field. But, inevitably, we can only take the highest-performing candidates through to interview. Any of your students who have been called for interview have done fantastically well and are to be congratulated whatever the outcome of the interview stage. Any of your students who have not made it to interview should not view this as a failure but rather as a challenge for future improvement". We wish Annabelle well for her interview.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY 2021**

We missed our usual activities in the Library this year but we were still able to mark World Book Day in lockdown! Some classes watched short talks by authors Katherine Rundell and Derek Landy online and completed a writing challenge. Everyone had the opportunity to take part in our World Book Day competition and we had some wonderfully imaginative entries, inspired by students' favourite books.

The winners were 1<sup>st</sup> Mia Ellul 7Y; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ruby Hodgkins 7F and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Smith 13B. You can see all the winners and runners-up on the School Instagram.

On the last day of the Spring Term we held a collection for Book Aid International. Staff and students were encouraged to donate 50p for every book read during March. The total raised – to be announced!

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

**Guy Reid-Easton** (School Captain, 2020 Leaver) was told in early February that he was one of only 2 candidates being taken on for officer cadetship for the Royal Navy (RFA) this year. This was especially impressive as record numbers applied due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Guy is currently working at the Covid-19 testing centre at Manston, supervising up to 90 personnel. His mum thought that it was this role, along with his accomplishments and the opportunities afforded him whilst at Manwood's that put him in good stead for his interview. Guy starts his training at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in June. Our congratulations to Guy on achieving something that has been his dream for so long.

**Henry James** (2016 Leaver) was successful at his recent Army Officer Selection Board and will be starting at Sandhurst in January.

England Women's Cricket opener and ex-Manwoodian, **Tammy Beaumont** (2009 Leaver), became the leading female one-day batter in the world for the first time. She moved up five places in the International Cricket Council standings after making 71, 72 not out and 88 not out in the recent 2-1 series win in New Zealand. She now averages

22.20, with a strike-rate of 108.73 in T20 internationals. She batted in the middle order in last year's T20 World Cup in Australia, scoring only 15 runs in three innings as England reached the semi-finals but returned to the top of the order for the 5-0 clean sweep of West Indies last summer and was England's highest run-scorer with 120 in the series. "It's certainly where I prefer to bat, but at the same time I'll do whatever is right for the team," she said.

**Ernard Gunnell** (1974 Leaver) died on 17 April 2019. The following is taken from his obituary in his College's magazine: "His wife, Penny, along with his friends and contemporaries write: Chris Gunnell died at home on 17 April 2019 after a short battle with cancer. There seemed to be a common thread running through the many tributes paid to Chris after his death: larger than life, with a totally individual way of looking at the world; charismatic, funny and kind; a unique character with a blend of opinion, talent and determination to be himself, with endearing wit, poetic flair, gifted, intelligent and exasperating, but with an underlying reticence about his personal talents. It all began on 30 May 1955 in Horley. He was the only son of Walter Bernard and Ingeborg Gunnell and spent 13 formative years in Accra, Ghana, where his father worked as an architect and engineer for the government. This time made a lasting impression, especially the people's energy for life, the vibrant colours, the warmth, sun, sea and surf, hospitality and friendship and, of course, the uplifting highlife music. On returning to England, after a second coup in Ghana, Chris won a scholarship to Sir Roger Manhood's school in Sandwich, Kent, where he excelled both academically and in the sporting arena. He also pursued his passion for poetry and music by sharing his poems in the school magazine and playing jazz piano, performing at the local folk club on the same stage as the famous Davey Graham, who was a local resident at the time. Chris and Penny even featured in *Tales of a Huggable Vicar*, the autobiography of the Reverend Hugh Maddocks, the local vicar at the time. The author wrote: 'After a few Sunday evenings, the head boy of Manwood's and the mayor's daughter started going out. Isn't that what the church is for, love and all that sort of thing?' Hard work earned Chris an open and history scholarship to Emmanuel College, but before going up he took a year out to take up a commission in the 17th/21st lancers as second lieutenant-commander 3 troop C squadron British Army of the Rhine with details in Germany and Northern Ireland. He won the troop prize at R A C Bovington and Lulworth as well as passing out as top cadet at Sandhurst. Kevin Nelson, a contemporary at Emmanuel, recalls: Obviously as a scholar we were envious of Chris's palatial quarters in South Court: I think he was a floor above me in our first year. Also he would have been required to don his gown periodically to read Latin grace at formal hall, which I guess he found a bit irritating. For some reason the image I have of Chris is in military uniform; I can't remember the context, but obviously he looked quite dashing; it seemed also to add an air of sophistication, ie, that he had had more of a life before Cambridge. A contemporary explained that Chris was famously sceptical about the education on offer at Cambridge, but welcomed the

breadth. This scepticism and frustration manifested itself at the end of the second year, when he wrote a poem in answer to the following question in the Part I exams: 'What should the relationship be between the history of political thought and that of political action?' Here's the poem: the history of political thought ought to educate man & society through a dialectical 'Bildung' into what is and what ought to be: a belief in truth that should be carried out and (in a Hegelian sense) be synthesised by events into absorbing new truths, new ideas undeterred by profits and petty fears; politicians and philosophers ought, if they had the courage of their convictions, to stick to their principles and predictions and ignore the idiocy of party and faction and translate political thought into action! His Director of Studies recommended a change to philosophy to accommodate his ideas. This led to Chris's meeting his mentor and friend, the late Professor Salim Kemal, a Fellow at the time at Wolfson College, who was writing a thesis on Kant's aesthetics. This formed the basis of his greatest single contribution to philosophical scholarship in the western tradition: *Kant and Fine Art* (1986). Chris was at his happiest working with Salim. Another contemporary at Emmanuel, Chris Martin, recalls that they shared Dr Michael Tanner as their supervisor: Tanner was a class act, and I really enjoyed and benefitted from him. I'm not sure he would fit in today's world. As I recall, he had a huge room completely stuffed with (frequently Wagner) LPs. I remember someone asking him which version of *The Ring* he ought to have. Tanner looked at him in astonishment and said something like: 'Which version? Why, you want ALL the versions!' Chris certainly did and spent many hours browsing the famous Andy's Records, searching for all the different versions of recordings of his favourite bands, which resulted not only in a massive eclectic collection of vinyl records and CDs, but also in a vast knowledge of music. His friends Felicity and Ian Brennan recall: We have always been great music fans, but the breadth and depth of Chris's musical knowledge was on a different scale. Our CD collection is full of new artists and albums introduced to us by Chris. When we visited, we'd often stay up late with Chris and Penny, listening to music and dancing around. One night, we happened to mention to Chris that one of our favourite tracks was *In a Broken Dream* by Python Lee Jackson. The next morning, when we came down to breakfast, Chris triumphantly brandished a vinyl copy. 'Found it!', he cried. He had been up all night trawling through his huge record collection so that he could play it for us. He was so generous to his friends. We also had the pleasure of introducing Chris to music-streaming, while he and Penny were staying with us. He was delighted to test Spotify by searching for some of the most obscure artists and tracks, and was happy to find they were available on demand. Musically, Chris never lived in the past; he liked contemporary music and continued exploring new artists right up until his death. We will treasure forever the happy times spent listening to music with our dear friend. Chris reconnected with the Emmanuel community of fellowship and camaraderie during the last ten years, catching up with old friends at a number of Gatherings of Members and attending the Gomes lectures and dinners. Only a few

months before his devastating diagnosis, he and Penny spent a wonderful summer's evening with the Master, friends and colleagues, dining, chatting and debating issues of the day. After graduating, Chris worked as the rock music critic for Cambridge Roundabout, a fortnightly arts magazine. He then became assistant manager at the Arts Cinema, which at the time was one of the most successful independent cinemas in Britain, with a well-deserved reputation for world cinema and for acquiring films the moment they were released. In 1981 he curated the Cambridge International Film Festival, which featured films from leading directors from France, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan, New German and Third World Cinema. This was followed by the first-ever Animation Film Festival, which featured experimental animators who had been influenced by jazz, as well as British student films and Italian experimental films. In 1983 he became a management consultant and worked successfully with 13 of the top 100 European and 21 of the top 1000 UK companies, focussing on business re-engineering and the introduction of new systems and processes. Richard Murray, who worked for one of his clients and became a lifelong friend, writes: Chris had a well-documented track record as a management consultant across a broad spectrum of industries in both blue- and white-collar multinational companies and banks. His colleagues and customers benefitted not only from a wealth of experience and knowledge from a strategic perspective and through process change, but also from an inquisitive and empathetic personal approach that always gained respect. Chris succeeded as a consultant, not only because of his knowledge and experience, but also from a result of these personal attributes. His strategic mind meant he could often see the stumbling blocks before others and understood when a project needed redirecting. Combined with his knowledge of running complex projects, he always gained acceptance for his ideas and actions at both management and an individual level. Chris was also an excellent listener and observer. He always noticed those who were not fully engaged or needed more support. He took the time to listen and guide those who needed support in understanding what they could do to drive the project team forward. He could also therefore pinpoint those who needed a tougher approach to ensure they delivered, and he was not afraid to make the tougher decisions. Because of Chris's vast experience across differing industries and his ability to understand the needs of management and individuals, he always seemed to be able both to identify the right things to do and also to set realistic deadlines. Combined with his empathetic approach in monitoring individuals in meeting their deadlines, often daily, he always got the team behind him. These attributes led to the success of many difficult projects within their timeframe, thus enabling companies not only to save costs, but also to adapt and remain at a competitive edge in the market place. His friend and former colleague Dorothy Wronska writes: I was fortunate enough to work with Chris as a junior consultant a number of times in our five years at OASiS and I was lucky that he mentored me. I learnt a lot from him. He had an amazing ability to think outside the box and had the analytical skills



to show why this was worth considering. He influenced without lecturing or telling, and built great relationships. I'd have loved to have worked with him for longer. He also made work fun in and out of work, whether it be at the top of the Eiffel Tower on Bastille Day or going out for dinner; his knowledge of food and wine was extensive. David Goodman, a lifelong friend, writes: I was pleased to have been able to fly over from Sydney in time to visit Chris at home when he passed away peacefully on the morning of 17 April. Like many, I feel very fortunate to have known Chris for well over 30 years, and even though I emigrated to Australia during that time, Chris remained a true friend to me and my family. Indeed, one of his exceptional qualities was how he was genuinely kind and attentive to my children, Gabrielle and Toby. They both fondly remember Chris from our visits to Berkshire or Brittany, or Chris and Penny's trips to Australia. When Gabrielle visited England for two weeks in 2017 to show off her new baby, she insisted on driving down to Maidenhead for lunch with Chris and Penny, just as she had done with her mother and brother many years before. Toby often recalls Chris's energetic laughter and smiles, and how Chris taught him how to play pétanque. Chris always enjoyed his cricket and rugby, and it was great when he joined me on an Australian cricket supporters' cruise around the Caribbean to watch the 2007 cricket world cup. Always great company and the centre of any conversation, he was at ease talking to cricketing royalty such as Mike Gatting, Joel Garner and Kim Hughes, as well as the hoi polloi. As everyone would know, Chris was an avid collector of music recordings and was passionate about poetry. His enormous CD and vinyl collections are unsurpassed, and his taste was certainly eclectic. A meeting with Chris would never be complete without his giving me a CD by an artist I had never heard of, such as Tim Van Eyken, and these would be accompanied by one of his original poems, written especially for me, always pertinent to the personal issues in that period of my life. Chris was an accomplished musician too, though I rarely got to hear him play. On one occasion in 2000, when we travelled to a special Marillion concert at the Bass Brewery Museum in Burton-on-Trent, I recall us returning to the hotel bar and Chris playing freely on the piano. He did not notice that the band we had just seen had arrived, and were listening intently and applauding him! About 15 minutes of virtuoso piano later, Chris finally noticed the band behind him and, in spite of their encouragement, gave up his place at the keyboards and retreated to a barstool! Chris Gunnell, an officer and a gentleman, you will be truly missed".