

THE GIDGE

The 'You Are Awesome' Edition Autumn 2020



'YOU ARE ALL AWESOME'

Over the last six months we've seen alumni and the School community at their best. Looking out for each other, inspiring the next generation, and showing what it means to be #PartofRHS.

You have saved lives on the front line, set up scrub hubs and raised funds for the NHS. 'Virtually' commemorated VE Day 75 with us, helped pupils 'send letters home' to those in isolation, given virtual assemblies, work place tours and concerts to RHS pupils across the world. You have continued to support the RHS Centennial (Bursary) Fund - and reached out to the Class of 2020.

WHAT WAS BRICK DUST?

As part of our VE Day 75 commemorations, one of our favourite Old Boys from Down Under, Robert Green (Collingwood 1946) sent a special virtual assembly message to our pupils. Robert treated over 700 pupils, learning remotely in the UK and around the world to a 'little ditty' that many RHS pupils would have known during the war.



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY NEWS



REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND



BGT STAR JON COURTENAY'S



'VIRTUAL' VE DAY 75

AND ALUMNI VISITS

At the current time we are regrettably unable to welcome large numbers back to RHS which will include Remembrance Weekend due to take place on 7 and 8 November. Remembrance Divisions and Chapel Service will go ahead but be restricted to pupils and staff.

What we propose instead is a 'Virtual' Remembrance Weekend similar to the VDE Day 75.

[Read More](#)

'EVE OF SPEECH DAY' SHOW

There was very little that could make up for our leavers missing out on Speech Day Divisions and Chapel this year. COVID-19 had robbed them of the ceremony and ritual that has been the pinnacle of the RHS experience and the transition to the RHS Alumni family.

Who better to give a little bit of ritualistic cheer and magic than Ant and Dec's Golden Buzzer act, our very own BGT finalist, Jon Courtenay (Blake 1991).

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COMMEMORATIONS

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day which took place on 8 May 1945, the Alumni Office posted every hour, images from Old Boys with their memories of that day.

Also over 1,000 alumni, pupils, parents, and staff came together to celebrate VE Day 75 with picnics in their back gardens. Monty Callow (Drake 1974) posted the unverified 'Callow Garden Picnic' above.

[Read More](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

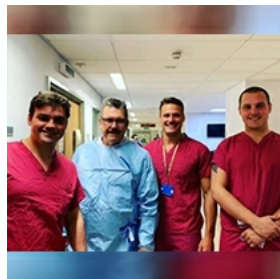


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILL CHRISTMAS

It was with deep sadness that the school community learned of the sudden death of William Christmas (Raleigh 2018) on 19 March 2020.

When a bright light goes out too early, we feel it as a community. Reverend Dr Philip McConnell, School Chaplain, celebrates the life of one of our brightest lights, and announces a special memorial to be held 13 March 2021.

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RHS ALUMNI RESPOND TO COVID-19

Over the last six months RHS alumni have used their resilience and leadership against COVID-19. It has been inspiring to see the difference RHS alumni are making at the current time.

From serving the front line to unique business insights and solutions, fundraising for the NHS to inspiring our pupils at a time of great uncertainty.

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THANK YOU BRIAN AND CLAIRE

Brian Gatward (Cornwallis 1968) and Claire Waugh (Cornwallis 1999) generously volunteered their time to help us continue caring for our history.

They painstakingly catalogued over a thousand items including books, photographs, pamphlets, magazines and ephemera – all of which help to tell the RHS story.

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PUPILS CONNECT WITH ALUMNI WRITING 'LETTERS HOME'

"Older alumni remember waiting for their name to be called to receive letters from home during their days at RHS says Andy Redwood, Vice President, RHS (Alumni) Association on the shared common bond of current and former pupils.

"By re-imagining the tradition of 'Letters Home', today's pupils are reaching out to older alumni at a time when they need human connection the most. We were delighted to support this initiative".

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RHS STEM POWER

As part of British Science Week 2020 earlier in the year we celebrated the contribution RHS alumni make to STEM.

A number of our alumni working in STEM got together with the Headmaster at a special lunch event hosted by Adam Power (Anson 1982). Together they explored how to leverage this powerful network. RHS came away with some great ideas to inspire the RHS navigators of the future.

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GIDGE 2020 PUBLICATION

There might have been a slight delay in producing the publication

SEND NEWS

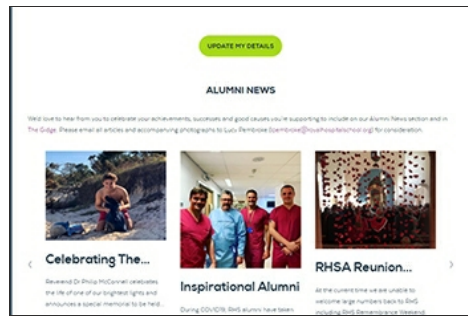
As well as updating your details, you can read our latest news

but the **GIDGE MAGAZINE** is back! Due for delivery in early December. Make sure we have your correct address to receive a copy.

on the alumni website: www.royalhospitalschool.org/alumni.



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SCHOOL NEWS



'DE NEUMANN' SCHOLAR JOINS RHS

Owen Smith joins RHS Sixth Form as the first 'De Neumann' Scholar after achieving some excellent GCSE results including top grades in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Owen said "I am delighted to be offered the scholarship". Owen is studying A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics and feels sure that any future career will involve maths and/or engineering.

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NEW RHS 'UNI' NETWORK LAUNCHED

The Alumni Office was delighted to formally launch the RHS University Ambassadors Network in the summer. A new initiative to help young alumni transition from school to university.

They recruited 28 alumni currently studying, to volunteer as an Ambassador for their university.

The aim is to extend the network recruiting RHS alumni in other universities.

[Read More](#)



THE BIG RETURN: MENTAL HEALTHCHECK

The last six months have been extremely unsettling for all young people as schools were shut, public examinations cancelled, team sports and group activities stopped, extended family and friends distanced and all semblance of leading a normal teenage social life disappeared.

As the RHS community planned their return, 25 teachers and 13 pastoral and support staff were trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

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The Centennial Fund aims to transform 100 lives by 2033. This is an opportunity to develop role models and celebrate the extraordinary RHS education that continues to positively change lives. You can join Alan and make a difference as a regular donor by signing up here from as little as £5 per month and benefit from Gift Aid:

[Donate Now](#)



DITCH THE GREY OLD LADY ON LINKEDIN!

If you have not done so already here is something quick and easy to help our pupils and recent leavers search the network more easily. Change your grey logo for the RHS logo by updating your education details. To find out how click [Education Logo Instructions](#)

[Instructions](#)

Thank you to everyone who is using the official RHS LinkedIn education. With over 2,000 searchable RHS alumni we are looking good and it's nice to see the Navy as our top employer:

Click below to join the [RHS Careers Network](#).

[Join Here](#)

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