



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Annual Report & Accounts 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the
Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road, South Croydon, CR2 7BG
ON MONDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 2018 AT 7 PM



THE PRESIDENT, LORD FREUD, WILL TAKE THE CHAIR

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 4th December, 2017.
- 3 To consider matters arising
- 4 To receive and adopt the Chairman's report (see page 2)
- 5 **RESOLUTIONS**

Members are advised that if they cannot attend, it will be assumed that they are voting *in absentia*, in favour of the changes proposed below, unless they inform the Secretary to the contrary by 3 December, 2018. These resolutions must be passed by at least 75% of those members present and entitled to vote at a general meeting.

 - (a) The Committee proposes a change to the wording of Clause 5(iii) of the WA Constitution to read: "The Chairman shall be elected annually. He shall not serve for more than three consecutive terms unless nominated for re-election for a further term or terms by more than a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting of the Committee which considers his nomination". NB "two thirds majority" replaces "unanimous resolution".
 - (b) The Committee proposes an addition to the Objects of the Association as follows:- Clause 2.6: To support fundraising efforts to build bursaries and other provision to current and future Whitgift schoolboys through WA, WAT, the School or other route as decided by the Committee.
 - (c) The Committee proposes a change to Clause 4(a) to allow the Committee to determine the Annual Subscriptions and Categories and to report them to the Annual General Meeting.
- 6 To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31st August 2018.
- 7 To elect the President for the year commencing 1st January 2019. The Committee proposes that Richard Blundell be elected (see page 2).
- 8 To elect Vice Presidents for the period until the next AGM. The Committee proposes that the existing Vice Presidents be re-elected and that Peter Dunn, Philip Fladgate and Andrew Pickering be elected.
- 9 To appoint the elected officers for the period until the next AGM. The following are proposed: *Chairman* Jonathan Bunn, *Deputy Chairman* Nick Somers, *Secretary* James Goatcher, *Treasurer* Andrew Gayler.
- 10 To appoint the remaining elected members and confirm the appointment of co-opted members as follows:

Elected Members: John Etheridge & Yeboah Mensa-Dika.
Co-opted Members: David Stranack, Stuart Woodrow, Peter Ellis (*School Representative*) & Sam Barke (*Whitgift Sports Club Representative*).

(Reminder: Members may nominate candidates for election as Officers and members of the Committee by giving notice in writing to the Secretary *not less than seven clear days* before the date of the Annual General Meeting and place them before the Annual General Meeting for a proposer and a seconder).

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Committee has appointed David Straw, Richard Blundell, Nick Flood, James Stremes & Jonathan Bunn to serve as directors of OW Trustees Ltd and has re-elected Nick Somers to sit on the Committee of the Whitgiftian Benevolent Society.

- 11 Appointment of independent examiner.
- 12 Any other business.

James Goatcher, Honorary Secretary, WA

OUR PRESIDENT DESIGNATE - RICHARD BLUNDELL



When I first proudly walked up the School drive on that Thursday afternoon in mid-September, little did I dream that I would still be going up that same drive some sixty years later, I arrived at the School in 1956 and never really left! My first Whitgift experience was as a pupil, which was hard work but most enjoyable, especially the sport under Gerwyn Williams and Eddie Watts. Then it was on up to Croham Road for ten years of continuous rugby and cricket where I met and enjoyed the company of many other OWs and made new friends. Next, there was a time out for family life, Rotary Club President and growing the family transportation business into a worldwide concern and then returning to the School as a parent which was stressful but successful, and less energetic when standing on the touchline. From there, OW committee work started to take over, firstly as chair of the Haling Park

committee which entailed organising the entire activities of the then full OWA Day and latterly the Sportsman's Lunch and Music Soiree functions. This post also found me as the OW representative on four School auxiliary bodies and attending nearly all the School's productions and sports events. It was a short step as a Vice President on to the OWA/WA main committee and a director of OW Trustees Ltd overseeing the War Memorial Fund grants, all of which made the editorship of the Newsletter for the last 27 years a simple choice. Having worked with five School Headmasters and now at the pinnacle of this wonderful organisation of ours which I hold so dear and is so widely respected, it is my honour to serve as your 77th President.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2018



2018 marked the 30th anniversary of my year group leaving Whitgift's Upper 6th. While it was a round 30 years for us, every passing year marks one more anniversary of leaving the school for each of us. It is rare that we stop to consider all that has passed since the day we last strolled through the Haling Park gates as schoolboys.

It was wonderful, therefore, to gather with almost 60 of my year group and a smattering of teachers to mark the anniversary in fine style on a beautiful day at the school. Drinks at Noon in the Quad, then lunch in the Old Library before retiring to the Whitgift Sports Club for further refreshment and memory swapping. Guest of honour was Headmaster David Raeburn - spritely, witty and erudite as ever as he offered generous, spontaneous words of thanks. A fantastic day, made possible by the support of the Whitgiftian Association, the school and Headmaster Chris Ramsey. Ours was not the only reunion this year and it has been great to read in the WA Newsletter about all the other events - from small scale drinks to weekends away - that have taken place this year. Congratulations to all those who took time to organise an event. Please get in touch with any of your reunion plans.

My second year as Chairman of the WA has been just as busy as the first. I would like to thank all the Committee for their support and contributions. In particular, thanks to Deputy Chairman Pip Burley, who is stepping down from the Committee at this meeting after many years' service. Pip's wisdom and advice have been of tremendous support to me and the Committee. Thank you, Pip, for your contribution over the years and your continued support. We wish you well as you leave the Committee!

It has been a pleasure to strengthen the WA's relationship with the School. In particular, Chris Ramsey has been open and receptive in all our discussions, which is encouraging to see when he has such a busy agenda. Chris and I firmly believe by working closely together, the WA and the School have the best opportunity to make a real difference and achieve our objectives. A real focus has been on bursary fundraising and we are working closely, with a number of workshops, to develop and align our thinking. More detailed plans to come, so I will not say more now, except to reiterate the need to continue to raise funds for bursaries.

These lie at the heart of Whitgift and many alumni have benefitted from an award. Some were only able to attend Whitgift due to a bursary. A staggering 46% of boys at Whitgift receive an element of financial support. It is a wonderful percentage, but sadly one that is not sustainable without a significant rethink about how such financial support is funded.

The WA's fundraising initiative - the WA Bursary Appeal - has been an excellent start - and thanks are due to its Chairman, Lord Tope, and his committee for delivering a number of successful events in 2018. As well as an excellent dinner at Sketch in Mayfair, a superb evening in November at The Vineyard Hotel in Newbury, generously hosted by Sir Peter Michael, formed the core of this year's Bursary Appeal fundraising activity. Thank you to every OW who has donated. I was honoured to attend a reception with some of our donors in October where we heard directly from recent pupils who are thriving thanks to bursary funding. There is an exciting, ambitious future ahead for this important initiative.

As ever, there were many excellent WA and associated body events during the year. It was particularly pleasing to see a Liverymen's Dinner in July with 42 on board HQS Wellington. A highlight of any year is the WA Annual Dinner and the 123rd such event was no disappointment as 120 OWs of all generations filled the sumptuous House of Lords Dining Room as guests of our President Lord Freud.

While our affiliated clubs and societies report regularly in the newsletter, it has also been a good year for the Whitgift Sports Club, with healthy membership buoyed by vibrant junior sections. Congratulations in particular to OWRFC who secured promotion back to the London Leagues after many years in Surrey One. The WA continues to work with WSC to see how we can make the club a sustainable stand-alone operation. Long-term thinking is required when it comes to the future of the sports club itself. The building is ageing and requires regular cash injections simply to maintain it. We need to come together to find a sustainable solution for a property at the heart of the WA.

Finally, I must thank David Freud who has offered wise counsel and robust challenge as President. He has brought his years of political and business experience to the role, and diligently attended as many WA events as possible, hosted a magnificent Annual Dinner and been generous in his time and support.

*Jonathan Bunn, Chairman, Whitgiftian Association,
December 2018*

HALING PARK - PETER ELLIS OW (1991-98), SECOND MASTER



I am delighted to report on the fantastic range of activities and achievements at Whitgift School for 2017/18.

The dedication and hard work of the students and the staff resulted in some excellent results in the summer exams. In the Upper Sixth, results in the International Baccalaureate were

again superb, with an average points total of 38 out of a maximum of 45.

In A Level and Pre-U examinations, 84% of all grades were awarded at A*-B; this rises to 86% when combined with the IB results. 35 pupils gained straight A* and A grades at A Level or Pre-U equivalent and one student achieved a remarkable 7 A* grades. At GCSE, nearly half of new style entries were awarded at the top grades of 8 or 9, and success in other areas includes: 95% A*-B, 22% Grade 9 and 75% level 7/8/9 (A*-A). An impressive 32 pupils achieved the top grades possible (9 or A*) in 8 or more of their GCSE subjects and 3 achieved the rare feat of gaining top grades in all eleven of their subject entries. 114 Whitgiftians are going to universities in The Times top 20 for 2018.

Boarding at Whitgift continues to flourish. 22 different nationalities are currently represented which ensures a welcomed diversity to the House and the School. The Whitgift Summer School ran for a fourth year for six weeks during the summer holidays and welcomed 259 students from over 26 different countries. We were fortunate to have around 50 Whitgift staff involved alongside new and returning externally recruited teachers. Just under 100 Whitgift boys and Old Palace girls also took part in a range of activities from afternoon project-based lessons, sports and creative activities, meals and evening activities.

Performing Arts events at Whitgift were high-quality, varied and ever popular. *The Government Inspector* was a huge success in its 3-night run in December. This was followed by the equally fantastic First Form Play of *Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass* in February. *Guys and Dolls* was the musical of the year and included a number of students from Old Palace and the Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts alongside Whitgift boys. The Sixth Form play, *A Few Good Men*, also in March, was outstanding. The year ended with boys of the Lower School taking on Golding's iconic *Lord of the Flies*, and we enjoyed the company of Nigel Williams, who adapted the text, when he attended one of the performances and he was able to see the boys perform his vision.

We enjoyed a number of musical performances throughout including the London Myriad Ensemble collaborating with the Lower First Form for a fun-filled performance of *Peter and the Wolf*.

In October, the Whitgift Chamber Choir made their evensong debut at Coventry Cathedral. As well as the annual Autumn Collection Concert, we enjoyed Whitgift and Minster choirs performing Brahms' *Ein Deutsches*

Requiem at the Croydon Minster in November. The year ended with a trio of Christmas musical delights: Choristers singing at The Ritz once again, then joining forces with the Whitgift Chamber Choir for a Christmas Concert in Hanover Square, finished off with the ever-popular Carol Service at Croydon Minster. Musical highlights in the Lent and Trinity Terms included a showcase of Whitgift's brass ensembles in '*Strictly Come Brassing*' in March, a splendid concert at Cadogan Hall, also in March, and a performance by the Chamber Choir at St Paul's Cathedral in May.

I would encourage Old Whitgiftians to come along to Whitgift productions wherever possible. Please do visit the Events page on the Whitgift website for more information.

We have been pleased to welcome many visitors to the School over the last twelve months, including a number of Old Whitgiftians. In November, OW Callum Hudson-Odoi took a break from football to meet staff and boys wishing to congratulate him on his U17 World Cup win. At the annual Junior Literacy Festival in the same month, an impressive line-up of authors took part including Steve Cole, Ciaran Murtagh, Nikki Sheehan, Karl Nova, Kieran Ekeledo, Jamie Thomson and Stephen Davies. Forming part of the judging panel at the annual House Music Competition in January was OW Jonathan (JB) Gill. We were delighted that OW Anthony Strong returned to school to perform as part of his UK tour. The year ended with a visit from OW Chris Cook, Newsnight's Policy Editor, who was our guest of honour at the Celebration of Whitgift Life.

The Academic Enrichment programme has continued to impress with a number of guest speakers including English poet, playwright and novelist, Simon Armitage, former Whitgift Master Sir Anthony Seldon, Sam Gyimah, Minister for Higher Education and, on the sporting front, Eddie Jones, Head Coach of the England Rugby national team.

Whitgift, once again, opened its gardens to the public over the summer for the National Gardens Scheme Open Day and the London Open Garden Squares Weekend. Visitors were able to enjoy the School's gardens and wildlife areas. Revenue received through admissions and plant sales went to the scheme's charities.

An impressive range of building and renovation work was carried out over the summer which included the renovation of three more laboratories, a complete refurbishment of the English classrooms and corridor, and the Locker Quad between Science and Maths was paved to create a larger social space. Architects have been regular visitors to the School over the past few months as part of a Masterplan which the School are currently putting together.

Whitgift students have continued to excel in sport this year. Our portfolio of National titles remains impressive with team and individual medals in sports as diverse as Rugby, Fives, Cricket, Judo, Golf and Table Tennis to name but a few. Additionally, many pupils, current and past, have represented their country in their chosen sports. Special mention goes to Nyeem Young for his selection in the West Indies 2018 ICC U19 Cricket World Cup squad and George Simpson for his success in Pentathlon GB. Five Whitgift students are currently playing for national football teams and four for the GB Hockey side which is an outstanding achievement.

OWs continue to progress in their sporting careers. Particularly noteworthy is Victor Moses who was part of the Nigerian 2018

World Cup team in Russia, and Elliot Daly who continues to excel for England at rugby. Additionally, OWs Rory Burns, Jason Roy and Dominic Sibley are excelling in their cricketing careers.

I do hope this summary has given you some insight into the goings-on at the School and the activities we can look

forward to over the coming year. As ever, Old Whitgiftians are always very welcome to revisit Whitgift at any time and I would encourage you to do so – please contact the WA Office. School events are open to all and are published on our website www.whitgift.co.uk/events.

CONTACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

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HOME AND OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

We currently have OWs scattered around the
globe, and if you wish to be put in touch with
an OW in a particular country or continent,
we will do our best to put you in contact.
Tel: 020 8633 9926

ADDRESS CHANGES

Of over 9,000 registered OWs, 1,791 are
currently "lost". If we do not know address
and contact details, particularly e-mails, we
cannot send reunion invitations or other
news and events, so if you move house, please
do remember to let us know. You can update
your contact details at any time by writing to
or telephoning the office or by sending an e-
mail to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk.
Please e-mail the office if you know the
whereabouts of any other OWs who you
think we may not know about.

STANDING ORDERS

Some members may have standing orders
that have to be identified individually from
the WA bank statements and entered
manually into our computer system. Direct
debits and PayPal subscriptions are processed
automatically and save the WA both time and
bank charges. Please make the move this year

from standing order to direct debit. If you
have an antipathy to direct debits, at least
please ensure your SO is updated to reflect
current subscription rates (see page 1). Direct
Debit forms may be obtained from the
website or from the office.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION

In view of ever increasing postal charges, we
have expanded our use of e-mail distribution
facilities where possible. This Annual Report
has been sent to you as a pdf attachment and
is available on the WA Members' area of the
website. If you know any members who are
unable or unwilling to receive e-mail
attachments, it may be downloaded from the
WA website. **Please ensure we have your
e-mail address.**

DATA PROTECTION

The new General Data Protection Regulation
came into force in May 2018, and we will
contacted members for permission to hold
their details on our database. We appreciate
your cooperation so that we may continue to
communicate with you effectively. Please be
assured that we never pass data to commercial
organisations or to non-members without
express permission.

WA ON THE NET

You will find the WA website at:
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk. The site
contains a current calendar of events, news,
recent and past issues of the WA Newsletter,
and WA News, membership details and
subscription rates, the Constitution, together
with a list of officers, past Presidents & Vice
Presidents and celebrated Alumni. You can
also book and purchase tickets for WA and
School events and take advantage of the
generous Members' Discounts that apply via
the Members' Log-In area and WA Shop. You
can also make payments online. Please e-mail
any comments or contributions to:
office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

WHITGIFTIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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We ask all Old Whitgiftians to consider a
legacy to the Society, as we continue to strive
to help the less fortunate in the wider
Whitgift family. All OWs are encouraged to
contact the Secretary c/o: the WA Office if
they hear of or suspect that an Old
Whitgiftian could be in need of help.