

THE

PANGBOURNIAN

2025

Setting a
New Course

70 Years of Rowing

Transforming
Futures



Celebrating our Pangbourne Pioneers

THE
PANGBOURNIAN
— COMMUNITY —

Pangbournian Connect

One Connected Community.
Making a Difference, Together.

Pangbournian Connect brings together the wider family of Pangbourne: current and former parents, alumni, partners and friends.

Join online via the newly updated portal to:

- Connect with fellow Pangbournians locally and around the globe
- Give back and support Transforming Futures — changing young lives through education
- Grow your professional network and open doors for others
- Engage in exciting events and stay updated with the latest College and community news

Whether you plan to share expertise, rekindle friendships, or help future generations thrive, this is your space to get involved and make an impact.

JOIN TODAY

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The Pangbournian is the magazine of the Pangbournian Community. Every child, and their family, automatically become Pangbournians for life and members of the Pangbournian Community from the day they join the College. The Community brings together the wider family of Pangbourne: current and former parents, Old Pangbournians, staff, partners and friends. Everyone has the opportunity to get involved, to join events, to give back to the College and to network with new contacts via Pangbournian Connect (www.community.pangbourne.com).

The Pangbournian Community Team

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To keep up to date with Pangbournian Community news, follow the Pangbournian Community on Facebook. You can follow the Pangbourne Parents Association (PPA) on Facebook, the Old Pangbournian Society (OPS) on Instagram and join the LinkedIn Old Pangbournian Group.

Front cover image: Benedict Tufnell Photography.
 Mia Moore Hockey image - Helen Richie Photography.



A Bold Direction Rooted in **Our Ethos**

Oli Knight Head of Pangbourne College

As I reflect on my first year at Pangbourne, I feel both privileged and energised as to what lies ahead. This is a community rich in history, values, and purpose – one that balances tradition with transformation. Over the past academic year, I've listened, observed and learned from the whole community. What's clear is that we are united by a belief in education as a force for

good – one that shapes not only intellect, but character, confidence and compassion.

Now, as we look to the future, I want to share the direction we're taking together.

At the heart of our ambition is a simple idea: that a great education should empower young people to leave a positive mark on the world. This means more than exam results (though they matter); it means developing young people who are curious, courageous, and kind – ready for a complex, fast-changing world.

To guide us, we've shaped our approach around four core pillars. These aren't new ideas to Pangbourne, but rather a renewed, intentional focus on what matters most.

Academic Rigour (Not Academic Selection)

Every student—regardless of starting point—deserves access to a challenging, stretching education. We're committed to raising aspirations through ambitious teaching, a strong academic culture and a belief that students rise to meet high expectations when supported with care and consistency.

Exploration & Adventure

Learning at Pangbourne happens far beyond the classroom. Our Exploration & Adventure programme is a defining feature of a Pangbournian journey. By embracing discomfort, working in teams and facing real-world challenges, students discover who they are – and what they're capable of.

Community

This is, and must always be, a school where everyone feels known and valued. Strong relationships, shared traditions and a deeply human approach to pastoral care are the bedrock of our identity. As we grow and evolve, keeping that sense of belonging is a priority.

Leadership

At Pangbourne, leadership is not a badge – it's a mindset. Through everyday responsibilities, formal roles and reflective practice, we aim to nurture grounded, thoughtful leaders who act

with integrity and confidence in any setting.

Our world is becoming more dynamic, more uncertain and more automated. What will set our students apart is not just knowledge, but the ability to act intelligently and empathetically in unfamiliar situations. That is the real skill of the 21st century – and it's what we are preparing them for.

In the words of Jim Collins, "Good is the enemy of Great" – but good is also the energy to become great. Pangbourne is in a strong place. Now is the time to build on that strength, challenge ourselves to go further and remain true to the human-centred ethos that defines us.

Thank you to all the members of the Pangbournian Community who have welcomed and supported me over this first year. I'm excited for what we will continue to achieve together.





Setting a New Course

Campus 2030

In March, the College announced a series of transformative changes that will shape its future, enhance student experience and ensure its continued success for generations to come. The College’s Campus Masterplan, Campus 2030, part of the Five Year Strategic Plan, sets out a number of new developments, reflecting the College’s ongoing commitment to its future while preserving its legacy.

Full Co-Education and New Divisional Structure

In September 2025, as Phase 1 of Campus 2030, the College embraced full co-education by moving away from boy and girl Divisions and creating five co-educational Divisions, marking a significant step towards a more inclusive and balanced environment. With dedicated non teaching Pastoral Division Leads, the Divisions serve as the central pastoral hubs for all students, promoting an enhanced pastoral care system that ensures every student is supported in both academic and personal development.

New Sixth Form Centre to Enhance Student Experience

A new Sixth Form Centre opened its doors in September, providing a dedicated space for students to prepare for life beyond the College.

The Sixth Form Centre includes areas for independent study, collaborative work, and social spaces, fostering a balance of academic focus and growing independence.

“The Sixth Form Centre development provides a more attractive and supportive environment. It will also play a key role in expanding the Sixth Form and enriching the student experience.”

Indy Kaur, Head of Sixth Form

Changes to Boarding Structure for Improved Experience

In a further move towards enhancing the College’s pastoral care, boarding is now consolidated into three dedicated Boarding Houses (for students in Years 7-13): Port Jackson for boys and St. George for girls, with a third house opening later in 2025. This new arrangement provides a more enriching

and dynamic boarding experience, allowing for stronger community building and more focused support for boarders. Dunbar House has become a Junior Day House, ensuring a better experience for younger pupils.

Each Boarding House is led by a Head of House, supported by a Deputy, ensuring that every boarder receives the highest level of care and attention.

The new co-educational Divisions will ensure that all students benefit from greater equity, offering more leadership opportunities and role models of both genders. This better prepares students for the world beyond Pangbourne by fostering an inclusive and diverse environment.

The next phase of Campus 2030 will focus on enhancing the College’s academic and co-curricular provision.

A legacy of evolution

- 1917 The Nautical College Pangbourne (NCP) opens
- 1928 Additional River frontage is purchased (and the first boat house built shortly after)
- 1954 & 1955 Two new buildings are opened: Macquarie and Hesperus
- 1968 Renamed as Pangbourne College, the first day boys join the College
- 1970 Junior School opens for boys aged 11–13
- 1990 The first girl, Claire Whitehead, joins the Sixth Form – followed by Charlotte Drake in early 1991
- 1996 The College becomes fully co-educational
- 2000 The Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel opens
- 2005 The Junior School moves to purpose built quarters: Dunbar
- 2012 The Harding Communications Centre opens
- 2017 The College celebrates its Centenary



“This is an exciting new chapter for the College. These changes not only reflect the evolving needs of our students but also demonstrate the College’s commitment to providing the best possible educational and pastoral care for future generations. With a clear focus on innovation, inclusion, and excellence, we are preparing students for success, both within the College and in the world beyond.”

Oliver Knight, Head



Academic Excellence

A stellar year of results for Pangbourne pupils

The year has seen Pangbourne students achieving unprecedented levels of success in their examinations. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of students, and teachers as well as the unwavering support of parents.

Some of the highlights of the record-breaking results include 45% A*-A grades and equivalent (which is an increase from 29% last year) and 90% A*-C (an increase from 84% last year) as well as a 100% pass across all subjects. Economics, French and Politics all achieved above 60% A*-A grades and Chemistry, Chinese, Further Maths, History, Music 100% A*-B grades. Media BTEC and Sport Diploma BTEC achieved 100% Distinction* or Distinction.

A record number of students have secured their first choice places at University, including destinations such as Durham, Exeter, Newcastle, Bristol, Bath, Manchester, Loughborough,

King's College, Cardiff and Brunel to study a wide variety of courses from Ancient History, Computer Science, Law, Liberal Arts and Design to Economics, Pharmacy, Design and International Relations and Politics.

"We are incredibly proud of our students' excellent achievements, these results are a direct reflection of their relentless efforts, resilience and the dedication of our staff, who have supported them along the way. It's truly inspiring to witness this cohort achieve their personal best and set a new benchmark for academic excellence at Pangbourne.

The academic processes and rigour put in place this year have paid dividends to the results for these students and we aim to see further improvements in the coming years.

It is heartening to see such a strong College performance within a particularly high performing local market."

Oliver Knight, Head

"We are thrilled to be celebrating the academic success of our students. They have achieved outstanding results and we are immensely proud not only of their academic achievements but also of how they have triumphed in all aspects of their lives during their time at Pangbourne College. Each and every individual has contributed greatly to the community, and we wish them every success as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. We have no doubt that they will make their mark in the world and excel in all that they do."

Deputy Head Academic, Mark Seccombe

Following the stellar A Level results, the College saw some of its best-ever GCSE results, with pupils achieving outstanding levels of success in this year's examinations. This year's results show continued strong performance across the board and some of the highlights of the outstanding results include 38% 9-7 grades (best in last 8 years and 3rd best results ever) and 85% 9-5 grades (best ever) as well as 96% 9-4 grades (best ever). Biology, French and Physics achieved more than 60% 9-7 grades and Biology, Chemistry, German and Physics all achieved 100% 9-5 grades.

"We are immensely proud of the achievements of all our Year 11 pupils. They have demonstrated great resilience and determination over the course of their studies and these results set them up well to live a life of choice and opportunity." Oliver Knight, Head

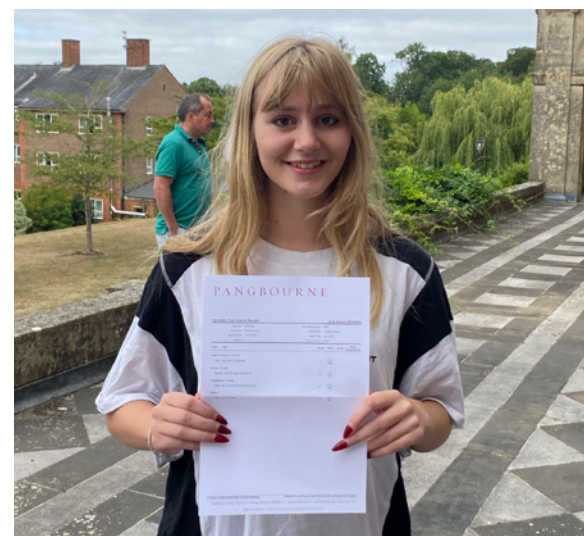
These results were not the outcome of a 'silver bullet', but of a collection of initiatives and approaches designed to help the pupils learn more effectively and perform better in the examinations. The biggest structural change supporting

academic outcomes was modifying the College day to add more teaching time. The GCSE and Sixth Form subjects all had an extra period of time each week. Departments used it in the way that was most beneficial for them; some chose to give it to the pupils as designated study time, others used it to get through the content more quickly so that there could be more consolidation at the end of the course, others used it for more extensive and regular exam practice. Alongside this, we put a large emphasis on making use of every minute in lessons. We had a drive on punctuality a couple of years ago and this was followed up with the adoption of a "Do Now" task in each lesson so that pupils are thinking about the subject as soon as they enter the classroom. We've done more work with pupils on revision skills and we have put in place some additional support for the final preparations. All of the exams had a 30 minute "Pre-Exam Blast" to reinforce key concepts and techniques for the exams. Those pupils who needed support getting across the line to a pass had a weekly carousel session in the core subjects. Replacing the roof and

windows in Drake Hall meant that pupils had a more comfortable environment to sit their exams. We have more initiatives planned for the coming academic year and beyond to improve these results further, we know there is lots of scope to make them even better.



Freddie was delighted with his results of Further Maths (A*), Maths (A*), Physics (A*) and French (A) and will be going to the University of Bath to study Computer Science.



Verity achieved excellent results in Photography (A*), English Literature (A), History (A) and Politics (A) and is looking forward to going to the University of Manchester to study Liberal Arts.

A portrait of Claire Morphy, a woman with grey hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark green zip-up shirt with two chest pockets and a dark blue blazer with red and white stripes on the sleeves. A small crest is visible on the left side of her blazer. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Pangbourne Pioneer: Claire Morphy (1990–92)

Pangbourne's first girl —
paving the way for future generations.

Claire shares her College memories and career journey to becoming a leading vet.

College Experience

What years did you attend the College, and what initially brought you to Pangbourne?

I attended Pangbourne from September 1990 to July 1992. I came to Pangbourne as the only girl which was a little odd! I'd decided that I wanted to leave Queen Anne's and was considering schools with a co-ed Sixth Form. My dad suggested going to Pangbourne as my brother was already there. My response was "Don't be stupid, it's a boys' school!" We were already quite heavily involved in the school: my parents and I sang in the choir as well as the Choral Society and I'd taken part in school productions. My dad asked Anthony Hudson if he'd ever

consider taking girls, to which he replied that he was just waiting for someone to ask! The Governors said that they'd accept up to five girls as a trial as that was the threshold at which the College would have to provide separate facilities. As it happened, they didn't accept anyone else, so it was just me starting on my own.

How would you describe the atmosphere or culture of the College when you were a student?

Being the only girl was somewhat intimidating on the first morning, especially attending assembly and trying to find my way around study block amongst a crowd of boys who were

mostly a head taller than me! But after the first morning, I remember standing outside Mess Hall waiting for lunch chatting with the boys from my Maths set and they were all genuinely lovely! After that scary first morning, I literally loved every moment of my time at Pangbourne.

Were there any teachers or mentors who had a lasting impact on you?

I loved my tutor Mr "Dickie" Norris who also tried to teach me Mechanics! He'd talked me into doing Further Maths as well as Maths and this meant he'd be teaching me. He was a very softly spoken gentleman who was expert at helping me navigate my way through Sixth Form



way. That meant the top floor had to go past my room. I joined the flow of traffic and stood at the back of the crowd in the car park. When DH called the roll, I was trying not to be noticed as I was there in a somewhat shortish long t-shirt, ready for bed! He then asked if there was anybody else and, while I was trying to decide how to answer, he said “Claire, come and see me!” This of course drew the attention that I was trying to avoid! Clearly, he had needed me to identify myself at roll call but hadn’t appreciated my dilemma of exposure!

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities, clubs, or events?

One of the amazing things about College is how you can fit so much into your life because everything is within walking distance! It never happens again in life so it's worth taking those opportunities when you can! I did virtually every music group on offer including Choir, Choral Society and Marching Band. I played the flute and harp and took minor parts in the odd College production. I was also asked to play the harp part alongside a professional orchestra for a production of *The Merry Widow*. I joined the College expedition to Kenya after the end of the Upper Sixth and spent the year prior fundraising for it.

Transition & Growth

How did your time at the College shape who you are today?

Great question! I think that being at Pangbourne helped me deal with being in unfamiliar surroundings and making it work. I’m not afraid to stand out from the crowd and do things that other people might not consider because they might be unexpected or different. I ended up picking a niche occupation that very few people work in. I also took up triathlon and completed three

and the challenges that it brought as well as getting me through my UCAS applications.

Also, Brian Colborne who only taught down on the river. As the only girl, I didn’t have too much choice for team sports, so I’d decided to head down to the Boat House and learn to scull. Brian always taught the newbies to scull; he took me under his wing and organised for me to compete in races. He was the first one who helped me take sport seriously.

Do you have a standout memory from your time here—something funny, moving, or unexpected?

I have a great many stories that were funny, but most probably aren’t appropriate for here! This one is one I remember well. I was in Hesperus Division, again as the only girl, although by this time, Charlotte Drake had joined the College and was in Macquarie so

we wouldn’t become cliquey! Hesperus was the only division with no female influence since neither the Housemaster, David Harris (“DH”), nor deputy (Robin Brodhurst) were married! I was put in Hesperus purely because that’s where my brother had been. I had my own room at the top of the division next to the Housemasters. The very first night I’d stayed over in the division for div duty, I’d had to bring in a camp bed and sleeping bag. A friend had been in my room for a chat and left a little before 11pm. He sneaked past DH, who, with his ear protectors on, was squatting on the top landing, setting a thunder flash. DH liked realistic fire drills including setting off thunder flashes and smoke bombs. My friend had returned to his room to await the loud bang signalling the start of the drill! There was also a smoke bomb on the stairwell, Mr Brodhurst was there waving his arms telling people they had to go the other



Farm Animal and Camelid Hospital there. After four years, there were some deep cuts in higher education funding and I was made redundant, so I decided to start my own practice back at home, so I found myself back in the Pangbourne area again where I continue to run my camelid vet practice. My husband and I also have a luxury safari lodge called Boztdown Boltholes <http://www.boztdown-boltholes.co.uk/> (in Whitchurch Hill) that has fabulous views from the edge of the Chilterns at which we'd love to host visiting OPs and Pangbourne families and friends!

What have been some of your proudest professional achievements so far?

Completing my residency and gaining my credentials to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary



Ironman distance races before it became a relatively frequent thing to do.

Did you leave with a clear idea of what you wanted to do?

I knew I wanted a career with animals, but at the time I wanted to work with wildlife in Africa. That changed a little afterwards, but the general trajectory of working with animals was a consistent idea.

Career Journey

Can you tell us about your career path since leaving the College?

I took two Gap years after College. The first was planned, but the second was to enable me to apply to vet school which I hadn't done originally. I ended up attending the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, graduating in 1999. I'd spent a lot of time out in southern Africa working with wildlife vets during my vet school time, intending to work with wildlife. When I left vet school, I decided to work for a couple of years in mixed and small animal practice to get hands-on experience and during that time, I decided that I enjoyed working with

alpacas and they were different! We had a large herd at home, but I'd learned nothing about them during vet school and felt completely out of my depth! There was a niche to be filled, so I set out to find somewhere to learn about their veterinary care.

This led me to The Ohio State University in the US where I planned to spend six months hanging out at the vet school with a vet who had developed a big reputation working with camelids. When I arrived, he had just secured funding for a residency working with camelids. They accepted my application, and I stayed to complete a three year residency programme in the farm animal section at Ohio State. We kept our own cases and remained responsible for them even when not on call, such that all decisions were our own, and you were completely in control of the case. Early on in my residency, I remember being on call for a full week (no days or even half days off).

After my residency, I spent an extra year at Ohio State as a clinical instructor consolidating my skills before returning to the UK to work at The Royal Veterinary College and establish a new

Internal Medicine (Large Animal) is one of my biggest achievements. It is one of the criteria that enables me to be called a “Specialist in Camelid Health & Production” in the UK. This April I published my first book, *The Camelid Care Handbook for Alpaca & Llama Owners*.

Have there been any major challenges you’ve had to overcome?

Setting up and managing a business has been my biggest challenge to date, other than the academic hurdles! It’s incredible how much unnecessary bureaucracy there is in running a business. It’s particularly hard for me to break out of the “helping” mould and remember to make money!

Reflection & Advice

Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self as a student here?

Work hard and get where you want to be, but don’t forget to play hard too!

What would you say to current students at the College who are figuring out their next steps?

Make sure you pick something you enjoy for your career. It’s what you will spend a great deal of time doing and it must be something that makes you happy. You only get one life. If you don’t know what you want to do, take some time to gain work experience, maybe travel and think before you commit to a university path. Don’t bum around, make it focussed time that counts!

How has the Pangbournian Community and your College network played a part in your life and career since you left?

I enjoy attending events at the College, particularly Old Pangbournian dinners. A huge range of OPs show up from every era and it’s fascinating to meet and chat with them. An OP even unexpectedly became my knee surgeon! I’ve been a member of the OP Society Committee for a few years now where I’ve been trying to figure out how to make it more relevant to our cohort of female OPs! If you’re a female OP, please get in touch if you have any ideas or would like to get involved!

If you’d like to get in touch, feel free to reach out via email
cmorphy@ukalpacavet.com





Hitting the Right Notes

Introducing Director of Music, Don Gillthorpe. Here are his impressions from a busy first year.

I am the Director of Music, responsible for all aspects of Music across the College. I lead a large team who provide a wide range of musical opportunities for our pupils, at every stage of their musical career, inspiring a love of music and helping pupils to develop their skills and confidence.

My days are wonderfully varied: from planning and rehearsing for concerts, services, and events, to teaching in the classroom and supporting my Music Department colleagues. One of the

highlights of each week is leading Congers, when the College comes together to end the week with fun and uplifting singing. It's a fantastic way to build community spirit and remind everyone of the joy that music can bring.

Life before Pangbourne

I grew up in Cumbria and studied Music at Lancaster University, graduating with a first-class degree, specialising in singing, conducting, and orchestration. My undergraduate dissertation explored the church music of Herbert Howells, and I was awarded the Denis McCaldin performance prize for my final year recital.

After serving as an Assistant Headteacher for five years, I took a term's sabbatical

before joining Pangbourne. Earlier in my career, I led two highly successful state school music departments, establishing vibrant musical communities.

Outside school, I remain active as a professional musician, working as a conductor, singer and composer. I have extensive experience as a church musician, having served as Director of Music at Lancaster Priory and for the Morland Choristers' Camp. From 2021-23 I was President of the Music Teachers' Association.

When I am not at work, you are likely to find me reading a good book, battling with a cryptic crossword, or walking Herbert, my two-year old Basset/Labrador cross.

Career highlights

Taking 100 pupils from a state comprehensive school to perform in a televised BBC Proms concert at the Royal Albert Hall, accompanied by the BBC Philharmonic, was unforgettable for everyone involved. In 2017, my last music department was recognised as Best Music Department at the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.

What has always mattered most, however, is making music a place of belonging and possibility for all pupils. One highlight was supporting a pupil with an extremely difficult home life to discover music; they have since gone on to forge a successful career as a professional singer. Helping young people find their own voices is the greatest privilege of all.

Why Pangbourne?

I've been fortunate to work exclusively in schools with a proud—and somewhat

idiosyncratic—heritage. These are schools that take pride in their unique character, ethos, and identity, honouring their foundations and traditions, whilst looking forward and preparing pupils for the modern world.

Pangbourne embodies that balance beautifully. While the marching tradition was new to me, I have quickly come to love it and its role in making the College distinctive. It's clear that the College's values and history are not just respected but lived day to day; the combination of tradition and modernity drew me here.

An exciting and rewarding first year

A big project has been rewriting the music curriculum from scratch. As a department we have looked at the purpose of music education, our philosophy and values, and designed a carefully sequenced experience to offer progress and opportunity for all pupils.

We've also had some fantastic performances, including recitals and College Sundays. Pangbourne Proms was a particular highlight, with a diverse range of performances and over 200 supporters enjoying a sunny evening of music together.

I've loved getting to know the Marching Band and learning from Mr Thornhill and Mr Donnelly about leading parades; it's been fascinating and inspiring.

I'm especially proud to have established a new choir, the Pangbourne Choristers, auditioned from Dunbar. We're working to train their voices and musicianship like a cathedral-style top line, so keep an eye out for them in the future.

Future plans for music at Pangbourne

I have big ambitions for music at Pangbourne. I want the College to be the first choice for musical children; a place with clear, well-supported pathways for aspiring professional musicians and a place of belonging for those who enjoy music as a hobby. But, most importantly, I want all pupils to develop a genuine love of music, whether that's through performing, composing, or simply enjoying music as listeners.

Ultimately, I want every pupil to leave with positive memories, having discovered new musical worlds, found a sense of belonging, and—just as importantly—had fun along the way. If music at Pangbourne is remembered as a source of joy, exploration and connection, then I'll know we've done something right.

Leading by Example Grace I'Anson

Outgoing Chief Cadet Captain of College (CCCC), Grace I'Anson, shares her perspective on leadership and the importance of kindness.



After reading through some of the previous Chief of College speeches, I realise that Kit and I didn't deliver some of our intended plans from our interviews last year. Which, as grafting, Chief driven Year 12s, were rather ambitious goals looking back on them now, especially once A Levels came increasingly close. However, that being said, one of my main selling points to pick me as Chief was my drive for kindness.

Throughout my life, and especially through my role, I have learnt that confidence and kindness get you through any door you wish to step foot in. Growing up, my mum and dad always taught me to treat people how you would like to be treated, and if I'm honest, living by that, in my opinion, is the main reason I have been able to achieve this honour of being Chief Cadet Captain for the past year. It doesn't matter how smart you are, how sporty you are, or how popular you are. Be kind and the world will be kind to you.

I joined Pangbourne on my own, with no friends from my previous school and hardly a clue who anyone was, in a very confusing time. Even so, I quickly came to see that Pangbourne is a special place. A place full of thoughtful, interesting and inspiring people that along the way have shaped and crafted me into the person I am, standing in front of everyone.

I think it is an interesting concept, that without even realising, the people we have become friends with, the teachers who have taught us and the mistakes we have made, quite literally become us.

This place holds memories in abundance, and the most part of those memories start with the gorgeous people I have been lucky enough to be surrounded by over the last five years. You may think, why do I keep rambling on about people? It's because I believe Pangbourne's most outstanding feature in comparison with other places, is the people it turns out once the clock strikes midnight on Founders' Day. We are thrown into all sorts of challenges and uncomfortable situations, aside from academic pressures,

Div song, Div sports, Div drama and Div swimming, which I do have a vendetta against after getting a concussion during the backstroke after losing out in my campaign for the freestyle.

My point being is that although we all try to get out of these challenges, the ones that face them head on and learn from these experiences, which is the exact behaviour we are encouraged to do, are those who become the Pangbournians I know that this College is proud of.

So if I could pass down some wisdom to those of you who still have some time left, play that football match, audition for that role, say Hi to that person, and in the wise words of my Year 5 Physics teacher, who I recently discovered was quoting Theodore Roosevelt that whole time, "Believe you can and you're halfway there".

Especially considering the changes that are ahead for next year and years to come, I know many of you are scared and apprehensive. However, stay true to yourself, be kind, explore the new opportunities and be confident in yourself, and I expect it will feel like little has changed.

Despite the cliché, there are many, many people I would love to thank. However if I did it would take years, therefore my shortlist of honourable mentions go out firstly to Mr Knight, for giving me the opportunity to be standing here on Founders' Day, and everyday for the past academic year as your Chief, even if I was the bad cop. To Kit, for being the good cop who has kept me sane and

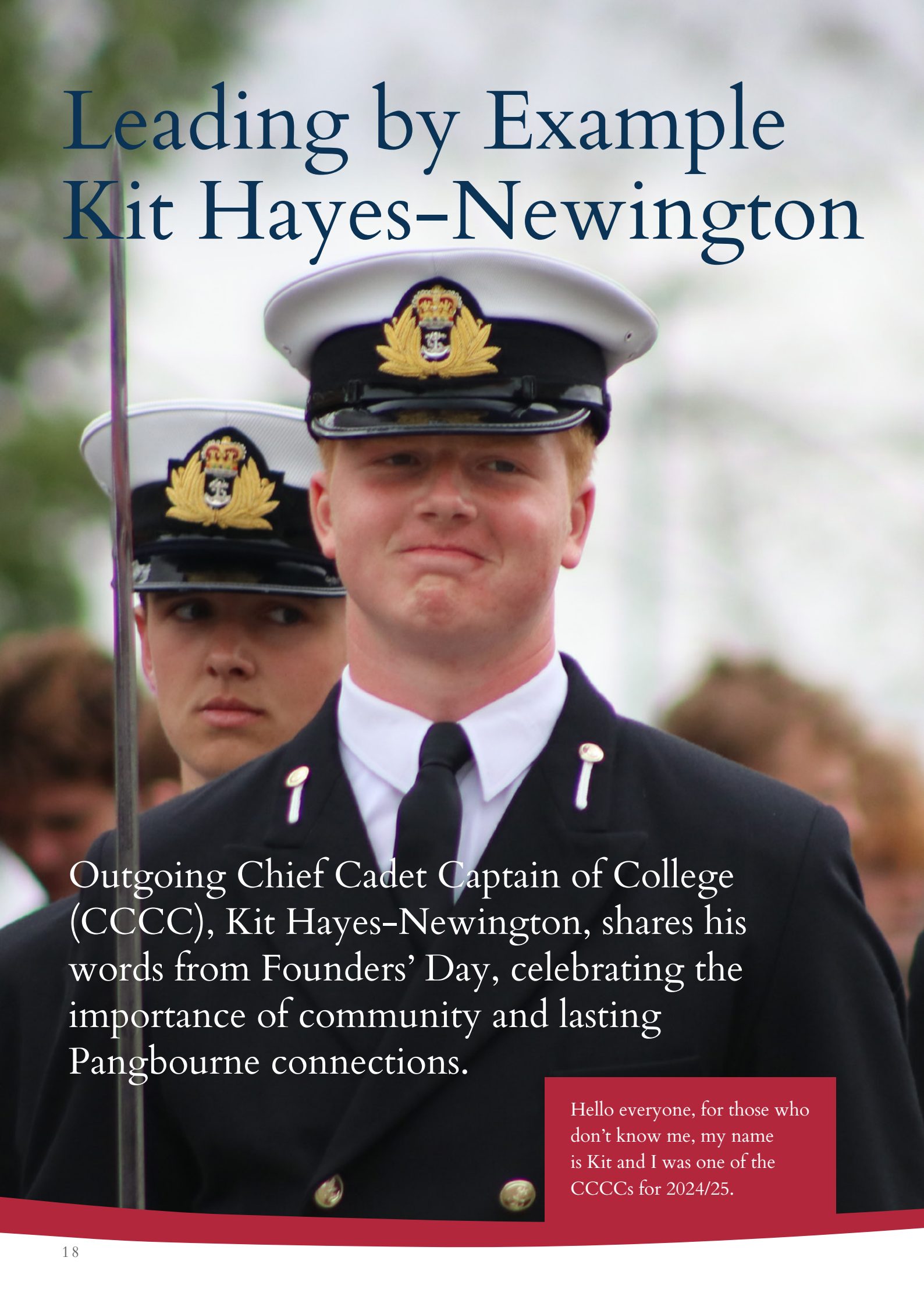
focused, and a joyful partner through a busy time. My friends who have offered unwavering support and love, and most importantly my family, who have made many sacrifices to allow me to reach this point in my education and have most influenced the person I am today.

To my fellow leavers, and to those who have helped us through the last gruelling couple of months, I think we all underestimated the tumbling brick wall of emotions that reside during A Levels and leaving College. The exam pressure, the constant fatigue, the dread, the complete awe and fear of a very open-ended future and nostalgia of leaving the small little bubble we have lived in here. It has been hard, however, you all gave it your best shot, with resilience, determination and I'm sure, success. I am proud of all of us, and I urge you all now to go off and have the best summer of your lives because I think it's safe to say, we deserve it.

My older brother always reminds me that life isn't all that serious, and when you fail to see that, you stop having fun. Although yes, there are parts of life that are very serious and require not having fun to do them well, the hard part is over for a little while, thank God!

I would like to leave you by making the point that I am proud of who I am and the person this College has shaped me into, and I urge you all to have that feeling when you reach this day, because it's one thing leaving College knowing you never have to do a chemistry lesson again, but it's a much bigger thing to be proud of what you have achieved.

Leading by Example Kit Hayes-Newington



Outgoing Chief Cadet Captain of College (CCCC), Kit Hayes-Newington, shares his words from Founders' Day, celebrating the importance of community and lasting Pangbourne connections.

Hello everyone, for those who don't know me, my name is Kit and I was one of the CCCCs for 2024/25.

After listening to many impressive Chief speeches on Founders' Day over the years, I did struggle to find a theme that would allow what I have learnt to complement those that have come before. However, after hours of doom scrolling on TikTok and Instagram, I found numerous quotes and speeches, some of which I found very inspiring. As many of you know, Mr Knight is not a fan of phones and social media, so I apologise to him in advance for using input from those sources to help me effectively express what I want to say.

One particular speech really resonated with me. It underlines the core value of community that is central to Pangbourne. The speech was given by a pastor who recounted his experience of many people whom he had seen pass over the years. In it he noted how not a single person called for their material possessions on their deathbeds. All that anyone wanted in those final moments were their loved ones around them. I would say it is very easy for us all to fall into the trap of pursuing money and material gain to try and achieve happiness. However, what I have come to realise during my time at Pangbourne is how valuable the connections with those around us are, and thus how important it is to form a strong community, which Pangbourne so effectively fosters.

My understanding of this became even more heightened when I reminisced on our time as a year group during the COVID pandemic in 2020. For those of us who joined in Year 9 in 2020, the normal integration with the rest of the College was largely limited as a result of our confinement to a year group bubble. As I progressed through the College, I observed a restoration of normal

conditions, and it became more apparent how well Pangbourne brings people together into a unified community. This has a particularly positive impact on one's experiences through these challenging years of adolescence. Therefore, our shared experience has provided a unique perspective on just how valuable community connections are; it didn't do our resilience any harm either.

I would like to think that I have made the most of my time at Pangbourne, and that I have embraced the many opportunities that are on offer. But I do also appreciate what a privilege and a financial commitment it is; as my father constantly reminds me! On the activities front, for me this has ranged from the amazing opportunities to sing within the Chamber and College choirs, including a unique day performing at the Evensong at Queen's College, Oxford, to the harsh challenges of Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE. Of particular note I recall the tears that fell from my eyes as I returned home from my Silver expedition in the New Forest to find my new 'unworn' walking boots sitting in the cupboard at home. It was at that moment I realised I had been wearing my old boots that were two sizes too small. I then understood what the cause of my days of agony had been. On the other hand, I did gain five shiny new toenails – so every cloud does indeed have a silver lining!

From a sporting perspective, my fulfilment has come from the fun I have had on the rugby pitch to the hours of pain I put myself through rowing on the water and on the rowing machines. In these I have achieved victories, but it is the losses that have ultimately taught me the most and given me the drive to pursue sports beyond Pangbourne.

As I mentioned earlier, victories are not the be all and end all, and in my view are far less important than those connections that you form within these activities and sports. Without my friends during that DofE walk, I may well have just given up, and without the strong bonds I had made with my teammates across both sports, I doubt I would have coped with the losses in the same way.

Before I deliver my final message, I would like to thank Mr Knight for giving me the privilege of being Chief Cadet Captain for his first year at the College. I have enjoyed hearing about his vision for the College, and the freedom that he has given me to help contribute to achieving those long term goals. I wish him and the College nothing but success for the future. To Grace, my fellow CCCC, I couldn't have asked for a better Co-Chief. Whilst her occasional strictness does scare me sometimes, she is a kind and efficient person who has made this last year a whole lot easier. Finally, to my parents: my decisions and time within the College could not have been made possible without the support they have given me, and for that I can't thank them enough.

I think the 2025 leavers can agree with me that we have had our ups and downs, but nevertheless the very nature of Pangbourne's cosy environment has ensured that we have made what are hopefully connections that will last throughout our adult lives. So, I implore everyone to go into the future valuing these connections and equally, using the qualities implied by the Flag Values, to form new connections, as that would be a genuine achievement and the basis for lasting happiness.



Every Day is an Adventure

For generations, a spirit of adventure has united Pangbournians. Never has this been truer than for the current generation of pupils.

At Pangbourne College, adventure isn't just something that happens on a field trip or during a weekend expedition – it's a mindset.

It's a way of engaging with the world, of facing difficulty with courage, and of seeing every setback as a step forward. This belief in the power of challenge is central to the College's philosophy, and underpins much of what is offered both inside and outside the classroom.

The Head, Oliver Knight, is a passionate advocate for this adventurous spirit, believing that a life well lived is one that embraces uncertainty and growth. At a time when society often celebrates ease, instant success and individualism, Pangbourne champions effort, commitment and resilience.

At Pangbourne, students are taught that meaningful success requires hard work, and that happiness often comes from contributing to something greater than oneself.

The College's unique Adventure Curriculum is central to this approach. It challenges pupils not only to push their physical limits but to develop the

personal qualities of freedom, self-reliance and responsibility. These aren't just lofty ideals – they are values practised daily through academic learning, co-curricular activities and the range of outdoor and adventure programmes the College offers.

The Head is a strong supporter of educational theorist Seymour Papert who once said, *"There is only one 21st-century skill, and that is the ability to act intelligently when faced with a situation for which you have not been specially prepared."* For Pangbournians, this isn't just a theory – it's a goal. The College prepares its students to be adaptable, thoughtful, and capable in unfamiliar circumstances.



Adventure in Action: Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

A vital part of Pangbourne's co-curricular life is the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). This programme, which includes the Army, Royal Marines and Royal Navy sections, gives students in Year 10 and above a structured and immersive leadership experience.

Each section offers its own set of challenges and skills:

- Royal Navy cadets develop their seamanship through boating and sailing qualifications.
- Royal Marines focus on fieldcraft and marksmanship.
- Army cadets engage in soldiering and tactical exercises.

Weekly sessions build discipline and teamwork, while termly Field Days – often supported by serving military personnel – provide an intensive training experience. With opportunities for camps, leadership courses and adventurous trips, the CCF is a powerful tool for developing courage and resilience.

Challenge and Reward: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Another cornerstone of Pangbourne's adventure ethos is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). Offered at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, the programme enables students to explore volunteering, physical activity, skill-building and outdoor expeditions.

The expeditions take pupils across some of the UK's most beautiful and demanding terrain, from the New Forest and Lake District to the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons. Every stage encourages self-discovery, independence and perseverance.

Students are supported throughout their DofE journey and encouraged to see each challenge as an opportunity – not just to succeed, but to learn about themselves and their capacity for growth.

Life is full of uncertainty and challenge, and young people need more than just academic preparation to thrive. They need courage, compassion and the confidence to face the unknown. Every day at Pangbourne offers a chance to grow, to learn and to try something new. And in doing so, every day becomes an adventure.

This is especially important given the growing mental health challenges faced by today's adolescents, challenges which often affect girls disproportionately. While the causes are complex and still debated, Pangbourne sees resilience – the ability to bounce back from failure – as a vital protective factor.

Supporting this view, Professor Andrea Danese, general secretary of the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, recently remarked:

“Facing challenges and distress is normal and important in terms of individual growth. That's how young people develop emotional resilience—they learn coping skills in the face of many small challenges and build self-confidence about their ability to cope. The narratives we build matter.”

At Pangbourne, these narratives are shaped through real experiences – both triumphs and setbacks. Whether it's challenges faced on the College's high ropes course or receiving a detention, pupils are encouraged to reflect, learn and move forward. These are not failures in the traditional sense; they are foundational moments that help students

build a stronger sense of identity and agency.

The role of educators and parents, the College believes, is not to shield children from difficulty, but to help them navigate through it. That's where confidence is truly built – and where the seeds of long-term wellbeing are sown.



Down by the Riverside

A legacy of learning and leadership on the Thames

The riverside setting of Pangbourne, right on the banks of the Thames, has always held a special place in English culture and literature. Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* famously ends its misadventurous journey at Pangbourne, forever putting the village on the literary map. Meanwhile, Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, retired to Church Cottage in Pangbourne, where the peaceful Thames scenery inspired E. H. Shepard's charming illustrations for his beloved book.



Main image: 1939 - Aquatic Sports - The Procession of Boats. Above image: 1926 - the College 'Brig' with Instructor Bill Stamper and cadets. Right hand page top right: River Training. Middle right: Te Kotuka capsizes. Bottom right: Sailing. Bottom left: 1935 - cadets on the river.

The river's appeal wasn't lost on the College's founder, Sir Thomas Devitt. Soon after establishing Pangbourne College, he bought Thames Cottage, drawn to its prime river frontage. In 1928, the College expanded even more, adding 300 extra feet of riverfront. This allowed them to build a large brick boathouse and a new slipway, making the most of the river access.

The College magazine, *The Log*, proudly announced in 1929 that work at Thames Cottage was pretty much finished. The riverfront had been transformed, both in

looks and in how it could be used. The new boathouse and slipway were put to use right away, a big cypress hedge was planted along the road, and extra landscaping made the whole area even more attractive.

In 1925, showing its strong maritime spirit, the College bought *Gnome*, a Victorian coal-burning launch used to ferry cadets along the river. It offered hands-on lessons in operating powered boats, giving many young mariners practical experience. But the river wasn't always so welcoming; in the Lent Term of 1929, the Thames froze solid from bank to bank, leaving students stuck on shore for a while.

By 1930, the College had a fleet of twelve different boats, marking the start of its proud rowing tradition. Gig races started in 1931, and by 1934, the annual McGeogh Sailing Cup had been introduced. Cadets were challenged to navigate a course from the boathouse buoy to one at the river bend. River pageants and water sports soon became highlights of College life, complete with mock pirate ships and costumes borrowed from College theatre productions – *The Pirates of Penzance* was a particular favourite.

Swimming lessons in the river became a rite of passage, building resilience

and unforgettable memories. This close connection to the water was highlighted during a royal visit in 1967. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh insisted on visiting the river, and a special display was prepared. In a memorable moment, two cadets managed to capsize *Te Kotuku*, a dinghy generously loaned by the Duke himself, to everyone's amusement.

Over the years, this peaceful stretch of the Thames has become one of the College's greatest treasures. Rowing success is now part of Pangbourne's identity, with four Henley-winning crews – starting with the first Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup win in 1963, followed by victories in 1971, 1992 and 2003. These achievements show not just skill but also a deep respect for the river that has been passed down for nearly a century.

Today, the Thames remains at the heart of College life. While boats and facilities have modernized, many traditions live on – especially the sight of students running eagerly down Pangbourne Hill for time on the water, and then heading back up, tired but happy. It's a ritual that connects today's students with all those who came before, reflecting the enduring bond between Pangbourne College and the river that shapes its spirit and story.



Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Pangbourne Rowing

70 Years of Teamwork, Tenacity and Triumph





Celebrating 70 years of the Boat Club

at Henley Royal Regatta

We were absolutely delighted to welcome over 100 OPs, current and past parents, and current and former members of staff to the College's annual drinks reception at the Henley Royal Regatta on Thursday 3 July.

This year's event was particularly special as we marked the Platinum Jubilee of the Boat Club, celebrating 70 years since the foundation of rowing at Pangbourne in 1955. The College's rich rowing heritage is a source of immense pride, with no fewer than four Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup-winning crews, a legacy

that began with our historic first victory in 1963. It was a true honour to have four members of that legendary 1963 crew, Julian Coles, Rob Hamilton, Shaun Maynard and Garth McDonald join us to cut the celebration cake and share their memories of that remarkable achievement.

We were also joined by our new Director of Rowing, Ed Green, who took up his post in September and Assistant Director of Rowing, Olympic gold medallist Harry Brightmore. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Pangbourne Community who joined us to celebrate this milestone occasion.





THE FUTURE OF PANGBOURNE ROWING

An innovative new Thames Cottage scheme that will provide a new home for Pangbourne rowing. Thanks to generous benefactors, the Appeal has gained considerable momentum and, once the application is approved, construction is planned to begin in 2026.

To get involved and help take the Rowing Appeal over the finishing line, please contact Lucinda Grafton on lucinda.grafton@pangbourne.com or 0118 976 6697

THE COLLEGE BOAT CLUB APPEAL



A new home for Pangbourne Rowing

In July 2025, the Boat House planning application was approved by the planning authority. The innovative Thames Cottage plans will provide the new home Pangbourne rowing deserves.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the community, over £1.6m has been committed to the Appeal, and construction is planned to begin in 2026.



Pangbourne Pioneer: Tomas Tokovyι (2017-19)

Tom shares the life changing impact of a Pangbournian education.

Where tradition meets ambition: shaping a scientist and innovator.

College Experience

What years did you attend the College, and what initially brought you to Pangbourne?

I came to Pangbourne for my A Levels in 2017 and left in 2019. I had just turned 16 when I arrived and was completely new to the British educational system. I had spent most of my life in Ukraine, attending a general secondary school there. Moving to the UK was a major step, both exciting and completely unfamiliar.

A year before my move, I entered an international academic scholarship competition. It's a programme that awards full-ride scholarships to bright students from about 15 countries across Central and Eastern Europe, giving them the opportunity to complete the final two years of school in the UK.

After many rounds of interviews and applications, I was thrilled to learn I had

been chosen as one of just three students from Ukraine to receive the scholarship that year. But although I'd secured the scholarship, I didn't get to choose the school. The participating schools are given shortlists of students and can express preferences, often choosing students who match their academic or extracurricular ethos.

I had done well academically back in Ukraine, especially in science, and I was quite sporty, so perhaps Pangbourne saw something in me that resonated with them. So, in the end, it wasn't really me who chose Pangbourne, it was Pangbourne that chose me!

How would you describe the atmosphere or culture of the College when you were a student?

Pangbourne places a strong emphasis on moral values, and that stood out to me. I could see it in the way teachers taught,

in the recognition of students and in the overall ethos of the College. It created a sense of calm and safety, which allowed me to feel at home, despite coming from a different country.

One of the defining features of Pangbourne is its deep-rooted sense of tradition. While at first glance, activities like parades, and marching, might seem unrelated to academic progress, those very traditions are what makes Pangbourne so unique. They give the College a character of its own, something that distinguishes it from other institutions.

Were there any teachers or mentors who had a lasting impact on you?

I had very good relationships with my teachers at Pangbourne. If I were to highlight someone, it would be my Lower Sixth housemaster in Port Jackson Division, Mr Joe Lewis. He was both a



man of character and style (as anyone who's met him will probably agree!).

Coming from a different country, it wasn't always easy for me to integrate. But Mr Lewis encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone. I remember how he pushed me to do things I never thought I'd be brave enough to try, like reading an extract from the Bible in front of the whole College during assembly, even though he knew my English pronunciation wasn't perfect at the time. He also took the time to celebrate my small wins, both academically and personally. That kind of recognition meant a lot.

Do you have a standout memory from your time here—something funny, moving, or unexpected?

Linking back to Mr Lewis, one moment that really stands out happened during a Divisional Drama competition, when

each division had to prepare a short play on a particular theme and perform it at the end of the day. I wasn't at College that day because I was attending an open day at Oxford and only returned as the evening of performances was about to begin.

Mr Lewis was incredibly proud that someone from his division was applying to Oxford. So, even though I hadn't taken part in the play preparation, he gave me a role, not in the play itself, but presenting the division at the start of the night. He specifically asked me to explain to the audience that I couldn't take part because I'd been in Oxford.

At the time, I was very shy, I didn't want to draw attention to myself. But Mr Lewis wanted the whole College to know, and he encouraged me to stand up and say it proudly, so I did.

Even though I was a bit red-faced by the end of it, I remember feeling a quiet sense of achievement. I realised that I didn't need to hide my ambitions or success, that it was okay to be open about them.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities, clubs or events?

I picked up rowing as my main activity at Pangbourne. I had never rowed before, but I decided to join a group of boys for the introductory session. I really enjoyed the feeling of being in the boat with others, the rhythm, the teamwork, and decided to stick with it.

I trained consistently, and by Upper Sixth I had made it into the First Boat and took part in several competitions. It was a great experience and taught me a lot about discipline and endurance.

I do feel it would have been nice to try other sports as well. Pangbourne offers

such a variety and I probably could have made time to explore more of them.

Transition & Growth

How did your time at the College shape who you are today?

Teamwork is probably the key skill I developed most at Pangbourne, and it's stayed with me ever since. The College places a huge emphasis on teamwork, synergy and recognising complementary strengths within a group

For me personally, Pangbourne was also a very useful introduction to British culture, its values, customs and unspoken social norms. There are a lot of small, nuanced things you pick up only through lived experience, and my two years at the College gave me a solid foundation that later gave me confidence, both at university and in professional settings.

Did you leave with a clear idea of what you wanted to do?

I always knew that I wanted to deepen my knowledge in the biological sciences, which is why I decided to pursue biochemistry at university after doing A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths at Pangbourne. But beyond that, I didn't have a specific plan for how I would use that science knowledge.

I didn't have a perfectly mapped-out plan after Pangbourne, I just focused on taking one step at a time. And that approach worked.

Was there a particular subject or experience that sparked your career interests?

Biology, in general, has always fascinated me. But if I had to pinpoint one area that stood out most it was genetics. It was that initial inspiration, that moment of



“I now have ambitious goals to tackle some of the biggest problems in healthcare and this is all because of the excellent foundation provided at Pangbourne.”

curiosity at Pangbourne, that encouraged me to dig deeper into the cutting edge of genetic science.

Career Journey

Can you tell us about your career path since leaving the College?

After Pangbourne, I enrolled in a BSc Biochemistry degree at the University of Bristol.

I finished as the top student in my year and graduated with First Class Honours but also ranked first out of 120 students on the course. Throughout my three years at Bristol, I took part in nearly 10 academic internships and lab projects, producing some exciting work across various research groups.

Toward the end of my degree, I discovered a new MSc course at the University of Oxford called Genomic

Medicine. It instantly caught my attention. I applied while still finishing my final year at Bristol. Oxford was impressed by my application and my personal story, and they awarded me a full-ride academic scholarship to pursue the MSc. This included tuition, accommodation and living costs, all covered through Oxford’s prestigious postgraduate award: the Clarendon Scholarship. Each year, around 200 of the most promising new postgraduates across all faculties in Oxford are selected to receive this honour.

It was during my time at Oxford that I began exploring the interdisciplinary side of science – especially how it could be applied in a start-up environment

Then I came across a unique MPhil programme at Cambridge: Bioscience Enterprise, a business course designed specifically for biotech professionals.

I applied and during the interview, I managed to convince the committee that I had the potential to bring something unique. Not only did they accept me, but they also nominated me for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This is Cambridge’s most competitive international scholarship, awarded each year to about 70 students from across the world. I was one of only four people globally to have ever secured both a Clarendon (Oxford) and a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

At Cambridge, I was trained in all aspects of biotech venture creation by leading industry professionals. After graduating with distinction in my dissertation, I was introduced (through my personal network) to a small group of ambitious scientists and operators from Oxford who were working on a new drug discovery start up.

They invited me to join the company at an early stage as a versatile team member – someone who could contribute to both business operations and scientific strategy. Since then, I’ve been working full-time on this exciting start up, moving between Oxford, London and Cambridge, and travelling internationally as we grow.

What have been some of your proudest professional achievements so far?

I would say my entire academic journey, starting from securing a place at Pangbourne through the scholarship, all the way to becoming a Gates Scholar at Cambridge, is something I’m incredibly proud of.

It’s been a path shaped by both hard work and luck, and I feel very fortunate to have reached milestones that have led me to some of the world’s most

prestigious academic awards. It's not just about the prizes themselves, but about the consistent drive to grow, contribute and stay true to the values that started forming all the way back at Pangbourne.

Have there been any major challenges you've had to overcome?

Coming from Ukraine, my life changed completely when the full-scale war began. My focus shifted almost entirely to my family and home country. My mind was often more with them than with my university work or professional plans.

Over the past three years, I've tried to contribute as much as I can by launching charity initiatives and fundraising campaigns to support Ukraine. It's been difficult to stay fully present in my day-to-day life while knowing what my loved ones have been going through back home, but it also gave me a stronger sense of purpose and responsibility.

As of July 2025, when I'm writing this, the war is still ongoing. My heart is with Ukraine every day. Yet during it all, I still find moments of calm and joy, especially when I'm reunited with my family or when I hear stories of Ukrainian students and professionals succeeding both in Ukraine and abroad. That gives me hope.

Reflection & Advice

Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self as a student here?

I would say: don't limit yourself to just one subject, one sport, or one hobby while you're at Pangbourne. The College has so much to offer, and with the time and freedom you have at school, you're in the perfect position to be as

creative and curious as possible.

Stay curious. Let your peers inspire you and do the same for them.

Pangbourne is, of course, shaped by its rich traditions and history but it's also shaped by its students. You have the power to influence what Pangbourne becomes for others after you. So, take that chance, and make your experience your own.

What does success mean to you now, compared to when you were at school?

For me, success is all about acquiring knowledge and then using that knowledge meaningfully.

When I was at Pangbourne, I was completely focused on learning as much as I could, success felt closely tied to how well I could retain information.

Now, however, I'm at a stage where I measure success by how well I can apply what I know.

What would you say to current students at the College who are figuring out their next steps?

It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you're trying to make the "perfect" choice. University and life aren't about finding one fixed thing and boxing yourself into a single occupation forever.

At university you'll study your chosen subject, but you'll also have the chance to attend lectures outside your main field, join clubs and societies and meet people from all walks of life. Honestly, most university subjects can be passed with reasonable preparation, so don't get stuck in decision paralysis.

How has the Pangbournian Community and your College network played a part in your life and career since you left?

I think I mentioned somewhere recently that Pangbourne is a well-known name, and whenever I mention the College, people often recognise it or know someone who went there. That's helped me build trust and connection with new people and has often served as an icebreaker.

It's up to you how much you choose to engage with the College community after leaving. Pangbourne maintains ties with its alumni through dinners, reunions, and professional events, but it's your responsibility to be proactive. Then it becomes truly rewarding.

I've tried to stay quite involved. I've returned to give talks to the Sixth Form and hope to continue supporting students who are interested in STEM subjects or applying to Oxbridge. I try to attend Founders' Day whenever I can and I still correspond with some of my former teachers by email.

I really do hope my story encourages others to become active ambassadors both while they're still at College and after they graduate. Pangbourne genuinely changed my life, and I believe it can do the same for others if you embrace it with open arms.

Tom is always happy to connect. Whether it's to discuss projects, explore start-up ideas, or simply chat about academic and career paths, he welcomes thoughtful conversations – especially from fellow Pangbournians or those inspired by similar journeys.

If you'd like to get in touch, feel free to reach out via email

tomas.tokovyi@gmail.com or connect on LinkedIn.

Images: Benedict Tufnell Photography



The College has launched a bold new campaign to change lives through the transformative gift of a Pangbournian education: Transforming Futures, a new initiative to provide life-changing Sixth Form boarding bursaries for young people from underserved communities and those with experience of the care system in West Berkshire.

Ambitious Goals

The campaign will initially support two fully funded Sixth Form students each year, with the aim of expanding to five transformational bursaries by 2030. Each bursary will cover 110% of fees and all costs – tuition, boarding, uniforms, trips – ensuring recipients can benefit from every aspect of a Pangbournian education.

Reconnecting with Our Roots

Since Pangbourne College was established in 1917, providing support to pupils in need has been fundamental to our core purpose. Over the last 15 years over £2.5m has been committed to supporting life-changing bursaries (covering over 100% of fees) and the benefits are evident across the College.

Supporting the Next Generation

This new campaign will develop a sustained culture of support, providing the funds that will underpin the College's enduring transformational bursary programme. The generosity of the College community of alumni, friends and parents (both past and present) has the ability to make this ambition a reality. The support will provide continuity to this very important aspect of College life and in the process truly transform lives, benefiting not just individual beneficiaries, but also the whole Pangbournian community.

Changing Local Outcomes

Partnering with national charity, Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation (RNCSEF), the programme

identifies candidates from the West Berkshire area. By focusing on West Berkshire, the aim is to make a difference to the lives of local children and their families, positively impacting the local community. The College's weekly boarding provision will ensure children have space and time for their academic studies as well as the ability to take advantage of all the educational opportunities on offer, achieving the best possible outcomes. The partnership with SpringBoard ensures a robust system is in place to help the children adjust within the College and when they return home for weekends and holidays

Celebrating the Past, Enabling the Future

The awards will all be named after



“Pangbourne has given me access to so much more than excellence in teaching and learning, the wide range of educational opportunities have been beyond any expectation. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity at Pangbourne and the support of the Community.”
 Nino Mamisashvili, Old Pangbournian (2023–25).

“My life was transformed by a bursary from Pangbourne. I can testify personally to the life-changing impact of such a bursary and, as a result, I have been a passionate advocate of widening access at independent schools for my entire working life. Pangbourne is now creating more opportunities for people like myself and enabling beneficiaries to become authors of their own life stories.”

Patrick Derham OBE, Old Pangbournian (1973–78) & Transforming Futures Steering Committee Chair



much loved and respected key figures from the College’s history. The first award will commemorate the legacy of Anthony Hudson MBE, Head from 1988–2000 and the visionary behind the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, who introduced co-education to the College.

Get involved

Reflecting the exceptional generosity of the Pangbournian Community, over £50,000 had already been committed to the campaign, and the first award, celebrating Anthony Hudson, was confirmed ahead of the campaign launch in June. The next award will celebrate former Head, Peter Points. Please contact Lucinda Grafton on lucinda.grafton@pangbourne.com if you would like to find out more or to offer your support to secure the award.

“My educational philosophy is strongly influenced by Kurt Hahn and the theory that the people we live and learn alongside have a lasting effect on us. Diverse teams and networks help us to develop, to adapt and to thrive, whatever the situation.”

Oliver Knight, Head



“What I am doing, and would ask fellow Pangbournians to consider, is to sign up to a monthly Direct Debit in perpetuity – it’s a numbers game. £10 per month, with Gift Aid, becomes £150 and ten of us can contribute £1,500 annually. If 5% of Old Pangbournians answer this call ... Well, you can do the maths!”

Jeremy Moger, Old Pangbournian (1962–68)



Pangbourne Gives

The commitment to giving is a trait that unites every generation of the Pangbournian Community.

Since its establishment in 1917, giving has been at the core of the College's identity. Each generation is committed to providing support, be it through giving their time, their talent or financial support, they pay forward to the next generation of Pangbournians.

Whether it is providing careers support, introductions and connections for leavers or providing essential funding for bursaries or capital projects, the community's support is instrumental to securing the College's unique, high quality education for the long term.

A connected community

Every child, and their family, become Pangbournians for life and members of the Pangbournian Community from the day they join the College. The Community brings together the wider family of Pangbourne: current and former parents, alumni, partners and friends and everyone has the opportunity to get involved and to give back to the College. The College's culture of giving and support is a source of immense pride and is a shared purpose that unites the Community.

Get involved

To get involved in the Pangbournian Community, and find out more about the different ways to give back, visit www.community.pangbourne.com or contact Lucinda Grafton on lucinda.grafton@pangbourne.com

Recognising our supporters

Recognising the support of our donors, and the transformative impact of their gifts, are the College's two recognition Societies:

- The Devitt Legacy Society recognises the generosity of those who have committed a gift to the College in their will.
- The 1917 Society recognises the generosity of those who have committed £1,917 or more to the College.

Members of these Societies receive recognition pins as well as regular communications and invitations to College events.

At a glance

Number of donors 2024 & 2025: **212**

Active careers volunteers: **193**

Age of most senior careers supporter: **83**

1917 Society Members: **166**

Transforming Futures Awards: **2**

Get involved:
community.pangbourne.com



Future Pathways

Real-World Career Insights for College Students

The College's careers programme helps to prepare students for the world beyond Pangbourne.

Pangbourne College's Future Pathways careers programme continues to offer powerful, real-world opportunities to prepare students for life beyond the classroom. During the last school year, thanks to the support of the Pangbournian Community, two significant events – the Lower Sixth Practice Interview Day and the Financing & Law Networking Event – demonstrated the strength of the College community and its commitment to student success.

On 6 June 2025, our Lower Sixth students took part in the annual Practice Interview Day. This dynamic event involved a team of volunteer interviewers – made up of current parents, Old Pangbournians (OPs), and Parents of Old Pangbournians (POPs – who generously gave their time to support the next generation. Each student undertook four interviews with different professionals, giving them the chance to practise presenting themselves to unfamiliar faces. The feedback they received was invaluable, helping them build confidence, refine

their communication skills and identify areas for development. For some, the day sparked future ambitions, leading to conversations about work experience and job shadowing.

Earlier in the term, on 24 April, students were invited to the College's Financing & Law Networking Event. Ten delegates from across the Pangbourne community shared their insights into a wide range of careers across finance and law – including corporate banking, media law, the judiciary and entrepreneurial ventures. Students engaged in informal conversations that opened their eyes to

the diversity of opportunities within these competitive fields. The enthusiasm in the room was evident, with many students leaving feeling inspired and energised.

We are deeply grateful to all members of the Pangbourne Community who gave their time and expertise so generously. Their involvement brings the Future Pathways programme to life, helping students make confident, informed decisions about their future. With such strong support, Pangbourne students are well equipped to explore the professional world with clarity and ambition.



The Art of Thinking on Your Feet!

At some point, each of us will be caught off guard. It's frustrating and unsettling. In those moments, the world doesn't offer instructions. There's no time to consult a manual, and no pause button to buy us time. We are left with one choice: think on our feet.

Thinking on your feet is more than reacting quickly; it's the art of staying calm under pressure, adapting, and finding opportunity in the unexpected. At Pangbourne, this mindset is woven into our very fabric. Our students learn not just to prepare, but to prepare for the unprepared. We teach them that success isn't defined by avoiding mistakes, but by turning those moments into opportunities to lead, to innovate and to shine.

So what should you do when you don't know what to do?

Thinking on Your Feet – 1949 Style. A Vampire Adventure retold by Rob Sargent OP (1962–65)

Rob Sargent, no stranger to aviation's more unpredictable moments, shares the true story of Flight Lieutenant "Kiwi" Francis, a pilot whose quick thinking turned near disaster into success.

In late 1949, Kiwi, a decorated New Zealand pilot, was flying a pre-production De Havilland Vampire jet on a demanding sales tour across Southeast Asia. These were the early days of jet aviation before ejection seats, radar, or

modern navigation systems. On a flight from Singapore to Hong Kong via Saigon, he found himself flying straight into trouble.

Though the forecast looked promising, a tropical storm had other ideas. Radio contact was lost, clouds obscured every airfield, and with no reliable navigation aids, Kiwi had to rely on dead reckoning. He believed he was near Hong Kong just as his jet ran out of fuel.

With no engine and thick clouds below, he began a silent spiral descent. Miraculously, the clouds broke in time to reveal a narrow beach on Bias Bay, a haven for Chinese pirates. Kiwi executed a flawless 'dead stick' landing, saving himself and the aircraft. As he tried to reach help via radio, a group of curious bandits surrounded the jet. A tense but non-violent standoff followed. Luckily, Kiwi's distress call had been received. A Sunderland flying boat arrived first, then the cruiser HMS Belfast with Royal Marines and Army support to recover both Kiwi and the Vampire.

Kiwi's calm, skill, and sharp instincts turned crisis into triumph. This remarkable saga is a textbook case of 'thinking on your feet'.



Harry Brightmore – Assistant Director of Rowing & Olympic Gold Medalist

Thinking on your feet isn't just about quick answers, it's about responding constructively when the pressure is crushing and the stakes are high.

In international rowing, you may only race two or three times a year, with the season's climax at the World Championships or the Olympics. That means long stretches of training with one lingering question: are we fast enough? We learned that clear, constructive communication was essential. We stayed positive and shared honest perspectives. This consistency served us, until complacency cost us. In 2023, we took silver behind Australia. That was our wake-up call. Instead of panicking or blaming, we regrouped. We dissected where our standards had slipped and made the conscious decision to treat every training session as if it were the Olympic final. From then on, nothing was left to chance. That shift paid off.

Just weeks later, we reclaimed gold at the World Championships, beating the same Australian crew that had bested us. A year later, at the Olympics, we won again, by just one second.

At the elite level, no one wins by luck. Thinking on your feet isn't glamorous, and it rarely makes the highlight reel, but it's what turns near misses into victories.



OP Nat Rennie (2007-14)

Whilst travelling on the Trans-Siberian Railway, my best friend and I had multiple times when we were required to adapt quickly to what was going on. The most memorable was during a gauge change and document check on the Mongolian-Chinese border.

Upon first inspection of our documents, there seemed to be an issue which led to some friction with the border staff, none of whom spoke English. We had to attempt to find an English speaker on the same leg of the journey as us, or face being removed from the train! Whilst

my best friend stayed with the border staff, I ran from carriage to carriage using a mixture of sign language and spoken word, finally happening on an individual who spoke English, Chinese and Russian.

Through the application of negotiation with some local currency, the individual agreed to help us, and we got into Beijing with no further problems. Rapid negotiation and identifying that some currency was the key was certainly a lesson in quick thinking!



Rising Star: Leo Robinson

At just 16 years old, current pupil Leo Robinson is already making waves on the European motorsport scene – and his star shows no signs of dimming any time soon.

In 2024, Leo impressed on his debut season with JHR Developments, securing six podium finishes – three of them outright victories – and claiming a highly respectable sixth place in the Drivers' Championship standings. Now in his third season of car racing, Leo's trajectory continues to attract attention across the racing world.

Representing Algeria – his maternal country – Leo is one of the most successful karting graduates of recent years. He stepped onto the Ginetta motorsport ladder at Oulton Park in 2023 with Alastair Rushforth Motorsport to compete in the

Junior Championship series. He then transitioned to R Racing before making the leap into Formula 4, contesting the Danish Championship with STEP Motorsport and progressing to the ROKiT British F4 Championship.

Leo's rise through the ranks has been nothing short of remarkable. In 2023, he became the youngest ever race winner in the Ginetta Junior Championship. Midway through the same season, he took on the challenge of the Danish F4 Championship, scoring podium finishes in every single one of his ten starts – the



the youngest driver ever to win in a 125cc senior kart. That same year he won the Mini X30 title at the I-Games in Portimão, Portugal.

The titles kept coming: Leo dominated the Mini X30 class in the UK, winning the British Championship, Kartmasters, the LGM Championship and the Junior X30 – adding to a glittering collection of prestigious trophies and international accolades. He went on to win the MENA Championship in Oman – proudly racing under the Algerian flag – and capped off his karting career in 2022 with victory in the Italian Championship in the OKJ class.

When asked what first drew him to racing, Leo credits his father's influence:

“My dad used to race, so when I was young he bought me a kart. I started driving up and down the road and eventually I went to a race track – and it's been like that ever since.”

Balancing a demanding racing schedule with his studies at Pangbourne College

is no easy feat, but Leo says the College's support makes it possible:

“Of course, Pangbourne helps me with time off for racing, which is a big reason why I came here. But also, it's just a really nice school – it offers a good contrast to the racing world.”

Looking ahead, Leo's ambitions are clear:

“In the future, I hope to progress up the motor racing ladder and, hopefully, be paid to drive racing cars!”

He describes his proudest moment so far as winning an international final in Portugal during his karting days – but given his drive, talent and determination, it's a safe bet there are many more big moments still to come.

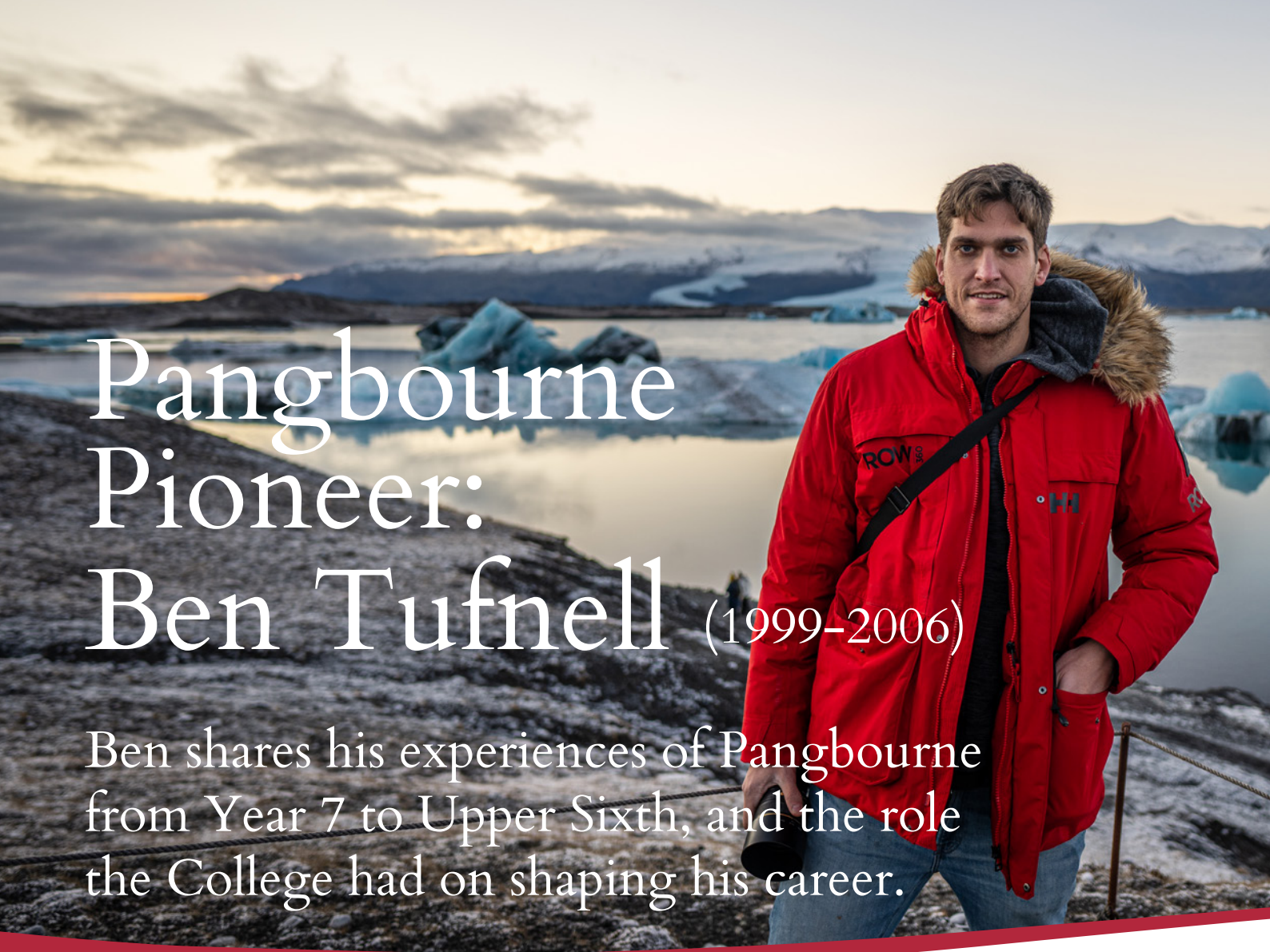
We wish Leo every success for the rest of the season and look forward to watching this Pangbourne Rising Star continue his journey to the top.

Find out more about Leo's career path at www.leorobinson37.com

highest points haul of any driver in the second half of the season – and finishing fourth overall despite competing in only half the rounds.

His success in cars is built on an extraordinary foundation in karting. Leo's journey began when he was just three years old, inspired by his father, himself a former racer. By age seven, Leo had already clinched his first British Championship title. In 2019, he achieved podium finishes in the IAME Euroseries and the World Final in Le Mans, and in 2020, on his 11th birthday, he became





Pangbourne Pioneer: Ben Tufnell (1999-2006)

Ben shares his experiences of Pangbourne from Year 7 to Upper Sixth, and the role the College had on shaping his career.

Rowing, resilience and the art of seeing the world.

College Experience

What years did you attend the College, and what initially brought you to Pangbourne?

I started in the Junior School in September 1999 and left at the end of Upper Sixth in 2006. I first heard of Pangbourne College aged about eight or nine when a friend of mine at primary school showed me a prospectus. I was first drawn to the military aspects and the uniform. What nine year old doesn't love playing soldiers!? It seemed much more exciting to me and just stood out as being different.

How would you describe the atmosphere or culture of the College when you were a student?

I think the standout culture for me was what we often referred to as "Pangbourne pride". Pangbourne has always punched far above its weight. I was lucky enough to be at the College during some incredible sporting successes, from narrowly missing out on the final of the Daily Mail Cup in rugby to winning Championship Eights at National Schools and the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. As a sportsman myself I felt buoyed up by this spirit in every sporting endeavour and was deeply proud to wear the red, white and blue colours.

Were there any teachers or mentors who had a lasting impact on you?

There were two that stand out in particular. First was David Rendle, who saw my potential as a rower and gave me the confidence to pursue the sport. I remember Mr Rendle being a real role model to my younger self and I hoped to achieve the rowing successes he had. The second was my Housemaster James Bamforth, whose life lessons and 'thoughts for the week' during house musters remain with me to this day. I respected both of them hugely and still do.

Do you have a standout memory from your time here—something funny, moving, or unexpected?

I have so many and such a wealth of memories it would be hard to single any



in just about every band, music group and choir going, despite having almost zero musical ability. I first joined the Marching Band, then moved to the guard, eventually becoming guard commander in Upper Sixth. I also was passionate about the Marines CCF and competed in the Pringle Trophy three times. I greatly enjoyed divisional music and drama and was very proud to land a leading role in the College production of *The Wind in the Willows* in my final year.

Transition & Growth

How did your time at the College shape who you are today?

My entire day-to-day life now would look different if I had not gone to Pangbourne. Pangbourne transformed me from a shy, unconfident child and

allowed me to find my strengths, the greatest being rowing. I have worked in the sport of rowing ever since.

Did you leave with a clear idea of what you wanted to do?

No. I left Pangbourne with a scholarship to row at the University of California, Berkeley and firm plans to win the Collegiate National Championships in the US, but no plans beyond that.

Was there a particular subject or experience that sparked your career interests?

My career is now in photography and filmmaking, neither of which I studied at the College. But everything that makes me good at my job, I feel I can trace back to skills and lessons I learned during my time at the College. Pangbourne I believe made me a true all rounder, with the determination, confidence and resilience to see things through.

Credit: Ben Tufnell, Paris Olympics 2024

one out. My happiest times however, were on the river, but also participating in a lot of the adventure training and CCF. I particularly enjoyed competing in and training for the Ten Tors competition on Dartmoor.

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities, clubs, or events?

I got involved in every club, activity and group I possibly could during my time at Pangbourne. My only frustration was not having more time to fit more in. Rowing was my central passion and competing for Pangbourne and the junior British team took precedence, but at the same time I loved playing rugby and competing in athletics where I could. At one time or another I was



Career Journey

Can you tell us about your career path since leaving the College?

After Pangbourne I went to college in America. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, I moved back to the UK and spent a year working for Pangbourne as a drama assistant and rowing coach. I then got a job in marketing for WaterRower UK before landing a job as editor of *Row360* magazine based in London. It was through my work with the magazine that my photography career blossomed and my work started to get noticed. From there I became official photographer of the Boat Race, World Rowing and Henley Royal Regatta.

What have been some of your proudest professional achievements so far?

Last year I reached my long-time career goal of shooting at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It was an incredible honour and the pinnacle of what I wanted to do as a sports photographer. Another highlight has been the work I have done with the Oxford Cambridge Boat Race, particularly the short

documentary series I have made for them titled "Turning The Tide". Series one and two of the documentary are available on the official Boat Race YouTube Channel.

Have there been any major challenges you've had to overcome?

I suppose one of the biggest challenges I have faced in my career was a late diagnosis of ADHD. I spent many years believing I was quite useless at many aspects of life, including timekeeping and organisation, and with no knowledge of how to manage it. Since my diagnosis and learning more about it, I feel far more in control and much better able to harness the many beneficial traits that come with ADHD. I firmly believe I could not do the work I do now were it not for ADHD.

Reflection & Advice

Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self as a student here?

I feel like I got an awful lot out of my time at Pangbourne and made the most of it I possibly could, so there is little I would want to change. I would, however, remind myself to pursue what

I was passionate about and not what I feel I "should" be doing. I was late to discover my passion for the creative arts and I do regret avoiding some of those subject choices.

What does success mean to you now, compared to when you were at school?

That's hard to say. I don't think I have ever defined what success would look like for me. I am always striving to do better or for the next step. I don't think I will ever feel like I have 'arrived'. I also think that as long as you are happy and healthy in life, there are no more important things to achieve than those.

What would you say to current students at the College who are figuring out their next steps?

Follow what excites you and you are passionate about. Don't let anyone talk you out of something just because they say it's a hard or unusual career path. If you want something enough and are passionate about it, you will be amazed what can happen.

How has the Pangbournian Community and your College network played a part in your life and career since you left?

I was completely lost as to what to do when I first moved back to the UK from university in America. It was by contacting my old Housemaster James Bamforth that an opportunity to work at the College arose. That year working at the College was invaluable and gave me the time I needed to find my feet and figure out my next moves. I believe the Pangbourne community can provide in lots of ways, you just have to ask!

Credit: Ben Tufnell, Frankie Allen OP (15-20) Paris Paralympics 2024



If you'd like to get in touch, feel free to contact Ben via www.tufnellphotography.com

Powering Pathways:

The College's Bold New Sporting Partnerships

At Pangbourne College, sport has always been more than competition, it's about character, opportunity and community. This year, the College has taken a bold step forward, announcing two exciting new partnerships that will propel its pupils onto national stages and deepen the College's impact far beyond its own grounds.

From School to Stadium: A New Era for Rugby



Pangbourne's commitment to rugby as a performance sport has taken a giant leap with the launch of an ambitious new partnership with Ealing Trailfinders, one of the UK's fastest-growing professional rugby clubs.

Through this collaboration, Pangbourne joins the Trailfinders Rugby Academy's Elite Player (ETEP) pathway, giving talented players a clear route from school rugby all the way to professional opportunities. For those with the drive and potential, the pathway opens doors to the Trailfinders University Academy Programme at Brunel University London – an important stepping stone towards the professional game.

Sam Hewick, Director of Sport, believes the impact will be transformational:

"This partnership is a game changer for rugby at Pangbourne. It provides our aspiring players with the structure and elite support they need to chase their dreams."

Gareth Rise, Academy Operations Manager at Trailfinders, agrees:

"Pangbourne is exactly the kind of nurturing environment where young rugby players can thrive. We're excited to help shape the most

comprehensive dual-career rugby pathway in British sport."

Head, Oliver Knight, emphasises what this means for the wider community:

"It's about more than professional pathways – it's about raising standards and sharing best practice across our entire rugby programme."

Hockey for All: Growing the Game with Reading Hockey Club



Alongside rugby, hockey at Pangbourne is also stepping up. Building on years of close ties, the College has deepened its collaboration with Reading Hockey Club, one of the country's premier hockey institutions.

This partnership focuses on both high-performance development and widening access for the next generation. New Community Coaching sessions will be aimed at introducing hockey to children under 14, especially those who might not otherwise have the chance to discover the sport.

Tim Hunt, Chair of Reading Hockey Club, captures the spirit of the partnership:

"This is more than just sport, it's about our shared commitment to inclusion, growth and talent development.. Many Pangbournians have worn Reading colours, and we're thrilled our first-team players can give back through coaching at the College."

From joint events to coaching development and shared use of top-level facilities, the partnership aims to broaden sporting access across Berkshire.

Director of Sport, Sam Hewick, connects it all to the bigger picture:

"This sits right at the heart of our Five Year Sport Vision and Strategy. We want every pupil - from elite performers to those trying a stick or ball for the first time - to have access to the very best coaching and opportunities."

A Vision in Motion

These partnerships mark a new chapter for sport at Pangbourne College – one defined by excellence, ambition and community spirit. Whether nurturing the next generation of professional rugby players or putting a first hockey stick in a young child's hands, Pangbourne is investing in a sporting culture that will inspire and empower pupils for years to come.



From Naval Roots to New Horizons

Pangbourne College in the '60s & '70s

Pangbourne in the 1960s: Tradition, Triumph and Transformation.

The 1960s at Pangbourne College were a remarkable decade, one full of tradition, pride, discipline and, increasingly, transformation. Cadets still rose to marching orders and polished their shoes to perfection, but the world outside was shifting fast, and Pangbourne would soon follow.

The decade began with a very special event. In 1960, part of the Founders' Day Chapel service was broadcast on the BBC Light Programme. It was a proud moment, the nation tuning in to hear Pangbourne's hymns and readings. That same year, ground was broken for the College's new swimming pool. Until then, swimming training had taken place in the river, so the new pool marked a strong investment in the future.

Discipline remained central to College life. Saturdays meant Morse code practice with the legendary Charlie Sewell, who could coax a clean transmission

out of even the most distracted cadet. Uniforms were worn properly, drill was serious business and naval standards were expected. But it wasn't all spit and polish.

Music found its place too. Brother Ashley's Superior Jazz Men, Pangbourne's Trad Jazz ensemble, brought a lively interlude between formal routines. Their spirited performances injected New Orleans energy into West Berkshire and made them a beloved part of College life.

Sporting success was another defining thread. The First XV rugby team went

unbeaten in 1962, an achievement still spoken of with pride. In 1963, the 1st VIII rowers delivered one of Pangbourne's greatest moments by winning the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta for the first time, confirming the College's place among Britain's top rowing schools.

The staff were as much a part of the story as the students. Names like Morton Hooper, Lionel Stephens, "Tiger" Knights and Jackie Finch conjure up a full spectrum of memories. Some were

Main image left hand page: 1961 - Cdr. Rimmer in the Seamanship Room. Right hand page top image: 1961 - jazz band, Bill Bailey, Geoff Earle, Phil Powe. Middle left: 1961 - Instructor Tiger Knights. Middle right: 1962 - Swimming pool. Bottom image: Port Jackson Staff (1928-68).

stern, some were quietly kind, but all were unforgettable, shaping not just lessons, but lives.

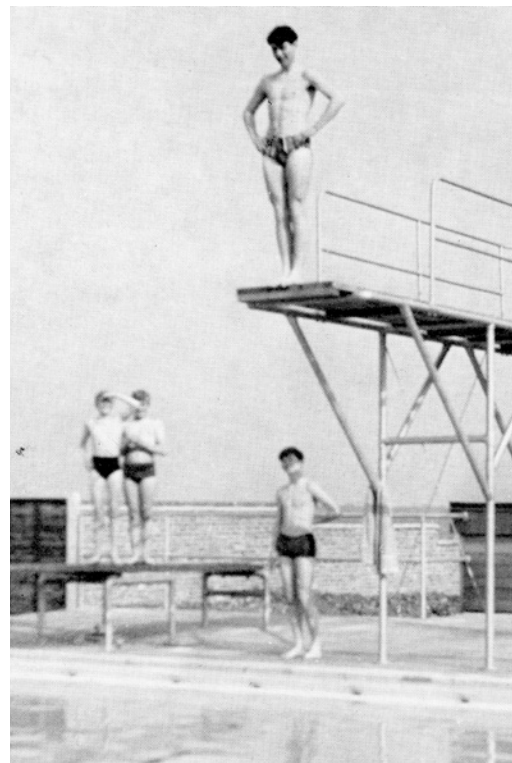
Perhaps the biggest moment of the decade came in 1967, when Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Pangbourne for its Golden Jubilee. It was a day to remember. Cadets stood tall on the parade ground, the Royal Standard flew above the College, and the Queen and Duke met students and staff with warmth and interest. For many, memories were made that would last a lifetime.

Yet, behind the scenes, concerns were growing. Student numbers were falling. The rigid structure that once prepared boys for naval careers no longer attracted new generations. The world was changing – Swinging London, the Moon landing, civil rights marches, the end of National Service; Pangbourne needed to evolve.

In 1968, a bold announcement came. Starting the next academic year, the College would no longer be known as The Nautical College, Pangbourne, but simply Pangbourne College. A civilian headmaster would replace the naval Captain Superintendent, and for the first time, day pupils would be accepted.

These changes marked both an end and a beginning. By the close of the 1960s, Pangbourne was looking forward while honouring its past. The marching feet still echoed on the parade ground, the crest still stood for duty and service, but Pangbourne was becoming a place to learn, grow and lead in a broader sense.

Thus, the 1960s closed not with retreat into tradition, but with a bold step forward into the 1970s.



Left hand top image: 1972 - a new study bedroom.
 Bottom left: 1978 - Charity fund-raising 1978.
 Top right hand image: 1977 - 1st Junior School graduates. Bottom right: 1978 CCCC Patrick Derham receives The Queen's Gold Medal.

Into the 70s: Changing Tides and Tie-Dye

The 1970s were a colourful, transformative time, both around the world and at Pangbourne College. While the outside world was dancing to disco, rocking out to punk and debating Watergate, Pangbourne was finding its own balance, holding onto tradition but slowly opening up to change.

At the start of the decade, a new Headmaster, Peter Points, took charge. He believed in creating enthusiastic, well-rounded boys who didn't just do well in exams but also got stuck into all parts of College life, from rowing and science labs to drama productions and charity events.

One of his first big moves came in 1970 with the opening of the Junior School for boys aged 11 to 13. These younger boys wouldn't wear the traditional naval uniform until they joined the College.

In 1971, Points set out his ambitious Ten Year Plan, which included private study bedrooms, brand new biology and physics labs and turning Drake into a multi-purpose hall. In 1972, Port Jackson was built at the far end of the Parade Ground to keep up with the growing number of students. By 1974, Drake had been fully refurbished and was ready for everything from assemblies to concerts.

Rowing has always been a big part of Pangbourne, and the '70s were no different. In 1970, the College organised a five-hour sponsored row to Goring Lock and back. Every kind of boat was launched onto the Thames and they raised a good amount of money for new equipment. It was exhausting, chaotic, and completely unforgettable.

The next year, Pangbourne pulled off an impressive win at Henley, taking home its second Princess Elizabeth Challenge

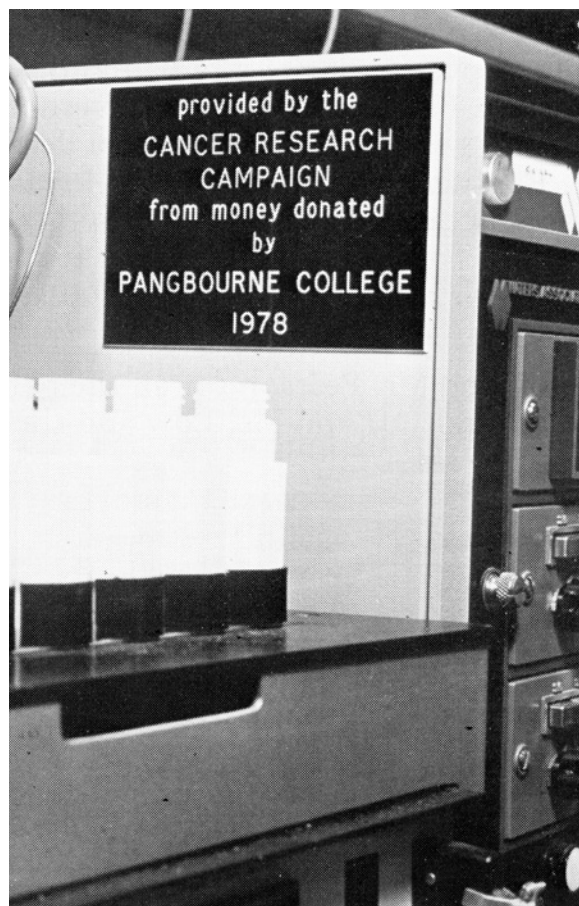
Cup. It was a proud moment that inspired generations of rowers to come.

Behind these big moments were the staff and Housemasters who made a huge impact. Names like Peter Politzer, Ian Busby, Jim McBroom, John Calver and Richard Norris were well known. People still remember Alan Vasa, Paul Masters and Diana Seidal, who all left a lasting mark, whether in the classroom, on the river, or around campus.

In 1976, Pangbourne dipped its toes into the digital age by buying a second-hand computer terminal and processor for £2,000, a big deal back then. That same year also marked the retirement of Tiger Knights, one of the College's most iconic characters, closing a special chapter in the College's story.

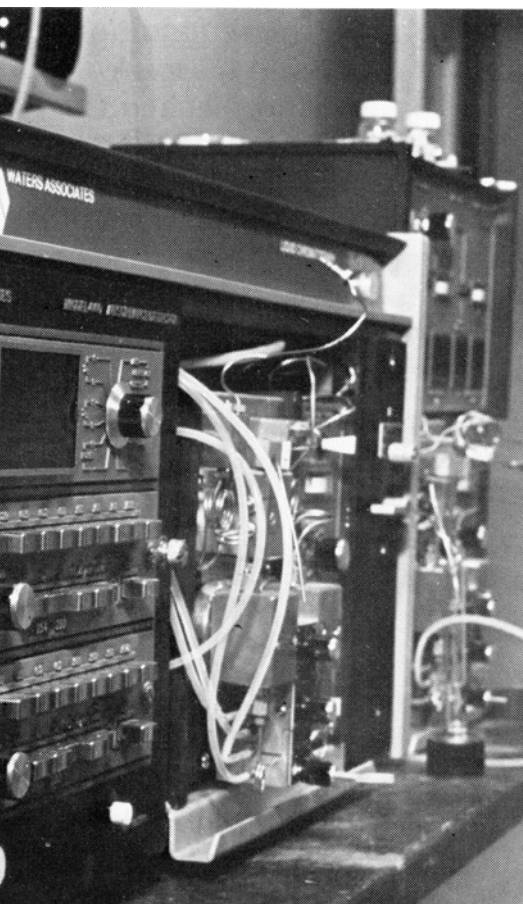
While glam rock, punk and platform shoes were turning heads outside the gates, life at Pangbourne stayed pretty traditional. Haircuts were still short and uniforms were sharp. But change was on the horizon. In 1975, after a meeting with the Chiefs, Peter Points finally agreed to allow casual clothes on weekends – but only on College grounds.

So yes, there might have been a few bell bottoms and tie-dye shirts around, but standards stayed high. Pangbourne boys might have admired Bowie, but they definitely weren't wearing eyeliner to breakfast.





The original Junior School Entry, in 1970, and seven years later the last of the original group, photographed again in their final term.



Campus Life

A Year of Achievements & Community Spirit at Pangbourne College

As another vibrant academic year draws to a close, we look back with pride at three terms defined by remarkable achievements, inspiring performances and an enduring sense of community spirit at Pangbourne College.

Academic Excellence

Academic endeavour remains at the heart of Pangbourne life. This year, our pupils shone in the national Bebras Challenge for computational thinking: twelve students earned Gold Awards for placings in the top 10% nationwide, with special congratulations to Sophie for an extraordinary perfect score – ranking equal first among over 133,000 participants.

Our Trinity Drama students continued to excel, with an impressive 90% achieving high Merits or Distinctions in

their examinations. Particular praise goes to Oscar, Freddie, Leo, David, William and Cameron for their outstanding marks and captivating performances.

Year 7 excelled in Maths. Alongside their Pangbourne exams the students sat a nationally referenced Maths test and the results are testament to the great work of the Maths Department and the commitment of the students. The year group are now significantly ahead of their peers nationally in all areas of the Maths curriculum and over 75% of the

cohort have made higher or much higher progress than that expected nationally.

A focus on academics has led to some fantastic results for our GCSE and A Level students. This remarkable achievement is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of students and teachers as well as the unwavering support of parents.

A Thriving Boarding Community

College life extends far beyond the classroom, with our boarding community flourishing through creativity and camaraderie. The Lent Term saw the return of the ever-popular ‘Come Dine With Me’ Divisional competition. Harbinger triumphed with ‘Best Food’, Port Jackson delighted with ‘Best Entertainment’ and Illawarra claimed the overall prize – a testament to the teamwork and spirit that run through every Division. Harbinger continued their Lent Term winning streak to take the win in the Easter themed Divisional Bake off.



A Year of Sporting Triumphs at Pangbourne College

As the final whistle blows on another remarkable year, The College has every reason to celebrate an extraordinary season of sporting success, record participation and inspiring individual performances.

Hockey

It has been a historic year for Pangbourne hockey. Our girls' U16 team were crowned Berkshire champions after a nail-biting final decided by penalty flicks, and the 1st XI reached the national quarter-finals – the best season on record for our girls' hockey club, which achieved an unprecedented 50%+ win rate across the board. Among many standout players, Sixth Form pupil **Mia Moore** exemplified Pangbournian dedication and excellence, earning selection for the **England U21 team** and winning the Premier League with Reading Hockey Club.



Helen Ritchie Photography

Rugby

Pangbourne's rugby sides fought with tenacity and pride. The 1st XV made it to the semi-finals of the Bristol Grammar School sevens and battled fiercely at Rosslyn Park, while the U16 team ended their 15-a-side season with two clean sheets and went unbeaten at Rosslyn Park Sevens, narrowly missing out on top spot by points difference. Individual

honours went to **Oli Smith**, who secured a prestigious Brunel and Ealing Trailfinders Academy bursary, **Fred I'Anson**, selected for the Independent Schools' Lambs, and **Ed O'Neil**, called up for the Scottish Exiles U16s – achievements that speak to the depth of talent within our squads.



Rowing

Our crews competed at the prestigious **Head of the Charles Regatta** in Boston – the world’s largest three-day rowing event – while domestically they delivered the College’s strongest medal haul yet at the Avon Regatta.

The **National Schools’ Regatta** saw Pangbourne field crews from J14s to Seniors, with highlights including the J14 Girls’ Octuple’s second-place finish and the Senior Boys’ Coxed Four’s determined silver medal after a dramatic bowball-to-bowball finish, and multiple crews qualifying for finals in fiercely competitive fields.

A landmark moment came when our girls’ eight qualified for **Henley Royal Regatta** for the first time ever – a trailblazing achievement cheered on by the entire Pangbourne community lining the riverbank. This year also saw multiple GB trialists, including **Eve Allen** and **Henry Manley**, cementing Pangbourne’s reputation among the country’s elite rowing schools.

Finally, the J15 girls coxed four represented Thames Up River at the interregional championships taking gold!



Equestrian

Pangbourne’s equestrian team delivered a year to remember, with historic performances on some of the sport’s biggest stages. At the **Royal Windsor Horse Show**, Olivia Carter (Y11), Sophie Simpson (Y10) and Maisie

Stephenson (Y10) rode brilliantly to first place after the opening round of the Services 1.05m showjumping – ahead of elite teams like the Household Cavalry and the RAF – and finished overall second, an incredible achievement

witnessed by King Charles at Windsor Castle. Olivia also won the Under-25 Junior Rider category.

The momentum continued at **Hickstead**, the ‘home of British showjumping’, where Pangbourne triumphed in the 1m team competition, beating 23 other schools including Millfield and Wellington to become National Senior Schools Champions. Lottie Costello added to the success with an individual sixth place in the hotly contested 1.10m Elite class. This season firmly establishes Pangbourne as a rising force in school equestrian sport – testament to the riders’ talent and the expert guidance of Director of Equestrianism, Stacey Donnison.



Motorsport

Beyond the pitch and paddock, Pangbournians made waves on the track too. Year 11's **Leo Robinson** secured podiums in Portugal and Spain in the Formula 4 Winter Series, finishing second overall going into the final rounds – an outstanding feat at such a young age.



Participation & Partnerships

Perhaps most inspiring of all is the breadth of involvement. This year, a record **92.8%** of pupils represented Pangbourne in competitive sport – far above the sector average of 60% – with an impressive 86% of senior pupils taking part, compared to a national average of just 40%. The College's overall win percentage rose to 37.1%, the best since 2016/17.

This success is no accident. Our new partnerships with **Ealing Trailfinders** and **Reading Hockey Club**, combined with the launch of our ambitious **five-year sports strategy**, promise to build on this momentum and ensure every pupil continues to thrive, compete and grow through sport.

Co-Curricular Highlights

From the arts to adventure, co-curricular life has continued to enrich every pupil's Pangbourne experience. The Michaelmas Term opened in rousing style with the Divisional Music Competition – St George Division lifted the trophy with a memorable rendition of Fleetwood Mac's *The Chain*.



Drama students dazzled audiences in the Lent Term with a lively production of *Around the World in 80 Days*, while the Summer Term's Adventure Training Week saw Year 9 embrace climbing, abseiling and Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions in Llangorse. Many pupils also completed their bronze, silver and gold DofE awards with the resilience and good humour that defines Pangbournians.



Our CCF cadets upheld the College's proud traditions, competing in the Royal Marines Pringle Trophy Competition.

Cricket

On the cricket square, **George Milbank** made history, scoring Pangbourne's first century since 2017 – a proud milestone for the team.

Football

This year also saw the exciting launch of girls' football at Pangbourne, with the U15 team enjoying an unbeaten run in their debut season – a promising start to what will surely be a growing part of College sport.

Looking Ahead

Congratulations to all our pupils, coaches and supporters for making 2024–25 a sporting year to remember. We now look forward with excitement and ambition as we announce next year's Sports Captains:

Captain of Rugby:
Cam McKay

Captain of Hockey:
Tabby Williamson

Captains of Boats:
Ed Bishop & Izzy Keeble

With this next generation of leaders at the helm, the future of Pangbourne sport looks brighter than ever.

Music

Over the year, many students have performed in a wide range of settings, taken up instruments or singing and worked towards music exams with real dedication. After this very busy programme, including concerts, recitals, College Sundays, the Annual National Service for Seafarers in St Paul's Cathedral, Remembrance and the carol services, we finished the term on a high with the first Pangbourne Proms concert; this brought together soloists, choirs and the Marching Band in a memorable celebration of music across many styles.



Community Spirit

Community spirit has shone through every term. The year opened with College Sunday and the first parade for our new Head, Mr Oli Knight, with Kit and Grace leading as Chief Cadet Captains. Our nautical heritage was honoured at St Paul's Cathedral during the National Service for Seafarers, where our Choir and cadets stood alongside HRH The Princess Royal.

Remembrance Sunday was marked with dignity and gratitude, and our Charlotte Drake Society welcomed Dame Mary Berry for an inspiring International Women's Day event – followed by a Summer Formal keynote from Shona Brownlee MBE.



The Falklands Annual Service of Remembrance held on Sunday 15th June was attended by veterans and next of kin of those who died in the Falklands War. Many pupils and staff were involved in hosting this important occasion at the College. As a College community, the Chapel is used on a daily basis in term time and it is a privilege and honour annually in June to host those who suffered and continue to suffer as a result of that conflict.

The 100% Colour Run, Lower Sixth 'Taking Responsibility Week' and

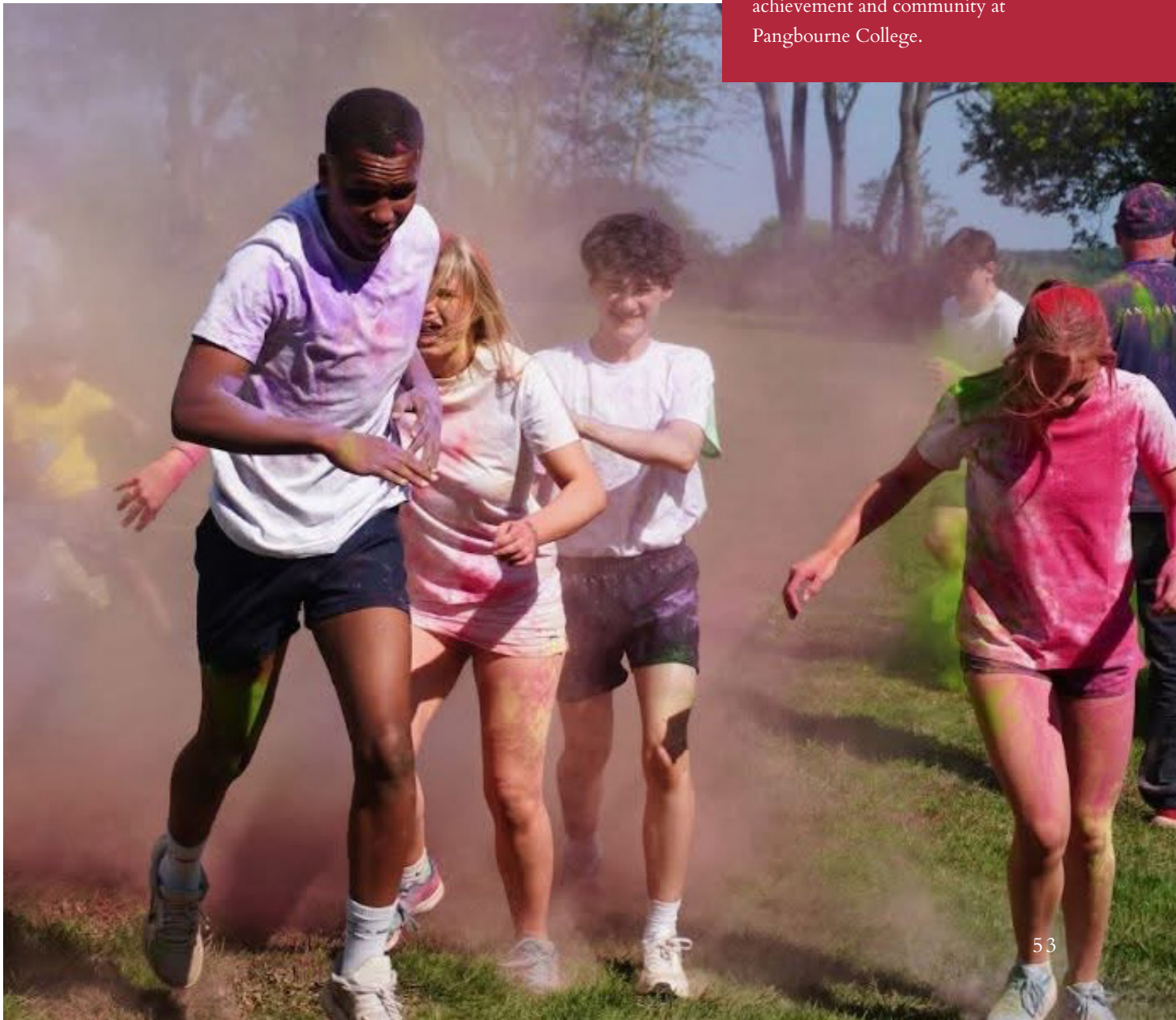
the inaugural Pangbourne Proms all embodied the spirit of giving back and looking ahead. Our new Transforming Futures campaign launched at the Proms, aiming to provide life-changing Sixth Form bursaries for children from underserved communities.

Founders' Day brought the year to a heartfelt close, with Caroline Bond, Assistant Head of Pupil Mental Health, as Guest of Honour. The King's Gold Medals were awarded to our exceptional Chief Cadet Captains, Grace l'Anson and Kit Hayes-Newington.

Looking Ahead

As we look to a new academic year, we do so with pride in the achievements of our pupils and gratitude for the unwavering support of staff, parents, alumni and friends. Together, we will continue to build on strong foundations – nurturing young people to thrive, lead and serve, true to Pangbourne's spirit and traditions.

Here's to another year of adventure, achievement and community at Pangbourne College.





A year in pictures





Announcing Pangbournian Connect

We are delighted to share that the **Pangbournian Portal** has been refreshed and relaunched under a new name: **Pangbournian Connect**.

Building on the success of the original platform launched in 2021, Pangbournian Connect strengthens our social and professional network, offering an even richer programme of events, enhanced careers support and expanded mentoring opportunities across the Pangbournian Community.

This vibrant hub brings together alumni, current and former parents, students,

staff and friends of the College. While preserving all the features members already value, Pangbournian Connect also introduces new giving functionality, extended careers support for pupils and greater opportunities for parental participation – all helping to enrich our community. The site also enables users to browse the digital archives, to sign up for events and reunions, to shop the merchandise range and much more!

With more than 13,000 members worldwide, Pangbournian Connect brings together our thriving global

network. The more Pangbournians who join, the stronger and more dynamic this network becomes.

We are excited to see this refreshed platform continue to grow and thrive – strengthening connections across the Pangbournian Community for years to come.

**One connected community.
Making a difference, together.**



Making a Difference

Pangbourne College's Community Fund Champions Education for All

In a world where education is the cornerstone of opportunity, Pangbourne College continues to extend its commitment beyond its gates, championing local and global initiatives that help create brighter futures for children and young adults.

At the heart of this mission sits, Transforming Futures, which gives bursaries to children in the West

Berkshire area, who would benefit most from a Pangbourne education, and the Pangbourne College Community Fund, a powerful force for good that reflects the College's values of service, community and social responsibility. With a clear aim – to support projects, activities and events that enrich educational opportunities – the Fund has already made a tangible impact on lives in the local area and beyond.

Empowering Local Change

This year, eight inspiring local charities were awarded grants of up to £500 to bring meaningful educational initiatives to life. These grants, distributed by the College's Community Grants committee, part of the Pangbournian Community Advisory Board, are helping to support literacy programmes, mental health support and enrichment activities that benefit young learners across the region.



Among the 2025 grant recipients are:

- **Geoffrey Field Junior School (Whitley Excellence Cluster)** – providing targeted support to improve academic outcomes.
- **Assisting Children to Read** – empowering young readers with dedicated reading support.
- **All Yours Period Box** – delivering education and essential resources to promote menstrual health awareness.
- **Education Business Partnership** – enhancing career education and workplace readiness.
- **Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School** – funding extracurricular enrichment programmes.
- **Bridge for Young People** – offering wellbeing and mentoring support.
- **Prior's Court Foundation** – supporting specialised learning for young people with complex autism.
- **Moorlands Primary School** – improving access to learning through innovative classroom resources.



“The projects we’ve funded this year represent a wide spectrum of educational support. From personal development to academic support and wellbeing initiatives, these grants are helping young people thrive in ways that align closely with our educational values.” Oliver Knight, Head.

Pangbourne Classic Car Show Drives in Record Crowds and Raises Thousands for Charity

This year’s Classic Car Show drew in over 500 gleaming display cars and attracted nearly 3,500 visitors, making it one of the most successful community events yet. The show raised an impressive £9,349 for the Footsteps Foundation, a local charity supporting children with neurological conditions. Meanwhile, the PPA’s farmers’ market at the event boosted funds for the Pangbourne College Community Fund, ensuring the day’s impact reached even further across the community.



Bridge for Young People

The PPA (pictured, top right) were pleased to be at the opening of Wessex House in Newbury, a safe, supported living space for nine young people leaving the care system, funded by the amazing charity Bridge for Young People. The PPA has supported this charity for almost eight years, and this year our Sixth Formers continued the support through different fundraising activities and a skydive. Going forward, we hope to continue supporting projects delivered by Bridge for Young People through our Pangbourne College Community Grant Fund.

A Journey of Purpose: The Nabugabo Expedition Summer 2024

Pangbourne's global impact is perhaps most visible in its enduring partnership with Nabugabo Primary School, an NGO in a rural village in south-west Uganda. Since 2015, the College has supported the school – run by The HUGE Partnership, a UK charity based in Pangbourne – through fundraising, building projects, and student expeditions.

In July 2024, twelve Sixth Form students embarked on the College's annual visit to Nabugabo. Working with The HUGE Partnership, the group raised an

astonishing £10,000 to fund materials for a life-changing project: building a new home for a homeless family in the community.

Over the course of their ten-day expedition, students split their time between teaching at Nabugabo Primary School—supporting lessons, leading English reading sessions, and organising a sports day—and working on the construction site, where they took on everything from bricklaying to plastering. In just over a week, what began as a pile of bricks became an almost-finished home, thanks to their determination and teamwork.

The trip concluded with unforgettable travel experiences—a nine-hour drive to Murchison Falls National Park for a safari adventure that included a rare night sighting of two leopards, followed by a journey to Jinja, the source of the River Nile, where the group tackled a white-water rafting expedition they'll never forget.

The expedition highlights the College's dedication to 'Exploration'—developing not just minds, but values, compassion and global awareness.

Community-Led Fundraising

Fueling both local and international projects are the fundraising efforts of Pangbourne pupils, staff and the wider community. Throughout the year, a variety of creative initiatives—from concerts and cake sales to sporting events—help raise vital funds for the Pangbourne College Community Fund.

“Our pupils appreciate the privilege of their education, they understand that not everyone has the same access to opportunity, and their fundraising efforts are a way to give back. More importantly, they get to see the direct impact of their actions in the communities around them.” Oliver Knight, Head.

Looking Ahead: Grants for 2026

Applications for the 2026 round of Community Fund grants are now open. Local charities and organisations focused on enriching the educational development of young people are encouraged to apply for grants of up to £500. The deadline for applications is 20 May 2026, with the next committee meeting set for early June.

Pangbourne College's Community Fund and international partnerships are more than just charitable efforts – they're an embodiment of the College's ethos. Whether laying bricks in a Ugandan



village or supporting literacy in a local school, Pangbourne pupils are proving that education is not just something to receive, but something to share.

For more information about the Pangbourne College Community Fund or to apply for a 2026 grant, visit <https://www.pangbourne.com/our-community/community-fund>



The PPA

Parents Supporting Pangbourne with Purpose and Passion

At the heart of Pangbournian Community lies a dedicated group of individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes, the Pangbourne Parents Association (PPA). Made up of a committee of 12 parents and supported by a growing number of enthusiastic volunteers, the PPA plays an integral role in enriching the life of the College and its students.

The PPA's mission is simple yet powerful: to foster a strong sense of community among parents, staff and students, while providing practical and financial support to both College initiatives and charitable causes.

Through a lively calendar of events and collaborative efforts, the PPA brings people together and makes a lasting impact.

Among the much-anticipated events organised annually are the Welcome Walk, which offers new families a chance to meet and connect in the beautiful grounds surrounding the College; the Christmas Market, a festive celebration filled with stalls, seasonal treats, and holiday cheer, and the ever-

popular Quiz Night, where friendly competition and community spirit go hand in hand. These events not only raise funds but also strengthen the social fabric of the Pangbourne community.

Equally important is the PPA's charitable focus. This year, the PPA is proud to support Bridge for Young People, a local charity dedicated to helping leavers from the care system as they transition to full independence. These young people often face significant challenges without the safety net that many of their peers can rely on. By partnering with Bridge, the PPA extends its support beyond the College, aligning with Pangbourne's values of compassion, service and social responsibility.

The strength of the PPA lies in its people: parents who generously offer their time, skills and ideas to help create a welcoming and supportive environment. Whether running a pop up café, designing posters, setting up stalls or sharing expertise, every contribution helps to make the PPA's work possible and meaningful.

New parents are always welcome to get involved, whether by joining the committee or volunteering for specific events. It's a fantastic way to meet others, get to know the College better and make a positive difference.



Highlights

Quiz Night Fun and Fundraising

The PPA/Nabugabo Quiz Night on Thursday 6 March was a big hit! It was fantastic to see so many parents getting involved. Things were tight going into the final round, with just three points between the top five teams, but in the end, The Pangbourne Pirates came out on top.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped raise money for the Sixth Form trip to Nabugabo, Uganda. While there, students worked with the HUGE Partnership to build a home for a homeless family and lend a hand at the local school.

Christmas Market Brings the Festive Spirit

The PPA Christmas Market on Saturday 9 November was full of festive cheer! With over 50 stalls in Drake Hall selling all sorts of gifts, there was something for everyone. The café kept people going with bacon baps and mince pies, and the kids' and adults' tombolas were a big hit.

The wheelbarrow-of-wine raffle was also a crowd-pleaser! A big thank you to



everyone who donated prizes and to all the parents who volunteered their time, we couldn't have done it without you.

The inaugural PPA Farmers' Market proves a big hit with visitors to the Classic Car Show

This year, visitors to the Classic Car Show were able to indulge their love of fine food as well as amazing cars. The Pangbourne Classic Car Show has become a firm favourite with classic car enthusiasts from across the country and this year's show was one of the biggest and best yet. The organiser of the event, Tom Cheney, is always looking for new things to add to the show and as a result, this year, the PPA Farmers' Market made its debut.

Visitors were able to browse and buy from a wide variety of vendors selling delicious baked goods, artisan cheeses and other tasty treats. As well as a number of craft stalls, the PPA were out in force selling strawberries and, of course, Pangbournian Spirit. With the market proving such a hit with visitors, you can be sure it will return next year even bigger and better. Special thanks go to Shelley Waters and the PPA Committee for their part in making the day such



OP News

News about and from Old Pangbournians (OPs) in 2024/25. To read more OP news stories and longer versions of the featured news articles, visit Pangbournian Connect: www.community.pangbourne.com. Please send your news for the next edition of the Pangbournian Magazine to community@pangbourne.com

A message from the Chair of The Old Pangbournian Society

I became Chair in October 2024. The Head, Oliver Knight, whom I fully support, is making changes; so am I. I have a vision of an engaged and active Old Pangbournian Society, interconnected by communication that benefits themselves and the College.

Solid communication with each other is fundamental. While Pangbournian Connect and newsletters will remain the basis, we have now set up an OP Instagram Account and we are utilising the established OP Facebook and LinkedIn accounts to engage all OPs across the year groups. We are looking to establish a WhatsApp Channel as we are conscious that most year groups already utilise this medium effectively.

We renewed focus on activities that benefit all our alumni. We recently

started Pangbournians in Business (PiB) networking events. These will be run three times per year as we build up the OP Business Support network. We held a Young OP gathering in September 2025; the first of many.

2026 is the centenary of the OP Society and we aim to have a series of events to celebrate this. This will start in February with an OP Dinner, then followed by Pangbournian Day in April, a lunch event at the Turf Club in London and the usual summer events, such as the OP



yacht club rally and golf matches. We are discussing a big party at the College at the end of summer. Look out for details.

If anyone is interested in helping, in any way, please contact me. We could do with more support especially from young OPs and female OPs.

Rory Copinger-Symes (1979-83)
Chair - The Old Pangbournian Society



Jeremy Moger and Michael Tulloch

OPs Jeremy Moger (1962-66) and Mike Tulloch (1958-62) deliver much needed aid to Ukraine

Jeremy Moger and Michael Tulloch joined a convoy of some 40 vehicles to deliver vital aid to Ukraine.

Jeremy and I returned home from our P4P (Pick ups for Peace) trip to Ukraine on the evening of Sunday 11th May. From start to finish the whole venture was a very humbling and uplifting

experience. The "deal" with P4P was that we raised sufficient money to buy a pickup truck, load it with aid items, either donated, scrounged or purchased by us out of money that we raised, and then under the P4P umbrella drive it out to Lviv where we would give the whole lot, truck and all, to the Ukrainian army

for their use. P4P would then arrange for us to get back to the UK, and very broadly that is what happened.

In all this we were guided by P4P who sourced the vehicle for us, told us what sort of things to fill it with, set the timetable, gave us guidance on routes, RVs and general administrative instructions for the convoy. Then, once we were on the road, P4P shepherded the convoy from the UK to Lviv. It was a very slick and well practised operation conducted with style and great good humour.



OP Gurkha Curry Lunch

The OP Gurkha Curry Lunch VE Day 2025

At noon on the 8 May, 33 OPs and guests met in the magnificent McDonald Gallery at the Gurkha Museum, Winchester, for drinks prior to enjoying an excellent curry lunch.

It seemed appropriate that the event should be held at a military establishment on VE Day. The fact that it happened to be the Gurkha Museum was coincidental. Over 130,000 Gurkhas served in various theatres of war during World War II. While VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe, many Gurkha units were still actively involved in other theatres of war in the Far East, until VJ Day on August 15, 1945.

Mark Dumas, (1964–68 and OPS President) father had served in the 8th Gurkhas, so the museum's exhibits were of special interest to him. Other OPs and guests, who had not visited the museum before, took the opportunity before drinks to look around the well-laid out and presented exhibits. The curry was self-service with an array of dishes and the opportunity to top up for seconds and even thirds. Many returned for the former, but the latter was a bridge too far.

The 2nd Annual Jack Buchanan Memorial Match

On the evening of Friday 4 April, OPs, friends of OPs, parents, families and members of Newbury Rugby Club descended on the Newbury Rugby Club for the Annual Jack Buchanan Memorial Rugby Match.

Organised by Jack's family and a team of friends, this is an event that looks set to become a firm calendar fixture for many years to come.

With two teams representing Pangbourne College and Newbury RFC

– two key parts of Jack's rugby career – the match was played in great spirits. The teams, of approximately 25 players each, battled it out over the 80 minutes in true 'barbarian style' rugby. There were plenty of replacements – mainly due to a lack of fitness rather than injuries – but the never-ending stream of rolling subs kept the game exciting, fast and skilful to the end.

Hundreds of supporters gathered to watch, remember Jack, see old friends and support the evening's charity Suicide and Co – raising over £14,000 to date. This has become close to the heart of Jack's family over the last couple of years and supports bereaved individuals, striving to open up the conversation around suicide-related grief.

Whilst clearly an event like this carries a significant number of poignant moments – the singing of the Oasis hit *Champagne Supernova* by a massed crowd of around 1000 people and the speech from Alastair, Jack's father, being just two – the Pangbourne spirit of kindness, friendship and camaraderie was clear to see.



The 2nd Annual Jack Buchanan Memorial Match

The challenge begins for OP Jess Rowe

After two years of arduous training, planning and dreaming, OP Jess Rowe (2010-13) and her crewmate Miriam Payne have set off on their epic challenge to row the Pacific Ocean. On Tuesday 8th April between 8-9am Peru time (2-3pm UK time), Jess and Miriam left the dock and began their journey across the Pacific, from Peru to Australia, rowing 8,000 miles completely unsupported. Just two women, the boat and the open ocean. Preparations for the challenge involved juggling full-time jobs while planning, organising, training and living every moment with this

challenge in mind, but now is the time to put all that hard work to the test. The girls are rowing up to 15 hours a day, fueling 5,000 calories, and catching sleep between shifts. The crossing could take up to six months. Jess says, *"This challenge has already brought some incredible people into our lives, and we're beyond grateful for the support that's carried us to this starting line. Now it's time to row. We can't wait to take you with us through the highs, the lows, and everything in between. And let's not forget the reason we're doing this – to raise money for The Outward Bound Trust UK."*



OP Jess Rowe and her crewmates

OPs make their debut in The Jarvis Cup

OPs made their debut at The Jarvis Cup, a doubles padel competition for public school alumni over 50, which took place on the 9 March at the Padel Hub in Epsom.

James Perry, Paul Tarantino, Tom Copinger-Symes, Charlie Sykes, Tim Simpson and Will Brooks were the select few who were brave enough to step up to represent the OPs. A huge well done for all their efforts, helped by knee braces, caffeine and Nurofen gel. On one of the hottest days of the year, in a giant streaming warehouse, the team fought bravely and even won some games, though sadly not too many sets. It would appear that many of the opposition took the competition very seriously and in preparation had actually played a considerable amount more padel. However, next year, as more OPs know about the competition, those who play regularly would really enjoy this event. It was a great venue, a fun catch up and the game is brilliant to play.



Jarvis Cup



Annual New Zealand OP Lunch

The Annual New Zealand OP Lunch

At the beginning of February, New Zealand OPs and their spouses met for lunch at the Tieke Golf Club in Hamilton in the Waikato area, south of Auckland. The lunch was organised by Graham Jex (1968-71), NZ OP Rep, with Robin Paine (1955-58) and his Kiwi wife, Sandra, making a guest appearance on a visit from the UK.

It was a very happy occasion, with excellent food and service in beautiful surroundings. Graham had hoped for better numbers but pointed out that the relatively small OP population was scattered far and wide across New Zealand. After lunch, the gathering moved on to Charlie Fowler's palatial residence nearby for coffee.

Most of the assembled company were retirees, other than Fran Crowther and Charlie Fowler, who having left the police, is now chief security officer on one of the Princess Cruises ships.

From left to right in the photograph:

Simon Crowther, Graham Jex (1968-71), Maree Jex, Robin Paine (1955-58), Sandra Paine, Fran Crowther née Pearson (1994-96), Charlie Fowler (1983-90) Jane Luton, Tim Luton (1971-77) and Nikki Fowler.

An Atlantic Crossing

Chris Stott (1971-78) writes, the Atlantic is a very big place. On a late afternoon in November 2023, our yacht, *Tahira*, was a thousand nautical miles from Africa, Brazil and the Caribbean and we were about to be hit by a rapidly approaching electrical storm that filled the horizon. The decision was quickly made to change course and head north.

The journey started two years earlier when three of us purchasing a yacht to sail across the Atlantic and back. *Tahira* is a Tayana Vancouver 42, built in 1987 at

the famous Ta Yang boat yard (Taiwan), 42 feet long, cutter rigged and designed for blue water cruising.

Our journey to St Lucia took 21 days, with a crew of six. There were two on watch at any time, with plenty of time for sleep. We met as a crew at 18:00 hrs each evening for a tot, check-in and dinner together. Over the 3,100 nm we hand steered with no autopilot, maintained the boat, read, made bread, enjoyed fresh food and the occasional fish!

Tahira remained in the Caribbean for several cruises before we set sail to the UK via the BVI's Bermuda and the Azores. A personal highlight was having both my sons join the crew for the Bermuda Azores leg. Never in real danger, we dodged the worst of the weather and we saw whales, sharks and dolphins and the Bermudian longtail.

In August 2024 we safely arrived back to the Beaulieu River. Over the 10,200 miles of sailing, 15 different people had a chance to sail one or more of the legs.



Arriving in St Lucia

OP Society Accounts



Income	2025	2024
Member Contributions	1,857	1,906
Donations	-	-
Arrow Trophy	-	1,500
OP events	350	7,992
Income from College to cover College administered spend for the OP Society	15,000	16,999
Total Income	17,207	28,397

Expenditure		
OP Events	-	9,226
OP Magazine	6,504	7,282
Archiving	6,300	4,270
OP Sport		
Sailing	1,500	1,500
OP Meetings	100	136
OP Survey	-	1,650
OP Merchandise	-	446
Contribution to Scholars' Dinner	-	1,200
Contribution to Head's leaving gift and portrait	-	6,308
Other	472	104
Total Expenditure	14,876	32,122
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	2,331	(3,725)
General Funds held at Lloyds Bank total £44,774 (£44,6273 in 2024)		



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& Committee

OP Society Committee

President	Mark Dumas (64-68)
Chair	Rory Copinger-Symes (79-83)
Deputy Chair	Claire Morphy (née Whitehead) (90-92)
Secretary	Chris Stott (71-78)
Treasurer	Jonathan Pollock (2014-16)
Elected Members	Henry Byrom (22-24) Peter Dredge (79-81) Georgia Misson (07-12) Gary Rimay-Muranyi (82-87) Paul Tarantino (1982-86)



OP Regional and Overseas Representatives

Argentina	Charles Pettit (Buenos Aires)
Australia	Alex Heaton (Melbourne)
Canada	James Mackenzie
Cyprus	Louis Carrel
Caribbean	Neale Coleman (Turks & Caicos Islands)
Malaysia	Alex Tilley
South Africa	Geoff Popple (Cape Town)
Uganda	Andrew Nzeyi
United States of America	Charles Bown (Chicago, Illinois)

Clubs, Societies & Special Interest

Pangbournians In Business	Rory Copinger-Symes (79-83)
Yacht Club	Peter Kewish (84-89)
Golf Society	Charlie Parry (81-85)
Over 60's Group	Mark Dumas (64-68)
OP Nautics	Georgia Misson (07-12)
Classic Car & Motorcycle	Phillip Plato (73-77)
Young OP's	Georgia Misson (07-12)
Women OP's	Claire Murphy (90-92)

Notes: OP Overseas Representatives act as a point of contact for OPs visiting their area.

Occasionally they organise events. If you live abroad and would like to take on this role, please email chrisdstott@hotmail.co.uk

In addition, the OP Society is seeking to establish regional UK groups. If you would like to act as a representative, please contact: chrisdstott@hotmail.co.uk

Club News

OP Golf Society Summer Meeting

On the 4 June 2025, 18 members of the OPGS descended on The Army Golf Club for our annual summer meeting. We were met with warm hospitality and pouring rain!

Fortunately, whilst we breakfasted on coffee and bacon rolls, the rain eased, and we were able to tee off in the dry. Plenty of good shots off the first tee

convinced the resident starter that we were decent golfers.

The morning round, competing for the President's Cup, produced some

good golf on an interesting and well-maintained course. The odd downpour did not dampen spirits, and we all made it round with cards intact. The morning singles winner was Richard Sarsfield-Hall (1976-83) with 40 points. Although Richard has been to almost 20 summer meetings, this was his first victory. A great effort.

We had a delicious lunch, attended by Phillip Plato (1973-77), recently retired OP Society Chairman, and Lucinda Grafton from the College. They were great company, and it was good of them to spare the time to join us.

The rain ceased in time for the afternoon foursomes based on a random draw over lunch. Some were stronger than others and the winners, after a series of countbacks, were Ken Jones (1981-86) and his brother Jeremy (1990-95) with 20 points.

George Gale (1981-85) won the Terry O'Neil Trophy for the best back nine in the morning singles.

An enjoyable day was wrapped up with prize-giving in the clubhouse. We are booked to return for next year's summer meeting on Thursday 4 June 2026.



Richard Parrett, Richard Sarsfield-Hall, William Skinner, John Peters



George Gale, John Cooke, Jasper Fulford-Dobson, Phillip Plato

Classic Car & Motorcycle Club

The aim of the Classic Car and Motorcycle Club is for OPs with a common interest in vehicles of any type to share their interest. You DO NOT have to own a classic car or bike!

Activities have focused on the Classic Car Show held annually at the College and the 2025 event seemed bigger than ever, with several OPs displaying vehicles and a noticeably larger number of OPs attending simply to enjoy the

exhibits and to share some anecdotes with other alumni.

In 2023, a couple of us more inclined to two wheels, participated in the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. This global event involves motorcyclists 'dressing dapper' for the day and joining in a group ride to raise funds and awareness for men's mental health & prostate cancer research.

Former OP Chairman Phillip Plato (H 73-77) & Clive Carrington Wood (Q 72-77) joined over 100 other riders participating in the West London Ride



Robin Batt (61-64) at the Classic Car Show

from Brooklands through Windsor and finishing at the History on Wheels Motor Museum at Eton. Aside from a most enjoyable day, between them they raised almost £1,000 for charity.

The Car & Motorcycle Club envisages one or two events a year and would welcome ideas from OPs as well as volunteers to help organise! Possible events include factory visits (Morgan, Mini or a Formula 1 manufacturer), tours of motor museums (Brooklands or Haynes), attendance (or possibly participation!) in races, rallies or trials, or simply meeting for lunch at a suitable venue.

Any other ideas are welcomed, as are any OPs wishing to express interest in receiving further news on the Classic Car & Motorcycle Club. Please email Phillip@platoestates.com



Philip Plato & Clive Carrington Wood



Battle flags at the RYS Haven

The OP Yacht Club Solent Summer Rally

A heartfelt thank you to Charlie Butterworth and her husband Paul for organising a fantastic Solent Summer Rally from 19–25 July 2025.

13 boats were scheduled to participate whilst some members chose to drive to the mainland-based events. We were especially delighted to see Simon & Louise Ludgate representing HMS Conway, as well as Chris Stott (1971–78 – OP Society Secretary) on his yacht Tahira with Rory Copinger-Symes (1979–83 – OP Society Chair).

The whole week worked extremely well with the overall strategy of being ‘inclusive’ to the wider Pangbournian Community, offering land and island-based events to encourage members from all age groups to dip in and out

according to circumstances. Most skippers had a spare berth.

OP Paul Tarantino (1982–86) proved particularly adept at switching from one boat to another; joining Andy Roy’s (1961–68) boat *Troubadour* from Hamble to Hornet, reappearing a couple of days later on *Dolce Vita* for the RYS Dinner before taking on the chef’s duties at Lymington for the BBQ. That’s the way to meet people.

The Rally started at Hornet in Portsmouth, with some watching the international SAILGP Racing off

Portsmouth Beach; next stop Bembridge, Isle of Wight, for a BBQ. Thence to Cowes where we thoroughly enjoyed a beautifully organised Rally Dinner at The Royal Yacht Squadron, with 12 boats berthed in the Squadron’s ‘Haven’. Onwards to Lymington for another delicious outdoor BBQ, and finally up the beautiful Beaulieu River to Buckler’s Hard for the last rally dinner at the Master Builders pub. The weather was lovely apart from a few thundery squalls, making for an unforgettable few days on the water.

OP Group at RYS



In Memoriam

With sadness, Pangbourne College reports the passing of the following Old Pangbournians notified since September 2024. OPs are listed chronologically according to their year of leaving. Extended obituaries can be found on Pangbournian Connect.

1940s

- Laurence Taylor (1938–40) aged 102 - 29 October 2024 (Harbinger)
Patrick Bisley (1941–44) aged 97 - November 2024 (Macquarie)
Michael Fulford-Dobson (1945–49) aged 93 - 15 February 2025 (Macquarie)

1950s

- Robin Pook (1947–51) aged 89 - 19 January 2024 (Macquarie)
Robin Rising (1948–52) aged 90 - 18 December 2024 (Harbinger)
Tim Lee (1951 -53) aged 88 - 2 July 2025
Jeremy Hodgson (1951–54) aged 87 - 14 January 2025
Owen Somerville-Jones (1950–55) aged 87 - 13 January 2025 (Macquarie)
Richard Marsden (1953–57) aged 84 - 27 August 2024

1960s

- Geoffrey Earle (1957–61) aged 81 - 6 April 2025 (Harbinger)
Strachan David McDonald (1956–62) aged 81 - 8 May 2025 (Hesperus)
Richard Hughes-Young (1953–63) aged 79 - 1 March 2025 (Illawarra)
Robert Roberts (1958–63) - autumn 2024 (Illawara)
Dai Wilson (1961–65) aged 76 - 27 December 2024

Staff Members

- Nick Bomford (1961–64) aged 86 - 21 June 2025
Charlotte Bamforth (2000–14) aged 59 - 13 July 2025



Dates

College Parades

Sunday 12 October 2025

Sunday 9 November 2025
(including Remembrance Service)

Sunday 18 January 2026

Saturday 7 March 2026

Sunday 19 April 2026

Community Events

Saturday 15 November 2025 - Christmas Market

Friday 20 March 2026 - Community Quiz

Sunday 19 April 2026 - Pangbournian Day
& Old Pangbournians vs 1st XI Cricket Match

Saturday 30 May 2026 - Classic Car Show

Friday 19 June 2026 - Pangbourne Proms

Open Morning

Saturday 25 April 2026