

TiffNews Bulletin no. 290

October 2022

TiffinFriends.org  

From the Head's Study



I am sure Alumni will be delighted to hear that our exam results this year were the best ever! Even taking into account the changing nature of the exams post pandemic, the results are quite outstanding, with 91% of grades at A level awarded at the highest grades of A*-B (compared to 84% in the last set of public exams in 2019).

This fantastic academic success has also been reflected in the 31 Oxbridge places this year, the highest number ever. The very high grades mean that the vast majority of our students have gone to their first choice of university, including approximately 75% to Russell Group universities. In addition, at GCSE we also received our best results with our students performing exceptionally well. At GCSE 84% of grades were the highest grades of 7-9, (compared to 75% in 2019), allowing the vast majority of students to progress into Tiffin Sixth Form or onto other institutions of their choice.

By every measure our results place the School in an outstanding position, both compared to previous years' successes, and also to the relative performance of other schools during this year. Our students deserve enormous credit for their achievements, particularly in view of the stress and disruption experienced during the pandemic.

In other news, I am delighted that the new Sixth Form Centre has been completed. Along with an extensive re-landscaping of the Head's Garden, this development is transforming the School, and especially the facilities for the Tiffin Sixth Form. Thank you to everyone who attended the official opening on September 30th and those who have contributed towards this project, in our appeal for funding for the furnishing of the new area. If you would still like to donate, there is still time by clicking [here](#).

We look forward to another successful academic year.

Mike Gascoigne, Headteacher

To read the Head's last newsletter, please click [here](#)

Tiffinian Association Chairman's Letter



Dear Tiffinian,

Welcome to this latest edition of Tiffnews! I'd like to begin by welcoming the young men and women who finished their time at Tiffin this year to the Tiffinian alumni community. You join a large and growing community spread not just

around the UK, but around the world. I hope you will enjoy keeping in touch with other Tiffinians over the years to come, and that you will continue to look back fondly at your time at the School. I know I speak for the whole community when I wish you the very best of luck in whatever next steps you plan to take - whether university, a gap year or diving straight into the world of work! And if any of you happen to be heading to Queen Mary University of London, I'm in the Politics department - feel free to get in touch.

I'd also like to welcome Fiona Hatcher, who has joined the Tiffin School Development Office and who, among other things, has taken over responsibility for sending out Tiffnews - and reminding me to submit my Chairman's intro! I hope Fiona will be very happy working with us, and that she will get to meet many of you at future Tiffinian events.

I should offer a brief update on the planned merger between Tiffinian Association Limited and the Tiffin School Foundation, which I mentioned in [my last Chairman's letter](#) in April. As I said at that time, TAL, the Tiffin School Foundation and Tiffin School have reached an agreement in principle about what this merger should look like. We continue to work our way through legal advice and due diligence processes in order to make sure it works in practice. As I also said last time, I doubt this will make any difference to the vast majority of you. But I will keep you informed.

As the cricket season draws to a close, the rugby and football seasons are just getting going. If you are interested in playing football (men's or women's) or rugby, please do consider joining one of the Old Tiffinian clubs. Not only do they compete at a high standard, they also offer the chance to relive old triumphs at Grist's - only now with access to a proper bar after the game.

Finally, I want as ever to congratulate Tiffin School on another stunning set of A-Level and GCSE results. Coming after two years of Covid disruption, it really is impressive to see such outstanding performances across the board. Well done to both the students themselves, and their hard-working teachers.

James Strong (2003), Chair of the Tiffinian Association

Appeal for Tiffin School 'Stripy' Blazers



Are you still in possession of your 'stripy' blazer?

Would you donate it to the school for resale to current students by the Parents' Association?

If you would be willing to donate it to the school, please drop it off at the school's reception or send it by post to the school, addressed to Mrs J Barrett.

Recycling blazers raises money for the school, helps current parents and is good for the environment!

Donations of other current uniform are also welcome.

Tiffin School said 'au revoir' to the following staff at the end of last term:

Mr Cathcart, PE and Geography

Mr Thomas, Economics

Mrs Pitts, Administration

Mrs Lock, Catering

Mrs Pierce, Examinations and former Clerk to Governors

Mr Gnanendran, Maths and Head of Year 7

Ms Ramsbottom, History and Girls' Sports Leader

100 Club Membership

The 100 Club makes a major donation towards the Association's income so please consider becoming a member. The cost is £60 per annum or £5 per month by standing order. The prizes are £50 each month, plus half-yearly major prizes of £1,000.

The entrance form can be obtained by [clicking here](#) and further information may be obtained from Greer Kirkwood at 28 Railton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9LX or 01483 850705 or greer.kirkwood@virginmedia.com

Events



People

The Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP [1986]



Chris Heaton-Harris was appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 6 September 2022.

He was previously Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip) from 8 February 2022 to 6 September 2022.

Chris was Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office from 19 December 2021 to 8 February 2022 and was previously appointed Minister of State at the Department for Transport on 25 July 2019. He was previously a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union from July 2018 to April 2019.

Previously he was Comptroller of HM Household (Government Whip) from 9 January 2018 to 9 July 2018. Chris was previously Vice Chamberlain of HM Household (Government Whip) from June 2017 to January 2018.

He was made an Assistant Government Whip in July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for Daventry in May 2010.

Dominic Barrington [1981]



The Very Revd Dominic Barrington, ex 1st XI scorer and Dean of St James Cathedral in Chicago, has been appointed as the new Dean of York.

Dominic began his ministry as curate in Mortlake with East Sheen Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. He served as a university chaplain at St Chad's, Durham before becoming priest in charge, and subsequently rector at St Peter & Paul with St Michael's in Kettering in the Diocese of Peterborough. He was installed as Dean of St James Cathedral in September 2015 after twenty years of ordained ministry in the Church of England.

Dominic has previously worked with the Arts Council to create and fund new regional touring opportunities for the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, and other orchestras. He also worked for several years with some of Britain's leading professional choirs and vocal groups.

Professor Timothy Reeves [1963]



Professor Timothy Reeves, former Tiffin Head Boy (1962), has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's

birthday honours list.

Professor Reeves was a pioneer of direct drilling and conservation agriculture in Australia in the 1960s and 70s. This method of planting crops which requires no cultivation of the land, is now the direct-drilling method used by 90 per cent of farmers across Australian cropping regions. He and colleagues in the Victorian Department of Agriculture also worked at that time on the introduction of new crops into farming systems, including lupins, canola and fababeans.

Living and working around the world, Professor Reeves was appointed to the role of Director General of the International Wheat and Maize Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), based in Mexico for seven years, helping developing countries with food and nutritional security. It has been stated that over a 50-year period, CIMMYT's work has saved over 1 billion lives. He is the only Australian to have held this position.

Now Professor-in-Residence at the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus, he is heavily involved with passing on his knowledge to his academic colleagues and to both postgraduate and undergraduate students. Professor Reeves's

academic writings include publishing more than 180 papers, book chapters, and articles.

Professor Reeves said 'I am feeling very overwhelmed and honoured. It's been a long journey from post-war London to the current time and when I reflect on it, the amazing education that I received at Tiffin School is ever present. I was much better at sports than academically (and was also honoured to be Head Boy in 1962) but through the efforts of my great Tiffin teachers I was able to study Agriculture at Nottingham University and the rest is history. Thank you, J J Harper (an inspiration!), Ben Lyon, Bert Seaborne, Ron Dolby, Don Barnes, Dennis Bloodworth, Ted Key, Robbie Brightwell, Colin Prince, Tony Smith, Mike Roland and others.'

Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber (2010)



Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber was ordained by Leo Baeck College in July and joined Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue as their new rabbi in August.

Gabriel was ordained by Liberal Judaism Vice President Rabbi Danny Rich in a service attended by many Progressive rabbis and leaders. Leo Baeck College is the UK's only Progressive Jewish rabbinic seminary, training rabbis for Liberal, Masorti and Reform congregations in the UK and abroad. Its five-year rabbinic postgraduate programme is known for its depth and intensity.

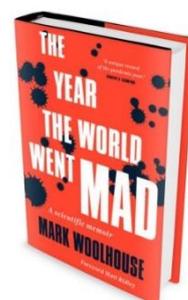
Professor Mark Woolhouse OBE (1977)



Professor Mark Woolhouse OBE has published an account of his experiences serving on advisory groups to both the Scottish and UK governments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

'The Year the World Went Mad' is published by Sandstone Press.

Mark is Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, a post he has held for over twenty years. Well-known and respected in his field, he has received numerous awards and has been introduced on the Today Programme as 'one of Britain's most senior scientists'. Since January 2020 he has been heavily involved with the UK's response to COVID-19. He is a member of two high-level government advisory bodies: SPI-M for the UK (a



subcommittee of SAGE) and the C19 Advisory Group for Scottish Government.

Tiffin School

New Sixth Form Centre Opening



On September 30th, the new Sixth Form Centre hosted an official opening, giving guests the chance to explore our fantastic new facility.

Old Tiffinians were joined by other guests, including those involved in the design and build of the

project, and all were glad to catch up over a glass of wine and take shelter on an exceptionally dark and rainy evening!

A speech was given by Mr Gascoigne in which he thanked everyone involved in the development of the new Sixth Form Centre, from the project managers and Tiffin premises staff to those who generously supported the campaign to furnish the building.



Tiffin Rocket Society



Congratulations were made to Asher, Jasper, Rubaiyat, Ivan, Ian Volkov and Atish from last year's

departing Year 13 who made it to the National Rocket Finals at BMFA Buckminster in June, just one year since inception of the society.

With just a week post A-Levels to build a new rocket following the regional final, the team impressed officials with their presentation and a launch which took them to the top of the scoreboard in round one. Their second launch was even better and despite being just 1.47 seconds off the target flight time, was eclipsed by 1.41 seconds by another team. The team profusely thanked Mr Holt for giving them the opportunity and have handed the baton for this year to Georgiy Leysuk in the current Year 13.

Running Club

The academic year 2021/22 saw many successes for the Tiffin School Running Club including 1st place in



Kingston Borough and Most Improved Team at the National Relays for the Ladies Senior members and 1st place in Kingston Borough and in the Surrey Round of the English school cup for the Men's Senior members.

The Junior team achieved 1st place as Intermediate Borough Champions, with the year 9 and 10 teams also achieving 1st



place in the Surrey relays. Athav Pruthi achieved 4th place in the Downs league series v club athletes.

The Year 7 team were awarded 1st place in the Surrey Relay series, the Borough Championships and the Downs League.

Individual honours were achieved by Daniel Cummings who won team bronze for Surrey in the South East Inter counties match and took part in the London Mini Marathon and Eric Matthew Sukandy who was named Most Improved Athlete in the Downs League. Thomas Whorton achieved numerous honours including 1st place in the Surrey Schools County Championships and 1st place in the London Indoor Games at Lee Valley as a club athlete, setting a new 800m record.

Tiffin School Cricket

In the academic year 2021/22 Senior cricket saw the biggest turnout of players for a number of years and on three occasions turned out four sides. Results have been down the line with teams winning as much as they've lost with some nail-biting games peppered throughout the season.

The 1st XI finished the season on a huge high on tour in Bath. The tour finished with a remarkable win over King Edward's School, Bath in the first ever two-day match in Tiffin's history.

The win was all the more extraordinary in that Datta Vasireddy, last year's Vice Captain and Captain of School Cricket in 2023, hit what one onlooker described as 'the best schoolboy century ever seen in 48 years of 1st XI cricket'. Set 145 to win in the 4th innings, Datta came to the crease with the score at 0 for 2 and with the team facing inevitable defeat. In a chance-less innings of immense skill and maturity, Datta proceeded to control the game even as wickets tumbled around him and as the umpires seemed intent on continuing to inflict baffling decisions on the team. It was a nerve-racking climax to the match but with Om Sharma providing dogged support at number 10, Datta calmly moved to his

century before striking a magnificent straight 6 to win the match.

The percentage of the team's runs scored by Datta is in itself remarkable - 106 from a total of 145. The next highest score was 10!

Tiffin School Music

Members of the Tiffin Boys' Choir and Tiffin Children's Chorus have recently featured in a recording of internationally



renowned composer Joe Hisaishi who has composed over 100 film scores and solo albums, including Spirited Away (2001), Fireworks (1997) and The Wind Rises (2013).

Joe Hisaishi himself directed the recording at the church of St Giles in the Barbican complex, which the choir members prepared for by attending rehearsals at weekends and after school to learn the challenging three- and four-part choral music. They also developed their pronunciation of the Japanese text with the aid of the production company's language coach. After three days of recording in June, the required takes were achieved and we are looking forward to the audio and video recordings which are due for release later this year.



On 23rd June, members of the Tiffin Boys' Choir performed at Royal Festival Hall with the Royal Academy of Music to celebrate their 200th anniversary. Trebles from last year's years 7, 8 and 9,

along with pupils from the incoming Year 7s, joined the large orchestra and female chorus of the RAM conducted by Semyon Bychokov. Mahler's 3rd Symphony, which the choir has performed previously with ensembles including the LSO and LPO is an exciting work to listen to and a be a part of.

Of the performance, Fiona Maddox wrote in the Guardian: *'As a climax of its bicentenary celebrations, the Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra, with the RAM women's chorus and Tiffin Boys' choir, as well as alumna Stephanie Wake-Edwards as mezzo-soprano soloist, squeezed on to the Festival Hall stage for Mahler's Symphony No 3 in D minor. As epics go (this has been quite some week), at 110 minutes long, with outsized orchestra and embracing all aspects of heaven and earth, it is up there at the top.'*

Tiffin Battle of the Bands 2022 saw a preliminary round with performances given by twelve



different Year 9 bands and a range of Year 7-13 bands and soloists who had prepared their performances during lunchtimes and after school. The final began with a welcome to our guest adjudicator Kurt Phillips, a drummer who works in the studio and on tour with artists including Ben Selley (Concept/X Factor), Lauren Thalia (Britain's Got Talent), Peter Howarth (The Hollies / Cliff Richard), Haunts, Kilkovec, and Richard Jacobs.

Outstanding performances were given by all finalists and our adjudicator Kurt was impressed by the performances, giving many special mentions to bands such as Andrew, Arthur, Rohan and Ronald who performed an extremely impressive original composition, and soloists such as Nik (for his especially stylish Hotel California guitar solo) and Marcus (for his impressive Alpha House // Bando rap). Finally, prizes were awarded to the very deserving winners: 3rd place to Calan for his performance of 'My Shot' from Hamilton, 2nd place to Arjun for 'Maybe This Time' and 1st place to Nad, Sian, Tom, Ari, and Eric for their remarkably convincing 'Sweet Child of Mine'.

Future 2022 music events:

Sunday 23 rd October, 3pm	Mahler 8, Royal Festival Hall
Thursday 8 th December	Tiffin School Alumni Carol Service, St Andrew's Church Holborn
Wednesday 14 th December, 7pm	Nine Lessons and Carols, All Saints' Church Kingston

Information about all our music events can be found on the [Music Department website](#). If you would like to attend any of our events or have any questions, please email Fleur Smith, Tiffin Music Administrator, at fsmith@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

Tiffin School Rowing



The Junior Sculling Regatta took place on Monday 2nd May 2022 at Dorney Lake. The Year 9 squad made A & B finals at this national event.

The crew made up of Lucas, Vlad, Shan, Shawn and Leo came away with the silver medal which is an amazing result at national level.



Tiffinian Sport

Tiffinian Golf Society



Good news emanates from Cowdray Park where the TGS 14 overcame the KCS 10 to win the trophy by a significant margin.

Margins were tighter elsewhere on the course, particularly on the longest drive 14th where etiquette seemed to have deserted some of our younger members. With the longest drive marker bearing the name of Simon Clews entrenched some 290 yards down the fairway, your current correspondent was making his way safely down the same fairway only to be rudely awakened by a ball propelled by Mr. Arthur Philkinson which came to rest another 20 yards beyond the marker. To compound this deplorable lack of decorum, another ball, this time launched by Mr. Kapilan Balasubmarine, found its mark some 20 yards further than that of Mr Philkinson and some 50 yards beyond your correspondent's ball which had reached its position after 3 shots, in the rough. Discussions have taken place at the highest level and sanctions have been applied.

It was a good day for your humble treasurer, Peter Robinson, who appeared totally unphased by the extraordinary heat on the day to win the nearest the pin hole and to record a fine stableford score of 38 points. Kapilan with 33 points was 2nd and Andy Raybould with 32 was 3rd. If no KCS player has yet been mentioned it was because none of them bettered the top 3 TGS players and none of them got close to the longest drive or the nearest the pin hole.

We arrive at our final match of the season on Monday 31st. October at Betchworth. It may be time for a new run of TGS match shirts, please let me know if you would like one and your size.

Martin Williams, Fixtures Secretary OTGS

mwilliams@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

Thank you for your support of Tiffin School

Tiffin School relies on donations from Old Tiffinians and friends to continue its community-building activities such as *Tiffnews*, the Association's website www.tiffriends.org, the various Tiffinian events and its support of career groups for the benefit of alumni and students.

To support the School in some way, please click [here](#) for more information.

We regret to announce:

Duncan Clegg



Robert Duncan Clegg, City financier and double Oxford blue, was born in Richmond upon Thames in 1942, the son of Alexander Clegg, a London Transport employee, and his

wife, Hilda (née Duncan), a nurse. During the Second World War he was sent to Yorkshire to stay with his grandparents. He remembered sitting in his pram watching Allied bombers fly to Germany.

He is remembered to this day by his rowing teammates at Tiffin, from where he went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to read English, specialising in Anglo-Saxon and early English.

Duncan organised the Boat Race from 1984 until 2004, having been appointed its official London representative and chairman of P to M (now the Boat Race Company), the trading arm of the charitable foundation that administers the race revenues. One of his last acts was to end the BBC's 60-year monopoly by selling the rights to ITV (coverage returned to the BBC in 2010).



In 1966 Duncan met Jennie Luxton from Melbourne and after graduating, followed her back to Australia where they married in 1968.

He studied for an MBA at Monash University in Melbourne, rowed for the university there and became a corporate finance trainee with Capel Court Corporation in Sydney. In 1972 he returned to London and took up a position at the merchant bank Samuel Montagu from where he moved to another merchant bank Lazard Brothers, becoming a director



in 1984. He led the listing of TSB on the stock market in 1986, going on to specialise in water and electricity privatisation, advising on the break-up on the Central Electricity Generating Board

into PowerGen, National Power, British Energy and the National Grid.

Duncan retired in 1973 and took several directorships. He was chairman of the textile maker Low & Bonar and deputy

chairman of the Port of London Authority. From 2004 to 2012 he was chairman of Dorney Lake Trust, the administrator of Eton College's rowing centre which became the venue for the 2012 London Olympic rowing. He was also master in 2010-11 of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, presiding over Doggett's Coat and Badge, the world's oldest rowing race, from London Bridge to Chelsea.

Duncan and Jennie had four sons who all rowed competitively, the eldest of whom (Robert) rowed for Oxford in three 1990s Boat Races and for Great Britain. He was Oxford University Boat Club president in 1996, 30 years after his father.

Away from rowing, Duncan's main hobbies were buying books and planting hundreds of trees on his Gloucestershire estate. He died in May 2022, aged 80.

Alan Ronald Stiller (1941)



Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Known as Alan through his schooldays but Ron in his adult life, he was proud to be awarded a scholarship to Tiffin in 1937 and attained his school certificate in 1941, leaving to work at the Royal

He played the dormouse in the Tiffin production of Alice in Wonderland, enjoyed athletics (pictured second from the right in the back row), participated in cross-country in the grounds of Hampton Court and remembered trying to get to the far end of the bomb shelter during the way to avoid the teacher's eye and the tuck shop!

He was in the ATC and volunteered for the RAF as his National Service, serving as a radar mechanic. His career was spent in accountancy at Barnes, Gravesend, Bognor Regis and Arun District Councils and latterly at Shoreham College. He was also an Associate of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (now CIPFA) and became an examiner for them.

He belonged to Round Table and Rotary in Bognor and enjoyed woodwork, marquetry, reading and gardening. He married Evelyn Rice in 1946 and they were together for 57 years. He died peacefully in Shoreham on 11 September 2022, leaving behind one daughter, Janice (now Powell).

Robbie Brightwell MBE – In Memoriam

Robbie Brightwell MBE, Olympic athlete and former Tiffin teacher, died in March 2022 aged 82 and his obituary appeared in the April edition of Tiffnews.

Here, former Tiffin pupil John Petley-Jones (1965) shares his memories of Robbie.

'I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Robbie Brightwell and thought I might share a few of my memories of this wonderful teacher and athlete.

Like many other lads, I was swept along by the hero-worship caused by the famous new teacher. I remember how the newspaper photographers staged a photo in Richmond Park, marking Mr Brightwell's arrival, ironically depicting him cycling while we boys ran. It was set up as a joke, but he was not amused. Later, in that same park, he commended my progress for rising from 103rd to joint 12th in the cross-country run, not realising that his charisma had weaned my friends and me away from our usual saunter through the shortcut of Isabella Plantation, content to come in last! Finally, struggling home after school on my bike through the park, I would invariably see Robbie in training, charging up huge nearly vertical slopes like a human steam engine! A remarkable man.'

Please send content for the next edition of Tiffnews by 20 November 2022 to

development@tiffin.kingston.sch.uk

or by post to:

Tiffin School

Queen Elizabeth Road

Kingston upon Thames

Surrey KT2 6RL