

# DHSB Magazine

2020-21



# Contents

- 03. Welcome by Tom Hyndman
- 04. Headteacher's Update by Mr Roberts
- 05. School Captain's Address by Joe Watkinson
- 06. Learning Commons Update by Claire Buckler
- 07. DHSB 125th Anniversary by Beverley Kinsella
- 13. The Transition to Sixth Form by Alana Jones
- 14. Interview with Alistair Sharp
- 17. Visit from an MP by George Teague
- 20. A Look Back on 2020 by Nate Watson-Coe
- 21. An October Midnight Feast by Jack Matthews
- 22. Interview with Rob Holmes
- 25. PTFA Update by Mike Spencer
- 26. Interview with Alex Harold
- 28. Dead to Us by Daniel Holloway
- 29. Interview with Dr Ian Hodgins
- 30. Charity at DHSB by Tom Hyndman
- 31. Obituary

# Welcome!

By Tom Hyndman, School Captain and Editor

Welcome to the 2020/2021 edition of the DHSB magazine, an annual publication that is sent out to the school community to help show off and celebrate what has been going on in and around the school over the year. Whilst it is undeniable that 2020 was challenging and nothing like what we thought it would be, there has still been a lot of change and excellence - and no shortage of things to write about!

As a magazine team, we tried to portray some of the key ideas, people and events that have defined this year for the school. Obviously, we couldn't include absolutely everything that has happened this year, but we have tried to show a diverse range of things that go

on within the school.

2020 really showed us many things and reinforced many important messages about how each of us can grow and become better. Each of us have gone through a diverse range of experiences with not only the pandemic but other things such as exams. However, we all managed to get through it as stronger and better people, something that would never have been possible without the amazing communities that we have around us every day. Therefore, with this in mind, we decided to centre this year's edition around a theme of community.

When putting together this magazine, we reached out to some of the ex-students of the

school to hear what they had to say about the school and how the community had helped them. We hope you all enjoy reading about what they had to say and what they learnt over the course of 2020.

I would like to thank everyone who helped us put this year's magazine together, especially Mrs Nicholson, who helped us so much in achieving our goals. I would also like to thank all of the people who helped to contribute articles, art or advice for the magazine. Thank you!

Tom Hyndman,  
Editor-in-Chief



# Headteacher's Update

By Dan Roberts, Headteacher

Welcome to our brilliant school magazine created, written and published by our students. In a year that none of us ever thought we would experience, our students have once again proven how talented they are and how inspirational their leadership is in producing this magazine.

The magazine provides a flavour of what has been happening at DHSB over the last year and I hope you enjoy taking the time to read through it.

2020 was an extremely challenging year for all of us and I hope that all of our readers have been keeping well during this difficult time. As a school community it is safe to say that we have never experienced a time like this and I have been extremely proud of the tremendous response from our community and the excellent success we have achieved despite such challenging circumstances.

As a great school, the core part of our business is learning, one of the aspects of learning that I am extremely proud about during the last year has been how our stu-

dents, staff and families have all had to learn to adapt to remote learning and improving their digital knowledge and skills. We are incredibly lucky to have an excellent use of technology and IT at the school, however, we have all had to jump into using this more than ever before.

We have continued to show creativity and innovation, looking to overcome the challenges of Covid-19 whilst providing the high quality experience that DHSB expects and delivers on. This energy and drive to maintain our tradition whilst inspiring innovation has shone through brightly over the last year.

As we look back on the last year, our students have shown a great focus, resilience and determination to succeed, our staff have worked tirelessly, they have been courageous, positive and been highly effective in providing great learning and wellbeing support for our students. I am proud of our governance and leadership at the school for leading and supporting our community so well. Finally, I am proud that our parents have been fantastic in providing excellent sup-

port to our young people.

Please do take care over the next year and I encourage you to keep updated regularly through our website [www.dhsb.org](http://www.dhsb.org) in particular please read my weekly Head's Blog <https://www.dhsb.org/heads-blog> and the school's Twitter feed (@DHSBoys) for updates during the year. We are also hoping to share more information about our 125 celebrations this year as we move through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dan Roberts  
Headteacher



# School Captain's Update

By Joe Watkinson, School Captain 2019-2020

Looking back to the 2019 edition of the school magazine, I cannot help but smile at how oblivious we all were as to what was about to happen. I remember putting it together; excited about all the opportunities that lay ahead in 2020 and feeling that it was going to be a really busy and exciting year. Looking back to the beginning of 2020, we had just signed up to become an ECO-School, we had a new link school in China and another in the US, and myself and a group of my peers were set to welcome students from the Czech Republic to Plymouth as part of our joint Erasmus project on light pollution. Furthermore, it would have been inconceivable to suggest that we would be working from home during the Summer term, that all exams would be cancelled, and that many key events in the school calendar would be unable to go ahead.

In reality, 2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone at DHSB, and yet it is in the face of such adversity that I think the school community has become

stronger. For me, the best example of this was surely the whole school assemblies we created; it was really inspiring to see the amount of creativity and interests that were shared. It is also a testament to the devotion of the staff that the return to school in September was made as smooth as possible and it is a credit to the maturity of the students.

On a personal note, I was humbled in October 2019 when I was selected as the new School Captain; it has been an honour and a privilege. I would like to thank Mr Roberts, Mrs Nicholson, and Mr Mitchell for their support, and to the previous School Captain Tobias Leung for being so helpful during the transition period. I would also like to thank the senior prefect team for being so dedicated, helpful, and supportive to the younger students. They have been a real credit to the school community and they are in general, a wonderful group of people that it has been my pleasure to work with. But now, it is time for me to hand over responsibilities to Tom Hyndman. I have every confidence that

he will excel as DHSB's next school captain and so I want to extend my warmest congratulations to him on his appointment. The year ahead will, I am sure, be full of exciting opportunities and challenges as I wish him all the best of luck.

To end, I would just like to reiterate my belief that we are strongest when we work together as a community. I think this year of all years has shown that to be undisputedly true. Yes, it has been tough and challenging, but I hope that we can go forward into the new year together and in the words of dream things can only get better.

Joe Watkinson  
School Captain 2019-20



# Learning Commons Update

By Claire Buckler, Director of the Learning Commons

Since its founding in 1896, DHSB has constantly evolved with the times and the Learning Commons is no exception; hospital offices, a gym, a library and its most recent form as the digital heart of the school.

Opened in 2016, the Learning Commons is still home to many books and popular with readers, but technology now takes centre stage. Digital literacy is seen as an essential skill here, for all our community and we have spent the last few years improving and upgrading the schools wifi infrastructure, with fibre cables and new access points. We have rolled out our 1:1 chromebook scheme which has proved incredibly popular with parents and also replaced our aging PC suites with chrome devices ensuring that we are all working together

*"Digital literacy is an important skill and at DHSB we have embraced this. The Learning Commons inspires the future generation to be creative and learn the skills needed to adapt" – Mr Berryman Assistant Principal*

on the same tools. We have banks of devices in departments ensuring our students can use digital tools to communicate and collaborate; both essential for being digitally literate when leaving school.

This has meant that during the current COVID pandemic, students here have had an easy transition to online learning. We were already utilising Google Workspace and the collaborative ways of working that it allows. We were also already using online feedback and assessment tools and all stu-

dents and staff have full access to any work files as we are cloud based.

Part of our culture here is to inspire an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in all our students. The Learning Commons plays a huge role in this, offering not only the inspirational space to work from, but also the tools needed to succeed.





# DHSB 125th Anniversary

By Beverley Kinsella, Alumni Co-Ordinator and PTFA Liaison

2021 is the 125th anniversary of Devonport High School for Boys. To commemorate this Beverley Kinsella has collated 125 facts on the school's history. This is Part One and Part Two will follow in the next edition of the magazine. Please email [alumni@dhsb.org](mailto:alumni@dhsb.org) if you have any memorabilia, to share your DHSB memories. Celebratory events are being tentatively planned. Please register your interest at: [www.dhsb125.co.uk](http://www.dhsb125.co.uk).

1. Alonzo J Rider, who had been Headmaster for 33 years at the nearby Stoke Public Elementary School (former location of Stoke Damerel High School for Girls in Keppel Place) bought the building vacated by Devonport, Stoke and Stonehouse High School for Girls in 1895.  
2. He paid £3500.00 for the building in December 1895. (To put this in to context it cost £6000.00 when it was built 17 years earlier.)  
3. This original Devonport High

School for Boys building was located at the top of Albert Road. It was demolished at the end of the last century and 'Chapter One' apartments now sit there. There is a plaque on it commemorating DHSB.

4. Alonzo J Rider opened the doors of his new school on 16th January 1896. It was also a preparatory school for boys under the age of 8 and it incorporated the Stoke Naval and Civil Service School which had been established two years previously in connection with Stoke Public School.

5. In 1901 the school ceased to be a private school and became a proprietary one.

6. The school was transferred to the Local Education Authority (LEA) on the 31st July 1906 in a reorganisation of secondary education.

7. The LEA paid £6000.00 for the school.

8. Alonzo J Rider retired once the school had been transferred – he didn't go far though as he lived in his house which adjoined the school until he passed away there on 9th February 1921. He was still involved with the school until

his death as he was Chairman of Governors. Mr A J Rider JP proposed a Vote of Thanks at the 1918 Speech Day to the Mayor and Mayoress expressing his parental pride in Devonport High which he had founded 22 years ago and he wished the school continued prosperity. The LEA had been trying to buy the house since 1911 (for £1250.00). The sale did not succeed until 1922, the year after Alonzo's death.

9. The Municipal Devonport High School started its first term on 13th September 1906, with 94 boys in 6 forms.

10. Many parents had no confidence in a Municipal Secondary School and consequently transferred their sons to other schools.

Right:  
Alonzo J.  
Rider,  
Headmas-  
ter from  
1896-  
1906



**11** An amusing quote from the 1912 Magazine: 'What is even more to the point, the heating apparatus has severed connection with its past misdeeds, and now justifies its name.'

11. On 3rd September 1906 Mr A F Treseder was appointed as the new Headmaster 'at a salary of £250.00 per annum, together with a Capitation grant of £1 per head on all registered students.'

12. Monsieur Jacquet was paid £160.00 per annum, part of his role was to teach PT (Physical Training) in conversational French.

13. In 1907, fees ranged from 1 1/2 Guineas to 3 1/2 Guineas per term

(depending on age of pupil). Fees for boarding ranged from 10 Guineas to 14 guineas per term. This included a *'reasonable supply of stationary and the use of most of the text books required'*. In addition to these

fees, a Recreation Fee of 2/6 per term was charged for each boy. Fees for siblings were reduced by one Guinea. The school considered the fees to be *'moderate, graduated and strictly inclusive.'*

15. In 1907 there were 123 boys.

16. In 1908 there were 152 boys.

17. In 1909 there were 187 boys.

18. In 1910 there were 208 boys.

19. In 1914 there were 323 boys.

20. Mr Treseder aimed at *'fitting boys not only for a career but for life.'*

21. By 1913 the Headmaster proudly announced that

24 The Literary and Debating Society was formed on 28th January 1910. The first debate was on *'The Life of Napoleon'*. Other early debates included *'Shakespeare'* and *'Free Trade.'* *'A thought provoking question was raised by L A Lampard, as to whether Shakespeare's dislike for the Jews was real or assumed.'* Post WW1 the debate was *'Women should retain their present posts after the War.'* R G Trevithick proposed that *'women had proved their worth, especially as nurses, and in filling posts hitherto reserved for men. It was doubtful whether they would return to domestic slavery without a struggle.'* The opposer brought forward the physical unfitness of women as a reason why they should not enter into competition with man, the breadwinner. It was ridiculous to imagine that young girls could be trained as apprentices. He emphasised the fact that home life, the backbone of the nation would be destroyed. The motion was rejected by 20 votes to 12.

*'Devonport High School for Boys was now the largest Boys' school affording Secondary education in the Three Towns of Devonport, Stonehouse and Plymouth.'*

22. In 1915 eleven pupils had gained admission to Sandhurst, the Royal Military Academy and to Naval Paymaster Cadetships.

23. The School Magazine started in 1904. Since May 1910, at the encouragement of Mr Treseder, it has been produced by the pupils themselves. He was a firm believer in making boys help them-

selves and anxious that the editorship should be in the hands of the boys themselves. Our archives hold many editions, the earliest being the second one. *(We have gaps in our collection so would be keen to hear from you if you have any).*

25. The House system was

*Below:  
Arthur F  
Treseder,  
Head-  
master  
from*





introduced in 1911 by the Sports Master Mr Williams. There were four Houses: Drake, Grenville, Gilbert and Raleigh, famous Tudor sailors.

26. An Inter-House Challenge Shield for competition among the four Houses was donated and presented in person by Lord St Levan on 22nd October 1912. Lord St Levan knew the value of both education and sport. He felt that without some recreation the boys education would not reach the high level they wished for. Mr Treseder gratefully accepted the gift and thought that it may have an active life of 20 years. To this day it is still being presented to the winning House at our annual Speech Day.

27. The school formed its own Glee Club in 1913 at the suggestion of the Headmaster after witnessing 'the galaxy of talent' in the school.

29. Early in the war a corner of Greatlands, the school sports field, was converted to a school garden. The fence there had to be raised as the resident sheep were devouring large quantities of the produce.

30. The War Office permitted the formation of an Air Training Corps during WW1. 'A dozen members of the Corps mounted guard "somewhere in England" for twenty four days continuously, thus enabling certain soldiers to enjoy a Xmas and New Year's leave.'

28 The day after war was declared came the news that the Three Towns of Devonport, Stonehouse and Plymouth had amalgamated. Some at the school fought a great fight to preserve Devonport's identity but they were beaten. 'As scholars they were happy that the fact they strived to the uttermost took away all bitterness. The scholars then cheerfully accepted their new postal address Devonport High School, Plymouth.'

31. Tragically, on 7th November 1918, just four days before the Armistice was signed, former pupil Bosworthick was killed in action in France. He had a scholarship of £115.00 per annum waiting for him at Oxford University. A War Memorial Fund was started to remember him, and the others from Devonport High who had lost their lives fighting for our country.

32. Drill and gymnastics teacher Mr Herczenburg left in August 1914. He returned after the war, but now called Mr Grey!

33. In 1922 the Sports Day moved to a new playing field at Montpelier.

34. In 1930 Sports Day was held at Home Park where there was covered seating for spectators. The previous year had been disastrously wet.

35. Mr Treseder believed firmly in corporal punishment. If a boy protested his innocence he was told 'this is for all the times you were not caught!'

36. Mr Treseder insisted that pupils wore their School cap at all times. Failure to do so could result in receiving the cane. He personally sold the caps on a Wednesday morn-

ing at a cost of threepence. The old cap had to be surrendered and Mr Treseder took delight in ripping it to pieces ensuring that it would not get in to the hands of a non-pupil.

37. Mr Tozer, of local well known business 'Tozers,' sent his son, James Clifford Tozer to Devonport High. He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1929 and served as Mayor for 1930 - 1931. On 13th July 1939 he was knighted by the King and Sir Clifford served as Lord Mayor of Plymouth for 1953-54.

38. The Town Clerk's son, P J Crang also became a pupil. Sadly his name is on the War Memorial.

39. Strict economies were made necessary during WW1, 'the pages of all exercise books were creased down the middle to save paper, the first entries were made in pencil; these were then erased with the aid of a rubber and the pages over-written in ink.'

40. In 1923 there were 400 boys.

41. Mr Treseder retired in 1932, after 36 years service to Devonport High: 10 as a teacher and 26 as the Headmaster. They said he rarely

smiled but did his best. He is currently the longest serving Headmaster of Devonport High.

42. H A T Simmonds (known affectionately as HATS) became the 3rd Headmaster in 1933 – at the age of 33 years old. He introduced the school blazer and changed the stripes on the school tie from horizontal to diagonal. In the late 1930s he introduced a summer boater.

43. HATS was an active Scoutmaster for many years and also acted as an Assistant County Commissioner for Rovers in Devon. He was honoured by the most prestigious of all Scouting awards the 'Silver Wolf.' He was also National Secretary of the Historical Society, a gazetted officer in the Army Cadets and ATC and a prominent member of the Rotary Club and the Freemasons.

44. In 1936 the Local Authority requisitioned the school sport's field at Montpelier to provide a site for a new girls' high school (Devonport High School for Girls). Ham became the next location of the school's sport field – nine acres of comparatively level land but no changing facilities! Not long afterwards the field was requisitioned by the Military Authorities.

45. At a Parents' Evening on 2nd March 1934 Mr Simmonds stressed the need for closer contact between par-

**48** By the end of 1940 D W Cloke, a pupil, had recorded 243 air raid alerts in his diary. He also informs us that from the age of 14 boys were included in the local firefighting rota.

ents and teachers in the interests of the pupils. Those present formed a Parent's Association – the genesis of our current PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association).

46. The Parent-Teacher Association arranged an annual School Garden Party. The Headmaster ensured this was educational too and guest speakers were invited.

47. The school's own Scout troop was popular. It even had its own campsite near Noss Mayo in the 1930s. The Troop were responsible for collecting money when there was a special procession at Devonport to 'Help to Buy a Spitfire.'

49. In the late 1930s Sir William Beveridge (the civil servant and politician who is best known for drafting the 'Beveridge Report' which was used as the model for the welfare state) unusually sent a letter to the Headmaster congratulating the school on the high standards being achieved.

50. At the start of WW2 the school's lawn which had been the pride of successive headmasters and the scene of garden parties was no more. It had been dug up (partly by the boys themselves) to create an air raid shelter which could accom-

modate the whole school.

51. Large white letters on the wall above the nearby train station read 'Devonport High School for Boys.' It was painted out in 1939 so as not to help the enemy in the event of an invasion!

52. The train company, GWR, had previously added a pedestrian path leading directly from the school. 53. In 1940 there were nearly 700 boys. Since 1937 the first formers (year 7) had their classrooms at a Methodist Church Sunday School approximately 400 metres away.

54. The Dramatic Society continued to rehearse. It toured with a farce performing to RAF, Naval and Royal Marine audiences during the Christmas holidays. Records state that on each occasion they played to an appreciative and grateful audience!

56. On 14th May 1941 the school was evacuated to Penzance

*Left: H.A.T Simmonds (HATS), Headmaster from 1933-42*



**55** At the 1940 Speech Day, guest speaker Lord Astor advised the boys to 'live dangerously.' Other guest speakers at Speech Days have included Lord and Lady Astor (independently), Michael Foot (future Leader of the Labour Party) and Leslie Hore-Belisha (the Devonport MP responsible for bringing us Belisha beacons).

and members of staff were being called up in the war effort. Buses lined up outside the school on Albert Road to take the boys and staff to North Road train station. Their destination was a mystery which was not revealed until they were en route. The train was shared with another Plymouth grammar school, Sutton High which alighted at St Austell.

57. Boys were assigned different living quarters, including a former workhouse, a seafront hotel and a home belonging to Lord and Lady St Levan. Each 'home' was presided over by a member of the school staff and his wife.

58. Lessons were carried out using seven different buildings. Penzance County School shared their accommodation – each school using it for half of the day.

59. Saturdays the boys were given parcels from home, if any had arrived, and on Sundays there was compulsory letter writing home.

60. The boys assisted the locals in Penzance. Each year

they helped with the potato harvest (the farmer supplied hot pasties which was popular!) and one year Mrs Dorothy Singer of Truro asked for help to collect a particular form of seaweed which was needed desperately for the production of agar used in penicillin culture. This seaweed is only exposed at neap tide. Several tons of this valuable seaweed was collected, packed away in small sacks and sent away in support of the war effort.

61. Mr Simmonds had requested an increase in salary at the end of 1939 which was refused. He resigned in 1941.

62. Christmas Day 1941 was memorable as Lord and Lady St Levan invited them all to have tea with them in the Chevy Chase room at the top of their castle on St Michael's Mount, being transported there by boat. Lady St Levan had made the occasion as Christmassy for them as possible.

**64** There was some jealousy from the local boys. Mr R T Berryman, a pupil at Penzance County School said *'I noticed that the girls from the Grammar School did seem to prefer DHS green coats to our red ones!'* Some evacuees did go on to marry Penzance girls.

65. W H Buckkey became the fourth Headmaster and took over the role in 1942 when the school was still evacuated. His selection was unpopular with the staff, some of which made their feelings known and encouraged the senior pupils to feel the same. Unfortunately this resulted in an uneasy

*Below: W.H Buckley, Headmaster from 1942-48*



**63** There was a craze in Penzance for potato peeling and two boys peeled 654 in one night – enough for two days!



relationship between Mr Buckley and the boys, as well as his staff.

66. In the very early morning of 26th September 1942 enemy planes scored a direct hit on one of the school hostels, Tredarvah. Six boys were missing and the worse was assumed as the shelter they were in had collapsed. It was thought that they were buried under the debris. A rescue party, including blood stained survivors was soon at work, excavating for the missing boys. To everyone's relief a shout came out of the silence saying that the boys were safe! They had managed to crawl out of the debris, cross the fields (some were barefoot) and find cover in a well known institution – a girls boarding school!

67. In 1943 a tragic accident claimed the life of 14 year old Alan Patrick Sandford. He fell through a skylight at the Ponsendane Hostel whilst in the attic trying to find an electrical fault which was causing issues with the bell wire. He fell on to a stone staircase below receiving head injuries and died at the West Cornwall Hospital. The coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure.

68. Fees were charged until the passing of the 1944 Education Act.

70. The building has an impressive 165.5 metre long colonnade connecting the four detached three storey ward

69 By 1945 the authorities had decided that the school should return to Plymouth and be housed in three of the limestone fronted blocks of which had previously been part of Stoke Military Hospital. Everyone was delighted as in comparison to the Albert Road building the new one was considered palatial with plenty of room – large airy classrooms and ample space for a gymnasium, assembly hall, laboratories, art and woodwork rooms.

blocks. This colonnade is linked by 41 arches supporting the terrace in front of the windows of the wards on the middle storey.

71. In June 1933 local philanthropist Albert (Archie) Casanova Ballard purchased the empty Stoke Military Hospital, for £10,000 and donated it to Plymouth to be used for education.

72. Approximately 680 boys, including those who had been evacuated to Penzance and 300 who had attended the Emergency High School, were reunited at the new school premises on the 10th September 1945.

73. Originally Devonport High

occupied just three blocks, C, D and E. Blocks A and B took direct hits during the war and they were not used due to bomb damage until 1958 when Tamar Secondary School took up residence there.

74. Over the next 12 months teachers were demobilised and returned to their pre-war teaching posts at Devonport High.

75. Mr Buckley retired at the end of 1948. He was described as a loner and a hedonist.

(Sources: DHSB Archives, "A Torch in Flame" by Henry Whitfeld, "Three Score Years and Ten" by Ben Batten and Lawrence James)



# The Transition to Sixth Form

By Alana Jones, House Captain

Before applying to DHSB, I had never stepped foot in the school - my interview was the first time. I value first impressions highly when choosing a school and when I know that it is right for me, I set my heart on it. Of course, the grand architecture of the former hospital stands out as one of the most significant characteristics of the school, along with the outstanding methods of teaching. Transitioning from a school that I had been at for five years to a new school where I only knew a handful of people was made surprisingly easy once I had made a few friends and learnt my way around. Sixth Form at DHSB has already been a great experience for me and the same can be said for most other students here.

When choosing the subjects I wanted to study it was very important to consider which ones I would enjoy the most, not just the ones I would do best in. For that, I am very glad. Whilst the workload at A-Level does significantly increase from GCSE, that change was made considerably easier by the fact that I wanted to learn about these subjects. Furthermore, choosing

subjects that all link together in some areas also assists with my learning across all three of my courses as skills and knowledge can be easily transferred between lessons. As well as three A-Levels, I have chosen to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is a self led research project assessed on a 5000 word dissertation and a presentation on your chosen topic. As it is not part of the regular curriculum, with assistance from the supervisors, the EPQ is entirely independent which I value as it allows me to learn in a way that suits me best, improving the final outcome.

On results day, not everything went to plan. With an ITV camera crew filming over my shoulder for a follow up interview about my exam results, I was told that two of my subjects clashed on the timetable and in order to take one of them, I had to split my courses between two schools. I did not let this unexpected change get me down however, I saw this as an opportunity to make more friends and to experience life from two new schools rather than just one. Even though I am only at my TLP school for five hours a

week, the communication between myself and my teachers is exceptional and they are always available to help when I need it.

Over the last few years, my interest in politics and leadership has given me many fantastic opportunities within and outside of school. This did not change when I moved to this school. In September, the role of House Captain was advertised and of course I had to apply; little did I know after just three months of being at the school, I was given a position as House Captain for Winstanley - the only female on a team of nine! Leadership for me is the chance to influence and benefit the lives of others whilst also being a friend for those who need it. I hope that over this next year I am able to be a good role model for the school and Winstanley students.

It is a privilege to be at this school and not a day goes by where I take that for granted. I am very lucky to be a student here.

# Interview with Alistair Sharp

By Reverend Alistair Sharp, School Captain 1983-84 and Speech  
Day Guest of Honour 2019





*In making this year's school magazine, we reached out to some of our Alumni to see what they had been doing and how the school community had helped them to grow as a person. Here's what ex-School Captain, Reverend Alistair Sharp had to say...*

### **Introduce yourself**

My name is Rev Alistair Sharp I was at DHSB 1982-1984, and was School Captain 1983-84. I am now a church and charity leader in North Cornwall.

### **What are your most memorable moments from DHSB?**

Winning the Shebbear Rugby Sevens and the whole team singing the school song as we were walking off the pitch covered in mud. Being told I had been offered a place at Oxford University to read History after the tremendous support of Mr Clive Burrows, Mr Kev Dickens and Mr Peck, the then Headmaster.

Deciding to visit the Headmaster at his home while he was recovering after a heart attack, to give him the best wishes of the school. I was very nervous. He was very gracious. Learning that I could decide what kind of person I could become and then choosing how to live out my standards for my life, saying no to pointless things, but then being able to say yes to many more interesting things.

### **What Have you Done Since Leaving the School**

I married the girlfriend I started dating whilst at DHS, still married 32 years on. I worked in Specialised security printing and eventually was in charge of the Royal Mail Stamps Division. Later I lived abroad in Canada as the General Manager of the firm that produced most of the Stamps and collectible products for Canada Post. Then at 32 I gave that up to return to the UK to retrain as a Church and Charity leader. Since then I have led teams of leaders of 40 churches and charities. I currently lead 13 churches, including a surfing church on the beach in Polzeath, plus a Homeless Charity with four large hostels and other homes for both men and women.

### **How has 2020 changed you, and what have you learned?**

A huge amount of what I do has moved to go online. Meetings, teaching, training and Worship services all needed to move online and now are done very naturally. It's been a good move. But I had to learn a lot of new things very quickly. Learning days are never over.

Also we had to focus on the most important things, so I have had to work out what is the

most important stuff, and drop the rest. But it has been exhausting as every little thing had to be thought through in excruciating detail, and in some cases I had to enforce restrictions when many did not believe in them. There will always be unexpected challenges. Big changes have been delayed and I don't like having to slow down necessary change.

### **Any Advice for Students?**

Get really interested in something. It doesn't matter what. Study something you like in detail under your own volition and it will expand your knowledge exponentially. If you like something, somewhere there will be a community that likes it too. Ignore people that think your interest is geeky or not cool. Make it your thing and get good at it. What you are enthusiastic about will shape your future. Let yourself be curious about things. I can train people in a job, but I always like to recruit people who want to find out about things for themselves. They are the ones that solve problems and grow companies, charities, churches and communities.

# Artwork by Jake Cooney



# Visit from an MP

By George Teague, Year 12

This article is a response to Local MP (Plymouth Sutton and Devonport) Luke Polard's visit to the DHSB theatre with an audience of Year 12 sixth formers before the Christmas period, who were invited to ask him anything about his job and politics. I would like to begin by thanking Luke for visiting us and everyone who asked him questions that provoked such a lively and interesting discussion. It's so great to see young people engaging with the problems that face our generation and our community and helping to change the world to be a better place.

Luke firstly addressed the very important point that Plymouth is "below average in every single area of Government spending" (with the exception of defence). We don't get our fair share of government spending for healthcare, education or

any other area. On the topic of defence, one question raised was whether Luke supported Trident, since Jeremy Corbyn, the ex-leader of Luke's party, was a vocal critic of the program in 2019. The answer was a resounding "yes".

He also criticised the Government for putting Plymouth into Tier Two instead of Tier One, branding it a "political strategy not a health strategy". He did, however, express profound concern about the Government's plans for mixing over Christmas, suggesting this could lead to a worrying trend returning to steadily rising Covid cases.

After these few questions, Luke was asked a question about recent

incidents in the Labour party surrounding transphobia, from our school captain Tom Hyndman. At the beginning of August, Labour and Cooperative MP Rosie Duffield became entangled in an online row over transphobia when she criticised a cervical cancer charity's use of language intending to include non-binary and trans people, because "only women have cervixes". When met with criticism from





the group LGBT+ Labour, she dubbed it “absolute rubbish” and an “onslaught”. The row was exacerbated when, in October, activists called for the whip withdrawn after it emerged that the MP had liked a tweet from anti-trans campaigner Maya Forstater, that branded the Law Society’s guidance on transition in professional settings as “celebrating cross dressers in the office”. This has led to many political commentators surrounding the Labour party criticising Keir Starmer’s ‘deafening silence’ on these issues. When Luke began his response to the question, he soon referred to a “toxic debate” around trans rights. I am yet to believe, personally, that calling out transphobia from MPs is “toxic”. Indeed, Rosie Duffield’s responses to accusations of transphobia included liking tweets which said “I am a man, I identify as one. Now I can have an opinion.” from openly transphobic peers. Furthermore, this would be disappointing language

for anyone who knows of the amount of marginalisation that Trans people, especially young people, face in the UK to hear. The Friday he visited was the morning after the UK High Court ruled to rip away the healthcare of young trans people, which notably Luke didn’t address either, despite only less than 1% of trans people receiving treatment stating their regret, and marked decreases in rates of suicide for most once treated.

Luke’s standard politician answer to Tom’s very pertinent question on transphobia is therefore disappointing and frankly unsettling, but not altogether unsurprising. Not altogether unsurprising because, after Jeremy Corbyn’s resignation shortly after the 2019 General Election, there were three candidates who made it to the ballot contending for the Labour leadership. Just one of these candidates, Keir Starmer, didn’t sign the ‘Labour Campaign for Trans Rights’ pledges; Luke Pollard was vocal in

his support for Keir Starmer throughout the campaign. It would appear, therefore, that there is a trend of tight-lipped inaction for Luke Pollard on Trans Rights, which could potentially ostracize Labour’s broad coalition of younger voters.

In conclusion, it was great to see Luke come in and answer questions from Year 12. Engagement among young people around politics is more important now than ever, with decisions being made now about many topics which will impact our generation more than any other. I really hope that we can see more events like this in the future to make our voices heard loud and clear, to help us shape the future that we want.

# Artwork by Joao Bennetts De Souza



# A Look Back on 2020

By Nate Watson-Coe, Year 12

2020, a year we wish soon to forget for many reasons. A year of which millions of people have lost their lives, a year of chaos but most importantly a year of learning. In the midst of what may be the worst pandemic we will ever experience in our lifetime, it opened the doors for many months of reflection.

While 2020 has brought inconsolable heartbreak to many, it has also allowed everyone to grow special bonds with family of which some may not have had previously. Despite being in what at some points of time was a world wide lockdown, many people in our Devonport community let alone on a national/global scale utilised this time to learn a new skill, to reconnect with old habits which got left behind due to hectic lifestyles and enjoy the sun from the comfort of home.

In a year which unfortunately has had negatives outweigh the positives, it is important to look back on what has hugely benefited this year,

one of these things being nature. In the height of lockdown, 96% of countries across the world introduced drastic travel measures which alluded to little to no international travel. There were again little to no cars on the road and due to the closure of a lot of factories, many pollutants which are apparent in everyday life have been cut off. As a result of this, mother nature could relax and watch herself improve. For the first time in years, fish had returned to the canals of Venice with locals reporting the water had been the clearest they've ever seen; in Milan, one of the worst polluted cities of the world, a thick layer of smog finally lifted and cleared from above the city; and wild animals roamed the

empty streets as nature took over urban areas.

In addition to natural change, we as a generation initiated a change of which will be taught for generations to come. The BLM movement is the pinnacle of what we are capable of. The world came together in rage to fight for the rights of those who unfortunately have received neglect time and time again over the past years. Regardless of colour, origin, geographical location as a generation we stood up to the catastrophic events which unveiled in Minneapolis this year forcing the world to look back and observe their naivety in the past. With the removal of ignorant ideas, statues, and street names step by step we are amending mistakes many people failed to recognise in the past.

In a year full of despair, sadness and regret we have managed to get through it, together.

*"While 2020 has brought inconsolable heartbreak to many, it has also allowed everyone to grow...."*



# An October Midnight Feast

## Creative Writing by Jack Matthews

*Here is an extract from 'An October Midnight Feast', the work of student Jack Matthews.*

It was obvious to Ghouge, now. He had been in the asylum for a while, but for how long? He heard footsteps approaching his cell.

"You're the wood polishing guy, aren't you?"

"Yes! That's me! I had a business and everything!"

"Yeah, right."

Ghouge had to gather his thoughts. This disposition runs in itself too well, so much as though as if it were the nightmare of a horse. Ghouge looked around lost. As the guard began to walk away, Ghouge clutched onto the bars and yelled,

"What month is it?"

"March, I think. It's easy to forget such things down here."

Ghouge began to recite the '30 days hath September' mnemonic. At this point, the guard looked rather troubled: "I'm not meant to speak to you anyway, you're dangerous."

There was what appeared to be a corpse in the corner of the room that Ghouge had chosen to ignore until now. It began to get up, it was no corpse. Ghouge was startled, but brave.

"Go back to sleep," Ghouge asserted.

"You can't govern me anymore," it said.

"You look a corpse, though you speak as a man."

"I just wanted to remind you that they see me."

The corpse grabbed Ghouge by the arms and slammed him into the wall. The corpse appeared as a reflection in the thames for 5 long seconds; Ghouge knew that this was no angel.

The corpse appeared immediately before Ghouge and lifted him by the neck.

The corpse had no mouth, and yet it had spoken: "For years, you were my god. You controlled me. Now I'm the one in control. I don't want you to worship me, I just want to see you hurt."

Before Ghouge passed out, the corpse disappeared and Ghouge fell to the ground.

Ghouge, defeated, went back to sleep with his legs folded in his arms.

Ghouge woke up on a fine october morning. He was in his favourite chair by the fireplace. Something was different, though; something had changed. He noticed. Moriarty was sat across from him: "We have a lot of work to do, Ghouge."

The end?



# Interview with Rob Holmes

By Rob Holmes, 2015 Speech Day Guest of Honour and creator of [www.masterowl.org](http://www.masterowl.org)



*In making this year's school magazine, we reached out to some of our Speech Day Guests of Honour to see what they had been doing and how the school community had helped them to grow as a person. Here's what 2015 Guest of Honour Rob Holmes had to say...*

### **Introduce yourself**

My name is Rob Holmes, I am 51 years old and I live near Kingsbridge. I have set up, run and sold two businesses over the last 20 years and now write children's books about mindfulness and wisdom. [www.masterowl.org](http://www.masterowl.org).

### **What do you remember about 2015 Speech Day?**

I was delighted to have been asked to be a Speech Day Guest of Honour. It was a fantastic experience. I loved the friendliness and engagement from the students. I really appreciated the way the school set out to champion the achievements of every student.

### **What Have you Done Since 2015?**

It certainly has been the

strangest of years! I feel like the whole world got put on a kind of retreat. The birds seemed to sing more and nature seemed relieved to have less human activity for those three months of lockdown. I found this time very valuable. A chance to rest, learn about growing vegetables and enjoy the local countryside around my house. I also learnt a lot about myself this year, about what makes me feel happy and what makes me come alive. A year of self-reflection and renewal. I am excited about 2021 and getting back to a more normal way of living. I look forward to being able to travel abroad again and also to shop without steaming up my glasses wearing a mask!

### **Any Advice for Students?**

Think about the positive impact you can have on others and on this world. The more we do to help others, the happier we feel. The more we focus on ourselves, the more miserable we are prone to feel. This does not mean we should not love and care for ourselves, as self-care is

key, but it's more about being of service to the wider community. I recently started volunteering at my local foodbank one day a week and it feels so good to help other families less fortunate than mine. So if you are ever feeling lost and down, just volunteer to help an organisation and I guarantee it will transform your mood within hours and give you a fresh perspective on life.

My other advice for a happy life is to say thank you every day for the people, the health and the things you already have. Thinking that some future achievement, romantic other or wealth is going to make you happy is like trying to stand under the end of a rainbow! The only place we ever experience life is NOW! Cultivate an attitude for gratitude. Before your feet hit your bedroom floor in the morning, thank the Universe for your life! It's a miracle and a privilege to be having this human experience on this beautiful planet.

# Artwork by Ben Andrew





# PTFA Update

## By Mike Spencer, PTFA Chair

The PTFA has been running at DHSB for many years – longer than I care to remember. We organise events and trips for the students and raise money to help the school where we can. Not surprisingly 2020 was a bit different. We held our AGM via Zoom in November. This was a new experience for us all. Thank you to everyone who attended. I think there were 44 of us, which I am sure is a record. I would like to welcome old and new members to the committee.

The PTFA committee is still keeping in contact remotely even though we can't organise events at the moment. Over the last year we were able to: organise refreshments at 11+ events and the school production, a shopping trip to Cardiff, Year 7-9 disco, an Easter raffle, frame 11+ certificates and set up our online lottery.

We raised about £7000 last year. This is down on previous years because our biggest fundraiser – a trip to Alton Towers where we normally take 400 students out for the day was cancelled. We

are currently in the second year of a three year project to donate £25,000 to refurbish ICT suite and equip Createch Hub with Macbooks to allow students to improve their creative ICT skills.

We are continuing to fund-raise through several online methods:

*Easyfundraising:* Use this when you buy online at a wide range of shops.

*Amazon Smile.:* When you buy something through Amazon, go to [Smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and enter Devonport High School for Boys as your charity. It doesn't affect how Amazon works and brings in something for us. *Your School Lottery:* An online lottery with a weekly draw for £1 with a chance to win a £25,000 prize. Go to [your school-lottery.co.uk](https://www.yourschool-lottery.co.uk) and search on Devonport High School for Boys. Please support us and we can continue to support the school.

In 2021 we look forward to being able to plan some events that the students and parents can enjoy in person and the committee look forward to meeting up in person with new faces always welcome!

Mike Spencer  
PTFA Chair



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# Interview with Alex Harold

By Alex Harold, ex-Student and GP for the British Army



*In making this year's school magazine, we reached out to some of our Alumni to see what they had been doing and how the school community had helped them to grow as a person. Here's what Alex Harold, a GP for the British Army had to say...*

### **Introduce yourself**

My name is Alex Harold and I left DHSB in 1995. I am married with four children and a lovable rescue dog that came home with us following a posting to Cyprus. I enjoy the outdoors life, mountaineering and ultra-running and am a General Practitioner and Staff Officer in the British Army.

### **What are your most fond memories of DHSB?**

I have many very fond memories of DHSB, but the highlights have to be the school productions, music and skiing trips that

I had the great fortune to participate in. I also have great memories of the staff, several of who are still teaching at DHSB.....

### **What Have you Done Since Leaving the School?**

Following on from DHSB I went on to study medicine in London, graduating in 2002 and then eventually training to be a GP. I joined the Army on a cadetship in 2000 and have remained serving in the Army ever since. I have recently been promoted to Col and work in Yorkshire at present, but have served in many locations over the years including Germany, Cyprus, Afghanistan and Bosnia to name a few.

### **How has 2020 changed you and what have you learned?**

It has certainly been an interesting year! Professionally we have had to adapt and develop to new

working practices very rapidly, and continue to do so. Personally I have missed the freedom to explore the great outdoors, and once we are back in control of our daily routine, I cannot wait to get back out exploring the countryside and mountaineering again, but will likely have a greater appreciation for such activities now!

### **Any Advice for students?**

Remain flexible and be true to yourself. If you want a career in a particular field, stick at it and drive to the end objective, no matter what might be thrown at you along the way (in the end things always seem to have a habit of working out!).

# Dead to Us

## Creative Writing by Daniel Holloway

I held the near-lifeless body in my arms as we darted back into the trenches. This was against my orders. Don't turn back, the captain told us. I didn't know what would happen if I ignored him—or if he'd even notice—but my duty as a soldier was only a secondary priority. I had a far greater duty: this boy, seventeen at the oldest, would surely die if I didn't help him. Looking upon the boy and his crimson-coloured uniform, his slowly rotting legs, his chest shredded like it was tissue paper, and his cold burning eyes, I realised how easily man can be deteriorated. He was barely human anymore. He started forcing himself to speak, but with the condition of his face, he could only groan incoherently. Still in constant motion, I tried shushing him as if he were an infant. Nearly there now.

Many would wonder how a boy his age ended up in such a place, though this was nothing new to me. When the war began, my brother, fifteen at the time, had been not just willing, but excited, to fight and die for king and country. About a month before I found this boy, I'd received a letter. They'd claimed my brother died. I still didn't believe it; I thought, in some way, if I could save this boy, I could save my brother

Now, soldier, eyes front, there's a stretcher free. Gibbins spotted me laying the boy's body across it and helped me heave it upwards. It soon became harder for the two of us to carry thanks to the puddle of blood being collected inside it. We nevertheless pressed on. Soon we could find the boy the medical attention he so direly needed. I summoned the courage to look the boy once again in the eyes. Surprisingly, they were full of rage. Looking up to Gibbins, I could tell he'd also clocked the boy's glare. He then seemed to notice something else.

"Starling," he muttered my name, trembling as he spoke, "look at his uniform. Look at it properly." I didn't understand. I knew his uniform was pretty wrecked, but that was obvious. Why was Gibbins just realising this now? I looked in the boy's eyes again. They didn't just show rage. It was the undeniable look of hatred. Jesus Christ, his uniform. He was fighting for the other side.

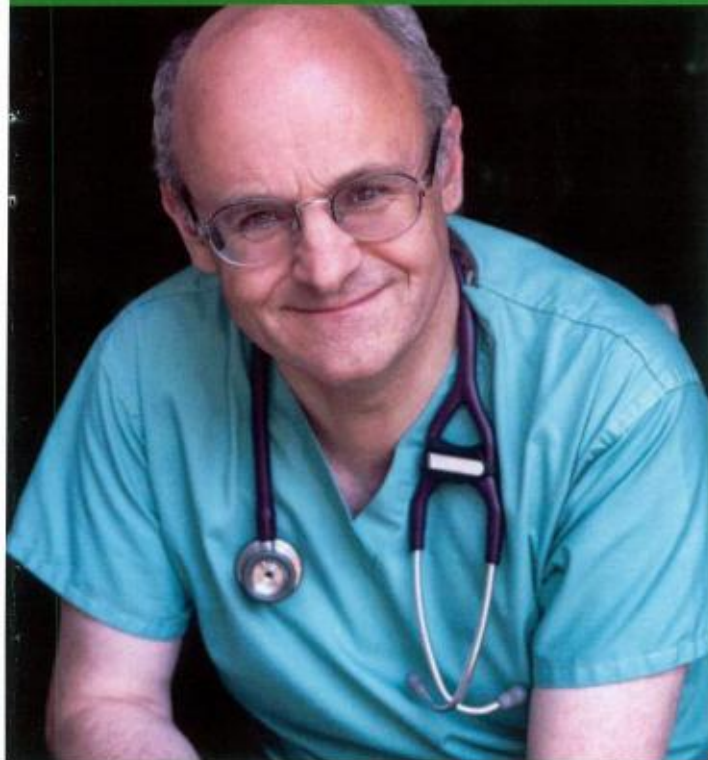
In an unrestrained panic, I dropped my end of the stretcher. I was aware I didn't know him and never had, yet I still felt betrayed, as it still felt impossible not to see my brother in this boy. It followed no reason or logic, but I now hated my brother more than any enemy soldier. All that time as children, playing ball in the garden, pretending we

were knights and heroes, standing against the world, was now ruined by the knowledge of his treachery. Gibbins stood before me, speechless; he was furious at me for dropping it. He had a strange view of the world—all of us, he'd said, were just men in the same boat, forced to fight and die for this pointless war. In his eyes, even an enemy's life had value. It should be clear by now, but I thought differently. This boy, my brother, was a monster. He was dead to me.

It had to end. This felt strange: the fact that I knew I wasn't thinking straight didn't stop me from not thinking straight. I'd lost my rifle carrying the monster to 'rescue', so I had to be somewhat creative when snuffing it out. With no choice, I slammed my boot onto its neck as it started to choke to death, a feigned fear in its eyes. Then Gibbins pushed me away, cursed at me not to kill it, screaming this wouldn't bring my brother back. He was right. What in God's name was wrong with me? I stepped away from both of them slowly and bolted. Alone, I darted back out of the trenches. The only place for me was the No Man's Land.



# Interview with Dr Ian Hodgins



*In making this year's school magazine, we reached out to some of our alumni to see what they had been doing and how the school community had helped them to grow as a person. Here's what our 2020 Speech Day Guest of Honour, Dr Ian Hodgins had to say....*

## **Introduce yourself**

I am a GP working in Buck-

fastleigh. I also am a fascinated with local history and head up the heritage team at Ford Park Cemetery, where I am also a trustee. I am a member of Plymouth Methodist Central Hall, a fantastic church in the city centre.

## **What Have you Done Since Leaving the School**

I took a year out and became

a hospital porter, which gave me a great insight into how hospitals really work. Then I went to Kings College London to study medicine. From there I finished off my training in Margate before becoming a GP in Broadstairs, Kent. After five more years, I come back to Plymouth. I have been working back in the area for the last 18 years.

## **How has 2020 changed you, and what have you learned?**

2020 was a year where things stopped and 'sort of' started again and then stopped again and who knows what will happen from here.

Sometimes you have to stop everything to realise that things could be improved.

It is ok to try doing things differently.

## **Any advice for students?**

Don't mind being different.

Keep learning - enjoy being fascinated with knowledge and people.



# Charity at DHSB

By Tom Hyndman, School Captain

Now more than ever it is crucial that we think of others who are less fortunate than ourselves, with as many as 115 million children being pushed into child poverty in 2020 alone due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And it is not just child poverty - there have been huge increases in the number of domestic abuse cases, mental health issues, homelessness and many other world problems

However, the school community has been coming together to help raise money for charities to help the most vulnerable around us. Over the month of November, the school came together to collect food for two local organisations: the Oasis Project and the Hope Baptist Church Gift of Hope project. These two projects help to provide nutritious food to Plymouth families who may be struggling over the festive period. The support for the scheme was enormous, with over 300 gifts of hope being donated by people all across the

school to help them through the festive season.

Also, on 9th October we had the "Hello Yellow" appeal, where students came together to wear yellow to show that nobody was alone with their mental health. The Young Minds charity gives amazing support to young people who may not be able to normally access support and is aiming to "stop young people's mental health reaching crisis point". The school raised over £3400 in 2020.

In addition to this, a team of nine Sixth Formers took part in November, a charity devoted to men's mental and physical health, focusing on mental health and suicide prevention as well as prostate and testicular cancer. Globally, one man every minute dies by suicide. The charity funds projects on education, conversation and services about mental health hoping to help reduce the rate of male suicide by 25% by 2030. The charity also focuses on prostate cancer,

which 1 in 8 men will suffer from in their lifetime. They are hoping to increase education to young men about the symptoms so that they can halve the number of deaths and serious side effects by 2030. The team raised £1215, smashing their target of £1000 and almost doubling their amount from last year of £626.

On 10th December we had Christmas Jumper Day, which helped to raise money towards Bristol Children's Hospital and St Luke's Hospice, which provide exceptional care to children and those with life-limiting illnesses in the South West respectively. These funds will be critical in saving and improving many lives who otherwise may not have received top-level care.

On behalf of the school, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to anyone that has given money, food or time in helping any charitable cause.

# Obituary

Joe Pengelly was an ex-student from DHSB who graced TV screens as a newsreader during the 1960s and 70s.

He was born on August 28 1924 and raised above the family tobacco shop. He was a student at DHSB from 1936-43, and served in Italy and Austria during the Second World War. His education career continued after the war, as he read History at Jesus College Oxford in the late 1940s. After this he joined the family business and became director until it was sold in the 60s. His son told the Plymouth Herald that after this "the lure of television broadcasting took hold and until retirement in 1979 Joe worked at BBC Plymouth as a continuity announcer and newsreader both on television and radio."

He was married to his wife Barbara for 55 years before she passed away ten years ago. He had a son, Joe, a daughter-in-law, Janet, and four grandchildren, Sam, Joe, Phoebe and Verity.

According to his son he will be remembered as someone who "always had an interest" in the local people and what they did.

It is undoubtable that he was an amazing person who did many things during his life, from serving in the military to singing on stage at La Scala Milan Opera House.

# Artwork by Jemma Lloyd

