



# Robert Clack Alumni Association Newsletter

Issue 23

July 2018

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2017/18 academic year. This edition features a look back at alumni supported events over the year, and reports on a host of recent ones - presentation evenings, interview days, a university application event utilising the expertise of our recent leavers, a fantastic Festival of Ideas with our new neighbours Coventry University London, and our second cohort of Entrepreneur Academy graduates. We also celebrate alumni success in technology and on the West End stage, current Clack boys making school athletic history, and the opening of our new cricket nets by a sporting legend. Our 'Spotlight On' this month is school supporter, Class of 1981 alumni Paul Spires. We also share some reader feedback on our newsletter - and invite you to join in.



## Update from the Trust

There has been no formal trustee meeting since the last newsletter (which reported on our May meeting); however, the trustees are regularly in touch with each other and staff in the school to develop the work of the Alumni Association. A smaller fundraising meeting took place in July with Development Trust co-chairs and senior leaders in the school discussing plans, including ideas for working with new and emerging partner organisations within the borough. It's been another great year for the Alumni Association and we are excited to continue our work in September, making school days at Robert Clack the very best they can be for our current students.

## Keep in Touch

If you have any suggestions for newsletter articles or things that you would like to share with the Robert Clack Alumni community, or would like to know more about how you can get involved in the work of the school, please contact [emonk@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:emonk@robertclack.co.uk)

## Looking Back on the Alumni Year - Supporting and Inspiring Robert Clack Students throughout 2017/18

As we publish our final newsletter of the academic year, it's always a pleasure to look back on the support that former students have given current ones throughout 2017/18. Our brilliant team of alumni has been back in school month in, month out, consistently giving their time to inspire pupils on their Robert Clack journey. The Robert Clack Development Trust trustees, Development Officer and school staff have also worked hard throughout the year to create opportunities for our fantastic (and constantly increasing) alumni network to get involved. Here's just a snapshot of what our alumni and trustees have been up to, and how they have supported students this year....

In the **Autumn Term** we welcomed our new headteacher - Mr Russell Taylor - a former Robert Clack pupil himself, and reflected back on last summer's alumni supported events including the ever-successful Aim Higher Day with former students back in the classroom to encourage Year 8s to start thinking about their future. Alumni Association members were back again in September to speak to parents of prospective students at Open Evening - and who better to showcase the school than our brilliant former students?! The new academic year brought exciting opportunities for Year 12s with the start of the 2017/18 Brilliant Club - a programme aimed at developing knowledge, skills and ambition to secure places at highly-selective universities - and the second Entrepreneur Academy. Each of these programmes is funded - or in the case of the Academy actually delivered - by our brilliant Robert Clack Alumni members and supporters.

In the **Spring Term** we were thrilled to welcome a host of alumni back to school. Paul Spires (Class of 1981) shared advice on financial careers with Year 11s, Katie Nelson (Class of 2013), Michael Soetan (Class of 2015) and Lewis Holmes (Class of 2017) introduced our Sixth Form students to apprenticeship opportunities at global real estate company, Cushman and Wakefield, and Fisayo Nobu, Sharon Akaka and Hassan Habtoune (Class of 2015) gave advice, support and tried-and-tested techniques for revision to Year 12s and 13s. Our Alumni Association-supported Brilliant Club scholars visited Newnham College, University of Cambridge, to start their university standard research project working with leading experts in the arts or sciences. We also reported on some serious alumni power in action with Class of 1986 alumni Paul White employing Year 13 leaver Bradley Stokes at his telecoms company after being blown away by the quality of Clack students when he volunteered at the Year 10 interview day.

In the **Summer Term** a raft of former students were back in school again, celebrating success at presentation evenings and putting pupils through their paces at the popular Year 10 interview day. We proudly commended our Alumni Association-supported Brilliant Club and alumni-led Entrepreneur programme 'graduates', and partnered up with one of our new neighbours - Coventry University London - to present our first Festival of Ideas, with Alumni Association members featuring on an expert panel to debate a range of challenging topics.

Our brilliant alumni were also back in the classroom as part of the school's intensive five day university application event, sharing their recent experiences of choosing degree subjects and institutions, and top tips for submitting a high quality application.

Throughout the year the Alumni Association have also delivered what is quickly becoming 'business as usual' within the school - student mentoring, work experience opportunities, financial support for students struggling to travel to attend university open days, regular newsletters, and quarterly trustee meetings to reflect on our learning and push forward in to even more exciting areas.

Thank you to each and every one of our Alumni Association members and supporters who give their time and generous donations to help us make current students' years at Robert Clack even more exciting and rewarding. Alumni really can make a difference to the future of current Clack pupils. Get in touch, get involved, and join us on our mission to make school days the best they can possibly be for our young people



## Volunteering opportunity for Robert Clack alumni

Could you help to make Robert Clack's next generation ready for the working world?  
Can you transfer knowledge from your workplace to the classroom?

**Words for Work** aims to challenge inequality in employment opportunities for young people. Regardless of background, we aim to provide students with the skills they need to be successful.

The National Literacy Trust are working with Robert Clack School in Autumn 2018 and we are looking for alumni from all walks of life to volunteer to support our Words for Work programme.

These workshops help students to develop their verbal and written literacy and their workplace communication skills, including preparing for interviews, active listening, delivering effective presentations and how to communicate with clarity in both written and oral communication.

You will be supported throughout by a dedicated project manager from the National Literacy Trust and will be given training to feel confident working with young people.

The programme will take place on the following dates:

<b>Robert Clack School, Green Lane , Dagenham RM8 1AL</b>	
Volunteer Induction: 10 September	15.00 – 16.00
Tuesday 18 September	10.50 - 12.30
Tuesday 25 September	8.55 - 10.35
Tuesday 2 October	10.50 - 12.30
Tuesday 9 October	8.55 - 10.35

If you would like more information about taking part, please contact the Words for Work Programme Manager, Billie Dunne, at [billie.dunne@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:billie.dunne@literacytrust.org.uk) or call on 0207 840 9556

National Literacy Trust, 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL

020 7587 1842 | [www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk) | [contact@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:contact@literacytrust.org.uk) | [facebook.com/nationalliteracytrust](https://www.facebook.com/nationalliteracytrust) | [@Literacy\\_Trust](https://twitter.com/Literacy_Trust)

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 2252918 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5839489 registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in Scotland no. SC042344. Patron: HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

## Second 'Graduation' from the Robert Clack Entrepreneur Academy

Regular newsletter readers will be familiar with the Robert Clack Entrepreneur Academy - a programme designed by Development Trust Trustees and led by Neville McKay, Principal in Aon Hewitt and supporter of the school, to help students realise their entrepreneurial potential. Following on from the success of last year, the Robert Clack Development Trust trustees were eager to support the programme again and delighted to welcome fourteen students to the 2017/18 cohort at the beginning of the autumn term.

The students were treated to six key modules - each focusing on a different aspect of business development - and delivered by our brilliant former Clack students turned real life entrepreneurs.



### Introduce and Inspire

This module was presented by former students Yemi Thompson (Class of 2016), Anji Onabaji (Class of 2017), Clinton Baker (Class of 1998), and young entrepreneur Ellie Meyers. Yemi now runs her own clothing enterprise while studying Environmental Science at Nottingham University, Anji has her own hairdressing and beauty business, Clinton runs a trading training company, and Ellie has her own home furnishing shop. Each spoke honestly to students about the challenges of running a business, learning from your mistakes, and establishing that all-important 'Unique Selling Point' (or 'USP').

### Evaluate Your Ideas

Award winning Business Coach Tina Dulieu (Class of 1975) presented real life examples of evaluating ideas and how to produce a SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats - analysis.

### The Tools You Need

Neville McKay delivered this session on establishing a brand, preparing a mission statement, and writing a business plan.

## Calling all Fundraisers!

Can you help to give the next generation of students a 'helping hand' and ensure that potential and not background determines their future? We are looking for people to help us fundraise for the Alumni Association. This will include helping us to scope fundraising ideas, develop relationships with businesses, identify and pursue potential sources of income, and plan applications to grant awarding bodies. Perhaps you've got experience of fundraising in another voluntary or professional capacity, have key contacts that may be able to help, or just have some time to spare and want to get involved.

Whatever your experience (whether it's lots or none at all), however much time you are able to give (from a regular commitment to one off advice/support sessions) get in touch at [emonk@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:emonk@robertclack.co.uk). We'd love to hear from you and we'd love you to join us on our brilliant journey to helping Robert Clack students be the best they can be.

### **Top Tips from Top Salespeople**

Managing Director of Telephone Assistance LTD, Paul White (Class of 1986) shared his top tips in this session on sales techniques, networking, and the value and practical application of selling skills.

### **Negotiation Skills**

In this session students went in the 'field' with a visit to the top city law offices of alumni chair Ian Pittaway (Class of 1974). Ian treated students to a masterclass in negotiation - which some of them plan to use in tricky discussions with their parents!

### **Overcoming Obstacles**

The final academy session inspired students to strive for continuous improvement in business with Class of 1977 alumni Gary White sharing advice on dealing with under performance and managing costs, using real life examples from his career as a chartered accountant.

At the end of the modules, the budding entrepreneurs split in to two groups and went off to put their newly acquired knowledge in to action with two weeks to run a business of their choice and make as much profit as possible. Both groups opted for catering businesses with one selling pizza and garlic bread, and the other hot chocolate with various toppings to both fellow Sixth Formers and staff.

After a tough fortnight (with each team thrilled to make a tidy profit on their ventures!), the students took part in a full debrief, reflecting on their learning and what they might do differently next time.



The students celebrated their success at a presentation on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, attended by the school senior leadership team and Trust co-chair Ian Pittaway. Each academy student received a certificate of completion and a book - *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*.

**Huge congratulations to all our enterprising students and THANK YOU to our brilliant alumni members who gave their time to deliver the programme.**

**Relatable and inspirational role models like you really can make a difference to the Clack students of today.**

If you would like to find out more about events in the school that you can take part in, please drop Ellen Monk a line ([EMonk@robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:EMonk@robert-clack.bardaglea.org.uk)). There's always something going on and always opportunities for you to get involved

**We'd love to hear from you and welcome you back to school!**

## Celebrating Student Success



As the academic year comes to a close, the school has once again held their series of annual presentation evenings, recognising and celebrating effort and achievement through each year group. A number of special guests were in attendance at each presentation evening including Development Trust co-chairs Melissa Pepper and Ian Pittaway, Alumni Association members Tina Dulieu, Folarin Odunubi, and Paul Spires, our very special 'staff alumni' Mick Fox, and representatives of The Worshipful Company of Surveyors.

Families and friends packed in to our school halls to see students presented with certificates, book prizes, school colours, and lapel badges to mark their success in the classroom, on the sports field, and in a range of national competition arenas. For our year 7s this was the first of many presentation evenings they will celebrate and Grafton Primary School alumni were delighted to be reunited with their former head teacher, Martin Nicholson, who also came along to present awards. Throughout the evenings, students showcased their range of talents, entertaining audiences with impressive musical and singing performances.

Generous donations to the Robert Clack Alumni Association from the Ford Motor Company and Worshipful Company of Actuaries enables us to recognise the achievements of our students in Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM subjects) with a number of prizes.

This year's winners - who each received a cash prize of £100 - were:

**Alfie Pogmore (Year 13) - Mathematics Practitioner of the Year**

**Tahani Dahir (Year 13) - Scientist of the Year**

**Jacob Pritchard (Year 13) - Excellence in creative Mathematics**

**Shahzeen Sheikh - (Year 10) - Excellence in Mathematics**

**Renee Palmer-Davies (Year 9) - Excellence in Mathematics**

**Gemma Gibson (Year 8) - Excellence in Mathematics**

**Adesewa Odejide (Year 7) - Excellence in Mathematics**

The Pittaway Prize - sponsored by Ian Pittaway, Development Trust co-chair and Alumni Association member - was also awarded at the presentation evenings to recognise the achievements of students who have successfully overcome obstacles in their education, with students Lennon Baptiste (Year 7), Paris Carroll (Year 9), and shared winners Freddie Pigeon and Joseph Zola (Year 11) each receiving this year's coveted awards.

**Huge congratulations to all students and thank you to our supporters who help to recognise and celebrate the success of our brilliant young people here at Robert Clack**

## Robert Clack and Coventry University London Share a 'Festival of Ideas'

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June Robert Clack School held its inaugural Festival of Ideas in partnership with Coventry University (CU) London. More than fifty students spanning from Year 9 to Year 13 attended the exciting event - held at Coventry University's sister campus in Dagenham. Students engaged in a day of debate and discussion on artificial intelligence, languages we should learn in 2018, and if now is the greatest time to be alive - all incredibly complex and thought provoking topics!

The discussion panel included a number of specialist experts - and of course our very own fabulous Robert Clack Alumni Association members, Toni Agland, Richard Batchelor and Paul Musa - ready to take on questions and comments from the student audience.

*Toni commented: 'What a fabulous group of students you have! They were friendly, intelligent, engaging and exceptionally polite. It was a real pleasure to spend some time with them. You and your colleagues must be exceptionally proud of them all. It was a thought-provoking afternoon. I was very impressed by the quality of arguments and questions asked. The views expressed were well presented and well thought out. It makes me even more sure that now is the greatest time to be alive. I am confident with the ambition of these young people life can only get better!'*



CU London staff - and panel members (who all requested a repeat invitation next year!) - were equally impressed with our Clack students commenting on their maturity, intelligence and insight.

**Thank you to our brilliant Alumni Association members and CU London who worked hard to make this exciting event such a success. We look forward to the next one!**



## Alumni Put Year 10s Through Their Interview Paces



Alumni were back in school on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May to put Year 10s through their paces at the annual year group interview day. The interviews are designed to be as close to the real thing as possible, with each student receiving immediate feedback on their performance from their volunteer interviewee - with many of them achieving top scores!

Once again a group of our fabulous Alumni Association members - Paul White (Class of 1986), Chris Marshall (Class of 1962), Jamie Montgomery (Class of 1999), Jeff Stafford (Class of 1969) and Scott Baxter (Class of 2014) - together with volunteers from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Worshipful Company of Surveyors and our friends at Ford Motor Company, spent the day head-to-head with students in the gym quizzing them on their skills, experience, and future ambitions, and offering constructive feedback on how to be the best they can be in interview situations.

**Thank you to everybody who gave their time to help prepare our Year 10 students for the big wide world. The day wouldn't have been possible without you.**

## Preparing Incoming Year 13s for University Applications

The end of exams signified the start of another important focus for the incoming Year 13 cohort - preparing for university applications. We like to make sure our students are ready for anything and - together with the support of staff and our brilliant alumni - this important process was no exception. Over five days the soon-to-be new Year 13s were primed for this crucial time in their studies which they will soon face when the next academic year is underway.

### Initial Ideas

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June students spent the afternoon developing initial career ideas and finding out more about the Plans for Progression days that they will be taking part in. Once again alumni members were back in school to help with this session. Lara Akinnawonu, studying Medicine at Cardiff, Callum Marshall, studying Philosophy at Essex, and Dami Eweoya, studying Law at Portsmouth, all of whom left the school just last year, shared their recent experiences of choosing their subject areas and institutions to apply for.





## Opportunities

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June students were split into two groups, with one heading off to Coventry University London (now based in the former Civic Centre) and the other staying in the Sixth Form block. Each took part in sessions to help them fully understand the application process for higher education and apprenticeships, and were introduced to UniFrog - an innovative computer software package to support them in planning their next steps after leaving school.

## Early Applications

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, students interested in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, or those wanting to study at Oxford or Cambridge, spent the afternoon learning about the specific requirements and deadlines for this distinct process and how to craft the most competitive application possible.

## Applications Process

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, students were taught how to create a UCAS (the university applications body) profile, and advised on the components of an effective UCAS personal statement, with a panel of alumni in attendance to share their top tips and answer student questions.



## UCAS Advice

The final day of this valuable series of events on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June was hosted at the University of East London with students attending an exciting UCAS Fair giving them access to advice and support from a range of universities. The series of events was incredibly popular with our students with Jolly (forthcoming Year 13 member) commenting: *'These sessions were so insightful and the panel spoke from the heart and the fact that they were in the same position as me in the past really inspired me'*.

**Another example of alumni 'people power' in action! Thanks so much to the following alumni members for coming back to school to inspire our Year 13s to be the best they can be:**

Folarin Odunubi (Class of 2015, now studying Law at Oxford)

Fisayo Noibi (Class of 2015, now studying French and Arabic at Oxford)

Lara Akinnawonu (Class of 2017, now studying Medicine at Cardiff)

Callum Marshall (Class of 2017, now studying Philosophy at Essex)

Hannah Scott (Class of 2017, now studying Chemistry at York)

Farhana Atkar (Class of 2017, now studying Sociology at the London School of Economics)

Numayr Malik (Class of 2017, now studying Theoretical Physics at University College London)

Katie Nelson (Class of 2015, graduate of University of Westminster sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield).

## App and Away! £25,000 from Sky for Tech Star Kike Oniwinde

In our last newsletter we featured former Clack student and entrepreneur, Kike Oniwinde, who developed the Black Young Professionals Network ([BYP Network](#)) - a platform helping ambitious future leaders to connect with one another, form friendships, collaborate and pursue careers in business. The app already has 2,000 users and has recently been awarded a fabulous £25,000 from Sky as part of a female technology scholarship programme.

This will fund Kike's app for a year as well as giving her access to Sky's technology resources.

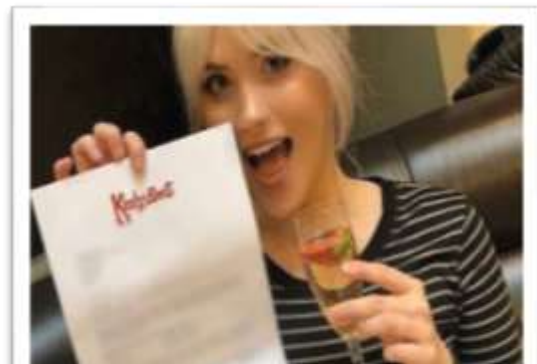


*Kike pictured (middle) with two other entrepreneur winners.*

*Picture courtesy of the Times*

**Huge congratulations on your continuing success Kike and Natalie**

**Former Clack students are making a difference in the world every day – and we are very proud of them all!**



## Former Clack student in West End Musical *Kinky Boots*

Natalie McQueen, 29, who attended Robert Clack from, 2000 to 2005, today walks the boards as Lauren for the first time at the Adelphi Theatre. The comedy tells the tale of a struggling shoe factory whose owner teams up with a drag queen to produce erotic footwear, much to workers' dismay.

Natalie made her theatre debut at a young age. She was just eight years old when she was cast to play Young Éponine in *Les Misérables* at the Palace Theatre. Since then her theatre credits include the leading role of The Mad Hatter in *Wonderland*, Dinah in the new workshop of *Starlight Express* and she was cast as the understudy for Elphaba and Nessarose in *Wicked*. She is also involved in the music industry and is the lead vocalist and songwriter for the rock band *Farewell City*. Natalie also served as a UK jury industry judge for the Eurovision song contest in 2013.

*Courtesy of the Dagenham Post*



## **Robert Clack Athletics Team National Success**

**Director of PE, Pete  
Goyette reports on a  
historic day in Robert  
Clack athletic history...**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June sixteen of Robert Clack's finest young students made their way to Newcastle to compete in the English Schools Athletics Association finals day at the Gateshead International Arena. It was only the second time in the school's history that we have made the grand final - unsurprising as over 600 schools take part in the quest at the start of each year in the hope of making the final twelve teams. The Clack lads were there on merit and every bit as good as some of their more experienced opponents.

The lads looked resplendent in new tracksuits and vests (generously funded by the school's PTA and donations through a Just Giving page set up only a week before the competition), and excellent preparation from Mr Wilkins in the PE Department meant they were all fit, sharp, highly motivated, and clear on their individual targets. The team travelled up on the Friday morning and spent the night at the Newcastle Quayside before the big day on Saturday. Such was the concentration and intensity that none of the boys (or staff) even moaned about missing England's stunning World Cup quarter final victory!

The whole team were heroes on the day with personal bests and school records tumbling all over the place. The day started well with Sid Khelifati and Joseph Atoki picking up extra points in the hurdles. Murphy Madubuko literally ran himself into the ground to set the fastest time of the day in the 200m and get clocked as the second fastest time in the finals history for his age group. Malikai Aldridge and Kyle Irving both contributed monster scores by winning their 100m races and hitting targets in the field. Praise Ogbemor equaled former student Ashley Reece's 18-year-old school record, a feat I never thought I'd see. Performance of the day on the track came from Dave Pike who finished the 800m on pure grit and determination, finishing first in the race and beating a 10-year-old school record in the process.

The morning went so well that we were leading the whole competition at the half way point. We knew the field in the afternoon would be tough and although there were some super human performances we couldn't quite hold on for the much coveted title. Romeo Osei-Nyarko was the gun performer in the field with a monstrous 13 metre plus shot putt - another first place and another school record shattered.

Both students and staff were immensely proud when the results were called out at the end of the day - second to only Dartford Grammar School and Southend High School for boys. The 3<sup>rd</sup> national place represents hours and hours of hard work from staff and students alike. The boys were a credit to the school, the Dagenham community, and - most importantly - themselves and their families. Their behaviour was impeccable and their desire and commitment un-questionable. I cannot think of a time when I have been more proud to be associated with the students from Robert Clack School.

**Congratulations on this fantastic result boys - you've secured your place in the Clack history books!**

## **Cricket Legend Sir Gary Sobers Opens New Cricket Nets**



Robert Clack School had a special visit from West Indies legend Sir Garfield Sobers, who is widely considered to be the greatest all-rounder in the history of cricket. The 81-year-old officially opened new cricket nets at the lower school site, named after long-serving staff members Barry Taylor and Paul Cook, and spoke to pupils after watching them make good use of the £50,000 ECB-funded facility.

Sir Gary was impressed by the new nets, which were installed with assistance from Essex County Cricket Club's Trevor Yorke and Arfan Akram.

*He said: 'It's fantastic. I think the kids here are very lucky to have that kind of facility. They get something that as a boy growing up I would've loved to have had...It's nice to see kids have those facilities'.*

After cutting the ribbon in a short ceremony to honour long standing PE teacher Barry Taylor - who retires next month after 35 years of dedicated service - and Paul Cook, who has worked hard to get more cricket played at the school over the past two decades, Sobers ran his eye over the Year 7 and 8 pupils, including members of the school's three girls' teams.

And, despite the short time frame, he was quite impressed, adding:

*'It's difficult to judge from just 15-20 minutes, you need a lot more time to look at players. There's one or two. They're probably excited and don't produce their best, but if you had them on a number of occasions, a week or so, you'd see what the improvements are and who are the best ones. There was a spinner who looked quite good, but you don't really have the time to observe what is happening, it's a quick look'.*

Pupils were then treated to some black and white footage of Sobers in his prime, famously hitting six sixes in one over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan, and details of the Sir Gary Sobers long running schools' tournament hosted in Barbados, whetting the appetite of pupils and staff to take part in the future.

*Pictures and story (edited from a longer article) courtesy of the Dagenham Post*



## **Spotlight On... Paul Spires, Class of 1981**

**Paul Spires, business owner and financial planner at The Sound Financial Planning Group, is under the spotlight in this edition**

### **Working life**

Paul left school in 1981, after staying on to re-sit a few O' Levels that he failed the first time around - which he puts down his misspent youth getting the better of him.

Paul had no idea what he wanted to do when he was at school. He had the odd job delivering milk and papers to earn some pocket money (which he wishes he had saved); however, careers talks didn't inspire him at all. There weren't many options apart from working for a bank, going in to the Armed Forces, or joining the Ford Motor Company.

Paul's working life ended up being varied - although was largely in the financial sector in the form of the insurance industry. Paul studied for a financial services degree in his late 30s and twenty years ago joined forces with Andrew Hall - another former Clack student - to build their own financial planning business which they still own today.

Paul has also turned his hand to acting! Although nothing that propelled him to instant stardom, he was in a run of twenty shows at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016 and Camden Fringe 2017, which he said were really good fun and on his 'bucket list.'

### **School day memories**

Being terrified of the Van De Graff machine (electrostatic generator) in Mr Harper's physics lessons, Music Hall days, having long hair and big collars, winning the Rugby 7s, eating pie and mash, fighting with Bishop Ward pupils, and being the only QPR fan in the school! Paul's favourite lessons were PE, English Language and Drama - which he wishes he had taken further.

## How school has changed

Paul observes technology as the biggest difference between his school days and those of our current students. This brings both positive and negative aspects. Mobile/smart phones and technology can cause problems, but are also vital with much more information now available to students today.

## Paul's advice for students today

*'Do in life things you are passionate about. Follow your dreams to avoid ending up in dead end jobs just to make ends meet. Qualifications aren't the be all and end all, although they can open doors. Be humble, be kind and enjoy your school life as it soon passes'.*

## Newsletter Feedback

Our newsletter is crafted with love by staff in the school and volunteer alumni. None of us are journalists or technology wizards but we do our very best to bring you all of the most exciting news from the school - and we love to hear your feedback!

Here's a small selection from our last newsletter in May...

*'My oh my oh my. What a newsletter! It arrived right in the middle of a conversation with a TV production team when I was singing your praises. Full of not only wonderful achievements but also it captured the essence of what Robert Clack is all about. My heart is bursting with pride to be part of the story.'*

**Sandie Shaw - Patron of the Robert Clack Alumni Association**

*This newsletter is great and it reminded me of some of the work I've produced whilst working and studying*

**Former student, now graphic designer (who kindly offered their expert skills on newsletter design!)**

*Thank you for the newsletter...I loved the photo of Colin Ramage (which featured in last edition's 'One from the Archive')... A top man and an excellent teacher'* **Former student**



**And final words from Paul are... Ask lots of questions, keep your head down - but have fun at the same time.**

**Thank you so much for sharing your memories Paul and taking the time to be 'Under the Spotlight'!**

We also welcome comments on how to improve our newsletter. Previous feedback from readers has helped us to amend text colours and layout, and explore accessibility issues. If you have any feedback, please contact our Development Officer Ellen [Emonk@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:Emonk@robertclack.co.uk) or Communications Team lead Teri [Twebster@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:Twebster@robertclack.co.uk)

## Support the Robert Clack Alumni Association

**Join us** Sign up to the Alumni Association at: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/register/types>

**Volunteer** Come back to school as part of one of the many exciting events we run with current pupils throughout the year. Contact [emonk@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:emonk@robertclack.co.uk)

**Donate** Alumni can make a real difference to current pupils' lives. You can donate at [www.justgiving.com/rcdt](http://www.justgiving.com/rcdt) by texting RCDT08 to 70070 or contacting [emonk@robertclack.co.uk](mailto:emonk@robertclack.co.uk)

**Look out for our next newsletter in October 2018**