

May 2009

Dear OP,

Please find enclosed the Spring issue of *Horizons*. I hope you will enjoy reading about the varied activities that have taken place across the School, including an entertaining lecture organised by the Development Office from John Armit, Chairman of the London 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority which was especially well attended by OPs.

In the Autumn, in a joint venture with the Old Portmuthian Club, we plan to substitute sending you *Horizons* in favour of a bespoke publication for PGS alumni with details of year groups, reunions and articles featuring and written by former pupils of the School. In order to give ourselves the best possible start, we would be very grateful indeed to receive submissions of photographs, news items, updated details and articles from as many OPs as possible. Please forward any material for inclusion in the inaugural issue to Sue Merton at [s.merton@pgs.org.uk](mailto:s.merton@pgs.org.uk) or to her at the address on the letterhead.

#### **Forthcoming Events**

##### *OP Tennis, Cricket and Rounders Matches – Friday 26 June*

We will be hosting OP Tennis (men and women), Cricket and Rounders matches on 26 June this year at Hilsea from 4pm and are putting out the call for OP players to don their whites! We are hoping for some glorious midsummer weather so that we can round off proceedings with an evening barbecue. If you are interested in playing for the OP teams (or spectating!) please contact Liz Preece ([l.preece@pgs.org.uk](mailto:l.preece@pgs.org.uk) or tel. 023 9268 1392).

##### *Choral Reunion – Saturday 26 September 2009*

Former Choristers will be welcomed back to the school and also invited to join the Cathedral Choir Old Choristers for a special evening service followed by dinner at the Naval Club. By coincidence, the school's Open Morning also takes place on this date and all OPs and their families are very welcome to attend. Further details will be provided closer to the date, but please could you register your interest in attending a Choral Reunion by sending an e-mail to [s.merton@pgs.org.uk](mailto:s.merton@pgs.org.uk) or telephoning Sue Merton on 023 9268 1385.

##### *OP Scout Reunion – Saturday 6 February 2010*

We shall be marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Portsmouth Grammar School Scout Troop with a Reunion for OPs who were Scouts or Cubs. Further details will be available later but again, please could you register your interest in attending by sending an e-mail to [s.merton@pgs.org.uk](mailto:s.merton@pgs.org.uk) (tel. 023 9268 1385).

##### *125 Years of Sport at Hilsea - 2010*

A number of events will be held at the school to celebrate 125 years of Sport at Hilsea in 2010. Details will be provided in future OP mailings and will be posted on the school website. Please check [www.pgs.org.uk](http://www.pgs.org.uk) periodically for further news.

### **The Weather Lottery**

Our Credit-Crunch busting new Lottery Draw is fun, easy to play and provides much-needed project and bursary income directly to PGS. For just £1 per week players have a very real shot at winning a monthly jackpot of £10,000 as well as other cash prizes. Winners are automatically notified and it's easy to set-up, so please cast an eye over the attached information and join today!

### **Climbing Wall Appeal**

We have worked very closely with the Old Portmuthian Club to devise a suitable way to permanently record the enormous influence and contribution that the late Roger Harris, President of the OP Club, former pupil and teacher at the School made to life at PGS. Please see the attached letter from the OP Club President for details of the Climbing Wall we wish to erect in his honour and the part you can play in making it happen.

### **Catherine Smith**

Catherine Smith, former School Archivist, has asked us to convey her thanks and appreciation to all the many OPs who sent their good wishes following notification in the last newsletter of her departure from the School to take up a position at Charterhouse. Catherine and her family still live locally and she is looking forward to seeing some of you at forthcoming PGS events.

### **New Science Centre**

Our ambitious plans for a new Science Centre to accommodate all the anticipated needs of science at PGS in the future are gathering apace! Full planning permission has been granted much earlier than expected and construction work begins over the Summer. More details can be found in *Horizons* and you can follow progress on the 'New Science Centre' feature on the Development Office section of the school website, [www.pgs.org.uk](http://www.pgs.org.uk).

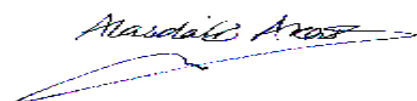
Look out too for details of our forthcoming unique auction of equipment and apparatus from the old building. From benches to Bunsen Burners, there's bound to be something to both evoke memories of science lessons and serve as a perfect memento of your time at PGS. All proceeds from the 'lots' will be used to help equip the new state-of-the-art laboratories, prep rooms and science theatre.

### **Work Experience**

As competition for jobs and University places becomes more and more difficult, work placement or shadowing and the commercial experience it provides often give pupils an edge. We have a willing pool of PGS students on the look-out for opportunities over the Summer Holidays to undertake work experience in many disciplines. If this is something that you feel able to provide, please get in touch, using my personal contact details below so that we can offer you suitable candidates.

Liz, Sue and myself look forward to seeing or speaking to as many of you as we can over the course of the year and would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all that you do in support of your old school.

Yours sincerely,



Alasdair Akass  
Development Director

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