

Q

NEWS

QEGS
BLACKBURN

No. 40 Michaelmas 2012

Foreword

Parents will have received a letter and brochure explaining the logic behind the Governors' decision but it is right that all constituents of the school community, past and present, understand what we are doing and why.

In essence if our bid is successful (and we are determined it will be), it will mean we will be able to expand considerably, probably up to about 1100, while retaining reasonably sized classes, no more than 25 pupils, and extending what we offer in our traditional areas of strength.

We will continue to provide a challenging and broad curriculum in which we will maintain our commitment to separate sciences, a modern foreign language, Latin and the right emphasis on numeracy and literacy from an early age. We will remain an all-through school from 4 - 19 and will be able to offer something that I think will look very different from other schools in the area. The great advantage of this move is that the school will not charge fees, thus opening our great facilities and

*Readers will not be surprised if my introduction to Q-news on this occasion focuses on our recent decision to apply for **Free School** status, with effect from 2014.*

expertise to a much wider range of pupils than we are currently able to do. Many of you will see this as a return to our roots, or a re-working of the Direct Grant system in a modern context and I would dispute neither of those perspectives.

We will adhere to the national admissions code, which means we will have pupils at all levels of ability, including the very top much as we do now.

I am absolutely convinced and the Governors and the Senior Management Team are unanimous in believing this is a fantastically positive opportunity for the School to progress to the major stage in its long and distinguished development. We will be able to offer more than we do currently and yet will retain all that is good about the ethos of the independent sector, including high expectations of behaviour and being truly aspirational for all pupils, whatever their background. In terms of social mobility we will achieve far more than we have been able to with bursaries, no matter how generous these have been.

I suspect most people will be entirely in favour of our decision and Old Blackburnians in particular will probably recognise exactly what we are trying to achieve. In order to guarantee the success of our bid, we must demonstrate 'evidence of demand' so that we have enough signatures to show that we will be over-subscribed in September 2014. If you are able to help us reach this target, by persuading anyone you know with children who will be of school age by then, to log on to the dedicated website www.qegsblackburn2014.com and register their support, that would help us tremendously. We have produced a brochure which explains the rationale behind our plans and this is on the website or you can request a printed version from the admissions office on **01254 686333**.

We look forward to reporting on how our bid has progressed in the next edition of Q-news.

Simon Corns,
Headmaster

QEGS retains high standards in science despite tougher exam

Our pupils have bucked the national trend by producing outstanding results in their IGCSE science exams which the school has undertaken for the first time because International GCSE is a more rigorous course. Despite alleged harsher marking this year QEGS has improved its overall number of A* grades at both GCSE and A level.

Following on from the A level results which produced a pass rate of 99% resulting in 96% of the Sixth Form gaining entry to university, 88% their first choice, which is outstanding. Over 89% of QEGS pupils gained a minimum of five subjects at grades A* to C.

Headmaster Simon Corns said: **"Considering that the national trend is towards fewer top grades, I am extremely pleased to see we have maintained our high standards, especially in science, which has always been a strength at QEGS. Many of our pupils have performed very well and some exceptionally well, and they have made great improvements since they started here"**.

Nursery Opening “A great success”

The new QEGS Nursery School opened its doors this summer for parents to have a look around and to see the facilities on offer. The nursery manageress, Mrs Correne Brown said, “It was non-stop all day from the moment we opened our doors; the Open Day was a great success”.

Parents admired the new nursery unit, which accommodates babies from the age of 3 months, and looked around other facilities for toddlers and children up to the age of four.

The Nursery School is housed in Brooklands in the former Art Department. Each of the rooms is in a single storey building built around an open air quadrangle with a special non-slip state-of-the-art playing surface. Parents can be confident that the nursery will provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for their children’s development. There is also a dedicated car parking area for easy drop off.

Following the opening of the Nursery School in September, the initial target intake has already been exceeded with extra staff being taken on as it expands.



Baby room with plenty of space to learn to crawl



Nursery Manager Correne and team

‘Difficult’ subjects still score well for QEGS A level students

Despite the national pressure, subjects perceived as ‘difficult’ still achieve high grades for students at Queen Elizabeth’s. All three natural sciences achieved 100% pass rate as did Further Maths with an average of 81.5% at A*-B across Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

The pass rate for students taking French, Spanish and German was 100% and in French and German 100% of students achieved A*-B grades.

Art students have continued the solid record of success with a 100% pass rate and well over 90% of passes at A*-B.

Overall the pass rate for QEGS A level was 99% and 62% of students achieved A*-B grades. The girls’ pass rate was 100% with 68.8% at A*-B confirming once again that co-education works and girls do well at Queen Elizabeth’s.

Head of School, Dean Ward and Deputy Head of School, Olivia Lalude-Haworth have both secured their places at Oxford University with Olivia achieving four A* grades in all her subjects. Dean and Olivia are both winners of the prestigious Blakey Modern Languages Scholarship which was founded by a Old Blackburnian Steven Blakey to encourage the study of Modern Languages in the Sixth Form.

Qiyang Chen’s results of two A* and two A grades are very impressive, and well-deserved.

Lucy Midgley, who returned from a volunteering trip to Ecuador working with street children just before her results, achieved four A* grades which enable her to go to her first choice university of Imperial College where she will study Mathematics. Lucy will move to London to join her sister Katherine who is a former Head of School studying at the Slade School of Art.

Headmaster, Mr Simon Corns said that he was pleased with the results which confirmed that students for both arts and science subjects achieved strong grades at the school. **“Able and motivated students still need good teachers and our standards remain very high”** said Mr Corns. **“I know that my teaching colleagues will be pleased that their professionalism and encouragement have helped the students to achieve their potential”.**

Able and motivated students still need good teachers and our standards remain very high

Many students have, like Lucy, given their time in supporting charitable activities both at home and abroad and have been splendid ambassadors for the school. The majority of students have taken part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including Debating and Public Speaking, Music and Drama. These set a shining example to those lower down the school of how to work hard and succeed and make a positive contribution in the way, they then go on to do in society. We are very proud of them.”

Olympic Day is a great success

Pupils at Queen Elizabeth's enjoyed an amazing end to the summer term. Having already had their traditional Sports Day they ended the term with an Olympic Day in which they competed in 17 Olympic and Paralympic events.

The Olympic Day started off with an opening ceremony which outlined the Olympic ethos and the development of the Paralympics. Each class entered pupils in each of the 17 events which were a combination of Olympic and Paralympic sports, including water polo, trampolining, BMX and tennis.

Pupils from Longshaw Community Junior School SEN department joined in some of the events with the QEGS pupils including blind football, cycling using trikes and boccia, which was originally designed to be played by people with cerebral palsy but now includes athletes with other severe disabilities affecting motor skills. In 1984 it became a Paralympic sport, and in 2008 was being practised in over fifty countries worldwide.

Boccia is governed by the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) and is one of three Paralympic sports that has no counterpart in the Olympic programme.



This link with Longshaw School reinforces the work School has done in the local community at the Harrison Sports ground, Lammack, where it recently opened a new facility which is used by the Blackburn Community Sports Trust, including the sensory room which is a great hit!

The day of sport culminated in the award of medals which had been produced in the Design Technology Department as part of the cross-curricular aspect of the whole week.

Uganda 2012

QEGS pupils returned from another successful trip to Uganda in July this year. They saw and experienced so much, from the poverty at the Good Samaritan School to the "non-stop madness", as our friend Peter Bitarabeho calls it, of Kampala and the beauty of the Murchison Falls National Park.



Mrs Foxley commented, "I hope that the memories last for a lifetime and have an effect on how they look at the world, but most of all, I think they will remember the joy and vibrancy of the people, who often have so little in material possessions."

QEGS is proud of the real and lasting difference this and the last group have made to the Good Samaritan School and the children there.



QEGS pupil in World Cup Squad

Alex Davies has had a remarkable season resulting in his selection for the England U19 side that competed in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in Australia. This took place in the summer and was staged in Townsville.



A delighted Alex said, "I've been playing well recently and have been selected as an opening bat, although I can keep wicket if needed. It certainly is a great opportunity and I am really looking forward to it." Director of Sport Dr Mark Butler said, "We are immensely proud of Alex and I know that he will certainly be a great ambassador for his county, country and his school."

Alex has recently taken up his first professional contract with Lancashire.

Pupils Remember

Any history trip to the battlefields of the World Wars is bound to contain some poignant moments.

For members of school who went on a tour of the battlefields, one such moment was when they managed to locate the grave of former head boy George Rigby, near Ypres. After a short service of remembrance a wreath was laid by departing Sixth Former Christian Brown.

Members of the trip are indebted to former Governor, Mr Jeremy Stirrup, for helping them to locate George's grave.



The grave of former head boy George Rigby

Hoodwinked



The Main Hall was transformed into Sherwood Forest as the Junior School production 'Hoodwinked' told the story of Robin Hood and his fight for good over evil.

Anyone who has ever been involved in organising young children, even at a birthday party, will appreciate the tremendous amount of dedicated work that the staff has to put in, to produce such a show. Such was the quality of the performances by all of the children; it was easy to forget that this was a Junior School show and not a dedicated theatre company.

A sign of a good musical play is the standard of the music and the acting, on both counts this show was a success. The



acting that was taking place by those not speaking was very impressive and made sure that the stage was always full of action. The singing was confident throughout, both the soloists and chorus, with some songs including two part harmony, not easy for such young people.

Overall, an evening of thoroughly good entertainment, delivered in a very professional manner to, by the end of the evening, an audience of many proud parents.

Junior School Prize Giving

The Prize Giving Day for any school is a major event on the calendar and so it was at our Junior School when the guest of honour was Vice-Chairman of Governors, Mr David Peat OBE, who presented the prizes.



Mr David Peat OBE, Mr Jeremy Gorick DL and Mr Jonathan Cave retiring Deputy Headmaster of the Senior School

It was as much an occasion for celebration as awarding of prizes, as each one presented reflected the hard work of the individual and often their contribution to the school community.

Prizes for Art, Sport and Academic achievement were presented in front of a gathering of proud parents and governors, including the Chair of Governors, Mr Jeremy Gorick, the High Sheriff of Lancashire, who certainly impressed

many of the pupils with his uniform and sword.

Mr Peat reminisced about his own days in school and commented on how impressed he was by the many and varied awards, and the choice of literature chosen by the prize winners. He closed by reminding them to make the most of their opportunities as they moved on to secondary school in the coming months.

Young swimmers gain awards

Children in our Infant School have certainly been making a big splash lately. They have been working towards a variety of swimming awards in our pool during their swimming lessons and have been incorporating Rookie Lifesaving, in conjunction with the Royal Life-Saving Society. We are certainly very proud of them!

Back row from left to right, Niamh Hamilton and Alex Jones, middle row Sreya Uppalapati, Umar Ahmed and Ben Clark, front row Arianna Sultana, Dan Clark, Ewan Saunders and Daniel Saunders



Art & Design Excel

The Art and Design Exhibition was the ideal event to show off the refurbished Hartley House, home for the Art Department. The exhibition was an outstanding success and some of the artwork can be seen on the school website.



Macarena madness



One of the trademarks of Queen Elizabeth's is the caring nature it has for its pupils, who in turn are very caring towards others. Third year pupils have been raising money all year to help a mission in Todonyang, a remote village in northern Kenya, which aims to educate, feed and provide medical assistance.

The girls led a sponsored 'Macarena' which involved pupils performing the dance routine to the song for an hour. The Main Hall was full of eager expectation and after some serious dance instruction the hall was soon a mass of rhythmic movement to the pulsating music.

Head of Third Year, Mrs Tattersall said, "It's really good to see the way in which the pupils respond to these charitable causes, coming up with the ideas, organising the events, and all getting involved. They might even have learnt a new dance with this one, but I think some of the staff need a little more instruction!"



New Generation

Our Young Enterprise company, New Generation, was formed in October 2011 by ten Lower 6th students and has been trading throughout the school year, selling seasonal stockings, sweets and most recently, bean bags! The team has met most Mondays throughout the school year and has gone through the formalities of business planning, incorporation and raising capital, as well as the practicalities of operations management, marketing and sales, human resource management and financial accounting.

Guidance along the way has come from Mr Nick Isherwood, the team's external business adviser, who has been a great asset. New Generation competed in the area Young Enterprise Awards Day in Clitheroe, where teams had to set up an exhibition/trade stand, talk to a panel of judges and make a presentation to all delegates and visitors. Although New Generation did not win overall, the team picked up the award for Best Trade Stand at Accrington Market and was highly commended for the Company Report that summarised their achievements and learning experiences throughout the year.

Special thanks are due to Mrs Bhikha, for all her help with the production of the bean bags, to Mr Nick Isherwood, for his unfailing enthusiasm and interest in the business and Mr Nick Edwards, for supporting the scheme this year.

Sports Day Splendour

After a damp start to the day, the track started to dry out and the temperature began to rise along with the expectation of possible glory in events that would provide drama and excitement for the rest of the day or, for some, the rest of their lives.

For many the highlight of the year, for others a time of foreboding and inner strength, whichever it is, Sports Day is



certainly a major event in any school calendar, and so it proved to be again this year at Queen Elizabeth's.

In many ways it was fitting, in Olympic year, that the various attributes of athleticism, determination and involvement all came to the fore as House teams battled it out for glory. The dulcet tones of Dr Butler provided commentary and support, which kept the interest in both the events and the overall competition, while the rest of the staff worked tirelessly away in the background.

The guest of honour needed little introduction as Mr Cave was attending his 16th and final Sports Day as a member of staff, but we look forward to welcoming him back, as a spectator, in the future.

A great day of competition saw some great performances, not least of which was a new record in the Year 8 cricket ball throw of 29.02m set by Annabel Harvey and a huge leap of 4.16m in the long jump for Year 9 pupil Georgina Mackenzie as well as 200m in 29.11 secs! Well done to Sports Day Champions, Howard.

Society of Biology Quiz event results

A team of four Lower 6th Biologists visited UCLAN to participate in the Society of Biology's annual schools' quiz for the North West region. After completing a range of Biology-based activities the points were totalled and the QEGS team came second! This is an excellent result and a real achievement, beating 20 other schools from the area. They won some ecology textbooks and the teams were given a mini lecture on the importance of science in sport. The top four teams were:

- 1) Lancaster Girls' Grammar School;
- 2) QEGS;
- 3) Stonyhurst College;
- 4) Manchester Grammar School.



QEGS team: Euan McKeating, Adam van Cleef, Sam Exton, Anna Watson.

William gets gold

Many of you will already be aware that QEGS pupil William Fielding is a very good musician who can sing, play piano, organ and cello and is also head chorister of Blackburn Cathedral Choir.

During the past year, you will have probably seen him perform in concerts and assemblies and take to the stage as 'Oliver' in the school production of that name. Probably no surprise then, that he has won a gold award for his musical and liturgical knowledge.

He passed the examination, set by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) with honours, denoting an overall mark of more than 90%.

He will receive his medal and certificate at the next RSCM area festival in February next year, by which time he will no doubt have improved even further.



William as Oliver

Professor Iqbal Singh awarded OBE in Queen's Birthday Honours

QEGS Governor Professor Singh was named as a beneficiary of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Professor Iqbal Singh, consultant physician in medicine for older people at Royal Blackburn Hospital and NHS East Lancashire, has been awarded an OBE for services to healthcare. One of almost a thousand people to be honoured by the Queen, as part of her birthday and Diamond Jubilee celebrations, Professor Singh has been a leading contributor to



healthcare and medical regulation in the UK for over 25 years – as founder commissioner of the Health Care Commission and as Council Member of the General Medical Council.

Golf Update

Ged Furey, Pleasington Professional has been giving lessons to our 3rd year golfers. Dr Butler offered the lessons as part of their games session and the response has been terrific. Twelve boys attended the very informative sessions. Dr Butler commented: "They have listened to and acted upon Ged's experienced eye. It is very encouraging that we have so many good golfers in the lower school."



Lancashire Knockout Finals Heartache

Queen Elizabeth's Golf B Team suffered golfing heartache at the Lancashire Knockout Finals held at the Bolton Old Links course on Monday, against Arnold School in the Semi Final of the competition.

With Declan Bateson winning his match and Matt Jackson losing 2 down, David Parmenter took his scratch golfer opponent all the way to the 18th hole, but eventually lost by 1 hole.

However, the boys dusted themselves off to go on to beat Bluecoat School in Manchester to gain 3rd place overall.

Royal Academy Success

It is often true in life that the simple things can make the most impression. The humble Post-it note is a classic example and it has proved to be the inspiration for a budding art student Philip Corns, whose work is one of only forty, selected out of over 1450, to feature as part of the A Level online exhibition at the Royal Academy.



Queen Elizabeth's Pupils Support Readathon 2012

First and Second Year pupils at Queen Elizabeth's raised over £650 by taking part in an eight week sponsored read as part of Readathon 2012. This is the seventh year pupils at the school have taken part in the annual challenge, which raises funds for the scheme's nominated charities who all support seriously ill children: CLIC Sargent, Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity and ReadWell.



During the sponsored read, an extra 372 non-fiction books were taken out on loan from the school's library, as the children competed in their reading challenge during their library lessons, organised and delivered by the Head of Library, Mrs Dewhurst.

Mrs Dee Tyler from the CLIC Sargent charity visited the school to talk to the pupils about the work the charity undertakes in supporting children and young people who are suffering from cancer and she explained how the charity will benefit from the money that had been raised.

Sports Awards Presentation Evening

Queen Elizabeth's held its inaugural Sports Awards Presentation Evening at Mytton Fold Hotel on Thursday, 26 April 2012. With over 250 people in attendance, the purpose of the night was to recognise the sporting success of the School and to acknowledge individuals who had excelled at sport both inside and outside school. The School was extremely proud and honoured to have as its Chief Guest former Queen Elizabeth's pupil Frank Fielding, the current No1 goalkeeper at Derby County. Frank, a product of Blackburn Rovers Academy, made his England U21 debut in November 2008 against the Czech Republic and received his Senior England call up in August 2010 for a friendly against Hungary under Fabio Capello.

The evening commenced with a review of the year by the Senior Sports Captains, with trophies presented for the Players' Player and Manager's Player at each age level. Following a break for a hearty meal, the presentation continued with the 'Sporting Recognition Awards' for the following categories: Lancashire Schools Representation, National Honours, Special Recognition Awards and Professional Honours.

The evening was brought to a close by the presentation of two special awards. Firstly, Dr Mark Butler, Director of Physical Education and Games, received an award from the pupils to mark his 25th year in the Sports Department and for his dedication to delivering the excellent standard of sport within the School. Secondly, Frank Fielding received the highest sporting accolade by the School as he was 'capped' for his achievements as a professional footballer.

"The Salters' Challenge"

The 2nd Year Chemistry team of Benji Carrera-Knowles, Goe Parkinson, Uhzair Ahmed and Lukas Mason visited Bradford University to take part in the Salters' Chemistry Competition. "The Salters' Challenge" is a competitive, practical activity for which no advance preparation is required. The tasks are chosen by the University and certainly test the knowledge of the pupils.

The team emerged as worthy winners and they were a real credit to the School.

Deputy Lieutenant Visit – 23rd April

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the School was extremely pleased to welcome Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, Professor Christopher Carr.

During his visit Professor Carr took time to speak to the Junior School and First Year class about the history of the monarchy since it was established over 1,200 years ago. He explained how the role and

powers have changed over the past 800 years and how this has resulted in Queen Elizabeth II as being the 'Head of State' and the 'Head of the Nation'.

Pupils took the opportunity to ask questions about the role of Deputy Lieutenant and the forthcoming local celebrations as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



The Office of Lord-Lieutenant is military in origin and dates from the reign of Henry VIII, when QEGS was founded. The holder was responsible for the maintenance of order and for military purposes relating to local defence.

Nigel Ogden entertains at Organ Recital

Over 120 people, including distinguished guests the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen and the Mayor of Ribble Valley, were entertained by Nigel Ogden, Star of 'The Organist Entertains' on BBC Radio 2 at the inaugural recital of the School's restored Phoenix Digital Organ.



The 'new' organ was put through its paces, as Nigel's particular style of music-making, combined with his varied concert programme of popular and light classical music, ensured all but the most extreme musical tastes were catered for.

During the welcome to the evening, Mr Barry Brown, President of the Old Blackburnians' Association and recently appointed School Governor, explained the history of the organ at the School and the project that had been undertaken to transform it to its new magnificent state thanks to donations from The Elizabethan Association and The Waddington Trust. Barry also took the



opportunity to highlight the work that Dr John Bertalot, Organist Emeritus at Blackburn Cathedral, had undertaken in voicing the organ and Dave Bostock from Phoenix Organs for carrying out the restoration.

NEWS FOR FORMER PUPILS

Another name for your Christmas list?

At this time of the year when you are rushing around the shops or spending hours on-line selecting gifts for friends and family, please consider making a donation to the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Foundation.

You might like to use this opportunity to remember a particular teacher who made a big impact on you, or maybe you would just like to make a donation. All gifts large or small will help.

We will create a page on the website for your Christmas messages, just check the Former Pupils section for the link. You can donate on-line by credit card, or if you prefer to send a cheque, mark your envelope Christmas Campaign and make your cheque payable to The QEGS Foundation.

Old Blackburnians' Annual Dinner December 15

The Annual Dinner takes place in Big School on Saturday, December 15. Doors and the bar open at 6 pm and guests are invited to be seated by 6.30. The toast to the school will be given by Mr David Prest OB, Managing Director of Whistledown Productions, a large independent London-based radio programme production company.

The black-tie event attracts pupils of all age groups from recent leavers to those in

the ninetieth decade. Current and former teachers also come along and it is a good opportunity to catch up with friends.

A booking form is enclosed or you can download a copy from the website under former pupils' events. Don't assume your friends will know about this event if they have moved, and if we don't have their new address they won't receive the information, so help us to publicise this event by telling your friends about it.

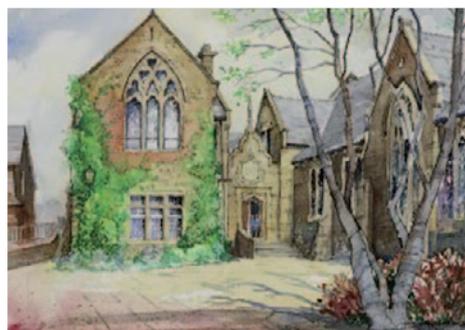


Looking for a Christmas gift?

If you would to give a bit of nostalgia to your loved ones this Christmas you might be interested to purchase the revised history of the school edited by former Development Director, Phil Lloyd. **The School on the Hill** is a fascinating read with plenty of photographs. This is a good coffee table book which costs £19.95 plus postage.

Alternatively, if you feel like splashing out a bit more why not buy a limited edition signed and framed print of the school by Mr Brian Healey, former teacher and professional artist. The two water colour paintings can be seen on the website under former pupil news or in the school reception. They cost £98 each or £179 for the pair.

Contact the Foundation office if you would like to order your painting in time for Christmas.



Facebook page just for you

We have finally set up a QEGS Blackburn Alumni Facebook page.

Do visit it and tell your friends about it. Facebook is just one of the ways we all keep in touch.



An extra special London Dinner on February 8, 2013



This year's London Dinner takes place at the House of Commons hosted by the Deputy Speaker and Ribble Valley MP, Nigel Evans.

To find out more check the website under former pupil events or contact the Foundation Office.

Sports Dinner

The popular Sports Dinner takes place on Friday 15th February 2013 at The Mytton Fold Hotel. Guest this year is one of the North West's most popular after dinner speakers, former Burnley FC legend Paul Fletcher MBE. Full details on the website.

Award for Ian

Ian Brown (1979-1989) has won two prestigious awards from the Institute of Directors at the ninth annual northern Director of the Year Awards.

Ian, of Blackburn-based wall-covering company Graham and Brown, was named as North West Director of the year and Director of a large company. All of the winners are now considered for entry into the IoD's UK Director of the Year Awards 2013.

Check out former pupil news for other news stories.



Stuart Ingham (QEGS 1970-2006)

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Stuart Ingham, a former chemistry teacher, at the age of 66. Stuart was on holiday in America with his wife Irene enjoying the great outdoors as he had always done. His sudden death was obviously a great shock to his family and to the QEGS community. There is a full obituary on the website and we encourage everyone to share their memories of this special teacher.

The following from 1983 leaver, Chris Haymes, is typical of the messages we have received: "In classic Stuart parlance I would have to say what a bloody great bloke. Firstly a top-rate teacher who became a great friend and introduced me to the pleasures (and pains!) of caving and subsequently spent many great walking holidays together in the Lakes, Scotland,

Wales and elsewhere. Stuart was gifted with the most amazing sense of humour and really knew how to enjoy life, helping many others along the way to do the same.

"His repertoire of personalised vocabulary and expressions was also excellent, and I'm sure many of us can recall having symptoms of liquor mortis (when in dire need of a pint), and learning how to cope with degenerates, Philistines, harridans and the like. Stuart was never one to put on false airs and graces and I recall his amusement that one previous headmaster had, for a significant period of time, apparently thought him the school gardener. I also recall him using the expression 'Life's too short.....' and it is so sad that this has indeed proved to be the case."

