

# The Old Thomasonian

Issue 1 | April 2023



## Foreword from the Founding Principals



**Dear OTs,**

How thrilling for us to introduce the very first addition of our alumni newsletter: The Old Thomasonian. It reminds us of how we felt, all those years ago, when we sent our pupils home with the first ever issue of 'The Bulletin', although this publication is a little more colourful and high tech! So much has happened since we opened our kindergarten doors in 1971 and later, our first Lower School door in 1977 with the 'First Eleven' as we liked to call the initial pupils who helped us to get Thomas's going.

Launching Thomas's Alumni last year provided us with a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with past pupils, parents and members of staff and it has been terrific to meet up with some of them at our 50th Anniversary celebrations, to hear their news and to share memories of their time at Thomas's. The

most exciting part has been finding out what our former pupils have gone on to do and you can read some of their stories below.

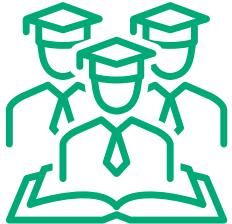
A huge 'thank you' also to Nicola Griggs (known to us all as Nikki Diggle) and to Joanna Copland who have done all the considerable spadework in getting the Thomasonians together to be the recipients of this inaugural newsletter. It could not have happened without their enthusiasm and detailed knowledge of the development of the schools. We are indebted to you Nikki and Jo, for getting it going for us all.

Enjoy this first newsletter, do get in touch with your own news and we very much hope to see you at the reunion events organised for this term (please see below for further details).

Best wishes,  
David and Joanna Thomas

**“ We believe that your time at Thomas's should not end when you leave the school. Thomas's Alumni aims to build an active association of past pupils, parents and staff so that they are part of the school community, for life... ”**

# Alumni Where are they now?



THOMAS'S CLAPHAM

## Charlotte Eddy (née Metcalfe) Class of 2004

Charlotte spent 9 years at Thomas's Clapham, arriving in Reception in 1995 and leaving at the end of Year 8 in 2004. Since Thomas's, her passion for championing female financial literacy and also how she ended up marrying a fellow Old Thomasonian. Could their son, Hugo, be the first 'all Clapham' baby?!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THOMAS'S BATTERSEA

## Alexander Aldridge Class of 2009

Alexander or 'Al' as we all knew him by, began his Thomas's journey in 1998 when he started at Thomas's Kindergarten. After Thomas's, he went to Marlborough and Exeter before embarking upon a life in the British Army. Captain Alexander Aldridge is now Second in Command, B Squadron, of The Royal Lancers. He reflects on his time at Thomas's and how it set him on his future path.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

# Alumni Where are they now?



THOMAS'S FULHAM

## Emilia Momen Class of 2012

Emilia arrived in Reception in September 2006, at the tender age of 4. She was one of the earliest pupils at Fulham which opened its doors in September 2005. Having gone on to study at Hampstead Fine Arts and Charles Cecil Atelier in Florence, Emilia is now a highly successful artist. Her first painting The Pink Man was exhibited at The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2019 and her paintings are now sold around the globe.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



# Thomas's Schools, what do you remember?



THOMAS'S KENSINGTON AND BATTERSEA

## Mrs Jo Clews (Miss Southward) 1993

Mrs Clews started her Thomas's life in the early days of Thomas's Kensington - then called Cottesmore. She has taught many age groups from Reception upwards and is now a much respected and loved Form 4 teacher at Battersea. Read how she first got involved with the schools in the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THOMAS'S CROSS SCHOOLS AND CLAPHAM

## Mrs Velasco (Miss Dowling) 1994

"Mrs V" has led the PE team at Thomas's Clapham for nearly 20 years. Her indomitable spirit and genuine enthusiasm for all sports - in all weathers (think sunny hockey tours to wet cross-country fixtures) - has made her an icon in the school. Read how she first became part of the Thomas's family in the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Teachers come and teachers go... and quite a lot stay!  
Do you remember these wonderful, long-standing members  
of staff who have inspired so many pupils over the years  
and still continue to do so?

# Thomas's Schools, what do you remember?



THOMAS'S KENSINGTON

## Mr Clabburn 2001

Mr Clabburn has been a familiar face to generations of pupils at Kensington, particularly as they reach the top of the school, and many are grateful for his wise words and sound counsel. Read how he reflects on his time at Thomas' in the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THOMAS'S CLAPHAM AND FULHAM

## Ms Ogier 2003

Ms Ogier may be known to both Clapham and Fulham pupils. Starting off in SW11 she was an inspirational member of the Music team with, among many other things, her talents as a pianist adding much to both Assemblies and major events. She now leads the Fulham Music department to ever-increasing achievements. Read her story in the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Whether you started your Thomas's journey in Ranelagh Grove, Cadogan Gardens or most recently in Putney Vale, there have been many changes over the past 50 years. What do you remember about the schools?

Click on the red unicorn to read more about their history

# News from Thomas's Foundation

Thomas's has a long tradition of giving back to the community, both locally and globally and its one rule that eclipses all others is 'Be Kind'. Thomas's Foundation is an independent charity, with its roots in the Thomas's School community and Thomas's Values.

Thomas's Foundation is driven by the belief that every child deserves an enriching education. We realise this vision for disadvantaged children, both in our local neighbourhoods in London and in rural communities in Nepal through three core programmes. Find out more about these programmes [here](#).

## Thomas's Alumni Reunion Events



Please do join us at our inaugural alumni events this term. Come and see what has changed since you left, meet up with old friends and share your news and memories:

**WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL (0845-1030)**  
Thomas's Battersea Alumni Breakfast and Tour

**WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY (0900-1030)**  
Thomas's Clapham Alumni Breakfast and Tour

**TUESDAY 20TH JUNE (0900-1030)**  
Thomas's Kensington Alumni Breakfast and Tour

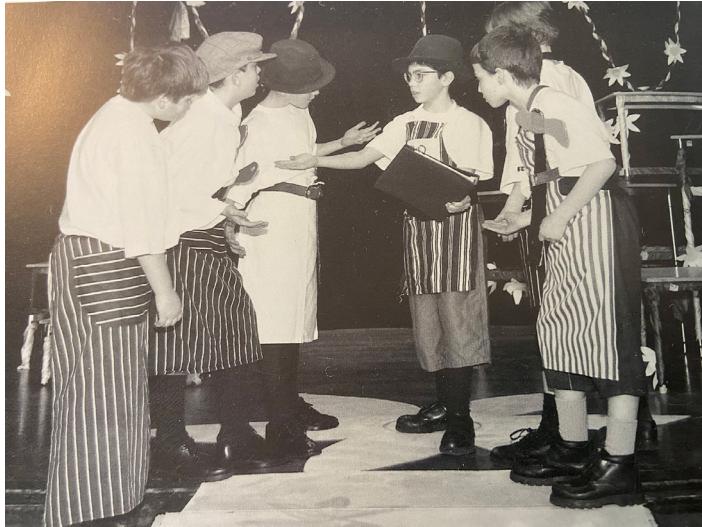
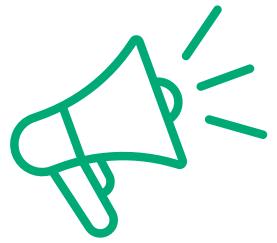
**TUESDAY 27TH JUNE (1830-2000)**  
Thomas's Fulham Alumni Drinks and Tour for Year 6 Leavers from 2015 and their parents

Numbers for all these events are restricted and pre-booking is essential. Please click [here](#) on the link below to reserve your space at any of these events.



[BOOK NOW](#)

# Thomas's Alumni Spread the word!



At the moment, we are growing Thomas's Alumni organically, through word of mouth. Please do send this newsletter on to any of your old Thomas's friends and encourage them **to join the association themselves.**



**A big 'shout out' to Battersea Alumni Section 16 (those pupils born between 1st September 1986 and 31st August 1987) for being the most represented year group to date.**

**If you zoom in, you may just about recognise a few of them in the photographs above...**