

CHB Alumni Newsletter

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Issue No.1 | Spring 2023



**KING EDWARD VI
CAMP HILL
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

Educational excellence for our City

Welcome to our Inaugural Old Edwardian's Newsletter



Dear Alum

It is with great pleasure and pride that we launch the first 'bumper' edition of our CHB Alumni Association Newsletter, which complements our recently established Alumni webpage. Our aim is to strengthen our contacts with our rapidly growing Alumni body.

We very much hope that you hold fond memories of your learning experience at Camp Hill Boys and that you are still in contact with some of your year group colleagues. From our side, we would also like to keep you informed about what is going on at the school and we hope our bi-annual publication will achieve this along with special alumni focussed events. CHB former staff, current staff and students, and of course you, our alumni, will shape the Camp Hill Alumni Newsletter in the years to come.

On behalf of the Headmaster and the Development Office, we very much hope that you find this Newsletter both interesting and inspiring and that you will keep us up-to-date regarding your career progress and other news.

We very much look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you back to CHB in the future.

Camp Hill Boys School Development Office

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Guess Who?

There are other photographs of this CHB Old Boy somewhere in the newsletter



In Fond Remembrance

**John Constantine
1937 – 1942**

Sadly, passed away 10 December 2022
Aged 96

Newsletter articles: newsletter@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

Development Office: alumni@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

Headmaster's Welcome

Dear Alumni

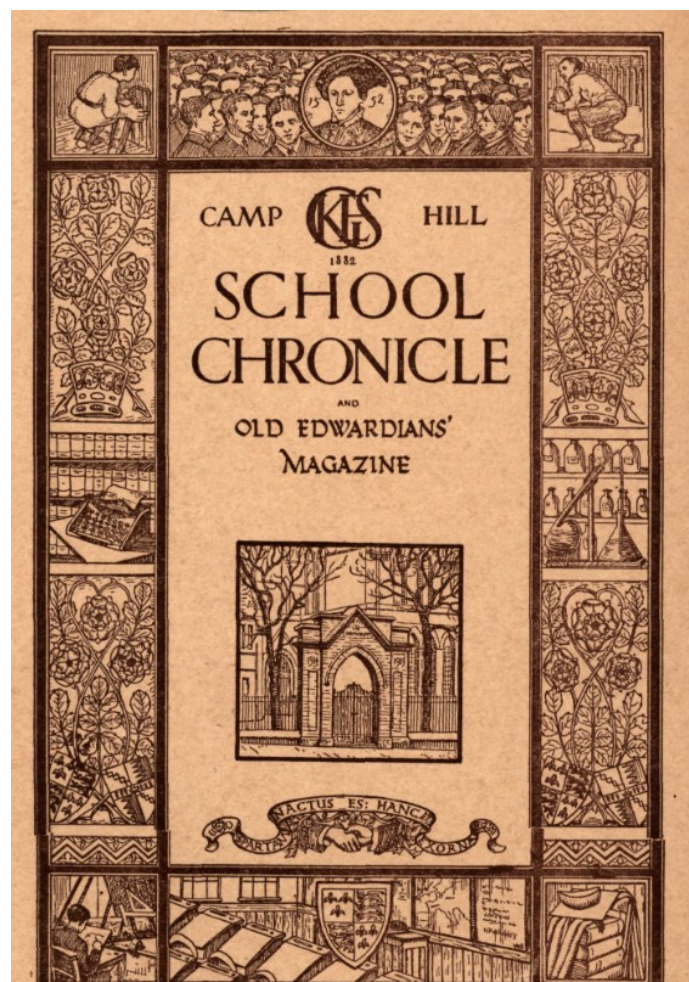
As I write this, we are about to set a new and exciting precedent for Camp Hill Boys, but before I get too carried away with all the excitement, I thought that I ought to introduce myself as the current Headmaster of your old school. I have not had the fortune to meet very many of you yet, but I am optimistic that this is about to change, because you are reading this letter in our inaugural Alumni Newsletter, and one of the most exciting announcements that you will read herein is the formation of a brand new Development Office. We have set up this office with the primary objective of the development of alumni relations, and we are already building a programme of events such as tours, reunions, sporting events, musical events and social events. Our Development Office Manager, Leanne Beckett, will be coordinating these new events, newsletters, alumni website, and social media channels and we hope to be able to reach out to more alumni than we have ever reached before, and I look forward to meeting many of you and showing you around your alma mater.



Camp Hill Boys is a truly spectacular school, inspiring generations of highly talented young men to go on to successful lives and careers and you are leaders in your field and we would love to hear your stories and adventures. So please get in touch and we will be delighted to welcome you back, whether you left last year, or it has been half a century since you last visited, all are welcome!

Warmest wishes

Russell Bowen MA (Cantab) NPQH
Headmaster



If you would like to look at old copies of Vivat and the Chronicle check out the Foundation Archives below:

www.kingedwardvi-camphillforboys-archives.org

Calling all Alumni - join us via the CHB Alumni registration page and keep in touch:

www.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

The CHB webpage has recently been updated providing links to school news of interest to ex-pupils, with news of its own activities and hopefully over time an expanding archive of material of interest to Old Edwardians of every generation.

If you are a former student or former member of staff we would love you to register your details to bring everyone together. If everyone asks one or two fellow alumni to join us, we will soon grow an even larger CHB community together. We will be posting regularly on social media in the near future so keep a look out!



Call for Articles

Dear Readers!

The new CHB Alumni Newsletter will be a growing, bi-annually published newsletter distributed to all registered Alumni, Governors, donors and friends of the school. For upcoming issues, we would like to invite you to send us your articles describing your time at CHB :

- ◇ Your full name
- ◇ The year you left the school
- ◇ Your current career
- ◇ Your best memory of CHB
- ◇ Teachers who made an impact
- ◇ The influence the learning has had on your career

Please share with us your thoughts and ideas. We welcome contributions from all over the world! Please send your articles to the following email address: newsletter@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Did you play chess?

Did you play chess at Camp Hill for the school, your house or in the chess club? Do you have any memories not included in your years' Chronicles? Have you kept any scoresheets, match results or photos? Did you play competitively after Camp Hill? What was your highest grade at school and afterwards?

David Yarwood (1982-89) is researching the history of chess at Camp Hill. He's gleaned everything from the Chronicles back to 1885: opponents, results, champions, house results etc. He wants more trivia and a selection of the best games. If it becomes a publication he'll donate some proceeds to the school.

Ideally you can join the new 'Camp Hill Old Edwardians' club on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) to network and play, otherwise please contact David at dvarwood@zohomail.com

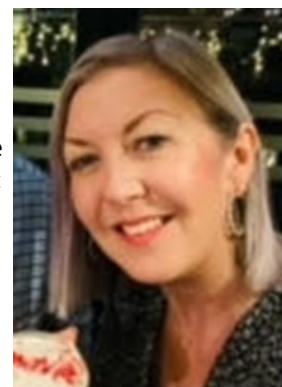


Introducing our Camp Hill Development Office

Dear Alumni

My name is Leanne Beckett and I would like to introduce myself as the recently appointed Development Manager. I am truly excited about this role as it allows me to connect with most, if not all of you. The best way to reach me is by email

chbalumni@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk or via the newly launched alumni webpage at [King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys - Alumni \(camphillboys.bham.sch.uk\)](http://KingEdwardVISCampHillSchoolforBoys-Alumni.camphillboys.bham.sch.uk), but I will also have my special corner in each Alumni Newsletter edition. So, please watch out for it.



My plan is to communicate with my "alumni family", already counting at over 100 former students, and staff not only through the Newsletter but also on an individual and likely much more frequent basis through our correspondence via the webpage and social media as they develop over the coming years. I therefore cordially invite those of you who have not yet registered, to do so promptly to join our virtual family.

Incidentally, you might be interested to learn about the origins of the word 'alumnus'. Guess what I discovered - the word itself is derived from the Latin verb 'alere', and literally means 'to nourish' or 'to nurture'. Hence, let us nurture the relationship among our still briskly growing CHB Alumni Family.

Camp Hill Boys School turns 140 this year!

Here at CHB we are incredibly proud of the students and staff that have been part of our school life since 1883. 140 years of success in Birmingham is worth celebrating and to this effect we are hoping to host an event in the summer term for registered alumni to meet up, connect and take a trip down memory lane on tours of the school. Look out for event registration details on the Alumni webpage coming soon if the event is approved.

I believe that all of you are outstanding specialists in your respective professional fields and share similar challenges. It is our aim that the webpage showcases our Alumni, whilst also re-connecting you with colleagues and offering mentoring opportunities for our current learners.

I look forward to working with you in building the CHB Alumni network, giving you the opportunity to continue to be part of our school's story, to connect with former friends, inspire our current students and to reap the benefits of attending CHB long after you all left.

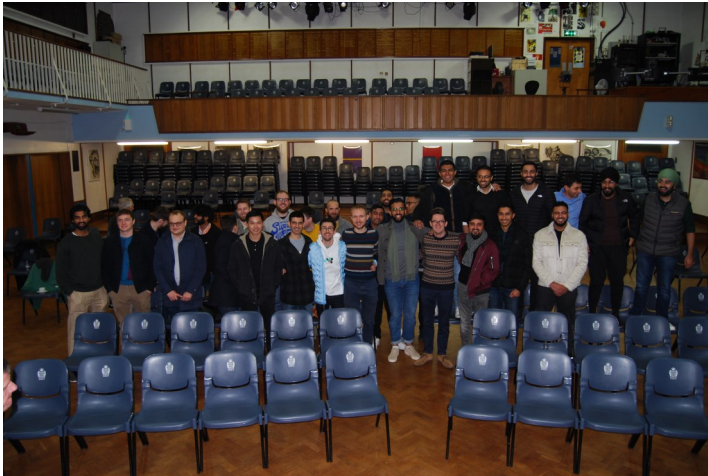
Lea

(pronounced Lee) - only my mum calls me Leanne



What are you doing now...

Tech Entrepreneur Hakeem Javaid 2005—2012



It's 2012, I'm in upper 6th, and I'm a few months away from leaving Camp Hill after 7 unforgettable years. As I stand up to leave the headmaster's office after discussing some end of year plans, Mr Roden asks "By the way, why did you turn down the offer from Cambridge?"

I'd become well known around school for that unexpected move. "I only applied to Cambridge to see if I could get in", I shrugged, "Imperial has the better computer science degree." He burst out laughing, and as I left the office, I heard him continue to chuckle.

My name's Hakeem Javaid, and I'm a serial tech entrepreneur.

It's been a rollercoaster of a journey since I left Camp Hill 10 years ago, which itself was a memorable climb. I could tell you I was most proud of the 10 A* grades I achieved at GCSE, but in all honesty the memories I cherish most were those I shared with my classmates. People make the places. People make the experiences. Always.

So, what have I been up to?

As my old classmates know, I've been building apps since I was in year 8, and I've just been doing the same but with a focus on business. I identify problems and build solutions. I'm a UI/UX designer, full-stack developer, video producer, digital marketer, and more, and that all packages itself into a highly skilled 'tech entrepreneur'.



I've built countless apps and tech businesses over the years, partnered with Google, Intel, AT&T, Barclays and more, been flown out and picked up in limos in San Francisco to pitch to CEOs of Intel and Nike... so much has happened! You can browse all my ventures at hakjav.com. Many of my businesses didn't make it but taught me priceless lessons, and others have succeeded and continue to grow.

The biggest lesson I've learnt is the real definition of 'failure'; not trying. There's so much to learn in 'not succeeding'. You come out stronger. It's just a different destination to what you expected.

However, putting aside my ventures, no matter where I go, how far I climb, Camp Hill will always hold a special place in my heart. My roots. I'd always planned on organising a 10 year reunion for my year, which thankfully I did! On December 3rd 2022, a mix of old classmates and our old school teachers reunited at Camp Hill, 17 years after we started Camp Hill in 2005.

I was surprised at how moved everyone was, the nostalgia really hit everyone. Being in the same place, around the same people, with the same teachers. It was beautiful. It might sound odd, but I really felt it when walking down those corridors, past rooms 6, 7, 8... and seeing the same faces around you 10 years later! It's most definitely a memory we'll never forget.

If I may end this with a quote that I've always loved... "A ship is safest at shore, but that is not what it was built for". Dream big. You'll have no idea what you're capable of unless you try to surpass the limits you think you have.

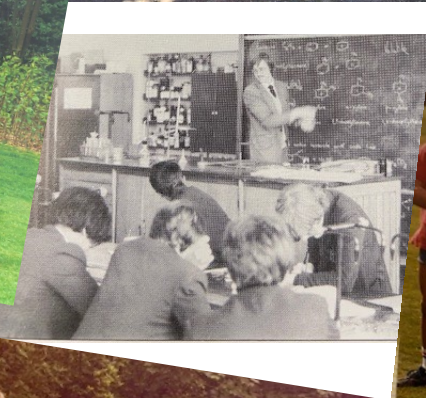
Best

Hak @hakjav

P.S. Thanks again to Leanne Beckett for helping organise the reunion for the class of 2012, it wouldn't have happened without you!



A trip down memory lane...



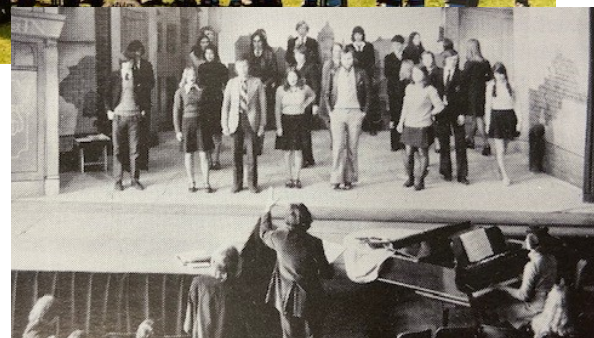
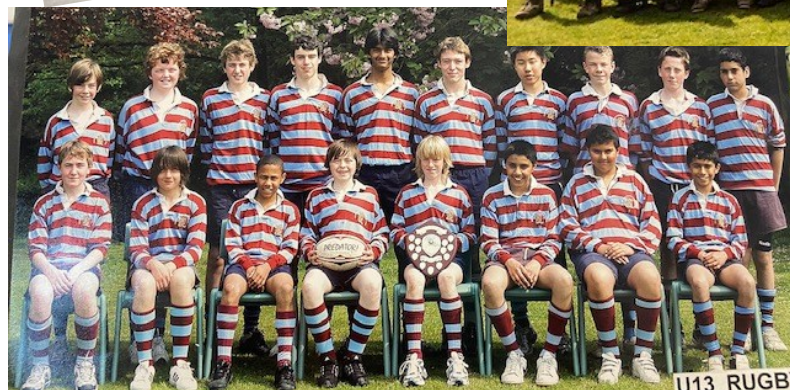
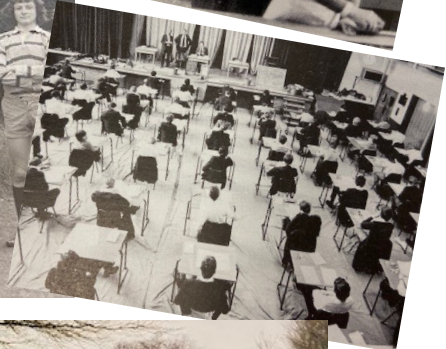
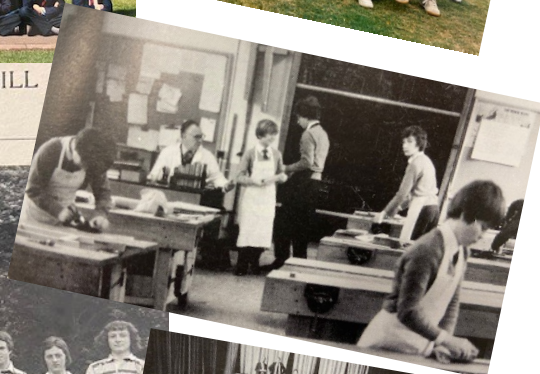
Sports Day - July 1977.



More Camp Hill memories...



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL
RUGBY, 1st XV 1971-72



A true legend of Camp Hill Boys

Did you recognise George Cookson amongst any of the photographs, look for the lightening strikes on pages 5 and 6 for more recent pictures than the one on page 1.

2023 will see George take part in his 100th CHB rugby tour!

Everyone seems to have a tale to tell about George!

A Plea to all Alumni

If anyone has any old photographs of themselves, friends or the school buildings that they would like to share in future newsletters please send them to the newsletter email address:

newsletter@camphillboys.bham.sch.uk