



# WOOLVERSTONIAN NEWS

The Ipswich High School Alumni Newsletter | December 2023

## OLD BOYS VS. IHS STAFF

### Nail biting finish in Ipswich High School Staff vs Woolverstone Hall School Old Boys Cricket Match

The cricket square was meticulously prepared for Saturday 8th July 2023's match between Staff and Old Boys which has recently become an annual fundraiser for refurbishment of the pavilion.

T Taylor, M Speakman, R Rands, Bob, L Paul, R Thompson, I Tope, S Harrison, F Spaul, F Anderton, A Rao and A Spaul were selected for the Staff XI team who won the toss and batted first.

The 2022 match was won convincingly by the Staff. Perhaps this prompted the confidence of opening batsman, Speakman whose attempt to hook the first ball of the game resulted in a top-edge spooning the ball up. The easy catch to wicket keeper M Latham was dropped! The Old Boys, some of whom had not played since attending the school between 1975 and 1982, were rallied by their organiser and sponsor, Joe Ogugua, and the rest of the game saw surprisingly athletic and competent performances by them. D McAdam persisted with military paced seam and when Speakman re-tried the hook shot the catch spooned from his top-edge was taken.



Taylor's opening stand was much more successful, quickly amassing 27 runs including 4 fours and a six from 13 balls faced before he followed the tradition in this fixture of retiring at 25 in a game of 20 overs per side. Tope provided steady support to the Staff's total with 24 runs not out from 34 balls, resisting some superb swing from A Penn who bowled his 4 overs for 14 runs taking 3 wickets and I Hutchison who took 2 wickets for 17 runs from his 3 overs. A competitive total of 114 was set for the innings.

Continued on next page



# OLD BOYS CRICKET

---

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Woolverstone Hall Old Boys' opening batsman, S Fry on becoming 2023 World Angling Champion in the recent Masters World Championship. Fry proved that fishing's just one of the sports he's good at when he scored 22 from 18 balls including 3 fours and a six. One of the school's best other sportsmen, C Offiah made 14 from 10 balls. M Termeer finished the innings 10 not out from 19 balls but struggled to score in the later stages when just 5 runs were required to win. R Rands bowled 3 overs for 11 taking 1 wicket and bowling maidens in the 1st and 19th overs. Taylor who bowled 2 overs for 18 runs took 3 wickets in the final over of the game ending the Old Boys' chances of pipping the Staff at the post. Ogugua vowed that the Old Boys will win the next game! Man of the Match award went to McAdam who retired after top scoring from 33 balls, took a slip catch and bowled his 4 overs for just 11 runs with 2 wickets. Others selected for the Old Boys team were J Ogugua, G Hackett, M Fry, J Bower, I Hutchinson, M Latham and A Sapara.



Written by Sir David McAdam Freud.



# PAVILION FUNDRAISER

## PAVILION FUNDRAISER

IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL  
TARGET £25,000

We are raising for the final phase to restore the historic Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion.

The Cricket Pavilion will be multi-use, with plans to create a unique space to serve our school community. The restored interior of the Cricket Pavilion will incorporate a seating area and café area and will be used for the school and alumni.

We very much want our restored pavilion to be a fundamental part of our school for many more generations to come.

### DONATE ONLINE :

 [bit.ly/IHSPavilion](https://bit.ly/IHSPavilion)

### OR SEND TO OUR OFFICE:

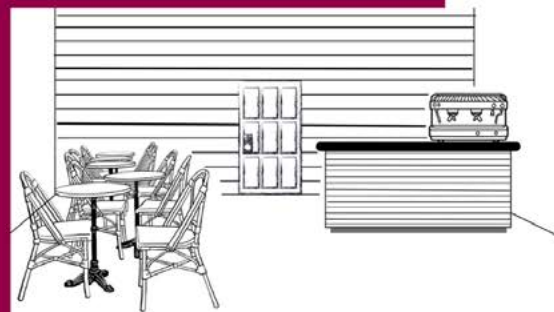
 Ipswich High School, Suffolk, IP9 1AZ



PAST: THIS PHOTO FROM 1901 FEATURES AN ENGLAND 11 WHO PLAYED WOOLVERSTONE PARK CRICKET CLUB.



PRESENT: THE NEW THATCH WAS COMPLETED IN SUMMER 2022



FUTURE: WITH YOUR SUPPORT THE PAVILION WILL BECOME A PLACE FOR SPORTS TEAS AND REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR SCHOOL.

ANY DONATION OVER  
£200 WILL HAVE THEIR  
NAME DISPLAYED ON A  
PLAQUE INSIDE THE  
CRICKET PAVILION.

150   
1878 - 2028  
IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL

TO DISCUSS A DONATION :  
01473 201004  
[e.hill@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:e.hill@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)



# PAVILION FUNDRAISER

**The Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion is widely regarded as a rather unique and attractive structure and was built by the estate workers for John Berners, under the direction of Mr Charles Tebbit in 1894.**

Since then, the pavilion has welcomed hundreds of visiting sports teams and held many post-match teas, first for the Berners' annual 'Cricket Week' and subsequently for Woolverstone Hall School and of course, Ipswich High School.

The first cricket match was played in 1894, Woolverstone Park vs. Colchester Garrison and thus began a Berners' tradition that lasted well into the 1920s. With his extensive sporting and military connections, John Berners was able to host an array of famous cricketers from national and county teams, his own Old Etonian 'Ramblers', as well as various divisions of the British Army. In fact, the Royal Horse Artillery played at Woolverstone just 10 days before WW1 broke out.

The pavilion has remained relatively unchanged since its description from the EADT in June 1895, published as part of their extensive coverage of the week's cricket:

"On the far side, opposite the hall, there stands a permanent pavilion of picturesque design, which perhaps might be said, without overdoing the matter, to harmonise with the sylvan scene. The external walls are of bark and rustic oak, the gable-ends are 'rough cast', and the overhanging roof is covered with thatch. The interior is match-boarded, and a large and lofty dining or luncheon room, which forms the principal apartment, opens out upon a verandah at the front, which commands a splendid view of the field."

Lord Chief Justice, Lord Russell of Killowen was a visitor to the cricket week in 1895, as he was staying at Woolverstone Hall as the guest of Mr Berners (a short while later, the Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury was also a guest at Woolverstone Hall). No doubt the pavilion has been privy to many an interesting conversation, something which led to speculation in the national newspapers when one dignitary was forced to deny that discussions of a parliamentary nature had taken place improperly at the Woolverstone Cricket Week.

Now approaching 130 years since its opening, the pavilion is in need of some attention. Most recently, the school has begun a process of restoration to be tackled in stages. Last year, stage one was completed with the re-thatching of the roof and the school is now moving onto the second, and final stage, focusing on the internal restoration and the creation of a permanent café to be used for sporting fixtures and as a hub for school and community events. The school has been extremely fortunate to receive numerous donations from Woolverstone Hall Old Boys, parents of current students and organisations such as the Adam Peaty Race Clinics, which have enabled the work thus far to be carried out. To mark their gratitude for donations received, the school will be installing a permanent plaque listing the names of all donors giving over £200 to the fund.

**If anyone wishes to donate, please follow this link <https://gofund.me/84edaae7>**



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The Berners Family of Woolverstone

William Berners bought Woolverstone Hall and 350 acres in August 1773 for £11,440. When Geoffrey Berners sold the Woolverstone Hall estate in 1937, it covered 10 square miles of beautiful, unspoilt countryside. In all 6,042 acres, in seven parishes, on the Shotley Peninsula in Suffolk.

The Berners' story starts in the age of Elizabeth 1 and stretches to just before WW2. Their story is one of judicious investment, fortuitous inheritance and profitable marriage. With their wealth they built farms, houses, village halls, extended churches, altered roads and shaped the Shotley Peninsula.

This book contains the information presented in the 250th anniversary exhibition at Berners Hall, Woolverstone in July 2023. Find out about their real story: "The Berners Family of Woolverstone". You'll be surprised!

"An exhaustive account of the Berners family during their ownership of Woolverstone Hall and before. Contains a vast amount of research about the village and family. Highly recommended."

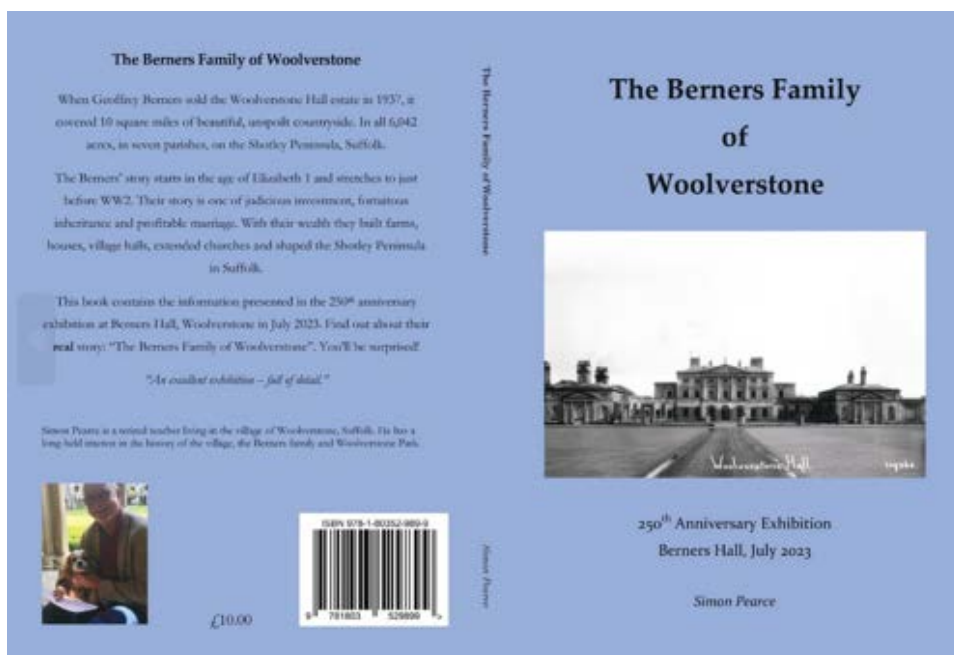
"altogether a nice little volume"

"an excellent exhibition - full of detail"

This luxury A5 volume contains 148 pages, printed on silk paper, contains 12 colour pages and many black and white illustrations.

Cost is just £10. Postage £2.70. Could deliver on Peninsula.

If you would like a copy, please get in touch. [simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk](mailto:simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk) or 07825708171.



# IMOGEN HEYMOZ INTERVIEW

---

## **What year did you join & leave?**

Joined school 2015 left 2022 (2022-2023 Staff)

## **Did any teachers have a particular impact on your time at school?**

Mrs Catchpole, she always kept me swimming even when I would moan. I would not have been able to get through my GCSEs or A level PE without her. Herself and Mrs Pugh were always there if you needed someone to talk to.

## **What were you favourite classes?**

Maths with Mr Rands was always entertaining. Theory PE with Mrs Stewart, Mrs Wheelhouse and Mr Taylor.

## **What was your most memorable moment?**

There are many but one that stands out is when my class got to go under the school and look in the tunnels. This was a surreal experience, and it felt as if a whole other school was being lived underground.

## **What did you think of the campus and extra-curricular activities?**

The grounds are lovely! I definitely did not appreciate them until I was older. There was always a different extra-curricular activity to do every day, whether it was main sports such as rugby or hockey, one or a more unique one, like chess, which I tried in Year 7 but never quite understood it. There was always something for everyone.

## **What did you think to boarding? What was good & what could have been improved?**

I really enjoyed my time as a boarder, all the staff were lovely especially the Matron! It was nice when the house would do group activities together e.g. baking or movie night.

## **How did Ipswich High School shape you into the person you are today?**

Ipswich High School has given me the confidence to be able to realise it is ok if things don't go to plan. For example, going into an interview knowing I might not get it but being able to take away value from the experience.



Continued on next page

---

# IMOGEN HEYMOZ INTERVIEW

**Did Ipswich High School give you the support you needed to follow your career? If so, how? If not, how could it have been improved?**

Although I am not certain of my career path yet, the skills I learnt at school proved valuable in everyday life.

**What advice would you give to a current pupil?**

Make the most of the resources available to you, do not be afraid to ask questions, and try new things. Most importantly just enjoy every day and say yes more.

**A sentence to sum up your time at school?**

Challenging, enjoyable, inspiring, and memorable.

**How did you find the change from being a pupil to being a member of staff?**

At the beginning it was very strange, especially calling my old teachers by their first names, however, by the end of the year it mostly felt normal and I felt a part of the Ipswich High School family.



## Be Part of Our Alumni Community

If you would like to contribute to our next Alumni Newsletter, please send your news, stories and announcements to

[alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk](mailto:alumni@ipswichhighschool.co.uk)

We would be delighted to hear from you!

**Follow Us On Twitter!**

**@Alumni\_IHS\_WH**





IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL  
WOOLVERSTONE HALL  
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

CLICK HERE  
TO  
PURCHASE ONLINE



## Limited Edition Michael Coulter Woolverstone Print

Some 10 years ago, Michael Coulter, a local renowned artist and former teacher, painted a vibrant watercolour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Ipswich High School moving to Woolverstone Hall. The original artwork hangs in the Leggett Room at Woolverstone Hall.

We have recently found a number of these prints in our archives and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school's move to Woolverstone Hall, we thought it was the perfect time to offer the opportunity to purchase one as a memento.

By Michael Coulter  
Woolverstone Hall  
20th Anniversary Print  
Signed and Numbered

43cm W x 32.5cm H - £25  
57cm W x 43cm H - £40



IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS, WOOLVERSTONE  
Reproduced from an original watercolour by Michael Coulter in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the school's move to Woolverstone Hall.

All proceeds will go towards the restoration  
of the Woolverstone Hall Cricket Pavilion





# IHS A LEVEL SUCCESS

**Ipswich High School celebrates exam successes. 48.2% of Ipswich High School's Sixth Form students achieve A\*-A results.**

Pupils celebrated their remarkable A Level results. Over 48% of the Sixth Form students achieved A\*-A grades, with 87% achieving A\*-C grades. Staff and students gathered on River Lawn to celebrate across the cohort where 24% achieved A\* grades (the highest of any local independent school), 48.2% gained A\*-A and 72% achieved A\* - B grades, while 87% achieved A\*-C.

Abigail Smith, Head of School achieved one A\* grade and two A grades in Biology, Chemistry and Geography. Abigail said 'There are very happy tears. I am going to study Medicine at Liverpool; I am going to be a doctor! I have been at Ipswich High for 12 years and it has been amazing, it is so bittersweet leaving the school. I know I will be back as I am going to stay in touch. I do genuinely believe that Ipswich High



is so special, and I have never felt more supported and so able to be myself. I feel ready for the next stage of my life because of the support I have here.'

At IHS we are one of only a small number of further education providers who actively encourage their students to study an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in addition to three or four A Levels.

Amber Smith, also Head of School was awarded an A\* in her EPQ, which she studied alongside her A Levels of Psychology, Art, and Business.

During the next year I will be working at Suffolk Mind and Full Potential Group and will be learning about corporate psychology.

Dominic Blacker studied Chemistry, Maths and Physics and gained two A grades and a B. Dominic said 'I have got a place at Glasgow University to study Aeronautical Engineering. I want to go and work in Formula 1 aerodynamics and hopefully for Ferrari. I have known what I have wanted to do for so long and it has given me focus and drive. I started Ipswich High for Sixth Form where the teachers are so supportive. I have found it reassuring to know I can always go to the teachers for help.'



# IHS A LEVEL SUCCESS

## A Level Results continued

Evie Wheddon joined Ipswich High having received the Elliston Award for Sixth Form, a fee award for students from state-funded schools. She achieved three A\* and one A grade in Maths, Further Maths, Spanish and Economics. Evie said 'I got the place at UCL studying Maths. I have always loved Maths and it is something I have always wanted to study. I will focus more on the finance and economics side. I came to Ipswich High Sixth Form with an Elliston Award. I have loved it here and I have missed it this summer. It has been the most amazing two years; my teachers have been amazing and the small class sizes are so helpful.'

Dan Browning, is impressed with the student's performance: "I am delighted that this wonderful year group have achieved such fantastic results and we are so very proud of them. We will follow their next steps with interest and wish them every success and happiness. Ipswich High School has given them the foundations to flourish in the next chapter of their lives. I would also like to thank the staff and parents for their support of this exceptional group of young people."



# IHS GCSE EXAM SUCCESS

## Ipswich High School GCSE Exam Success

Pupils celebrated exciting GCSE results. Half of our pupils gained top grades and we are delighted that 10% more pupils achieved a 9-8 grade than last year. The dedication and commitment of the teachers to educating pupils is evident with eight subjects achieving 50% or more Level 9-7s including Biology, Computing, Food Science, French, Spanish, Latin, Music and Physical Education.

Dominique achieved eight grade 9s and one grade 8, including Maths, English, Triple Science, History, Latin, and a grade 8 in Computing. Dominique said "I did very well, and I am pleased. I achieved all 9 and 8s. I have been at IHS since Year 7, and I have really enjoyed everything about IHS. I want to go to university, but I still haven't decided on a pathway at the moment".

Emily, Amelie, Zara, Anna and Sophia achieved multiple grade 9s across a range of subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Art, Design Technology and Physical Education.



Emily, a talented regional swimmer commented, "My GCSEs have gone really well. I am going to study Biology, Chemistry and PE at Sixth Form here and will spend the next year thinking about what medical pathway I would like to take at university. I have been at IHS since Year 7, and I have made some close friends and love that you can see yourself succeed at IHS."

Amelie, an International Triathlete said "My GCSEs went well; I am now going to go celebrate with a run! I joined IHS in Year 9 which was a good time for me to move here. I am staying at IHS for A Levels and plan to study Chemistry, Biology, Maths and PE. I want to go to university and study science."

Dan Browning, commented on the GCSE students' performance: 'These results are a testament to the hard work and huge talents of a wonderful year group, as well as the support and expertise of their teachers. It should not be forgotten that this cohort experienced the challenges posed by the pandemic but benefited from online teaching at IHS throughout. As a school, we are hugely proud of these pupils and their achievements.'



# PREP SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

## At the end of last term, the Prep School performed *Matilda Jr*

While 'Matilda' is very much a story of a young person with great intelligence, and a short-lived supernatural ability, it is also about two very different approaches to education, and to our relationships with children. Miss Trunchbull's extremes of punishment, control, and self-obsession, and the Wormwood family's thoughtless neglect, are put in stark opposition to Miss Honey's caring, pupil-focused, nurturing selflessness. The magic of Dahl's creations, which so often involve adults that are absolutely and absurdly horrifying, is that it is the children who see their weaknesses and are able to turn the tables on these monsters. Add to this the creative genius of Tim Minchin, and Dennis Kelly's creative stage adaptation, and you have a rather magical musical with a very clear message.

Audiences in The Hayworth Theatre were treated to an absolute riot of energy, creativity and talent as the entirety of Years 3-6 took to the stage with a spellbinding production of 'Matilda Jr'. There were outstanding individual performances from all of the named characters, with great maturity and stagecraft on display in their characterisations, communication, comic-timing and sensitivity. And it was clear that every single cast member on stage had taken ownership of their roles as they performed with confidence, vitality and enthusiasm.

A huge well done to the Prep School and a massive thank you to all staff for their help, in particular, Mrs Jennings, Miss Silen, and Miss Curtis for all the work that they put in to preparing the musical numbers in lessons and enrichment sessions. It was an absolute pleasure to work with them, and our fabulous pupils, to bring this outstanding performance to the stage.



# IHS SCHOOL NEWS

## Lest We Forget

The whole Ipswich High School community marked Remembrance Day with a collective act of remembrance, gathering outside Woolverstone Hall and reflecting on the sacrifice made by those in times of war and conflict. In the moving ceremony Mr Browning read The Exhortation followed by a two minute silence marked by the Last Post, played by Georgia. The Senior School preceded the two minutes silence with a special assembly led by students from the History Society, and a performance by Archie playing a Piano Solo of Behind the Lines by Cecil Coles. The members of the History Society led the assembly on the impact of War. Finally, just before 11am, Staff, Senior, and Prep students assembled by Woolverstone Hall to listen to readings and to pay our respects.



# IHS SCHOOL NEWS

## ISTD Grand Finals

Following on from Annabelle's recent qualifying success, she danced in the ISTD Grand Finals at the Winter Garden in Blackpool at the end of November. She was awarded National Champion in the SDT ballroom solos dancing Tango and Waltz, then went on to reach semi finals in the Latin dancing Cha-Cha and Jive. In the couples section they achieved 4th in the Ballroom dancing Quickstep and Waltz up to Bronze Level and again reached semi-finals for Latin dancing Rumba and Cha-Cha.



## England Basketball Aspire Pathway for talented U13s for 2024 is now in progress

Amelia in Year 8 was selected after the first round of camps in October. Here is Amelia at the recent camp at University of Essex at the weekend where she continues to impress and has had great feedback from the coaches. It is always lovely for the PE Department to hear about pupils commitments and achievements outside of school. We know so many of our pupils dedicate many hours to their chosen sports and activities. Well done Amelia.



# BASKETBALL ENGLAND



# WEDDINGS AT WOOLVERSTONE HALL

---

**TAILORED TO YOUR PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS TO CREATE AN EXPERIENCE AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE**

Woolverstone Hall is a magnificent Grade I listed mansion set within 87 acres of Suffolk parkland on the banks of the River Orwell, just five miles outside of Ipswich. With a rich history, stunning river views and spectacular architecture, Woolverstone Hall is a unique and beautiful setting made exclusively yours for the most amazing wedding day



## TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Woolverstone Hall has the most beautiful locations where you will make memories to last a lifetime. Whether you're looking for an intimate gathering or a large affair, the perfect setting awaits.

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

When you book Woolverstone Hall, the venue is exclusively yours for the day. Let us become your canvas as you create an unforgettable wedding.



**AN IDYLIC COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDING VENUE IN SUFFOLK**

**[ARRANGE A VIEWING](#)**



## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

---

### The Old Girls' Association

Every female student who studied at Ipswich High prior to September 2018 is invited to join the Old Girls' Association (OGA). The 'old girls' are a diverse and far-flung group of individuals who are always welcome back at the school. Each year, the OGA holds a Spring Lunch and an AGM.

If you are not yet a member but would like to join, please contact: [Charlotte Godfrey](#), Membership Secretary.

The OGA has a [Facebook page](#) to rekindle lost friendships, share memories, advertise OG events, and generally keep the conversation going.



### The Old Boys' Association

From 1951 to 1990, Woolverstone Hall was home to Woolverstone Hall School, a secondary grammar boarding school for boys.

To help connect with past Woolverstone Hall pupils more effectively, the OBA has a [Facebook group](#) to rekindle lost friendships and share memories of their time at the school.

