



BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW

**A newspaper for the school, but most importantly, for the STUDENTS.
BrowHeadline is proud to bring you issue 6 of the winder HERE and NOW!**

This month's edition of BrowHeadline marks our one-year anniversary and we couldn't think of a better way to celebrate than dedicating Issue 6 to our Headteacher, Mr Lavender. As he leaves us at the end of this academic year, we want to thank him for leading the Windermere School community for 12 years. Mr Lavender's name is also quite symbolic and you may notice a certain theme running throughout this edition. We hope you enjoy!



MEET THE TEAM!

IN THIS ISSUE

LAVENDER'S LEGACY

(P.3-6)

*Eco Corner: how to be Eco
at home*
(p.7-8)

LIFE WITH LAVENDER
(P.9-14)

Time and Memories
(p.15-18)

RIVETING READS
(P.19-21)

**Totally Tech: Gap Year
Special**
(p.22-25)

STUDENT VOICE
(P.26-36)



BROWHEADLINE

THE WINDER HERE AND NOW



Meet the Team

what do you know about lavender?

SERENA COOPER

Lavender flowers were traditionally used as a cure for epilepsy.



MAYUMI SINGH

There are over 45 species of Lavender and 450 different varieties.



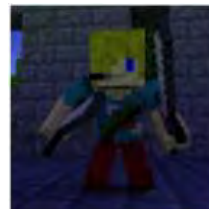
The name 'Lavender' is believed to have originated as a surname given to people who worked as launderers or washermen/women in the wool industry in the Anglo-Saxon period, though its link to the plant lavender is unknown.

The lavender flowers symbolise Provence (it's an ancient South-East France area on the Mediterranean Sea).

HENRY WILMOT

FINN GERAGHTY

Did you know that over 2500 year ago Lavender plants were used in ancient Egyptian mummification?



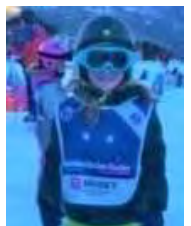
THOMAS NUSSBAUM-RICHMAN

Lavender has mild pain relieving properties. Next time you have a headache, try massaging a couple of drops of lavender oil into your temples.

In the language of flowers, lavender can mean devotion, luck, success, happiness or distrust.

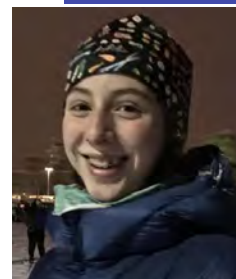
GRACE LOGAN-STEPHENS

When the lavender plant reaches its maturity, it can live without water.



Amber Kenny

Most lavender plants are blue or purple, but there are some varieties that come in pink and yellow



LUANA KENNY

The name 'lavender' comes from the Latin 'lavare' meaning to wash. In Elizabethan times, clothes were perfumed with lavender as an alternative to washing!

MARTYNA BINEK



SERENA COOPER

Lavender flowers were traditionally used as a cure for epilepsy.



MAYUMI SINGH

There are over 45 species of Lavender and 450 different varieties.



The name 'Lavender' is believed to have originated as a surname given to people who worked as launderers or washermen/women in the wool industry in the Anglo-Saxon period, though its link to the plant lavender is unknown.

The lavender flowers symbolise Provence (it's an ancient South-East France area on the Mediterranean Sea).

HENRY WILMOT

FINN GERAGHTY

Did you know that over 2500 year ago Lavender plants were used in ancient Egyptian mummification?



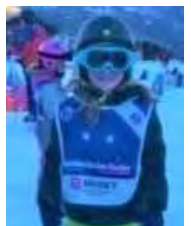
THOMAS NUSSBAUM-RICHMAN

Lavender has mild pain relieving properties. Next time you have a headache, try massaging a couple of drops of lavender oil into your temples.

In the language of flowers, lavender can mean devotion, luck, success, happiness or distrust.

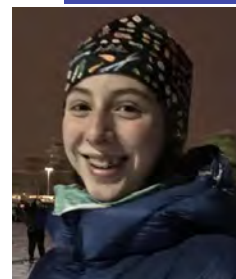
GRACE LOGAN-STEPHENS

When the lavender plant reaches its maturity, it can live without water.



Amber Kenny

Most lavender plants are blue or purple, but there are some varieties that come in pink and yellow



LUANA KENNY

The name 'lavender' comes from the Latin 'lavare' meaning to wash. In Elizabethan times, clothes were perfumed with lavender as an alternative to washing!

MARTYNA BINEK



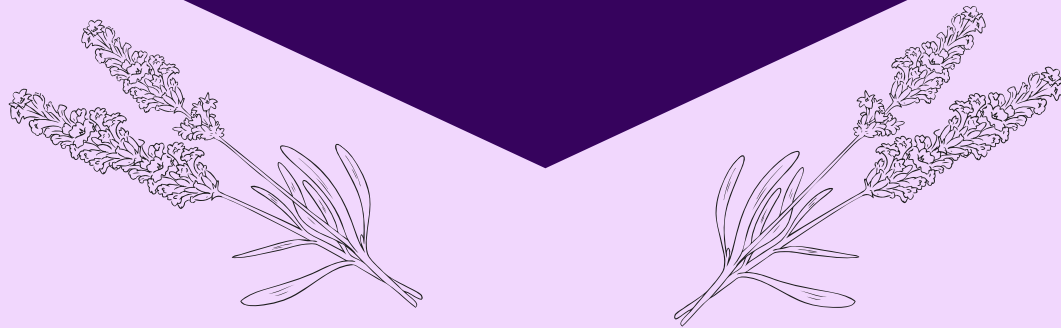
Becca Yahya

ALEX BOUSFIELD

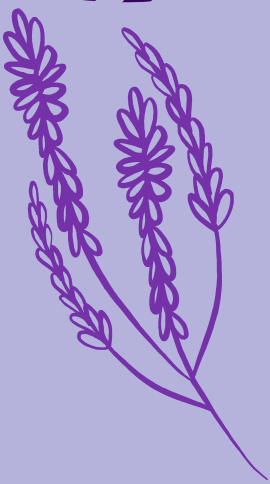
Ian Lavender is also an English stage, film and television actor. He is best known for his role as Private Pike in the BBC sitcom Dad's Army.



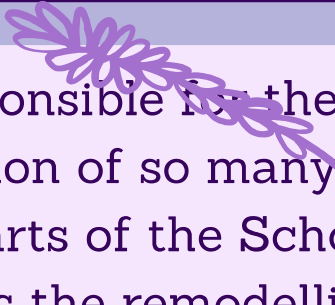
MR LAVENDER'S LEGACY



Throughout Mr Lavender's time here at Windermere School, he has made many great changes, both big and small. Due to his hard work and dedication to constantly improving the School his impact will remain forever. Here are a few of our favourite parts of Mr. Lavender's legacy.




'Opt in, not out',
Confident and
Passionate, the aims of
the School and the
acronym GUIDE came
from Mr Lavender and
have become the
foundation of
Windermere School.



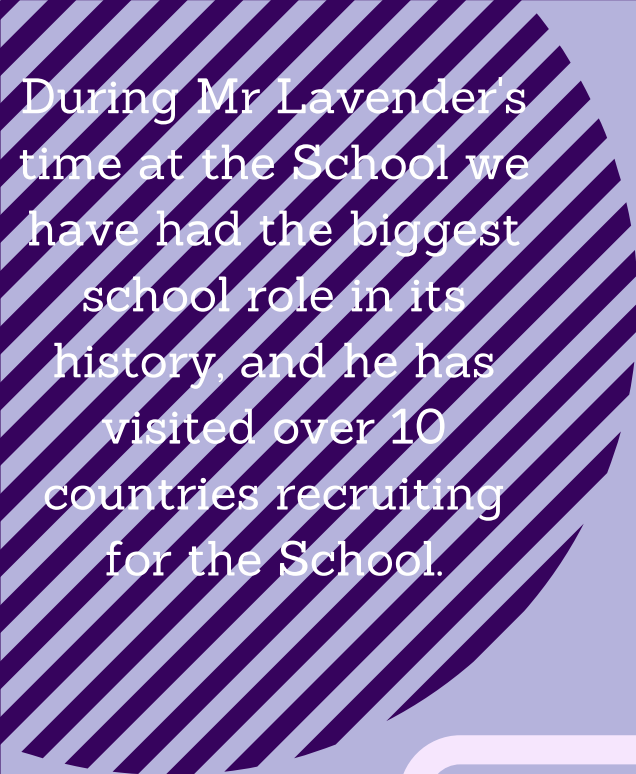
He is responsible for the
re-decoration of so many
important parts of the School.
This includes the remodelling
of the Browhead Reception,
the development of Hodge
Howe, Crampton Hall, the
Sports Hall and resurfacing
the Artificial Sports Pitch.

Mr. Lavender oversaw the
rebranding of our school from
Windermere St Anne's to
Windermere School


Almost every staff
member was recruited by
him and the majority of
students were
interviewed by him
before they joined, which
demonstrates how much
he cares about our
community.




The
introduction
of trousers to
the girls'
uniform.



During Mr Lavender's time at the School we have had the biggest school role in its history, and he has visited over 10 countries recruiting for the School.



Mr Lavender worked with the Friends to get a canopy by the back door, so that students waiting to go home could do so in the dry.



Mr Lavender was a significant part of 20 years of co-education at Windermere School.

Mr Lavender had the unbelievably awful bag dump at the back of the School redeveloped into the locker room area.

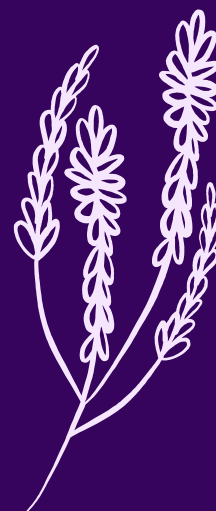


He very importantly had new toilets and a shower area installed for staff.

Mr Lavender introduced Service into Year 10 and Year 11, about 10 years ago. He has also introduced the outdoor classroom and pushed for more outdoor learning across the school – both in Browhead and Ellera.

He kept pushing for us to be the Best Small School in Britain. The IB Director General wrote to Mr Lavender in 2014 and congratulated him, and his faculty, “on creating an environment that makes the achievement of exceptional performance possible”. Alongside, the Times IB School of the Year 2017-8, these are incredible achievements.

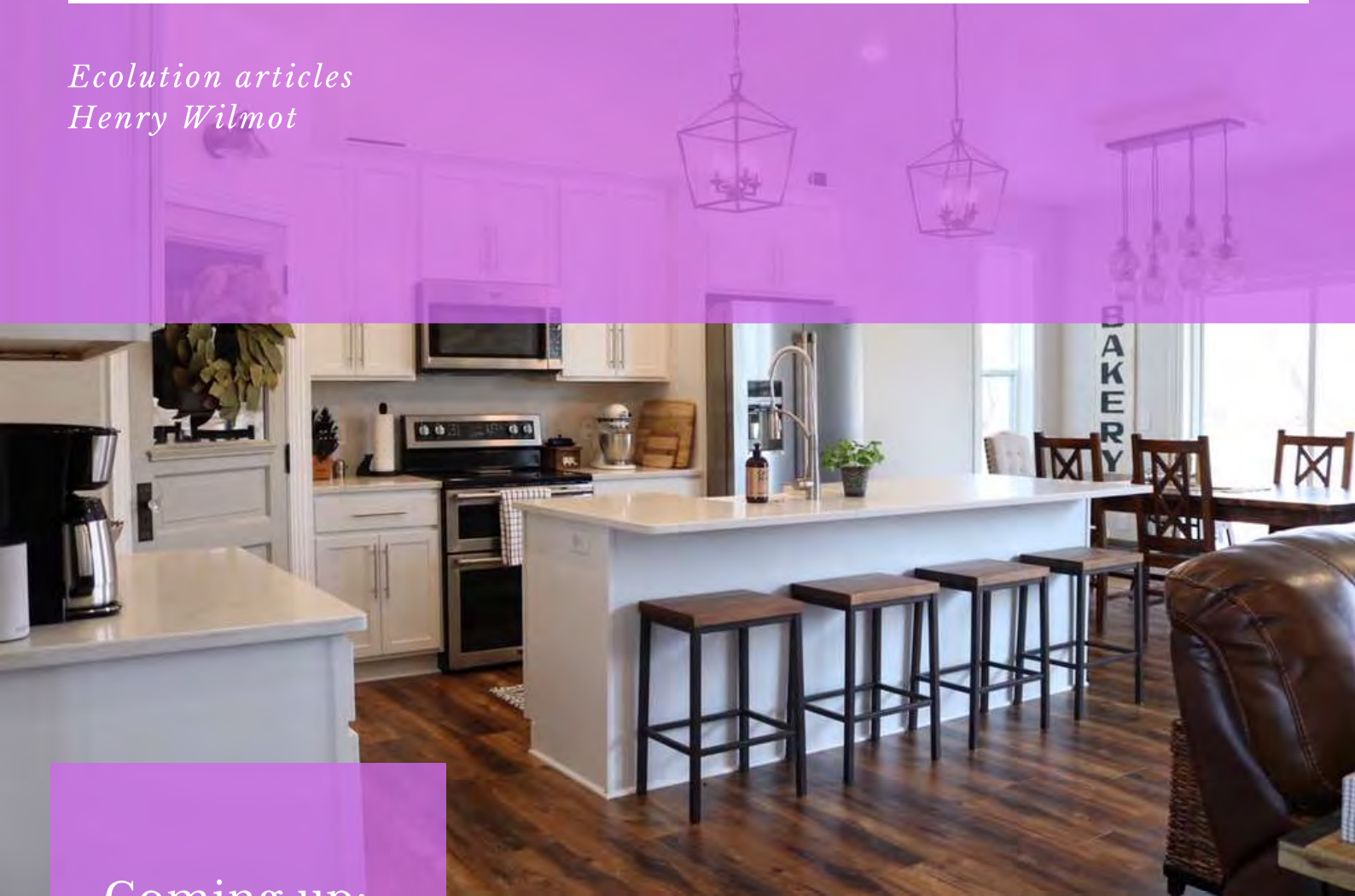
Windermere School claimed a top 150 place in the coveted 2020 Sunday Times Parent Power UK schools league table, ranked 145th.



By Alex Bousfield and Amber Kenny

HOW TO BE ECO AT HOME

Ecolution articles
Henry Wilmot



Coming up:

Energy usage at home

Things to do while exercising

Plus some extra, but useful information

ENERGY USAGE

When at home, energy usage can sometimes be a hard thing to cover. Sometimes it is all down to bad memory. But it is important to switch off lights when they are not being used, as the electricity can sometimes come from polluting non-renewable sources, which adds to global warming. However, if a lot of people are reminded or just remember, it can help cut down climate change quite a bit. Along with this, if a device is fully charged then unplug it to save even more energy. When living with people, try and stay in the same room to cut down even more. These are a few ways that you can help AND stay at home.



EXERCISE (SERIOUSLY)

When you're exercising, there can still be things that you can do to play your part. You can pick up litter which is within your reach. In fact, going out just to litter pick is amazing for both your physical and mental health, along with being good for the environment's physical and mental health too. You can also reduce global warming (linking back to the last section) by choosing walks that are in walking distance from home or wherever you currently are, e.g. visiting a relative. As seen with the first lockdown, staying close to home has reduced the amount of carbon emissions, so going forward this can help even after the coronavirus situation is over and done with.



EXTRA INFORMATION

When you are cooking, try to use non-electric methods, as this can also reduce carbon emissions. You can also teach your children/parents how to be environmentally friendly as well. If you like, get them to read the Ecolution articles. It is essential that everyone plays a role in this, yes, that means...



But there are those who feel that they need to go the extra mile, and if you want to, feel free. Just make sure you play your part in saving the world.

Enjoy!

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

AN INTERVIEW WITH

MR LAVENDER

BY GRACE LOGAN-STEPHENS AND MARTYNA BINEK



IF YOU STAYED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT THREE PIECES OF MUSIC WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU AND WHY?

The first one is the **opening act of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio***. In Part 2 there is a man from the army who is a political prisoner in Russia and in this opening act, he is crying for freedom. After that aria with its chilling moment, there comes the release of the slaves.

The second would be ***Symphony No. 7* by Shostakovich**. Particularly, the moment where you hear the march of boots. It's the Russian army coming to liberate Leningrad after the siege during World War II. For me, it symbolises also the march of totalitarianism. Moreover, listening to it reminds me of my time in Oxford when I first came across it. It stayed with me ever since and I have a lot of memories associated with this.

Again, there is this expression of freedom of liberation against unimaginable force.

The third one is a piece from the *Messiah* and it's the most optimistic thing I can think of. The most optimistic piece is *For Unto Us a Child is Born* and that to me represents more than anything a new beginning.

YOU MENTIONED YOUR TIME IN OXFORD AND THE MEMORIES YOU HAVE. HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR PAST HAS SHAPED THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY?

I think in many ways, it's quite easy. Not just in school but a very small number of people have opened some significant doors for me. And I have enjoyed some amazing opportunities which would not have come my way if I had not met some people.

Perhaps one person more than any other did more to encourage my love of learning beyond my subjects at school. And I knew that I could never repay him – his name was Dennis Russell. He was a teacher. And the only way I could repay him was to help other people as he helped me. And that's why I went into education. It was a pivotal moment.



WERE THERE ANY OTHER TEACHERS WHO PARTICULARLY INSPIRED YOU?

I've had three teachers that I remember particularly. The chemistry one said to me *'You should go to Italy before going to university. It's the cradle of European Civilisation. It's the beginning of the Renaissance.'* He was not a great teacher but I'm still in touch with him.

The other one was actually my history teacher. And he was so passionate about his subject and I've always enjoyed it. I'm reading a book at the moment about the French Revolution. And I'm not a linguist. I took chemistry and you would think *why am I reading a 1000-page book about the French Revolution?* But I could trace it to him at his inspiration.

The other was a maths teacher who failed maths at school but after school, he went to the Open University and started teaching himself. He became better and better. And he got there.

He treated us as individuals.

He was a brilliant teacher because he understood that other people could struggle as he did.

And these are three people that really inspired me. But we had a French teacher who was really unpleasant. She would make fun of you, she would throw things at you if you got something wrong – quite literally – would throw books at you across the classroom. So, nobody wanted to say anything.

I think my hesitancy with language strands from that. I think that was such a shame. I felt disadvantaged. You couldn't go to Oxford without having a good grade in French. That was a real struggle for me because I couldn't do anything else and in order to go, I had to get French. And that made me realise that not everybody is good at education, and you may have three or four good teachers but one bad teacher. And that's why I do the job I do now. I want to make sure that nobody has that disadvantage.



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR IN YOUR TIME IN WINDERMERE?

The most common thing in schools is for people to say that it's not fair. I would like to think that people would say 'he was fair'. I hope in my time here people will have achieved more than may otherwise have been possible, through the opportunities that have been provided.

LOOKING BACK AT YOUR TIME FROM 2009-2021, WHAT SIGNIFICANT MOMENT WOULD YOU SAY HAD A POSITIVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE SCHOOL?

Obviously, we have been through some difficult times. In any school, the mood of the whole school can change within an hour. In a boarding school even within a minute. The boarding house could be as happy as anything one minute and when something goes wrong, very unhappy the next.

However, the thing that most affected the school, looking at positive publicity, was when we became the *Sunday Times IB School of the Year*, and I think we were the top-performing non-selective independent school in the country.

Those are things that our students and staff have specifically enabled to happen. It was a huge collective effort.

And these two external recognitions had an impact on the school. Because people wanted to come! :)

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR GAP YEAR? IS IT GOING TO BE SPONTANEOUS, OR DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?

This is my third gap year. I've had two already. One before Oxford, which I enjoyed so much, I went to Italy, and one afterwards. But in both cases, I've had a plan. This time I completely haven't got a plan and that's because I was so busy here for two years that I haven't had a plan.

My only plan is to recover. I think the last 18 months were exhausting, physically and mentally. And now I'm going to have a rest :)

There were also certain books I've read before I went to university and I'm looking forward to reading a lot more and writing a lot more.

And I've never lived in my own house because we've always been here or in another school, for 27 years, living in the School. So I'm really looking forward to living in my own home. Writing, swimming, running, cycling, reading...

LEADING ON FROM THAT, IS THERE A PARTICULAR BOOK YOU WOULD TAKE WITH YOU TO THE DESERT ISLAND?

I have a great love of Victorian and Russian literature.

There were three authors that I can say I've read complete published works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and Turgenev. I would take 'The Brothers Karamazov'. It's a novel, a spiritual book about a man and his sons. And I could talk about it all day...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

I've written over 400 Newsletters and over two million words in my time here. A novel is about 80 thousand words and I reckon two million is about fourteen novels. And that's just reports, letters... try to treasure every day. And just read. Reading opens so many doors.

Somebody once told me 'I'm going to get married when I find the right person.' And so this person was always waiting. Don't wait. Just go :)

Looking Back with Mr Lavender

Serena Cooper and Mayumi Singh



On Thursday 24th September 2020, Mayumi and Serena interviewed Mr Lavender and included the article in Issue 2 of BrowHeadline. Here is a reminder of Mr Lavender's thoughts as he looked back on his time at Windermere School.

What are your plans once you have left the school?

I am going to have a gap year. I have never lived in my home. I have lived in schools for about 20 years.

How do you want people to remember you when you leave?

I would like people to think that they had enjoyed the school and they were able to achieve as much as they could when they were here.

What have you learnt from your time at Windermere School?

I have learned that it is very different being a headmaster to being in another position in a school. There are various reasons. When I was a teacher and a housemaster if I wanted to do something, I could just do it. But in my role now I have to persuade other people that it might be a good idea and they will not necessarily agree with me. They often say that it cannot be done, or we do not do it that way here. So, it has changed my role to being able to implement things correctly to having to go through other people who might disagree. It changes your view of how organisations run because you are essentially running a business instead of teaching. It has taught me to value the way other people do things, as it might not be the way I would do them but they are just as valid. It's taught me that I have to take the blame for things I often know nothing about, but equally I am given credit for things I have not done.

So, people may congratulate the school but it is not me who has done those things. It's also much more lonely than working in a classroom because you only get things back when you see children succeed on stage, in sports day, or in a concert. You are not getting that laughter you get in a classroom, and you see the world differently from a position of leadership compared to being a member of a team. I guess it is the difference between a captain of a netball team to being a member of a netball team. You are kind of responsible for motivation.

If you could invite three people to a dinner party, dead or alive, who would it be?

I have been very fortunate. I have been to dinner parties where one of the guests was Professor Watson, one of the men who discovered DNA. I have also had dinner with William Golding who got the Noble Prize for Literature and wrote 'Lord of the Flies'.

I think now I would choose Prince William because I remember him at Eton when I was teaching there. I would like to talk about the time when we have been apart, and how his life has changed. I would choose Obama for his views on race and moving a country forward and leadership. Lastly, Angela Merkel because she is a quantum chemist and I was a quantum chemist. I think she has a deep understanding of Eastern Europe and Russia, and those are areas that are especially interesting to me.

If you could speak to your younger self what would you say to him?

Don't be so stupid.

What did you do to pass time during lockdown?

Oh, my goodness. I did quite a lot. But the two things that I completed were reading the complete works of Dostoevsky and I also read two other books. I read a lot of books. Mostly Russian translations but two other very important books. One was a journal of the plague year by Daniel Defoe, which was about a plague in 1664 before the great fire of London. The other one was 'The Betrothed' which was about the plague starting in Milan or in Northern Italy and these were about 400, 500 years ago. I also kept a COVID journal. It became a kind of scrapbook of my own musings and also cartoons and articles that I cut out of newspapers, principally The Times and The New York Times, that would support things I was thinking about. I thought about how this might become historic one day, in the way that Daniel Defoe's book was telling about the plague 400 years ago. So, I wrote almost a book. I exercised a lot and surprised myself about how hard I had to work to keep the School going, along with my own physical and mental health and that took more time than I thought. But it sounds like I did lots for myself, but I had never worked harder for the school and it was a difficult time if I am honest.

Have you got a hidden talent you are willing to share?

I don't think I have any real talent. I think I am, and can be, pretty determined and people think or have said that I am tough and stubborn. But no, I have no hidden flair for a musical instrument or languages so no I have no hidden talent.

What is your favourite Lake District View?

I don't have one but I enjoy running in the mountains and the place where I have frequently gone is called Yoke. On a summer's evening if I were to run up there, I would see nobody and it is just peace.

Where did the phrase 'opt in not out' originate from?

I think it came to me. It was twelve years ago I wrote it, not on my own but with a team of staff. We articulated the aim and vision to be the best small school in Britain and it's one of those things I felt to treat people all equally and with dignity. That came from me and that is the foundation



stone for the behavioural policy at this school.

Confident and passionate came from me, the aims of the school, the acronym GUIDE and opt in not out was all part of it. I do not know if it was a moment of inspiration or what. Perhaps it will be a legacy.

What is your favourite board game and why?

Oh, I don't generally play board games except scrabble but my family hate playing with me because I take so long. So I am not invited to play very often because I am very slow.

If you could only have one thing on a desert island what would it be?

Oh, it would be a penknife.

What was your favourite book growing up and did it change your outlook on life?

There are many answers to that question. The remarkable thing is that all through school I hardly read at all. Until near the end I was very lucky. I had a place to go to at Oxford. I don't remember but I read things like Swallows and Amazons and my parents were always trying to get me to read, but I would only read adventure books. But when I got a place at Oxford I had a teacher who said you can't go to Oxford if you haven't read these books. They gave me a reading list and I took the entrance exam for Oxford in November/December time. Then I had the rest of the year off and I went to Florence, Siena in Italy and I read my way through most of the books on this list. The first one I read was my own choice. It was 'Oliver Twist' and then before I went to Oxford, I read the entire works of Dickens. My father recently gave me some money and I bought another set of Dickens, and I am looking forward to what will be my¹³third gap year of my life.

I am going to re-read as I did when I was 19 and that led to me reading all of Thomas Hardy and the Brontës and it was very kind of idealistic time for me. I was very keen on painting and I did a lot of painting. But in the last few years, my real interest has been with 19th century Russian literature and that is what I have been reading. But the one in the middle of all that was probably 'Arabian Sands' by Wilfred Thesiger because to me it was the ultimate explorers book. I have always been the sort of person who, when I stand on a mountain or in the sea, I always wonder what is on the other side and I want to go there and I have always had the desire to see other places.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Because there were people in my life who really inspired me at school and opened the doors for me in worlds that my parents could not do through circumstances or whatever. I was introduced whilst at school to classical concerts, opera, art galleries and books and ultimately a place at Oxford which was life changing for me and I knew I could never repay these people. The amount they have given me was so great. What do you do? Do you buy them a painting? Do you give them money? And the only way I could truly say thank you was to help other people as they had helped me and that is what I have tried to do.

What is the best reflection you think you have ever written?

Oh, the answer to that is not what you think. What I think is sometimes the best reflection has caused the most trouble and controversy and upset. Ones that I think have been most flippant or hastily put together often seem to be the ones people most enjoy. So, I have learnt that reflections are perilously dangerous, but do you know what I really missed this year is seeing everybody in reflection and coming in and just being a school all together. I remember the ones when I have upset people inadvertently, when I have said things that have come out differently than I intended, and you get into trouble.



But what I can generally say is that I have never intended to cause any offence or upset whatsoever but you can't rehearse every single thing when you do it every single Thursday. What I have tried to sometimes do is to encourage people to think and to view the world, to translate what they see as worthy into thought.

Lastly, a lot of people in our year after watching your reflection this morning (Thursday 24th September) asked what makes you happy?

Do you know I don't remember the reflection this morning. What makes me happy is to see and I mean this very genuinely is to see people, young people in this school, achieve more than they thought they could do. For example, Eve Handy two years ago when her voice was not quite right in the Cartmel service, but last year she got it absolutely perfect and that was a joy to see. It is a joy to see students who have found reserves within themselves that they didn't know existed. On sports day to see them to suddenly push themselves for their house and achieve amazing things. That is what makes me really happy actually.

Thank you Mr
Lavender.

You can also listen to
the interview [here](#).



TIME AND MEMORIES WITH MR LAVENDER

BY MAYUMI SINGH

A FORM WAS SENT OUT TO STAFF ASKING THEM ABOUT THEIR TIME AND MEMORIES WITH MR LAVENDER.

Mrs Murray:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

6 years

What's your memorable moment with him?

Running in school cross country and him overtaking me on the final hill.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you and hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Miss Thistlewood:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

4 months

What's your memorable moment with him?

No memorable moment as such but have enjoyed working with Mr Lavender because he is a polite and courteous colleague.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

I would like to thank Mr Lavender for welcoming me to Windermere School and for all the help and support he has given me. I hope that Mr Lavender will enjoy the next stage in his life and make many happy memories. I will be very sad to see him go.

Mrs Hurstwaite:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

Two years

What's your memorable moment with him?

My memorable moment with Mr Lavender is filming him transforming from a 1950's teenager wearing a quiffed wig, leather jacket and sunglasses to a hairy, long-fanged werewolf! I was thrilled when Mr Lavender agreed to be part of our 'drive-thru' black and white film for our production of 'Grease' in November 2019- what a good sport! He did an amazing job too.

Mrs Dalzell:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

12 years

What's your memorable moment with him?

Our many parent chats about our children, one proud parent to another.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

"Thank you!" for your support, your belief in me, your encouragement to better myself, and the many lovely words you have written to me over the years.

Mrs Bethell:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

11 years

What's your memorable moment with him?

In my first year at Windermere School, Mr Lavender taught Year 13 electrophilic substitution using "squirrels jumping between trees (carbon atoms)" as an analogy.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

How would you teach "catalysts" to a GCSE class? This is the only question I can remember you asking from my interview!

Mrs Gallon:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

11 1/2 years

What's your memorable moment with him?

Mr Lavender was always quite nervous entering Russia.

On one particular occasion going through passport control in St Petersburg the border staff changed over and locked Mr Lavender in the control box whilst they swapped guards. He went very white as the barrier came down. I don't think he has been back since.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year ?

Thank you for all the amazing experiences around the world.

Mr Lightburn:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

2 years

What has he done for the school that you really admire and thank him for?

Making the tough calls on COVID amidst a sea of indecision from Government. For example, getting the boarders home before flights stopped.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you!

Mrs Cooke:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

9 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

Thoughtful, kind and caring. Incredibly supportive especially when it comes to our boys. Wonderful meals and company in Brow Wood.

Is there anything you would like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

A real honour and pleasure to work with. An inspiration to us all.

Mrs Holmes:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

16 Years

What is a memorable moment you have with him?

When I was in the Boarding house I used to have a dog called Miller. Miller knew Mr Lavender from a previous school and the first time the dog saw Mr Lavender he flew down the corridor and met him like a long lost friend!

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for everything you have done for the students and staff. So much has changed in the time you have been

here - bringing in service to the school, developing Browhead reception area, having vision for the grounds to make them unrecognisable and working through the difficult times with us. Thank you and we wish you well in the future.

Mrs Vermeulen:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

Since 2011

What's your memorable moment with him?

The first time I was invited to Mr and Mrs Lavender's house I was blown away by how many books fill every nook and cranny; it was my idea of heaven! Mr Lavender reads widely and thinks deeply, and that feels increasingly rare these days.

Mrs Loughlin:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

2 and a half years

What is your memorable moment with him?

Mr Lavender interviewed me via Skype as I was living in France at the time. Although this was a rather daunting process, he was welcoming, thoughtful and understanding. This has continued throughout my time working with him.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

I am hugely grateful for the support and guidance Mr Lavender has provided throughout my time at Windermere School. It has been a privilege to work with him and he will be greatly missed.

Mrs Read:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

Almost 5 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

For my first ever Reflection in Crampton Hall I decided to talk about growing up in East Germany. I was very nervous and half-way through my talk I glanced over to Mr Lavender. He was leaning forward and sitting almost at the edge of his seat as he seemed to be totally gripped by what I was talking about. My nervousness disappeared and it was a special moment to share with everyone my experience of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It still gives me goose pimples today.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for being a calm presence in what turned out to be turbulent times. May you enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Rand:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

3 years

Is there anything he has done that you really admire and thank him for?

His very Philosophical reflections!

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for your support and kindness and for always listening to every voice in school.

Mr Bromley:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

7 Years

What is your memorable moment with him?

Mr Lavender is a good 15 years older than me so I was hoping that my (relative) youth, as well as his promise that he hadn't played for years, would give me an advantage when I invited him for a game of squash. I couldn't have been more wrong as he wiped the floor with me.

Is there anything you would like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for stepping up and leading the school not just through the good times, but also when the times were unbelievably difficult.

Mrs Gruber:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

9 years

Is there anything he has done for the school that you are thankful for or admire him for?

I think it is admirable that he stayed 2 years longer than planned to help through the difficulties of the last two years.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for supporting me in everything. This may sound mundane, but Mr Lavender did not have any issues with me being LGBT, having a disability or especially letting me go to Germany mid term, when my mother needed me. I understand that coming to school with green hair might have crossed the line though :)

Mrs Davies:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

Since he joined Windermere School

What is your memorable moment with him?

When Mr Lavender mistook Mr Bond to be a parent and thanked him for taking the time to attend Prize Day. (Mr Bond hadn't been at teacher at school for very long!)

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

It is time to take some time for yourself and time with your family. Thank you for always been there offering support and guidance.

Mr Rowe:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

9 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

The first time I spoke to Mr Lavender was via Skype when I was still living and teaching in Tanzania. After several minutes of chatting, he asked if I could turn the camera on so that we could have a "face to face" chat. I was a little reluctant because I had been injured playing rugby in Nairobi; I had 8 stitches in my scalp and no hair on the right side of my head! Thankfully he just said "that sounds very adventurous" and we continued the interview! Also, the first person I caught using a phone in one of my lessons at Windermere School was actually Mr Lavender himself! He later explained that he wasn't bored, but he had forgotten his pen and was asking Mrs Jones, his PA, to bring one for him. Technology clearly has a place in the classroom!

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. And for recommending that I have a go at fell running when I first arrived - good advice!

Mrs McCallum:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

I have known him for 12 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

I have had lots of memorable moments with Mr. Lavender. He has attended every concert unless he was out of the country and this only happened twice and he had to miss the Troutbeck concert. I would say a particular favourite of his has been when the choir performed The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins, he had not heard the work before and was very moved by its structure and musical content. He was there when I experienced a time of intense personal grief. I do not think he was able to relate to the enormity of the situation then but I do think he has changed in his perception of how one is affected and how life still has to carry on. I know his own family are very important to him and that has meant that he has taken an interest in the children of staff members and encouraged us to be there for them at important times. He certainly stepped out of his comfort zone when he had a filmed cameo role in our production of Grease, he looked the part in his wig and leather jacket although he

famously always says that he doesn't own a pair of jeans. Perhaps we should have bought him some as a parting gift!

The Carol Service has been an event that Mr. Lavender has found to be important. The combination of the familiar ritual, and the gravitas of the beautiful surroundings, the particular acoustic and the often poignant beauty of some of the soloists. Some "traditions have evolved during Mr. Lavender's headship "We Three Kings" being a good example. I only ever intended to perform it once but it quickly became a question asked of me, "who are you going to pick to be the Kings?" I will always remember him quietly disappearing when it was our fun Carol practice, there was absolutely no chance he would join with the staff singing Five Gold Rings in The Twelve Days of Christmas. He also left the dancing at Leaver's Balls to his wife Jacq. But he loved going on some of our music trips to hear opera. We all went out for a meal, went to the opera and then the coach driver couldn't find the theatre to pick us up to go home. A weird fact is that Mr. and Mrs Lavender got married on the same day at the same time in the same year as my husband and I. As I write this it is our 31st Wedding anniversary, I hope they enjoy many more together as they enter the next phase of their lives.

Is there anything you would like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

The small things are not always important, sometimes it is the bigger picture.

Mrs King:

How long have you known Mr Lavender?

7 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

I have worked closely with Mr Lavender for much of my time at Windermere so I have lots of memorable moments. I think my one of the most memorable will be handing him the cups, books and awards on Prize Day. I was always worried I would hand him the wrong prize or one of us would trip up or fall off the stage! Not a good plan in front of the whole school community! We came close a few times!

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

I would like to wish Mr Lavender all the best for the future. He has encouraged all of us to have adventures and I hope he now finds time to have adventures of his own.

Mrs Moses:

How long have you known Mr Lavender ?

11 years

What is your memorable moment with him?

Creating opportunities for the community but also for me personally. Opportunity to travel to the Ukraine and Russia to represent the school to recruit new students, opportunity to join the Thussanang Service Project 2020 and an opportunity to push myself beyond my comfort zone and achieve new things are just three examples.

What would you like to say to him as he is leaving this year?

Thank you for being a support through a challenging couple of years. Best of luck in the next stage of your journey. Enjoy some time to relax and pick up those hobbies you've not had time for these past years.

Dr Gray:

Mr Lavender, thank you for giving me the chance to work here! I am a more confident, more effective teacher because of it. All the best for your retirement.

I ASKED TEACHERS TO DESCRIBE MR LAVENDER IN ONE OR TWO WORDS:

'DEDICATED' - MRS MURRAY AND MRS THISTLEWOOD

'SINCERE' - MRS HURSTWAITE

'RUMINATIVE' - MRS DALZELL

'AVID READER' - MRS BETHELL

'CONSIDERATE' - MRS GALLON

'INTERESTED' - MR LIGHTBURN

'UNCOMPLAINING' - MRS COOKE

'PHILOSOPHICAL' - MRS HOLMES

MRS LOUGHLIN-'LOYAL'

MRS READ-'THOUGHTFUL

MRS RAND-'KIND'

MR BROMLEY-'RESILIENT'

MRS DAVIES-'GENTLEMAN'

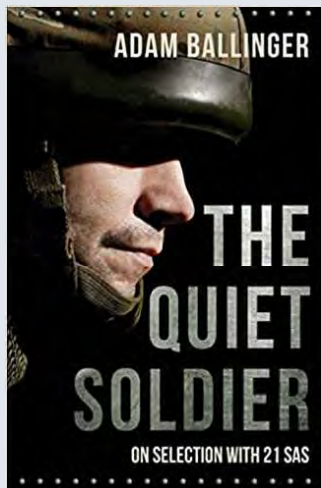
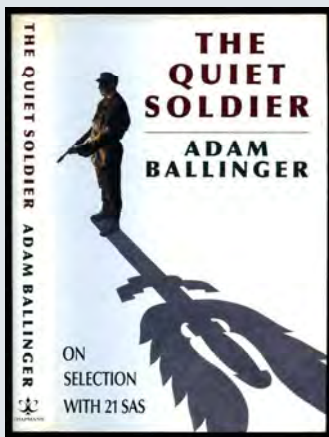
MR ROWE-'INTEGROUS!'

MRS MCCALLUM-'WELL INTENTIONED'

MRS KING-'HONOURABLE'

MRS MOSES-'THOUGHTFUL'

MRS GRUBER-'RELIABLE'



More Book Recommendations

Six of Crows Trilogy.
Leigh Bardugo 12+

Zero Repeat Forever,
Gabrielle Pendergast
14+

*I Know Why the
Caged Bird Sings*,
Maya Angelou 12+



THE QUIET SOLDIER

RIVETING READS

Luana Kenny

The Quiet Soldier by Adam Ballinger is about his personal experience in SAS selection. Ballinger recounts his participation in the selection and looks back on one of his trips in Asia with a man called Hassan. Ballinger describes his selection very clearly and the reader is able to grasp the difficulty and intricacies of joining the SAS. This is the only book Ballinger has written about his experience in the SAS, however it doesn't go into detail about his motivation or the impact it had on his daily life. Despite that, the book is very interesting and gives an insight on the obstacles someone may face upon entering the SAS.

The book was written in the 1990's and Ballinger's selection was in the 1980's. This makes the SAS training that Ballinger received dated, and most likely different to the current day selection. The description of the mental and physical strength a person needs to enter the SAS is fascinating, especially the description of how the recruits' domestic lives are compromised due to their commitment. Ballinger does not describe how his own personal life was affected; however, within the book there are conversations about other recruits' struggles and despite them they still continue. Ballinger's personal reasons for signing up are unknown; he spontaneously decided to call the number he was given about the SAS on one of his travels. As the book was written in the 1990's there is some blatant sexism from some of the characters within the book.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed this book as the writing was to the point yet intriguing and Ballinger's description was very vivid. Some of the switching between his selection and his travels in Asia was difficult to differentiate. However, once I grasped these changes it was a gratifying read. I will give this book 4.5 stars out of 5 because of some of the slightly confusing switching between time. Despite this, *The Quiet Soldier* was a gripping and compelling account of Ballinger's SAS selection. I recommend it to anyone over the age of 14, even if they have no interest in the military.



I want to wear a daisy chain in my hair every day,
I don't care what you'll say,
I'll wear it with a buttercup bracelet on my hand,
I don't care if you don't understand,

I'll wear a short dress with long shorts,
I'll collect flowers from a meadow of all sorts,
I'll find the brightest flower for my hair,
I don't care if you stare,

I'll lie in a meadow all day long,
Singing song
after song,
Happy in my own company,
Happy to be free,
Happy to be me.

Then they come along,
Stopping my song,
Take the flowers from my hair,
Throw them away,
No care,
I stand there,

They pull me to a classroom,
Head bends over work in the gloom,
I won't leave anytime soon,

All for the sake of a GCSE,
A test meant to 'set me free'
But all it could be,
Is a step towards IB,
Or university,

They take us away,
Far too early,
To study for a future I still can't see,

Childhoods packed away in a case,
Torture from the human race,
Disgrace,

From a childhood of swings and daisy chains,
To a life of stress and pain,
The kids are depressed,
Who would you blame?

Just give us a few years more,
Wait until daisy chains are a bore,
Then our hearts would be less sore,

Serena Cooper

WORDS FROM WINDERMERE

A collection of prose and poetry
written by Windermere School students

Believe in yourself,
Believe in others,
Believe you can do it,
Believe that you will never give up,
Believe good things will happen,
Believe you can succeed,
Believe if things you wrong you'll
make them right,
Believe everything is possible,

Olivia Laws

Freedom for you may be tangible,
When it's tangible it's just so manageable.
I have never felt this freedom.
I will never taste its sweet glory,
Or that joy at the end of every story.
I will never feel this freedom.
I am locked, but not by bars,
It's my thoughts, I will never see the stars.
As it is way too cloudy in my mind,
It is that I am wise yet so blind.
I can never see this freedom.
I am part of every single thing,
But no, as none am I relating.
Different is my form of freedom.
Alone, I stand, encaged within myself,
Still to the world I seem in good health.
I will never know of this freedom.
I will never taste, never feel, never see,
Different is my form of freedom.

Milly Moore

If you want to be seen as kind
Then be kind
If you want to be seen as strong
Be strong
If you want people to see that you are hurt
Show it
Don't be scared to cover it up
If you want people to see you as a friend
Then act like a friend
If you want to be seen as a leader
Then act like a leader
If you want to be seen as clever
Then work hard and push yourself
But if you want to be seen as someone who
needs help
Then show it
If you don't feel comfortable in how you are
seen
If that's in your clothes, your manner or your
even your gender
Then don't be afraid to change it
Because if that's how you want to be seen
Then that's fine
Because all you need to do is
Be as you wish to seem.

Mayumi Singh

Tik tock,
Goes the clock.
Ten to go,
There they go.
Finish the paper,
Do not do it later.
The room is silent,
The questions are violent.
For failure is near,
We shall not shed a tear.
Words breach our brain.
We do not cry out in pain.
The clock demands silence.
Because it's a tyrant,
It reigns supreme,
You can only daydream,
Of a day without the clock.

Luana Kenny

Our privilege is a gossamer gown
Protecting us from life,
Telling us things will be easy, things will be fine
Telling us we'll be ok,

Our privilege is the people who believe in us
Protecting us from scorn,
Telling us we're talented, we're bright,
Telling us we're enough,

We live in the kindest of worlds,
We're given the kindest of words
The kindest of life, the kindest of problems,
They're killing us with their kindness,

But reality is there,
Waiting to catch us out,
Telling us we're not enough, worthless,
Telling us we'll fail,

Reality is a firing gun
Waiting to shoot us down,
Telling us we're ugly, we'll never be enough
Telling us we're stupid,

Our privilege comes to save us,
But privilege is too weak,
Reality will always win

He doesn't discriminate,

Privilege gets you nowhere when reality's spreading
hate.

Serena Cooper

The trees in the clearing were standing rooted to attention, reaching up towards the sky. They were like old soldiers in a parade, tired, worn out, but there. Their bark was peeling and rotting away. It was May, but spring had not come. Dead leaves carpeted the floor. They were not rustic reds and oranges as in the autumn, but dull brown. The trees had been unable to grown new leaves, and stood bare. The cold was crisp and biting. My eye was suddenly caught by a lone bluebell, swaying to and fro in the wind. It was the sole truly living thing, and it gave a new feel to that clearing in the woods. It seemed to say, 'Never fear, for spring is on its way!' I left that spot, that clearing in the woods to come back another day. It was sleeping, but it would wake to see another day.

Edie Johnson

TOTALLY TECH

Gap Year Special

WITH FINN GERAGHTY

Lonely Planet App

Many know Lonely Planet as a series of in-depth travel guides. However, in more recent times, they have developed an app for iOS and Android. This is the 'gap year special' totally tech, so I think it is only right if I test a glorified travel guide. The app offers two tiers, a 'free tier' and a 'premium tier'. Lonely Planet claims that, as would be expected, some of the app's quality of life tools are locked behind their £25/year subscription. These features include unlimited access to the app's resources such as guide books and Lonely Planet TV.

Password Problems?

It can be incredibly difficult to think of original passwords you think you'll remember. This is why many of us just don't bother to. For this very reason, it is not to my surprise that online password managers that store and generate passwords for you came into the mainstream. This may be convenient for some, however, there are some obvious problems with these. One such factor is potential data breaches. Whether the company itself will look at your passwords or not is a separate topic, but regardless, if someone can gain access to these files (via whatever means), your passwords may be vulnerable for the world to see (I'm not saying there's anything wrong with the company's security, it's just a possibility - I just wanted to say that so that I don't get sued). However, writing passwords down on a piece of paper means someone can just walk into your house and look at them. In conclusion, it is best for most to just store your passwords in a digital file. The risk of your password document being compromised is less likely than a massive corporation that stores files for you. However, if you're still worried about your passwords being exposed, there isn't a whole lot you can do apart from find a device you're willing to not connect to the internet. Apple Newton, anyone?

TOTALLY TECH

Gap Year Special

The Importance of Tech



It amazes me how people can live without the help of technology. Whilst to many, that might come off as, "the most teenager thing I've ever heard", it's true. Basic technology can help so much when it comes to those who are not at work or retired. News can be acquired from television, yes, but can you call a relative that lives on the other side of the world and see their face on a landline? No, you can't. In a time when we can't even see our closest friends for fear of infection, there is no better way to keep in touch with people than using the internet. You don't need the latest iPhone or a £2,000 gaming computer to just Skype someone. For this very reason, I would urge everyone to at least have some form of stable internet connection and device to connect to that internet connection. You can buy tablets large enough to see anything for incredibly low prices, and for basic use (Skype, texting, etc.) they are more than powerful enough. If you know someone who has no means of accessing the internet from their home, then hook them up with something cheap. I know this is a radical idea, but one day there might even be a global super-virus that means that you can't see them in person. An example of cheap, decently large devices would be the Amazon Fire tablets - whilst I personally dislike Amazon's very closed mobile ecosystem, for those who just want a cheap way to do the basics they're fine (as I have recently tested on my grandma).

Tech Timeline

Hey all! This month we'll be making a timeline of technology starting from the birth date of our Headmaster, Mr. Lavender, to commemorate him leaving Windermere at the end of the academic year. So, without further ado, let us begin!

1964 - First Computerised Encyclopaedia

The first computerised encyclopaedia was created to make life easier for people who didn't like to look up something in a thick book. It was first known as Interpaedia, seeing as it was available on the internet, though CD-ROM encyclopaedias came to rise soon after.

1976 - First Compact Disc (CD)

The first CDs were created in 1976, with a 16-bit resolution. Two years after this, a 150 minute film - a record length at the time - was played using one of these discs.

1983 - Apple Lisa

The first desktop personal computer created by Apple (and one of the first computers with a graphical user interface) was released this year. The Lisa, while technologically brilliant, was greatly limited by its high price (over \$25,000 in today's money) and insufficient software library. This meant it was quickly superseded by the first Macintosh just a few years later.

1990 - The World Wide Web

In 1990, the World Wide Web internet became available around the globe on computers, along with the HTTP and HTML coding languages, mainly thanks to Tim Berners-Lee.

Before the World Wide Web there were a number of less public precursors as far back as the late 1950s, such as NPL and ARPANET in the 1965 and 1966 respectively.

2007 - The First Apple iPhone

In this year, Apple released what is likely one of the most influential pieces of technology to have ever been created - a touchscreen smartphone dubbed the iPhone, following their traditional naming scheme for technology.

Since the first iPhone was released, its hardware has been reiterated over ten times, its operating system far more times than that, and with roughly 2.6 billion worldwide unit sales in total. wow.

2010s - Virtual Reality

What would a VR Corner article be without mentioning these at least once?!

Virtual reality became far more available to the public over the 2010s, with releases such as the Oculus Rift, HTC Vive, Valve index, and more recently the Oculus Quest. Early on, there were fewer games, mostly just tech demos, but in recent times its popularity has exploded, particularly on the side of social games like VRChat & Rec Room. I believe this spells a new era of communication between people online (with the medium becoming more immersive with every new headset), where people can feel so much closer than just chatting over a voice call or texting one another.

And that concludes the timeline! These are just my personal choices for influential pieces of tech throughout Mr. Lavender's life so far. Tell me what you think could be added to the timeline (email, Teams, however). And, to finish, thank you for being our Headmaster, Mr. Lavender, it's been an honour having you lead the school!

Thomas Nussbaum-Richman



LEAVING LETTERS FOR

Lavender

For the last edition of this academic year, BrowHeadline decided that we would like to include past and present students' memories and messages from during Mr Lavender's time at Windermere School.

Stannites

Looking back, there are a few memories of my time at school with Ian that particularly stand out. Ian is undoubtedly a deep thinker, and I remember being initially struck by his genuine interest in and concern for the lives of the students around him. He has an uncanny ability to ask incisive questions, and I remember often being caught off-guard by questions or comments that cut right to the heart of a particular topic, and in a way that forced me to think much more deeply about aspects of my own studies and wider interests. Like all great teachers, Ian would always meet you as an equal, although sometimes in an endearingly unfiltered way that would have you suppressing a smile or small chuckle in an otherwise deeply sincere moment.

I particularly remember Ian describing his experiences of SAS interrogation during a morning assembly - not everyone's cup of tea at 8am (!), but a surreal and fascinating (and distinctly Ian) moment. I also read a copy of his book a few years later whilst going through my own version of military selection, which provided a wonderful and deeply personal insight into aspects of his life before Windermere. There were a few copies circulating whilst I was at school too, although I didn't manage to get hold of a copy until university. I also remember decking out his office as a military camp as part of our end-of-school antics. Looking back at this particular moment, I'm just glad he didn't expel us for this!

Richard Flint

I consider myself very lucky to have attended Windermere School under Mr Lavender's tenure and I will always be extremely grateful for his care and considered guidance throughout my time at school. He encouraged me to become the best version of myself and I hope to always live by his legendary phrase "Opt in, not out". Thank you, Mr Lavender, for all you have given to Windermere School and its community over the last 12 years. Wishing you and your family all the very best for the future.

- Jenny Broomby

I left Windermere School in 2013, in those past eight years I have contacted Mr. Lavender just three times (I think) asking for diverse favours. The replies have always come shortly afterwards, and with my requests fulfilled beyond expectations. I would like to point out, that being remembered by Mr. Lavender after several years since I left Windermere School, and with my requests being attended in a very dedicated manner, goes a long way to keeping the feeling of belonging to this community of people who attended Windermere School.

Realising you can count on people regardless of the years passed, can be a good definition of belonging to a community with strong links.

- Fernando Semprun

Dear all,

Thank you for coming up with this! Personally, I think it is a very lovely idea. Frankly, we all owe Mr. Lavender some thanks for the work he did at Windermere School. I visited three schools and Mr. Lavender was the best Headmaster I ever had. He left a lasting impression on me.

I was lucky to have a close and productive relationship with Mr. Lavender. Before and during my tenure as Head of House, we had several lengthy conversations about Student Council elections, boarding life rules and even some personal matters. I am not sure all students noticed the symbolical nature of this, but Mr. Lavender's office door was always open. Whenever I asked if I may come in, I was listened to. To this day, I am convinced that Mr. Lavender truly cared about the education and the future of all students at Windermere School. One should not underestimate how rare and precious such dedication is.

If I had to pick out a special moment, it would be my Leavers Ball. Before the party, all students spoke with the Headmaster in their final interview. When I was asked if I had any questions myself, I wanted to know if Mr. Lavender had a favourite book. To my surprise, Mr. Lavender mentioned this in his Leavers Ball speech. He asked me to come forth and gave me a copy of "Arabian Sands". I felt honored and thankful.

Windermere School has had a profound effect on me growing up. The culture and values allowed me to develop my skills and - more importantly - to mature mentally as a human being and gain the ability to make the right decisions for myself and the world around me. Mr. Lavender deserves a lot of credit for fostering this culture. I wish him the best for his future endeavors.

Kind regards,
Daniel Al-Khalaf (Leavers Class of 2015)

Hmm, I do fondly remember him reading out letters from the suggestion box. He took them in pretty good humour, especially the ones challenging things he'd previously said in his reflections



*Izzy
Hope
Svratins*

*Freya
Pellie*

I'm just going to have "opt in not out" on loop in my brain for eternity ~ only non-TV character I know with a genuine catchphrase

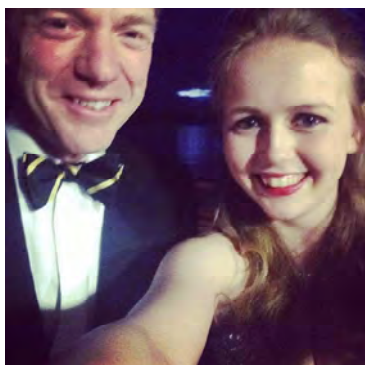


I could dig out my reports and look for the Headmaster's report section. There were some golden quotes there. "Stanisław arrived to Windermere like a swan gliding on the lake".



*Stanisław
Biber*

*Jamie
Maskall*



I remember an assembly with one of Mr Lavender's classic metaphors where he said he was a tree and we were all leaves, and he was reaching out and touching all of us



Imogen Catteralls

My Leaver's meeting wasn't as formal as I was expecting but more of a discussion between peers/colleagues. This was refreshing because normally if I was to get called to the Headmaster's office it wouldn't be for a talk, but more of a scolding. We had a pleasant talk where he ask all sorts of questions such as where I'm going after Windermere, how my time was and what the community was like in school. This was a good memory of Mr Lavender as it gave me time to catch up on how he was. - Hamish Taylor

I would like to say that I really appreciate the work you have done for the school community and the whole responsibility that's associated with it. - Martyna Binek

He wrote a poem about us all at the end of Year six which he read out on Prize Day.
- Serena Cooper

Hope you are successful in whatever you choose to focus on next. Thank you for making my experience at the school so great!
- Milly Moore

A memory of Mr Lavender is to never give up and make sure you push yourself to the limits -
Gonzalo Lucas

When I was in Year 7, and he invited me and some of my class mates to go to his house to meet him and his wife. That small gesture completely changed my view of the School and Mr Lavender
- Alejandro Pardo

Dear Sir,
Thank you for being a great Headmaster
- Fenn Chapman

When Mr Lavender read out the recommendation slips on a Thursday about getting a school pig and he had everyone laughing. -

Ben Platt

My first memory of Mr Lavender was at my very first prize day. I knew that he was a good Headmaster from the start of my education at this school. I loved how he spoke his mind in every Thursday reflection and always managed to keep everyone up to date with what was going on in the world. -Katie Williams

Martyna and I did an interview with Mr Lavender, he spoke so eloquently and had such a detailed interesting answer for each question. His reflections are always so powerful and have an amazing moral to reflect on. The first time I met Mr Lavender he was interviewing me, he asked me "describe the colour blue to a person whom is blind" I was sat opposite him and I gazed at his map of the world, the obvious answer would have been it is the colour of the sea, but I talked about it as a emotion like this, "blue is calming colour usually related to happiness if it is light blue and sadness if it is dark blue..." I thought it was such a brilliant question to ask and the answer could go in many different directions. - Grace Stephens

I remember first joining and going to afternoon tea at his house with some other students - the food was really good!

- Jonas Metze

I remember coming to school for the first time and having a really lovely tour and lunch with him.
-Ava Hassan

I have been at Windermere my entire life so I have only had two Headmasters: Mr Freeman, the old Headmaster at Elleray and Mr Lavender. Since I was young, Mr Lavender has always been kind to me wherever I met him and since moving up he has always supported me throughout senior school life. It will certainly be a shock with him not being around anymore and I will miss him. - Christopher Cooke

Thank you for all the hardworking years. I appreciate all you've done for me and allowing me the experience to be a part of the Windermere community. Many thanks, Luis Burity

I like you and I always have admired you. I wish you the best in whatever you want to do. - Brandon Okehs

We will all miss you and hope you always 'opt in not out'. I have enjoyed everything so far at Windermere School and I have been welcomed by yourself and the school which I appreciate very much. I hope your future brings new memories. - Millicent Ravenhill

Well, where do I start? I hope you get the best in everything you do leading on from here. Thank you for being the greatest Headmaster a student could ask for. And thank you for listening to me and others, even when it was hard to. I know 2020 was difficult, and honestly it's still quite difficult now. The world has changed and I guess nothing will ever be the same. I think this pandemic has definitely changed the world for possibly the good and the bad. We will just have to see where it goes. I really do hope you get the best in everything you do after you leave this role at Windermere School. I know you have been here for a long time, and I have the greatest respect for you for that. You have served well at this school, thank you Mr Lavender - Katie Williams

I wasn't at the school long
however you seem like a
reliable and fantastic
Headteacher to have. - Luana
Kenny

Dear Mr Lavender, Thank you
for all you have done. You
have been a support system
for this school for many years
and have pushed my sisters to
be able to achieve their goals
both after and within the
duration of their time at
Windermere. For that my
family and I will always be
grateful. Sincerest thanks,
Daniella Redhead

Good luck in the future. Thank
you for taking care of the school.
Take care and stay safe :) -
Natalie Wong

Afternoon tea at his house in
Year 7. The food was
awesome!
Laura Bethell

You are better than most
headmasters which is hard.
- Hayden Taylor-Heys

My most significant memory of
Mr Lavender was on my first
induction day, where I walked
over to Crampton Hall to see it
through the doors' windows
for the first time. It was empty
and I remember gasping at
how big it was. Coming from a
primary school with only 60
children in total, it was my first
time comprehending how
much different my new
secondary school was. Mr
Lavender walked up to me, and
opened the door for me to go
in and have a proper look,
before explaining that
Crampton was designed to fit
all of the students as well as all
of the staff in at once. Initially
when joining Windermere, I
thought I was going to be a tiny
fish in a massive pond, but this
conversation reassured me
that while the school might
seem like a huge step up in
terms of size, you can actually
squeeze every single person
into just one room. Ever since
then I have felt more confident
being in the school and fitting
in, all thanks to that first
conversation with the
Headmaster. - Jack Keane

We'll miss you, you made a big impression on this school. - Finn Geraghty

In Year 7 when we all had afternoon tea at his house- this was really interesting and great as we could all talk to the Headmaster in a more relaxed atmosphere. Thank you for everything you have done. With your support I was able to go to such a wonderful school filled with wonderful people and take part in experiences I would have never done before. Thanks for everything and I hope you enjoy your rest. -Mayumi Singh

I somewhat remember having afternoon tea with Mr. Lavender in Year 7, and it being a pleasant experience. One person in the group with me there (though I cannot remember who) I remember asking him if he'd heard of some famous social media influencer, and that set everyone off laughing!

While I comparatively have not been at the school for a long time, it has been an absolute pleasure having you be the Headmaster of Windermere School. I feel that your actions during your time as Headmaster have done nothing but good for the School, and I hope that whatever you do next in your life, you enjoy it to the fullest.

With utmost respect,
Thomas Nussbaum-Richman

You will be missed lots and hopefully the school will be run just as well as you ran it.
-Patia Pickering

Thank you for making our
school such an amazing one
after all these years.

-Brooke Machell

Thank you for making Windermere awesome
:) - Juno Clowes and Meredith Larkins

His smiling face as he stood in Crampton each
morning before reflections.

Thank you for all the wonderful things you have
done for the school, you will be greatly missed and
always remembered. You have been the best
Headmaster a school could ever wish for and we
will all be very sad to see you go, best wishes for

the future.

Thank you Mr
Lavender for
everything. We
will miss you! -
Stavros
Bousmpouras

- Halle Wormall

I am forever grateful for
the opportunity to study
at this school. I was given
an amazingly better
chance at life, with
endless openings and
pathways. Additionally, I
actually enjoyed your
Thursday's reflections :)

-Tania Pencu

You have always
been really
welcoming -
Libby Cohen