



OCA & ALUMNI PROPOSAL 2022

Prepared for:

Damian King - Headmaster
Roseanne Serrelli - Chair of Governors



Old Chigwellians



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Old Chigwellians have emerged since the founding of the School in 1629.

More recently, the Old Chigwellian Club was formed over forty years ago via the Old Chigwellian Society merging with the Old Chigwellians' Football Club. Both the Society and the Football club were founded by Old Chigwellians nearly 100 years ago.

Formed of a volunteer group of OCs, the OCA works in partnership with the School to keep former pupils in-touch with each other and the School by way of communications, social events and sporting activities.

The level of support and engagement amongst OCs has wavered over the years and there is a need to revitalise this community through a number of strategic and practical enhancements for the mutual benefit of the School and OC Community.

Structure of the OCA Committee

The current OC Constitution says the Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee comprising of Elected Officers, Elected Representatives and ex-Officio members. To bring this up to date with the evolvement of the School, the OCA propose a slight revision to this, to include a 20% representation from the Governors, 20% School Senior Management Team and 60% Old Chigwellians, which will align the vision and overall strategy.

The OCA Executive Committee Meetings are chaired by the OCA President with Minutes captured by the OCA General Secretary and circulated for agreement by the Headmaster ahead of wider distribution.

Currently the OCA Exec Committee meet three times a year plus the AGM - we wish to propose a revision to the dates of the meetings to even these out across the twelve month period. The date of the next formal meeting has been set as 5 January 2023, allowing the new Headmaster time to settle in and establish himself within the School. The date of the OCA AGM, due to be held on the 12 September 2022, will be held before the Shrove Tuesday Supper on 21 February 2023.

School to action: Email to OCs re dates of AGM and Exec Comm meetings once established following the meeting with the Headmaster, Mr King.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Areas of Focus

The OCA recognises the reasons for the diminishing Alumni support over the past 30 years being:

- a lack of communication between the OCA Committee and the vast majority of the Alumni due to the strict interpretation of the GDPR legislation. This has meant that the Committee does not have direct access to the Alumni database which was built up by OCs until it was handed over to the School in 2007
- The OC clubhouse facilities failing to keep up with growth of the School and it becoming co-educational
- overall changes in society
- growth of social media platforms and ways to network and keep in touch

The OCA Committee recognises that it cannot address the above Alumni shortcomings simply by using volunteer OCs and that there is a need to place the Alumni management on a very professional footing. This important change will require financial and in turn, human resources being provided by the School which will not only benefit all OCs but in turn the School as it undertakes its challenging Development Programme.

Alumni Resources to Deliver

The OCA Committee are mindful of the effort required to deliver on both our areas of focus and the School's objective to raise funds and donations to provide bursaries and extensive developments to enhance the facilities.

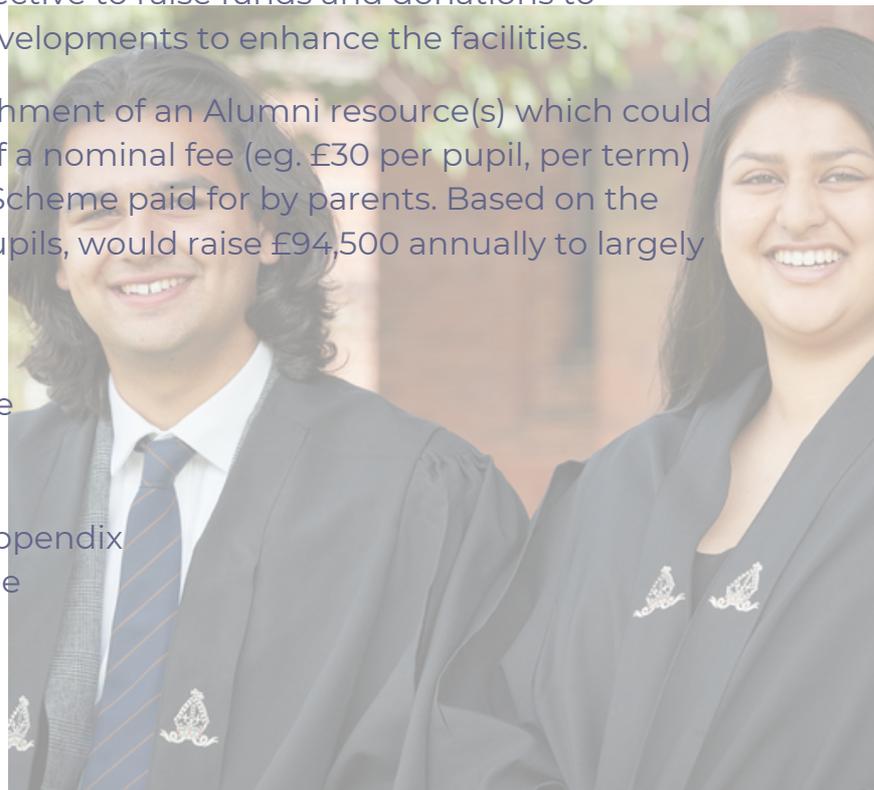
One proposal could be the establishment of an Alumni resource(s) which could be funded by the re-instatement of a nominal fee (eg. £30 per pupil, per term) similar to the Pupil Membership Scheme paid for by parents. Based on the assumption the School has 1060 pupils, would raise £94,500 annually to largely cover such costs.

The proposed resources would be:

- Alumni co-ordinator responsible for Communications & Events
- OCA General Secretary

Role profiles can be found in the Appendix

In addition, OC Interns could also be utilised to update and expand the Alumni database





INTRODUCTION

Old Chigwellians' Association (OCA) works in partnership with the Philanthropy Department at the School to help alumni to connect with each other and inspire the next generation. We work hard to make our Old Chigwellian community as inclusive as possible and welcome all connectivity and involvement.

On leaving Chigwell School, all pupils automatically become members of the Old Chigwellians' Association. There is a vibrant OC community, with many OCs attending social and sports events at the OC Clubhouse, School and other venues. OCs support current pupils too with some kindly offering work experience or attending the annual careers convention or hosting careers networking events.

The OCA is governed by the Executive Committee comprising of Elected Officers, Elected representatives and Ex-officio members and this meets three times a year. There is also an annual AGM to which all OCs are warmly invited.

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We encourage OCs of all genders and ages to further build their involvement with the School and their network, by getting actively involved with the OCA to facilitate professional opportunities to build a lasting network of connections

AEGEAN SIMPSON
OCA President





OLD CHIGWELLIANS' ASSOCIATION

Chigwell School boasts an ever expanding Alumni, scattered worldwide, keeping Old Chigwellians' (OCs) in touch with one another to support the School as a united network. The School and all Old Chigwellians' are represented by the Old Chigwellian's Association (OCA) who work in partnership to organise social, cultural and sporting events throughout the year. The OCs have an established sporting section made up of Football, Golf and Tennis. OC Football has a strong reputation and a record of success as both League Champions and Arthur Dunn Cup Winners. The OC Clubhouse in Roding Lane, Chigwell provides a social gathering meeting place for the sporting sections, as well as a venue for the popular monthly 'Wednesday Club' lunches.

The OC Alumni are integral to supporting the School with career talks, professional days and sharing of expertise and time, particularly as part of the popular 'Meet the Future' sessions held at the School. OCs are kept informed of the School's development plans and OC news via the various social media communication channels, as well as receiving a copy of 'The Mitre' magazine, which is currently posted out to OCs registered on the database annually.



VISION

We are driving the OC agenda through a number of new initiatives to ensure we keep the OC network vibrant and meaningful for generations to come

MISSION

The OCA has two objectives: to keep Old Chigwellians in touch with each other and to keep them in touch with the School



OCA SENIOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS



AEGEAN SIMPSON

OCA President



MILES TAYLOR

Vice President and
OC Golf Society Hon
Sec & Treasurer



PAT WARD

OCA General Secretary



JOHN CONOLLY

Vice President



CLIVE GARFIELD

Hon Treasurer



JOHN HILL

Former OCC President



NIGEL DAVIES

Chairman of OC
Football



PAUL GARFIELD

President of OC
Football

In addition to the Senior Committee Members mentioned above, the OCA Executive Committee is made up of Elected Representatives of up to eight former pupils of Chigwell School (across a broad range of ages from 1930-present) and Ex-Officio members, largely representatives from the School including the Headmaster, Burser and Head of Philanthropy.



OCA FOCUS

The OCA Committee is formed of a number of core volunteers who give their time to support the OC Community.

To move this forward, we have four key areas of focus as well as some background activities currently being worked on.

The OCA is also focussed on supporting the fund raising objective of the Head of Philanthropy for the benefit of the School.

01.

Engagement

To revitalise the OC community for the benefit of both OCs and the School through communications, social events and networking.

02.

Events

Organising events which OCs value and support. Tailoring events to the audience and feedback we have received from younger OCs.

03.

Sporting Activities

Growing OC sporting activities to meet demand - including establishing an OC female football team.

04.

OCC / OCA merger

Finalising the necessary formalities of the merger to legally ensure continuity and appropriate representation.





OCA FOCUS

Engagement

Engagement needs to be improved through communications (via social media and the OC database) with a critical look at the types and frequency of content being made available to Old Chigwellians which is currently controlled by the School. The legacy of incomplete OC records within the database and limited availability of access due to GDPR principles, means the restricted access adds an administrative burden to the School to keep Old Chigwellians in touch with each other.

We have floated the idea of a digital quarterly 'Mini-Mitre' but there is a dependency on the accuracy of the records held within the database to ensure OCs are aware of the next edition and content.

Events

Due to a number of factors, we have seen a lack of support of centrally organised events amongst both older and younger OCs, most recently the OC Ladies Fashion Show (intended to be held on 21 May 2022) and the Black Tie Dinner (rescheduled from the 10 September 2022).

Feedback from younger OCs has requested a more casual approach, with greater emphasis on a networking event rather than a three-course dinner and formalities. This feedback has been shared with the School and we hope can be incorporated into the established OC Events already in the calendar.

The OCA is also conscious of the additional administrative burden of organising and marketing these events with an already resourced constrained Philanthropy Department which is actively focussed on fund raising for the in-flight Sports Centre.

Sporting Activities

This is an established area for Old Chigwellians - particularly in relation to football and golf. The OCFC has 4 teams playing regularly, with the potential of a fifth team being established. The OC Golfing Society has over 100 members, meeting regularly and entering teams into the Independent School's competitions.

The OCFC has established a good working relationship with the School's Director of Football, with 4 sporting events versus the School in his calendar. Girls football, netball and hockey are also being discussed, with the idea of honoring Keith Mitchell, OC and founder member of the OCC who recently passed away, by naming the first female OC footballing trophy after him.

OCC / OCA Merger

There is a need to merge the Old Chigwellian's Club and the Old Chigwellians' Association in order to avoid any confusion and simplify the Alumni structure.





ESTABLISHED OC EVENTS

In partnership with the School, we have six firmly established Old Chigwellians' events throughout the year. Furthermore, we are proactively planning several additional events for OCs to fulfil our overall mission and purpose



Shrove Tuesday Supper & Sport

In 2022, the School hosted the 154th consecutive event for former pupils. This is an exclusive event for Old Chigwellians of all ages, hosted and held at the School in the Dining Hall.

In addition to the supper, the School 1st and 2nd XIs play against the OC teams on either Shrove Tuesday or the Saturday either side of the event.

The OCA have suggested a revised format and costing for this event and the use of table captains / influencers to encourage OCs to

Wednesday Lunch Club

Nine lunches are held at the OC Clubhouse on the first Wednesday of the month and these have been running now for over fifty years: attendance sees an average of nearly forty OCs.

Two of the other three lunches are invitations from the Headmaster and held at the School. The final event is the Away Day which is held at a restaurant in the heart of the Essex countryside.

All OCs, of any age plus their partners, are very welcome.



OCFC End of Season Supper

Organised by the OC Football Club Chairman and held in the OC Clubhouse in May, this annual event features a celebrity guest speaker. Attended by the Old Chigwellian footballers, this lively event is a fitting celebration to the end of the football season each year.



ESTABLISHED OC EVENTS



OC Day

This event has taken a number of guises, including a 'Big Top' Fun Day hosted in conjunction with the Friends of Chigwell. Featuring OC teams for hockey, football, netball and cricket (depending on the time of year) against the School's teams, this is an important additional to the sporting calendar.

OC Black Tie Dinner

For both Old Chigwellians and their partners, this event has been held at various venues in Mayfair, Cambridge, Oxford and more recently at the School itself.

The Black Tie Dinner typically concludes the OC Day of sporting events and the OC AGM.



Tower of London

Organised by Chris MacDonald (OC), Old Chigwellians are treated to an exclusive viewing of the Ceremony of the Keys, followed by a light supper in a nearby venue. This normally takes place between Christmas and New Year depending on availability.

Another firm date in the annual calendar is the Yuletide Golf Supper is organised amongst the OC Golfers.

In the past, we have also had OC City Drinks in November and an OC Christmas Choral Event in early December



PROPOSED OC EVENTS



10 Year Reunion

The OCA brought this idea to the Head of Philanthropy earlier in 2022 to establish a regular event for pupils following the 10 year anniversary of their departure from the School. Featuring a tour of the School and a mix and mingle, this reunion event can be held annually to keep in touch with the more recent leavers.

Networking

OC Matthew Stubbs, Master of Wine and Bollinger Medal achiever for the best Tasting paper and winner of the Listel Scholarship has offered to host an OC event to share some of his vast knowledge and experience as part of our social networking series. This event is now ear-marked for Spring 2023, subject to availability and marketing of the event.



Founders Day

13th April 1629 is the School's Founders Day. This significant date could be utilised for either the OC Day and Black Tie dinner, or as a date for the School to host a memorable event for the Sports Center fundraising - eg Charity Auction

There is also strong appetite for a virtual event, allowing OCs from around the world to connect, catch-up and reminisce.



APPENDIX



Old Chigwellians



ESTABLISHING THE OCA

The OC Society, the Football club and the OC Golf Society were founded by Old Chigwellians nearly 100 years ago. In 1980 all three merged into a new Old Chigwellian Club (OCC) which purchased 18 acres of land adjoining the School and then landscaped two pitches plus other areas and built a Clubhouse. This was funded purely by OCs and is regarded as their home. The OCC's membership paid annual subscriptions. There are still 7 unused acres, adjoining the School's Glen pitch which are currently let to Chigwell Riding Trust.

During Brian Wilson's tenure, an 'opt in' Pupil OCC Life Membership Scheme was established where parents paid a few pounds per term to entitle their sons and daughters to be Life Members of the OCC when they left School.

This was then superseded by Tony Little who favoured an 'opt out' scheme, which saw OCC income rise significantly, generating between £25k and £30k per annum towards OCC's costs.

David Gibb decided that the School could no longer support the OCC and thus the Pupil Life Membership Scheme was withdrawn resulting in the loss of the above income. He subsequently established the Old Chigwellian Association, with its own constitution, where all OCs were regarded as members automatically free of any charges. The relationship with the OCA was then taken over by Michael Punt in 2007 and has evolved into its current format.





BACKGROUND CONTINUED

The above 1980 merger coincided with Old Chigwellians fundraising from the Alumni to buy 18 acres of farmland adjoining the School which was landscaped to provide two full sized football pitches, a cricket square and a Clubhouse with two squash courts. Seven acres remain unused and separated from the main area by woodland.

Then, in 2005 the Old Chigwellians' Association was set up by the last two Headmasters to work in opposition to the Old Chigwellian Club.

This association is run by a committee volunteer OCs who work in partnership with the School with the intention of keeping former pupils in touch with each other and the School by way of communications, social events and sporting activities. This has never been achieved.

In 2012 the Old Chigwellians' Club agreed to sell the land and Clubhouse to the School with the consideration being a Service Level Agreement from the School whereby it paid the running costs and covered any ground and clubhouse maintenance issues for a period of 124 years. The School also retains any income generated from the former OC Club site.

There is a need to merge the Old Chigwellian's Club and the Old Chigwellians' Association in order to avoid any confusion and simplify the Alumni structure.

Financial Background

In the late 2000s, the financial problems of the OCC came to a head and the assets of the OCC were sold to the School in 2012 in return for a Service Level Agreement whereby the School paid for the running costs of the Clubhouse and grounds for the next 100 years.

As part of this original SLA, OC Football is permitted to be played between 1st September and 31st May on either the Clubhouse pitches, or other suitable pitches close to the Clubhouse, depending on the number of fixtures and requirements.

Since 2011, the OC Clubhouse and grounds have been let to Leyton Orient Football Club as their training ground and physio facilities which generates an income to the School of c. £50,000 per annum.

