



CHARTERS  
ALUMNI

# July 2026

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

**Welcome**

Connect with us by clicking the icons:



Welcome to the Summer edition of our Alumni Newsletter.

We have stories about our amazing alumni that we hope you will enjoy, from sporting success to career aspirations.

If you'd like to reconnect with old classmates or colleagues, share something you've been involved in, or offer inspiration to our current students, please do get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

Connect via our socials or email [marketing@chartersschool.org.uk](mailto:marketing@chartersschool.org.uk) to appear in our Autumn 2026 edition.

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### ***Full Circle for Maisie Purrington*** ***FORMER STUDENT TREADS THE BOARDS***



Former Charters student Maisie Purrington has reached an exciting milestone in her creative journey after securing a place at the prestigious Guildford School of Acting (GSA).

Maisie, who left Charters two years ago, has continued to pursue both acting and writing. Recently, she found herself performing in *Our Public House*, a community production by acclaimed playwright Barney Norris—a remarkable full-circle moment.

Maisie first met Barney during a creative writing workshop at Charters when she was in Year 12, where he generously offered feedback on one of her early plays and encouraged her to continue developing her writing. Two years later, the pair unexpectedly became collaborators when Maisie joined the community ensemble for *Our Public House* after discovering the opportunity through Dash Arts.

Reflecting on the experience, Maisie wrote to Barney to share the news of her acting training at GSA and to thank him for the encouragement he had given her while she was still at school. She also shared that she has continued writing alongside her acting studies, with some of her work already being showcased at GSA.

Barney was delighted by the update, describing Maisie's email as "such a great email to receive" and encouraging her to stay in touch after graduation so he can see her showcase and continue reading her work.

It's a wonderful example of the lasting impact of the opportunities and connections made at Charters. We are incredibly proud of Maisie's achievements so far and look forward to seeing where her talent and determination take her next.

Congratulations, Maisie—we can't wait to follow the next chapter of your journey



## SIXTH FORM HIGHLIGHTS THIS TERM...

### BIODIVERSITY FIELDWORK

Biology A Level students explored stream beds for invertebrate distribution and surveyed ancient woodland ferns during their extended learning fieldtrip.



### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A Level Geographers visited South Wales to complete fieldwork tasks from coastal investigations to regeneration studies, bring classroom learning to life!



### INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

Three Sixth Formers represented the school at the prestigious *Pitch For The Planet* event at the Royal Institution after success in the national ICE CityZen competition.



### FUN, FUN, FUN!

Building team spirit, cementing friendships and just having a lot of fun, the Sixth Form Sports Day brought the whole cohort together to showcase why our Sixth Form is so special.



### REAL WORLD EXPERIENCES

A-level Business students gained behind-the-scenes insight into how a world-famous organisation like Chelsea FC operates. It was a brilliant opportunity to see business theory come to life!



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## CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Year 13 Poppy won the Royal Ascot Fashion Design Competition. Her Interview with Sky & ITV demonstrated how studying A Level Art can provide students with so much more than technical artistic skills.

## ALUMNI INSPIRATION

During the Post-18 Pathways Day, students had the opportunity to hear first-hand about the different routes available after Sixth Form and to gain advice from past students who had recently left.



## ROYAL INSTITUTION WORKSHOP

KS5 Students enjoyed taking part in an inspiring Young Scientist Workshop at the Royal Institution of London which focused on criminology and forensic science.

## PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Olly (Yr13) competed in the Under-20 Men's 400m hurdles at the Berkshire County Champs, won gold with a PB of 54.54 sec & broke both the U20 & Senior Men's club records for Bracknell Athletics - which had stood since 1969!



## A FOND FAREWELL

We said goodbye to our Year 13 cohort with breakfast, photographs and precious time spent with the tutors & friends who have shared the past two years together. Old school uniform was worn as has become tradition - raising many smiles.

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## *The Spirit of Ekiden*

ALUMNA ANNA DINGLEY INSPIRES OUR YEAR 7 COHORT

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Year 7 students enjoyed an inspiring visit recently when former student Anna Dingley, founder and CEO of the FT Nikkei UK Ekiden, joined them for assembly.

After leaving Charters Sixth Form, Anna moved to Japan to work, where she discovered the unique tradition of the Ekiden – a long-distance relay race that places teamwork above individual success. She explained how millions of people across Japan watch the famous New Year's Day Ekiden, which starts in Tokyo and finishes at Mount Fuji.

In an Ekiden, runners pass a Tasuki – a sash worn across the body – from one teammate to the next. The focus is on running for the team rather than for yourself. Originally a university competition, the Ekiden has grown into a hugely popular event involving schools, universities, companies, running clubs and professional teams across Japan.

Inspired by the spirit of the race, Anna founded the FT Nikkei UK Ekiden, which follows the Thames Path from Windsor Castle to Reading and back. This year, 17 university teams and 18 company/community teams took part in the race on Friday 12th June.

We are very grateful to Anna for returning to Charters and helping our students learn about this wonderful sporting tradition, which reflects our school values of Unity, Respect and Excellence.



Inspired by Anna, our Year 7 students experienced their own version of the Ekiden during athletics lessons. Working in mixed teams, students ran as far as they could before passing the Tasuki to the next runner, demonstrating teamwork, determination and resilience.

We look forward to seeing Anna again in the Autumn term as she has agreed to return to be the guest speaker at our Celebration of Achievement.

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## ***Olly's a record-breaker!***

FORMER YEAR 13 STUDENT BECOMES ENGLISH SCHOOLS CHAMPION

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Our outstanding Sixth Form is renowned not only for the exceptional Post-18 destinations secured by our students, but also for developing resilient, well-rounded young people who learn to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Behind every success is a story of dedication, careful organisation and the ability to balance the demands of academic study with wider passions and interests.

One such student is Olly, who completed his A Levels

this summer and is looking forward to studying Economics at the University of Birmingham this autumn. Alongside the demands of his studies, Olly has pursued athletics at an elite level, demonstrating the determination, resilience and time management that epitomise the Charters Sixth Form experience.

Following the conclusion of his A Levels, Olly shared some exciting news with the school:



"Hope all is well at school! Wanted to keep you posted from this weekend and what a result it turned out to be! Still finding it hard to believe it but I became the English Schools' Champion in the Under-19 Men's 400m Hurdles! Setting a new championship record, a Bracknell AC club record (which had stood since 1969!) and a new personal best of 54.03 seconds to take the title.

All the hours and sacrifice over these past few months were made worth it in the end, especially competing in the scorching heat throughout the championships.

The perfect way to end my competitive outdoor season and my final year representing Berkshire Schools' Athletics."

Olly's remarkable achievement is testament to the countless hours of training, commitment and perseverance required to compete at the highest level while simultaneously preparing for A Levels. His success perfectly illustrates that excellence at Charters extends far beyond examination results.

We are incredibly proud of Olly and all of our Sixth Form students who embrace opportunities beyond the classroom, whether in sport, music, drama, volunteering or leadership. These experiences not only enrich their time at Charters but also help develop the confidence, resilience and character that enable them to flourish in higher education, apprenticeships and future careers.



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## ***From Flight Attendant to pilot***

HOW FORMER STUDENT JASMINE NEVER GAVE UP

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Alumna Jasmine is a perfect example of how determination, ambition and the confidence developed during her time at our outstanding Sixth Form can help turn a dream into a reality.

Inspired by aviation from a young age, she's now reached an incredible milestone – completing her first solo flight during pilot training.

We spoke to Jasmine recently about her post-18 pathway and her fantastic transition from flight

attendant to pilot. You can read the interview below:

*What first inspired you to pursue a career in aviation, and when did you realise becoming a pilot was your ultimate goal?*

My inspiration into a career within aviation came from my mum, she is currently cabin crew for British Airways, and has been for the past 37 years. So I've grown up around it constantly, I actually decided to pursue the career when I was 17 years old and that's when I started looking at it seriously, initially looking into Air Traffic Control and then later seeing the career of 'pilot' which just really took my interest.

*How did your experience at Sixth Form help prepare you for working as cabin crew and now training as a pilot?*

I would say Sixth Form helped me with my independence skills; from the way the classes were structured to finding out about the career path I wanted to take.

*What has been the biggest challenge in your journey so far, and how did you overcome it?*

The biggest challenge I have had since starting at a flying school has got to be ground school. For the integrated course I am doing ground school is 6 months long and covers 13 different subjects with 13 exams to pass with a 75% minimum pass mark. As someone who isn't the most academic I definitely struggled with the workload and pace of lessons and also being in a class with highly academic people with whom I was comparing myself with regularly. The ways I overcame these issues was; constant revision, long days and nights and thousands of practise questions per subject to try and stay on top of the work and to understand the topics. I would also purposely not ask my classmates how they were doing because I was struggling with comparing myself to them so I found it easiest to not ask and to focus on myself.

*Can you share a memorable moment from your training or time working in the air that confirmed you were on the right path?*

A moment I had where I knew I wanted to become a pilot was when I become cabin crew for Virgin Atlantic and I sat in the flight Deck for take off out of New York. Talking to the pilots about their career and seeing first hand the workload made me so excited for my future career. Speaking to my cabin manager at the time and she said she couldn't wait for the day I would be the first officer on her flight made me feel so supported by my colleagues, and to see how excited they all were because I am a women going into this field, just made me think 'yes this is absolutely where I need to be'.

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### ***From Flight Attendant to pilot cont...***

HOW FORMER STUDENT JASMINE NEVER GAVE UP

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*What advice would you give to current students who may be considering an unconventional career path or dreaming of working in aviation?*

My best advice for any students wanting a career in aviation (more specifically cabin crew or pilot) would be; its definitely going to be testing and hard, and you will find yourself asking 'why am I doing this to myself' but once you get through the really tough exams and studying the flying is truly the best bit and you will meet some of the loveliest crew in the job. The other thing I would say is really try not to compare yourself to others around you. I had a hard time with this during ground school however something I had to remember is that everyone has there own level of challenging and there own level of success, for me I was just trying to pass every exam and I was happy with anything over 75%. For others they wanted 90% as a minimum. That doesn't make me any less intelligent; but everyone will want something different and so really try to not let it get you down when others get 90% average, for example.



*What's the best view you've ever seen from an aircraft window?*

The best view I have seen from actually the Flight Deck are the two photos I have attached. The first one was taking off from Heathrow at night and it was amazing to see the cockpit all lit up. The second photo I have attached is take off out of JFK and the view of New York as we departed, it was so cold you can see all the white of snow on the ground. New York was one of my regular trips, and I fell in love with it!

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***Could your story inspire the next generation?***

***TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOUR CAREER JOURNEY***

Do you have your dream job? How did you get there? Was it plain sailing or did you have to overcome obstacles along the way?

If your career path was anything from straightforward or you have some insightful tips that could help our current students land their perfect employment, then please get in touch with us on [alumni@chartersschool.org.uk](mailto:alumni@chartersschool.org.uk)

We would love to share your story on our website, or on posters around the school. Even better you could come in to speak with our students to give them a real-world perspective on the careers market.

*Remember the past. Inspire the future.*

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## ***Speechless! Musical Excellence***

FORMER STUDENT FILIP PHENOMINAL TALENT

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Filip's extraordinary musical journey continues to inspire the Charters community, four years after he left the school to take up a prestigious scholarship at Chetham's School of Music.

Recently, Filip took part in the finals of the highly competitive concerto auditions, where 13 concertos were performed by some of the most talented and accomplished young musicians in the country. In an exceptional achievement, Filip was named joint winner – an honour that means he will now have the opportunity to perform with a full symphony orchestra next year.

The adjudicator's feedback captured the impact of Filip's performance perfectly, saying he was "speechless," and praising his "powerful opening," "incredible musical maturity," and "natural ability for communicating through music." The performance was said to be so moving that it left the adjudicator "quite emotional."

For everyone at Charters School, this achievement is a source of immense pride. Filip was a hugely valued part of the school's performing arts community during his time at Charters, and his continued success reflects not only his exceptional talent and dedication, but also the rich heritage of music and performing arts that continues to thrive within the school.

We hope that Filip's journey demonstrates to our alumni just how far passion, commitment and creativity can take you. From performing in school concerts and productions to competing amongst the nation's finest young musicians, Filip's story is a wonderful example of what can be achieved through hard work and belief in your talent. Everyone at Charters sends Filip their warmest congratulations on this incredible accomplishment.

We cannot wait to see him take to the stage with a full symphony orchestra next year and look forward to following the next exciting chapter of his musical career.

Watch's Filip's interview following his win [here](#).



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## ***Literary Festival & Summer Fayre***

A FUN DAY FOR ALL..

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Charters School welcomed students, families, staff, alumni and the wider community for a vibrant Literary Festival & Summer Fayre on 4<sup>th</sup> July celebrating the school's values of Unity, Respect and Excellence.

The day showcased the strong connections between Charters and the local community, with charities, community organisations and emergency services joining the festivities alongside an artisan market, interactive activities and literary workshops marking the National Year of Reading. Visitors enjoyed performances from our talented Drama and Music students, creative activities led by departments and student societies, and a lively Game Zone organised by our younger students. Students preparing for their expedition to Peru also raised funds through a variety of stalls, while the ever-popular Sponge the Teacher once again proved a crowd favourite.

The event would not have been possible without the dedication of The Friends of Charters School, whose volunteers organised the BBQ, bar, cake stall and Gift Tree, helping to create a fantastic day for all.



Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended, the event raised more than £3,000 towards upgrading the sound and lighting in the Main Hall. Above all, it was a wonderful celebration of the creativity, community spirit and shared pride that continue to define Charters –values we know resonate just as strongly with our alumni today.

We look forward to welcoming even more former students back to future community events.

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## ***Reconnect at a Reunion***

### **FANCY GETTING YOUR OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS BACK TOGETHER?**

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There's something special about catching up with old school friends. Whether it's been five years or fifty, a reunion is a wonderful opportunity to share memories, celebrate friendships and see how everyone's journeys have unfolded since leaving Charters.

If you've been thinking about organising a school reunion, we'd love to help. We can publicise your event through the Charters Alumni Facebook page, making it easier to reconnect with former classmates and spread the word. Whether you're planning a casual get-together or a milestone year reunion, we're here to support you.

Another simple way to strengthen our alumni community is by adding Charters School to the Education section of your LinkedIn profile. Doing so means you'll automatically appear within Charters' alumni network on [LinkedIn](#), making it much easier for former classmates to find you, reconnect professionally, and grow your network. It's a great way to maintain lifelong connections, discover shared career paths and support fellow alumni.

We were delighted to welcome three former students back to Charters recently for our Literary Festival and Summer Fayre. They thoroughly enjoyed walking around the school, reminiscing about



their time here and seeing how much has changed - and how much has stayed the same. Unsurprisingly, there was plenty of laughter about memories of Mr Pratt's Sixth Form office, along with the familiar observation that the school grounds somehow seemed much smaller than they remembered!

Visits like these remind us that while buildings evolve, the friendships, experiences and memories made at school remain with us for life.

Whether you're planning a reunion, attending one of our events, or simply updating your LinkedIn profile, we'd love to reconnect with you. Charters has always been more than just a school - it's a community, and you'll always be a valued part of it. We hope to welcome you back soon.