

Welcome to the Winter 2019 SIAA Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed having a newsletter earlier this year, we'll continue to produce two newsletters a year. Apologies for the late arrival of this second 2019 newsletter; as compensation we have produced a bumper edition! Apart from the latest updates about developments at Sherborne International, the rest of the newsletter is devoted to news about you, our alumni. So please, keep in touch, tell us your news!

A Message from Tim Waters, Principal of Sherborne International



I am pleased to be writing to our alumni after another wonderful year at Sherborne International during which we have seen our students achieving great results and fully embracing their first experience of UK education, very much as you did. I have outlined some of their achievements below along with our ambitious future aspirations for the School.

Looking back on this year, the focus for us all has been “community”. Sherborne International has seen great changes as we have upgraded so many of our buildings and, throughout the turbulence that projects such as these generate, the sense of the “SI community” has shone through really strongly. Some students moved house twice during the year, whilst others saw their friends changing location. There were also many students who joined us here part way through this busy year. At all times, however, friendships, social groups and the sense of school identity have not just held firm but have actively drawn us together during challenging times.

The sense of community here is not, however, an introspective and self-centred thing. The whole idea that we should work together that is evident in our day-to-day life is rapidly extending to embrace the local and the world communities. This year has seen our contribution to the local community become an even more significant focus than normal. Students have raised thousands of pounds for charities, both through group efforts and individual enterprises. Notably, Leonardo Fu became so passionate about his charity work that he even provided tutoring for students in his home town in Italy to raise money for Macmillan Foundation, a charity we have worked with closely in recent years. For me, things such as this are the epitome of what it means to be a global citizen in the 21st century.

On the wider scale, we have also come together to help make the world a better place through our commitment to the environment. We have been working hard to try and become a “Green Flag Status” school and, whilst it will take a long time to achieve this, there are already many steps that we have taken to improve our contribution to the environment, and to give something back to the natural world that sustains us.

Alongside all of this activity at the school itself, the Sherborne Group is working together more closely, with the liaison between Sherborne International and Sherborne School helping us to weather inspections, fund development and share best practice to the great benefit of all. Likewise, the ever expanding community of alumni is also going from strength to strength. The number of people with whom we're in contact continues to rise, your involvement in events is impressive as ever and a number of alumni are seeking very proactively to build a closer working relationship with the school.

At a time when the turbulence of globalisation is challenging modern politics and people to come up with better ways of working together, I am glad to say that Sherborne International is a place where community is not just spoken about - it is very much lived, both at school level and increasingly as part of the wider world in which we all look forward to playing our part.

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Farewell to Westcott – Hello to a new future!

Many of you will by now have heard that a new chapter is being written in the history of Sherborne International. Westcott House has been a key part of SI life for twenty years and there are many of you with very happy memories of time spent there.

When I arrived at Sherborne International, however, it was clear that our boarding houses needed considerable work (with the exception of the luxurious Mowat which has only recently been built in the Westcott House grounds). Our attention focussed first on King's House, which was in most pressing need and you'll read elsewhere about the fantastic result of our refurbishment work there.

This year we considered plans for Westcott and it quickly became clear that this presented something of a problem for us. The work necessary to create the sorts of facilities that would be of the right style for our students, would likely be extensive and not completely effective. Wider discussion within the Sherborne Group revealed, however, that rapidly rising numbers at Sherborne School could present us with a great opportunity.

The configuration of Westcott lends itself much more effectively to being a UK-style boys' boarding house than the sort of boarding house that we will need at SI. Handing it back to Sherborne School (but retaining Mowat), would enable us to get investment to develop a new boarding house for SI, with the perfect specification for international students, and to do so cost effectively. Taking this idea forward has meant that a lot of planning behind the scenes has gone on, with the intention of returning Westcott to Sherborne School for complete refurbishment and use from September 2021 and with a new house for Sherborne International coming on stream as a replacement.

We are currently in the middle of the necessary negotiations with the planning authorities, but we are confident that we will soon have plans confirmed that will ensure excellent boarding accommodation for every future student at Sherborne International, all of it having either been newly built or recently completely refurbished to high specification within the last decade. This will give us some of the best accommodation in the country for an International School and will mark a huge turnaround in the quality of our boarding provision over a relatively short period.

We hope in the near future to be able to talk to you all about how you as alumni can support the boarding development and the expansion of the sports facilities. Either I or the Head of the Alumni team, Adrian Ballard, will be in touch over the coming months.

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting or renewing friendships with you at one of our many reunions.

Yours

Tim Waters

Sherborne International Refurbishments

- a. King's House—35 single and 10 modern double bedrooms all with en-suite facilities, completed April 2019
- b. Francis Building—Redecoration throughout & refurbishment upstairs to provide a comfortable student social space, completed January 2018
- c. The Barn—refurbishment to provide a beautiful Common Room for the girls, plus shared social space for the whole school, completed June 2019
- d. Newell Grange—refurbishment to provide additional office space, completed April 2019
Development of new boarding accommodation to be completed January 2021



A Letter from Gus Amadi, President of Sherborne International Alumni Association



As another year draws to a close, I would like to wish the students who have moved on to the senior school or indeed different schools, all the best in their next adventure. I also welcome you to the alumni fold and wish you all great success.

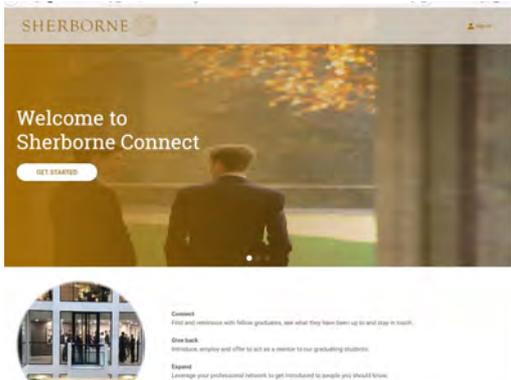
Our school's performance continues to be a beacon for other schools to follow.

In the last year, there have been reunions both in the Far East and in London. I attended the London one which had a good turnout by alumni across different years. Fond memories were shared and I was happy to see all are doing very well.

I am also encouraged to see that the support the School gives doesn't stop when you leave. The School Foundation pays regular visits to universities, to meet with scholars, and these are advertised on the Sherborne Connect portal. Do register to be kept informed and let the school know what you are up to!

Have you joined Sherborne Connect yet? www.sherborneconnect.org.

It's a great networking tool exclusively for Sherborne International and Sherborne School alumni. It's simple to join via Facebook, LinkedIn or going straight to the website. Don't miss out on an opportunity to connect with old friends again as well as making new connections! You need to be over 18 to join. There are opportunities for recent graduates or current university students to find a mentor posted on Sherborne Connect. And job opportunities are advertised there too.



All reunions are announced on Sherborne Connect as are university visits. University visits are held in a number of cities in the UK; they are a great way for students to enjoy a reunion and catch up with the

latest SI news. Sherborne also hosts a number of business breakfasts throughout the year; a speaker, prominent in his or her field, is invited to give a talk and take questions during the breakfast, it's also a good networking opportunity. Business breakfasts are also announced on Sherborne Connect.

Make sure to let us know your contact details (email is sufficient) and current job or university so we can be sure to invite you to relevant events.

Speech Day June 2019.

Do you remember your Speech Day at Sherborne International?



What Are They Doing Now?

This newsletter features more stories about SI alumni and what they have done since leaving Sherborne International — or Greenhill House Study Centre, its original name when the school began in January 1977. In the early years boarding and classroom accommodation were far from the relatively luxurious standards enjoyed by current Sherborne International students. Nevertheless, whatever era they come from, the College is remembered by students with great fondness and gratitude for starting them on the path to a British education which has taken them on to many interesting and varied careers all over the world.

Tigran Karapetyan (2007—2008)



Tigran’s career took an unexpected turn after university—here’s his story about being educated in England and what he is doing now.

“Before coming to Sherborne in 2007, I had been in the UK just once before, in fact during the summer of that same year. My reasons for wanting to study in the UK were quite romantic and naive - I was a crazy fan of Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings books and was convinced that I wanted to go to the country where both of those series were written. It was a huge change compared to Kazakhstan and my biggest surprise was that even small towns and villages, like Sherborne, had very beautiful roads, supermarkets (we had Sainsbury's and Woolworths if I remember correctly), restaurants and all sorts of boutiques, cosy cafes, b and b's etc Of course we also had a castle ruin nearby and overall the landscape was quite simply breathtaking. It was a dream come true for me!

Boarding school life was quite a challenge. Academically I never struggled, however, other aspects such as sharing showers and toilets with other people, as well as dining and sleeping in the same space as others were quite difficult. Managing your own laundry, homework

and of course all the interactions had to be in English. I always found reading, writing and listening easy, but speaking in English was the biggest challenge. Sport was important as well, which wasn't so much the case at my school in Kazakhstan. I was not and still am not a sporty person, so struggled with this a lot. Having said all that, I would never have exchanged boarding school experience for anything else. It taught me discipline, independence, communication and general problem solving like nothing else in my life.

My second boarding school was in a stunning setting in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that was one of the main reasons I chose to go there. My closest friend from Sherborne, Nikita, was the first to discover it, so without much thinking I followed him there. Little did I know that the religious aspect was very central to school life. This somehow did not register in my mind during my interview, even though the school was Benedictine and there was a huge modern church in the shape of a flying saucer right in the middle of it! I did not enjoy having to go to church, especially on Sunday mornings, which was the only day we could have a lie in. I was very against organised religion even then. As a result, I went to London almost every single weekend and of course don't regret it, as I enjoyed London greatly! Having said that, the same school gave me the most memorable experience, which was an opportunity to do horse riding as part of my co-curricular activities.

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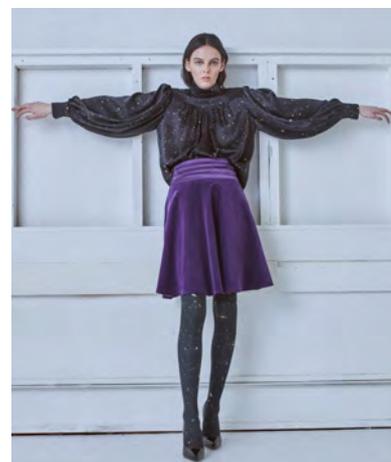
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After finishing my IB studies, I went to the London School of Economics, where I read Philosophy and Economics. However, it occurred to me that I always wanted to do something creative and had never really allowed myself to explore that part of me. So, during my second year I decided to find an internship in a creative environment and applied for a few positions I found online. One of them was at a new fashion brand, Timur Kim, where I met and befriended the eponymous founder. He was a recent Central Saint Martins graduate and had been running his own brand entirely on his own for about a year. I decided to help as much as I could between my studies and holidays, doing a lot of the administrative and managerial tasks that he had no time to do. It was incredible fun but wasn't very financially rewarding, as is the case with many fashion enterprises, especially at the early stages.

In 2016 we created another business together, Cross Spot Studio, which offers fashion manufacturing and development services to various clients. It took off quite rapidly and we had to pause the brand in order to concentrate on this new business. We have a studio in Aldgate East, where we create patterns, prototypes and final garments for clients such as Mary Katrantzou, Borgo De Nor, Christian Cowan and many others.

In 2018 I decided to start developing my own womenswear brand, Solitaire, using the knowledge I have accumulated since 2012. The first collection was released in January 2019 and explores the connection between the largely unexplored domains of deep ocean and outer space. The main fabrics are digitally printed silks and cottons, silk and linen blends, velvets and lace. We have developed prints with manta rays, Nasa's Hubble Telescope imagery of galaxies and star systems, as well as a Space X Falcon 9 rocket launch. Some garments are inspired by the shapes of jellyfish and octopus, others incorporate traditional menswear elements such as cummerbunds and tailcoats. In May 2019 we launched the Solitaire online shop."

More information about Solitaire can be found on www.worldofsolitaire.co.uk and on Instagram @world_of_solitaire. Below are some items from the collection.



Styling - Karen Binns
Photography - Francisco Gomes de Villaboa
Grooming - Barrie Griffith
Model - Charlotte @ SELECT

Shapour Hariri (1986 – 1988) receives the Freedom of the City of London!

On October 29th 2019 Shapour Hariri received the Freedom of the City of London at London's Guildhall.



It is a great honour to be awarded the Freedom of the city of London which is one of the oldest surviving traditional ceremonies still in existence today; it is believed to have first been presented in 1237. The honour is a recognition awarded to people who have achieved success, recognition or celebrity in their chosen field.

The medieval term 'freeman' meant someone who was not the property of a feudal lord but enjoyed privileges such as the right to earn money and own land. Town dwellers who were protected by the charter of their town or city were often free – hence the term 'freedom' of the City. From the Middle Ages and the Victorian era, the Freedom was the right to trade, enabling members of a Guild or Livery to carry out their trade or craft in the Square Mile. A fee or fine would be charged and in return the Livery Companies would ensure that the goods and services provided would be of the highest possible standards. Nowadays, the Livery companies tend to focus on charitable activities. Shapour began as a Liveryman of the Tallow Chandlers Company and is now a Freeman of this Company. However, it is not necessary now to be a member of a Livery Company before receiving the Freedom of the City of London as in 1835, the Freedom was widened to incorporate not just

members of Livery Companies but also people living or working in the City or those with a strong London connection. In London it is the liverymen who elect the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London. Other cities in the UK award freedom of the city to certain citizens, often as a way of conferring honours on someone and honouring them for civic work or other achievements but the Freedom of the City of London is the most prestigious. In all cases it is purely an honorary title and does not confer any special privileges or right but you receive a beautiful certificate after taking part in a special civic ceremony.

Shapour is a Doctor of Pharmacology and Managing Director of Iosis Dental clinic which offers high quality dental treatment in clinics in Winchester, Godalming and also has two mobile dental units offering services in the wider area.

Congratulations Shapour!



News of past students

Anton Antonov (2001—2003) (right, with his wife Chloe and son Gabriel) studied Business & Information Management at Loughborough University where he gained an MSc as well as playing plenty of rugby! Anton is married with a young son, lives in UK and is currently working in block and estate management.

Shoichi Fukumori (2002—2003) went on to Durham University to study Accounting and Finance and then worked in financial services in Hong Kong before returning to Tokyo where he works as a shipping broker. We would also like to congratulate him on his engagement.

Serguei Sobolev (2002—2003) studied Economics at University College London then completed a MSc at LSE. He now works in banking in London and is married.

Howard Chang (1978) visited with his wife last summer. His son Sydney was at SI 2016—2017, his brother also came to SI and was taught by Mr Hardaker in the very early days of the school.



Angelina Popelnykh (2011—2013) is working as a 3D modeller and animator for a Russian online gaming company after studying Illustration at Hertfordshire University. Sounds like a fun job!

Yoshi Sato (1996—1997, left) is married to Tomomi and has a daughter. He lives in Tokyo and works as a management consultant. Yoshi and family are pictured visiting SI last summer.

Kseniya Maslova (2010—2011) studied Economics at Bristol University and currently works for UBS in London. She brought her sister, Anastasia to SI in January to join the school.

Jason Wu (2006—2008) gained a PhD from York University last year and is now working as a post-doctorate leading a project on DNA imaging technique development at the Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health.

George Zhou (2001—2002, right, with his wife Lei Lei) visited in September; after school and Greenwich University he has returned to China. He and his wife have two daughters.



Anna Kalmykova, Andrey Dolgoplov, Nastya Anastasiia Tkachenko, & Irina Orlova visited last November. Anna is at Hurtwood, Andrey at Abbey College, Cambridge while Irina and Anastasiia are both at D'Overboeck's.

Congratulations to the following university graduates:

Almaz Nizamutadinov (2012—2013) BEng Mechanical Engineering, Heriot-Watt University

Rachel Hung (2012—2013) BSc Nutritional Sciences, Manchester Metropolitan University

Anthony Chak Fung Lee (2012—2013) BEng 1st class Civil Engineering, Manchester University. Also, British Constructional Steelwork Association prize.

Nadya Selyutina (2011—2013) BA International Relations, Sussex University

Haruka Akimoto (2012—2013) Bsc International Relations, LSE

Max Bokov (2008—2009) MSc Structural Biology, Université Grenoble Alpes

Sophie Yi (2009—2010) MSc Anthropology LSE, now pursuing a PhD in Chinese Studies at King's College London

Oliver Chin Shing Jia (2011—2012) BA Marketing & Management, Keele University

Chunwen Li (2011 – 2012) MSc Digital Effects, Bournemouth University

Cyndi Yuechen Jiang (2011—2012) MA Film-making, Goldsmith's College, London

Erika Osade (2011—2012) MA International Relations, Edinburgh University



Jae Bhandhukravi (2006—2008 pictured left when she visited last summer) MA with merit Scriptwriting, Bournemouth University.

Valeriya Likhatska (2012—2013) BSc 1st class Business Management, Royal Holloway.

Siqi Chen (2011—2012) BSc Accounting & Finance, Edinburgh University. Siqi is currently doing her masters degree in London.

Sophie Yi (2009—2010) is doing research for her PhD in Chinese Studies at King's College London.

Anastasia Palekha (2012—2013) BSc Management with International Business, Royal Holloway.

Mieu Panaipak Koonawarote (2011—2012) graduated from Les Roches Global Hospitality Education.

A Blast from the Past!

The following photos date back to 1979. Hadijanto and Santoso Soejoedi came to SI from Indonesia. Does anyone recognise the other students in the photos? And do you know where they went on the trip—or trips? If you do, please let us know! If one of them is you, do tell us what you are doing now.



Gino Amadori (1994—1996)

Gino Amadori, from Lima Peru was a student at Sherborne International Study Centre. Gino lives in Peru but works in film and television for companies all over the world. Here's his story:



“Back in 1994 I suffered a brain haemorrhage which made me forget many things I already knew such as French, names of several things and places as well as leaving me with a visual handicap where I lost part of my peripheral sight and made it really hard to read at a normal speed. The School I was at in Lima didn't really manage it well, I was downgraded from the top sets to the very bottom ones, I was really demotivated and my self-confidence was really low. My parents gave me the option to study in another country and I accepted, since I had nothing to lose. They chose Sherborne because they thought that they would help me because it had classrooms with few students and so we went to England.

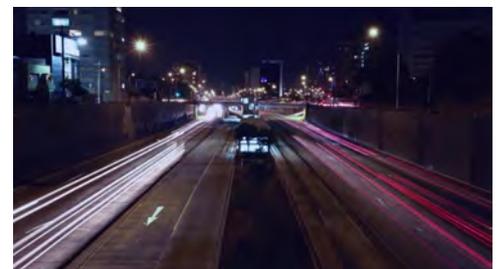
I remember the day I arrived, I was so scared of being left alone for the first time in another country. I remember sitting in my room and feeling sad, when suddenly an Australian guy called Joseph Palmer came in the room and started talking to me asking questions and became my first friend there. Later on, Amnaj (Sirawongtham, 1994 – 1996) came in, he was a Thai kid who was my roommate for the first year there. I was fascinated to see the variety of cultures all in one place. Things started looking better and I suddenly didn't feel alone anymore. Later on Mr. Bonelli-Bean came to greet me, he was very friendly. The next day I started my lessons, I felt more confident, it was a new start for learning again, making new friends and being happy. Sherborne made it easy to fit back in and learn. I still struggled with some subjects but teachers were always there to help out when needed. I also remember Prep time, which, at the time, was boring but now feel that it was well organized and imposed a discipline which I value now. I will never forget all the friends I made there too. People from all over the world, Thailand, Greece, Spain Switzerland, France, Russia, Turkey, Jordan, Yemen, etc and even royalty from Qatar. I remember midnight gatherings where we shared food from different countries, also fasting with my Muslim friends and then eating amazing food with them too, or going skateboarding with my friends Phillip, Jan, Amerigo, Yasu and Giuseppe, who can forget those pot noodles? I am still in contact with many of my friends but wish to contact some more.

Today I am a professional Post Producer, I edit Documentaries for Discovery Channel, Channel 4 UK, Al Jazeera and also do advertisement jobs and movies in Peru. I feel Sherborne had an important influence in helping me overcome that hard time I was going through. I'm really grateful for people like my friends and teachers like Mr Bonelli-Bean and Mr Hardaker, Mrs Debenham, and many others.

I will never forget the 2 years I studied in Sherborne. It was a very difficult time in my life and the study centre really made it easy. I wish I could visit one day with my wife and kids to show them where I lived those 2 very important years of my life. I feel I appreciate those things now more than I did then and am glad to share this with you all.”



Examples of Gino's advertising, film and documentary work



Hiroshi Takita (1978)

Hiroshi went on to study Architecture at university and is currently a self-employed architect living in Bali.

“Forty-one years ago, an ambitious and carefree teen was studying with 15 boys at Greenhill House, which was then called Sherborne School Study Centre.

I still recall that the daily life was sensational, like swimming in the ocean, a bit scary yet feeling satisfied absorbing knowledge from the school education to learning about other cultures.

My ambition at that time was to be a journalist, to explore and express (self-centred!) opinions.

Without thinking much I grabbed an opportunity to go to another boarding school after only 6 months of studying English language. In a way, I wish someone had advised me to make the decision more carefully and consider building more of a foundation for future prospects by staying at Sherborne longer...

When I started the new school, it was a different sensation and I often felt frustrated as I could not communicate proficiently in English. To release energy I found new sports such as rugby, hockey and cricket. However, I still needed to express my inner thoughts, but not with words, with drawing and painting. I was encouraged by my art teacher to pursue my career as a graphic designer at age of 16, but my father advised me to complete 6th form (high school) at least.

He was right. One summer I travelled around Europe by train and visited many tourist spots, my fascination with art and architecture grew. By the time of taking A-levels, I knew what I wanted to be and enrolled at Architectural Association (AA) in London.

My fascination, creative vision and total dedication were often met with many criticisms from tutors and every so often I wanted to quit architecture to divert to another career. Unfortunately/fortunately I met with new challenges for each project and a never ending learning curve (which I enjoy even today).



Having had a design practice, sometimes it was a bit of struggle to sustain the company during the recession. In 2007 I heard a quote by André Gide, “You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.” and decided to travel. Once again I felt like swimming in the ocean; not always calm but felt every moment is my treasure!

If my brief period in Sherborne had not happened or had I stayed on until finishing A-levels (like Howard Chang), I may not have developed an interest in art... If I had listened to a career adviser who suggested

computer science, I may not be living here in Bali with my family. For me, life certainly has been working in mysterious ways indeed and I’m very excited for the next adventure.

P.S. It’s a small world! In 1992 I visited my friend’s flat in London and coincidentally met Gus Amadi. Last year, Adi Soedjoedi and I met up in Bali and talked about what happened 40 years ago. so far I have only managed to talk over the phone with Adi’s brother Ichan - we will catch up soon, ya?!

And the class of 1978-79, please get in touch.”

Reunion update!

There have been reunions in Bangkok, Hong Kong and London since the last newsletter edition. More are planned for 2020 with a possible Middle East tour in the Spring next year. We are also aiming to set up Alumni chapters in Bangkok and Hong Kong which will have local chapter contacts who will arrange more frequent social and networking alumni events in those places.



London



Hong Kong



London 2018



Bangkok 2018

Bangkok

Please keep us up to date with your contact details so that we can make sure we send you newsletters and reunion invitations.

Use the contact details below or complete a contact form at the website

And don't forget to like our Facebook page! — Sherborne International Alumni Association