



Wolf Salient | December 2024

Termly E-news for Wilson's Alumni | December 2024



We have gathered the best news related to the school, our alumni, and the Development Office across the last term at Wilson's.

Since July 2024, highlights include:

- **The 111th Alumni Dinner returning to Mollison Drive**
- **Over £100,000 raised on our second Giving Day**
- **Confirmation of the next School vs Alumni Rugby Match**
- **A mid-season report from our high-flying Football 1st XI**

For all these stories - and more - read on!

| Alumni Dinner Returns!



After a decade-long absence, the Wilson's Alumni Dinner returned to Mollison Drive on Friday 6 September.

Following a drinks reception in our new Britton Centre, Old Wilsonians headed to the John Jenkins Hall for the 111th Alumni Dinner.













In total, over 90 guests sat down to a sumptuous meal provided by the school's caterers.



*Before the meal, the Executive Head, **Nathan Cole**, gave a witty speech stressing the importance of developing a rich variety of alumni networks.*

*In his response, President of the Old Wilsonian Association, **Stuart Paton**, gave a warm and amusing speech before raising a toast to the school.*





The evening, attended by an eclectic group of alumni of all ages, was characterised by merriment, reminiscences, and fellowship.

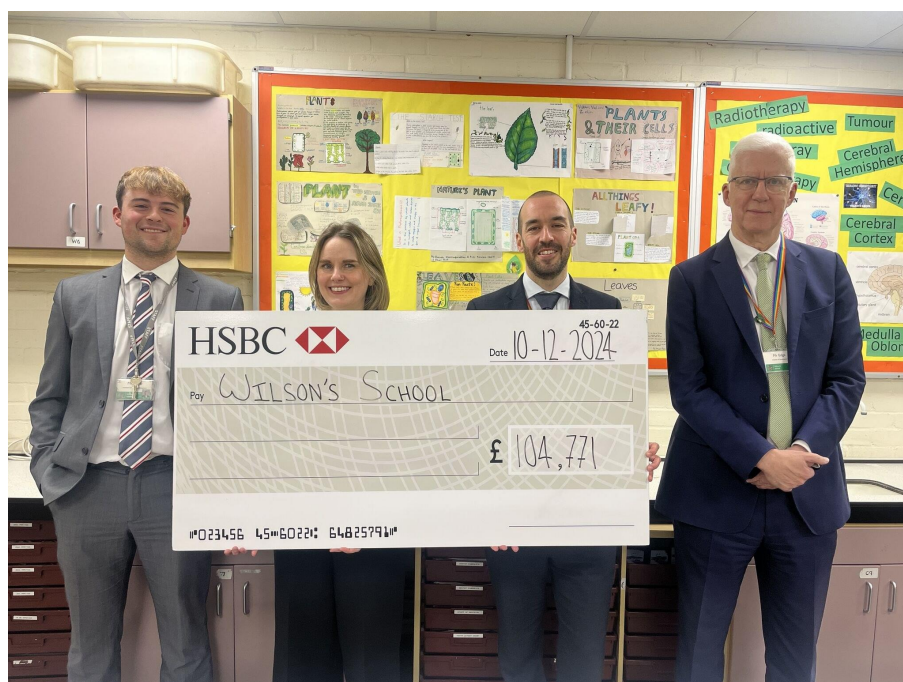


***£640** was also raised on the night from a collection for **Arts Network**, a local mental health charity with links to the **Old Wilsonians Association (OWA)**.*

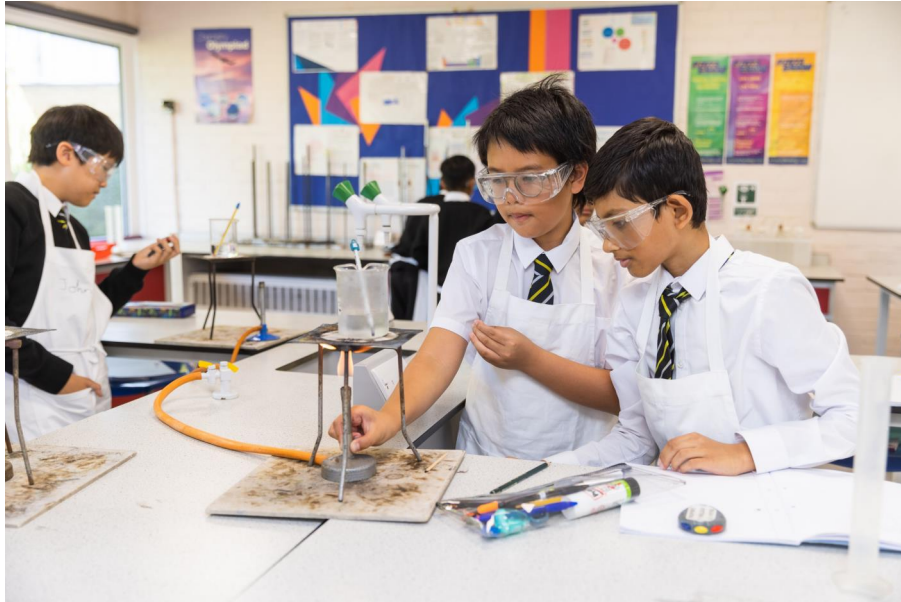
Non Sibi Sed Omnibus!



Our second Giving Day on 24/09/24 raised £104,771 towards our Campaign for Science.



319 donors from right across the wider Wilson's community contributed to our drive to refurbish our science laboratories and to provide the essential equipment to enhance teaching and learning across a variety of science disciplines.



A warm thank you is due to all those alumni who gave generously in support of their old school.

If you would like to find out more about our ongoing Campaign for Science, please [click here](#).

 | *Alumnus of the Term: Roy Porter*



This term's Alumnus of the Term is Roy Porter - one of Britain's finest historians, and a key inspiration for a new History project at the school...

Roy Porter (1946 - 2002) was one of Britain's finest historians.



An Old Wilsonian, his contributions to the fields of 18th-century social history, the history of medicine, and the history of psychiatry were remarkable.

The following extract from his 2002 'Guardian' obituary demonstrates Roy's debt of gratitude to Wilson's:

"Roy was the only child of a Bermondsey jeweller. Although the home was without books, his early intellectual precocity led to a family myth that he was a changeling."

A teacher at Wilson's Grammar School opened his eyes to the world of culture; he never forgot how much he owed to the school, returning each year to talk to its students."

As part of a new project, Wilson's History Department are keen to find out about the interesting careers other Old Wilsonians have followed since leaving the school - specifically, those that went on to study History at university.

If you attended Wilson's and studied History at university, please email our current Head of History - Mrs Berry (EAB@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk) - with your name, Wilson's leaving year, career background, and a photo of yourself, to be displayed in the History Department!

| School vs Alumni Rugby Match Returning



We are delighted to confirm that the School vs Alumni Match will be returning to Mollison Drive early in the new year.

On Saturday 15 March, an Old Wilsonian side - captained by brothers Kit & Nick Gikas (OWs 2021 & 2014) - will be heading back to Mollison Drive for a rugby fixture against our 1st XV.





















After a decade-long hiatus, the match represents an important moment in our alumni calendar.

If you are an Old Wilsonian who is interested in playing for our alumni team, please reach out to **Kit Gikas** on LinkedIn by [clicking here](#)!

| Wilsonian wins London Youth Games



On 16 November, a Wilson's student took the Gold medal at the London Youth Games.

*Huge congratulations to **Alex (Year 12)** who stormed home in first place, adding to his Surrey U17 Cross Country victory earlier in the year!*



A fantastic performance, Alex continues to take Wilson's Running in his stride and represent the school brilliantly - well done!

[Click here](#) to see a video of Alex crossing the finish line, posted on our school Instagram account!

 | Welcome to the Class of 2031!

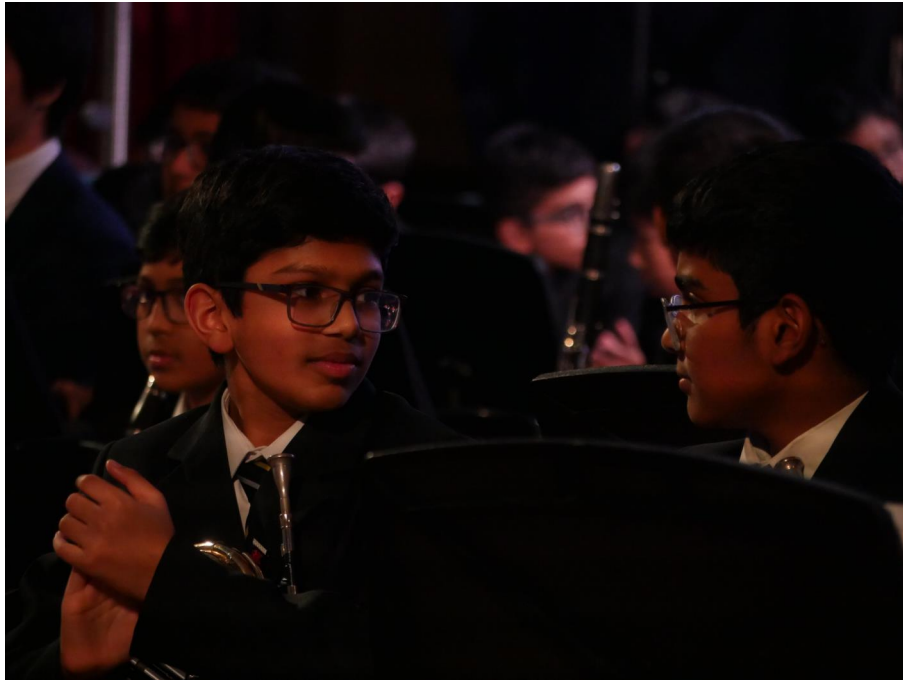


It's been great to see our new Year 7s - the Class of 2031 - settling into Wilson's fantastically well since joining the school in September!

The whole year group have made a strong start to life at Mollison Drive, developing friendships with their peers and throwing themselves into a wide range of activities.

 | Squash Trials



















 | *Football Fixtures*





Best of luck to the Class of 2031 - we look forward to seeing their continued development in years to come!

 | Next Old Wilsonian Talk! Confirmed



On Tuesday 21 January, we are excited to be hosting the next installation of our Talk! series, featuring another Old Wilsonian speaker.

Ben Wickham (Old Wilsonian, 1997) will be returning to Mollison Drive early in the new year to deliver a talk on the benefits of following a nonlinear career path.

Ben's talk - titled, '**A look into an alternative career path – from the City to the TV Director's Chair in Finance, News & Sports Broadcasting**' - will inform our Year 12 pupils about what it takes to create live TV, and how to build a career through focussing on your strengths, training your weaknesses, and always being open to collaboration.



Ben is currently the Director Of Creative Output at Sky Sports – the UK's leading sports broadcaster – and works closely with the likes of Jamie Carragher, Gary Neville, and Martin Brundle on a daily basis.

If - like Ben - you are an Old Wilsonian who has followed an interesting career path since leaving the school, please get in touch (WAS@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk) - we would be delighted to host you as guest speaker at Wilson's!



The annual Wilson's 'Battle Of The Bands' competition took place in October.

The brainchild of music teacher, Mr Kramer, the event saw a dozen bands of different styles and sizes take to the stage of the John Jenkins Hall to do battle and rock the crowd!







***Executive Action* were the winners of the senior category with their flashy and tight performance of 'Footloose' by Kenny Loggins, whilst *Greencoat Conquerors* took the medal home for the juniors with their high-octane version of 'The Spectre' by Alan Walker.**

Thanks to all the performers, friends, and family in the audience, teachers and senior leaders who supported the event, and the sixth form event team for staging the production.

[Click here](#) to view the ***best shots from the night - and much more - on our school Instagram account.***

 | Join 'The Edward Wilson Society'



A key part of our *Legacies for Wilson's* campaign, the Development Office is delighted to have launched '**The Edward Wilson Society**'.

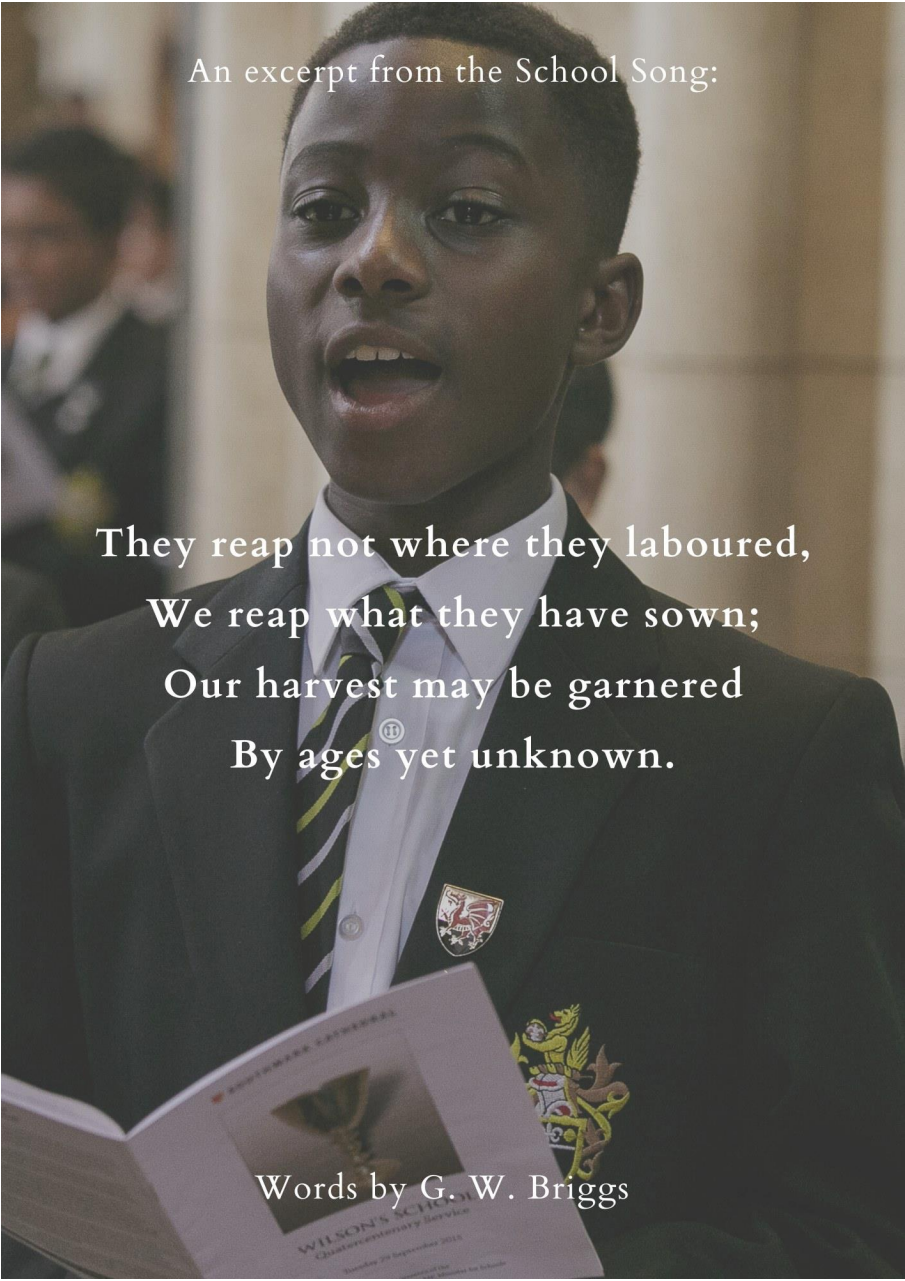
By remembering Wilson's in your will, you can ensure the school continues to move forward with confidence, serving the young people of tomorrow. If you are interested in making a legacy to Wilson's, please read the [brochure here](#) and follow the instructions included within.

This year we were very fortunate to receive a significant legacy pledge from an alumnus. In 2026, we are planning to host our first legators' event – a lunch for members of The Edward Wilson Society who have made a legacy pledge to the school.

If you have any questions related to legacy giving, please contact the Director of Development, Tim Edge, via email at TE@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk who will be delighted to speak with you!



By remembering Wilson's in your
will, you can ensure that the
school continues to move forward
into the future with confidence.

A young Black male student in a school uniform is singing from a book. He is wearing a dark blazer over a white shirt and a striped tie. A school crest is visible on his blazer. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students in uniform.

An excerpt from the School Song:

They reap not where they laboured,
We reap what they have sown;
Our harvest may be garnered
By ages yet unknown.

Words by G. W. Briggs



Our 1st XI have made a great start to their 2024/25 campaign, winning 20 out of 26 games so far, and scoring 86 goals in the process.

Captained by tricky winger Bruno (School Captain), the side has already notched convincing wins against Glyn, Bede's, KCS Wimbledon, Alleyn's, and Whitgift.

Asa (Year 13) has emerged as a strong contender for Player of the Season, netting 29 goals before the Christmas Break, whilst Arjun (Year 13) is also in good goalscoring form following a move from Centre Back to Centre Forward. Elsewhere, Dino (Year 13) has impressed in the middle of the park after returning from injury and Noel (Year 13) remains an ever-present figure of reliability out wide.



It has also been great to see several Year 11s - Nana (Full Back), Ved (Goalkeeper), Zeph (Defender), and Tito (Midfielder) - begin to establish themselves as regulars in the 1st XI, ensuring the future of Wilson's Football continues to look bright.

Congratulations to Mr Wells and his squad for their excellent start to the season - we wish them the very best of luck for the rest of the campaign!

 | An update from The OWA



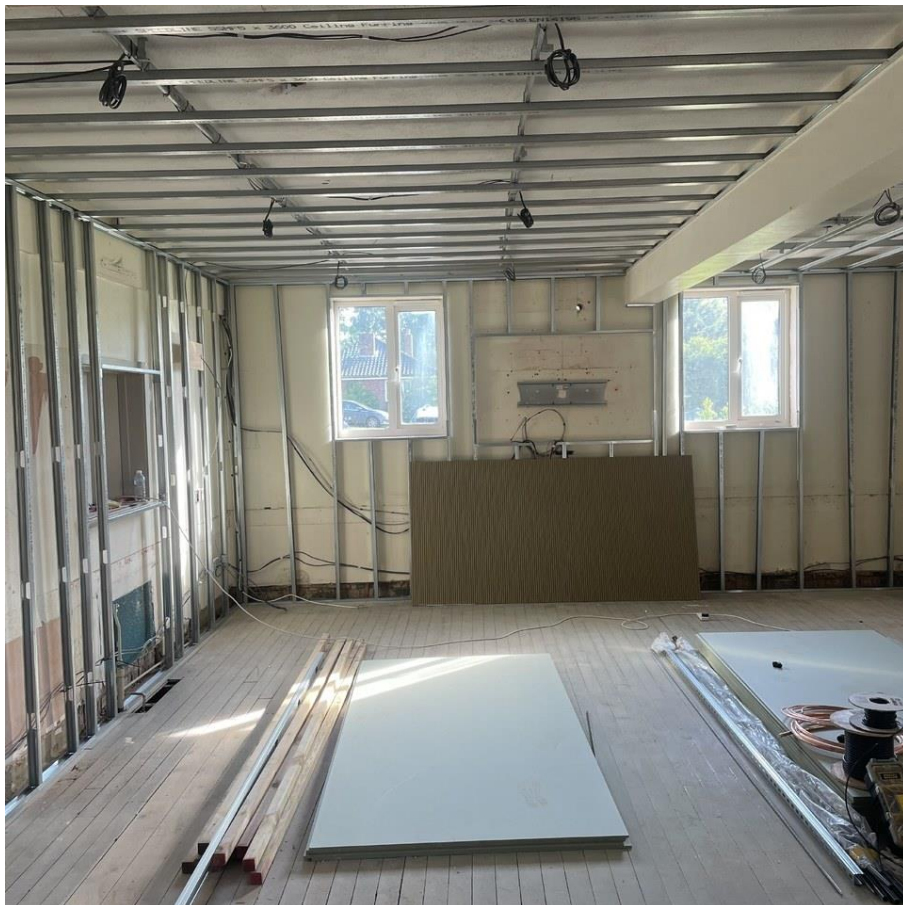
We were delighted to catch up with Stuart Paton - President of the Old Wilsonians Association (OWA) - to hear about their progress.



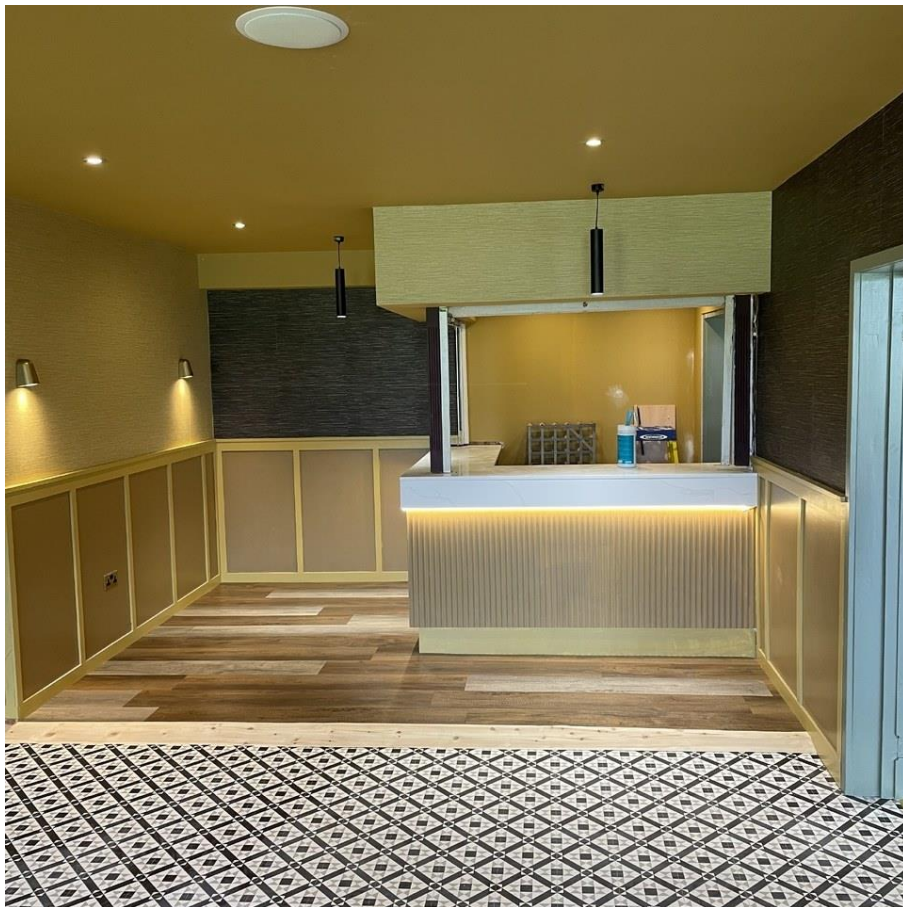
It's been a busy year for the OWA as work to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) came to fruition. The new status enables us to apply for a wider range of grants and gives financial and community benefits.

Five Old Boys trustees were appointed to ensure that CIO guidelines are followed and to ensure all decisions by the Sports Club Council, who take over the day to day running of our clubhouse are in the best interests of the OWA.

Mark Mace completed his spell as President by delivering the clubhouse refurbishment which resulted in a stunning transformation.









The clubhouse and the bar are our primary source of income, and we have already seen an increase in clubhouse bookings and bar revenue.



Like many Old Boys associations, we have come under financial pressures since the pandemic and our utilities bills, for example, increase exponentially. Whilst increasing the 'rents' of our subsidiary clubs, we've looked at introducing further income streams including reinvigorating our '100 club' and the introduction of Padel tennis is under active consideration.

Not only does 2025 see the 50th year anniversary of the school relocating from Camberwell, but it also marks the 121st year of the OWA.

Founded in 1904, the Old Wilsonians Association held its first dinner and many events have followed since, including a dinner dance at the Palace of Westminster in 1956, and a ball at Quaglinos in 1965, marking the schools 350th anniversary.

To mark this occasion, on Saturday, 3 May 2025, we will be holding a Summer Ball in a marquee at the OW sports ground with dinner and live entertainment. Tickets numbers will be restricted, and we hope many Old Boys, wives, partners, and subsidiary club members can join us. Please keep an eye out for further announcements!



Old Wilsonians
Association
Proudly Presents



**BLACK - GOLD - DIAMOND
PRESIDENT'S
121 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
SUMMER BALL**

Saturday 3rd May 2025
Marquee @ Old Wilsonians Sports club
6pm - 12pm

**CASINO & CANAPES
DINNER WITH WINE
LIVE MUSIC BY GEE BELLO**

DRESS CODE
COCKTAIL DRESSES / BLACK
TIE / LOUNGE SUITS



Tickets £75 per person
TABLES OF TEN RESERVED FOR ALL OWA SUBSIDIARY CLUBS

Non Sibi Sed Omnibus!



*The reality is that, despite its continuing success, **Wilson's is not - and never has been - a wealthy school.***

Wilson's is provided with just **£16.40** per day by the government to educate each pupil. This is expected to cover all costs - teaching, heating, co-curricular activities, books, sports equipment, payroll for all teaching and support staff, and a great deal more.

In comparison, **local independent schools** are able to spend on average well over **£70** per day on each of their pupils.

*To enable Wilson's to maintain and enhance the excellence that it offers to all, we need **your** financial support.*

Ways that you can support us include:

- *Donating a regular monthly amount to the school. You can contribute via PayPal Giving quickly and easily at the link [here](#).*

- *Making a more significant one-off gift, which may bring with it the possibility of a naming opportunity.*
 - *Joining 'The Edward Wilson Society' and making a legacy to Wilson's.*
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For further information on all aspects of giving to Wilson's, please contact the Director of Development, **Tim Edge**, via email at TE@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk who will be delighted to answer your questions!

| Developing Wilson's



*Following contributions from more than 500 individual donors, the **Britton Centre** - officially opened by Princess Eugenie in January 2023 - has dramatically improved our music and sports facilities.*

Featuring a brand-new Recital Room, nine music practice rooms, and a state-of-the-art fitness suite, our donors have directly improved the provision of education at Wilson's for current and future generations.



Beyond the Britton Centre, we have also succeeded in establishing an entirely new **Wellbeing Centre** at Wilson's.

The establishment of a dedicated space for our Wellbeing Lead, Safeguarding Team and Wellbeing Prefects to work from has ensured the welfare of everyone at the school is at the forefront of our thinking, and will positively impact Wilsonians for many years to come.





1 - The Benjamin Room

Wilson's would not be able to offer what it currently does without the continued, generous support of our community.

If you are able to step up and support the school financially - backing us to achieve our ambitious development plans - please contact the Director of Development, [Tim Edge](#), via email at TE@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk

Through The Archives





2 - Wilson's in Crete (1980)



3 - Watersports Trip (2001)



4 - Sports Day (1977)



5 - Cricket 1st XI (1920)



6 - World Challenge in Zambia (2002)



7 - Wilson's in Florence (1984)



8 - Old Wilsonian Cricketers at Hayes Hill (1994)



9 - CCF at RAF Conningsby (1993)



10 - Oliver! (2005)



11 - Wilson's in Egypt (1988)



12 - Wilson's in China (1993)

If you have any archive material from your days at Wilson's, please share this with [Will Straw](#)
- we would be delighted to feature it in the next edition of Wolf Salient!



The Wilson's Alumni Network operates across social media.

The key links are -

- Connect with, and follow, Wilson's School on [LinkedIn](#). If you are an Old Wilsonian, add your dates at Wilson's to the Education section in your profile and your email address to the contact details section.
- Follow Wilson's School on [Instagram](#). This will also enable you to read all the exciting news stories from our website as they are published.
- Join the Wilson's Alumni Network on [Facebook](#).
- Follow the Development Team at Wilson's on [Instagram](#).
- To receive future editions of Wolf Salient, register for our mailing list by filling out this [Microsoft Form](#).
- If you are interested in participating in our Talk! series, contact our Associate Director of Development [via email here](#).



It's always great to hear from Old Wilsonians and friends of the school. If you have any ideas for the next edition of Wolf Salient - or think you can support the school - please get in touch!

- To call the Development Office, dial **0208 773 7684** to speak with [Tim Edge](#), Director of Development. You can also contact Tim via email at te@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk
- To share your ideas for the next issue of Wolf Salient or to direct alumni queries to the school, contact [Will Straw](#) - Associate Director of Development and author of this newsletter - via email at was@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk
- All information related to the Development Office can be accessed on the school website [here](#).