



Old Chigwellians
Chigwell School
2026 Leavers

Friendships that last a lifetime.



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WIN, WIN, WIN

Don't miss out on your chance to win one of three

£10 Sixth Form Coffee Shop vouchers!

Simply scan the QR code and create a profile to join our exciting Connect website. It's that easy!



<https://connect.chigwell-school.org/register>

“I am still in contact and socialise regularly with other Old Chigwellians I met at school, including our yearly netball match. I have very fond memories of my time at school and enjoy coming back to events to see young and old faces too!”

VANESSA, OLD CHIGWELLIAN

Introduction

Next Gen Old Chigwellian (OC)

Since 1629 more than 10,000 pupils have passed through the halls of Chigwell School. Soon, you will be a 2026 leaver, joining the alumni community and making you the newest Old Chigwellian (OC) generation!

Congratulations as you embark on the next chapter in your life.

No matter what path you follow, you are always welcome to return to your roots at Chigwell School.

The Old Chigwellian Association (OCA) and the Department of Philanthropy work in partnership to keep you as alumni engaged with Chigwell School.



Department of Philanthropy

Here to serve as your gateway to Chigwell School, the Department of Philanthropy strives to keep you informed and involved. Please contact me anytime by phone or email.



Lisa Mina
Philanthropy Officer
020 8501 5748
lmina@chigwell-school.org



Old Chigwellians' Association (OCA)

The OCA offers a vibrant community for alumni to participate in events at the OC Clubhouse, School and other venues. OCs support current pupils also by offering insights and direction for life beyond Chigwell School.

Vision: To drive alumni relations through a variety of initiatives – old and new – to ensure the alumni network remains meaningful for generations to come.

Objectives:

- To keep you in touch with other Old Chigwellians
- To encourage your ongoing engagement with Chigwell School

For ways to get involved, please see pages 5 and 6.

Meet the elected OCA Officers



Anusha Balasingam
(OC 2006-2013)
President



Miles Taylor
(OC 1971-1978)
Vice President



Catherine Xu
(OC 2004-2006)
General Secretary



Clive Garfield
(OC 1985-1995)
Honorary Treasurer



Aegean Simpson
(OC 1985-1987)
Ex Officio President

A Message from the OCA President

When one door closes, another one opens. Whilst leaving Chigwell is a markable occasion, it also marks the day you become a valued member of the Old Chigwellians' Association (OCA). I take this opportunity to welcome you into our vast and global network.

The primary aim of the OCA is to work in partnership with the School to reunite and engage past pupils and teachers. With that in mind, we ask you to explore the several events the school and the OCA host every year to connect OCs with other past pupils and teachers, as well as the various sporting groups (for example, football, netball, hockey and golf) available to you.

Having only left Chigwell in 2013, I am very familiar with the daunting few months running up to the moment you leave Chigwell and embark into the 'big wide world'. You will all take a different route, be that university, a gap year or an apprenticeship - all very different but exciting journeys. Whilst this may be a pretty scary next step, the one constant that you will always have is the community and support from the OCA network.

When I left Chigwell, I took the opportunity to complete an apprenticeship scheme, rather than attend university like many of my peers. At the time, support and information about apprenticeships were limited, so I was thankful for the Old Chigwellians who were able to share their thoughts and experiences of the application process and apprenticeship pathway, helping me on my journey into the big wide world. I wish to take this opportunity to invite you back to keep in touch and engage with the OC community who are eager to share our experiences and journeys to help guide future generations of OCs.

As my year group was split across the country and the world after School, though we cherished the memories that Chigwell gave us, not everyone was able to keep in touch. One of the many events that the OC network hosts is the reunions, which are fabulous events to reconnect with the school and former peers in a few years' time to share your story.

The OC network is here to support you on your journey and assure you that the Chigwell community will be here to welcome you back, whether that be in a year's, or ten years' time. Wishing you every success in your next steps. Always remember: 'find a way or make a way'.

Anusha Balasingam (OC 2006-2013)
OCA President

Networking

Welcome to a network of esteemed people who may offer real-world experiences, knowledge and expertise to help you 'find a way or make a way.'

You join an ever-expanding, global network of diverse people. Through this network, you might gain a wealth of experience from others whilst also having the opportunity to pass on your knowledge to others.

Join our Connect website



Visit our Connect Website <https://connect.chigwell-school.org> and register to gain access to:

- **networking** opportunities with Old Chigwellians who are experts in their fields
- join our **OC sports clubs** and come back to school for practice and matches
- read the latest **alumni updates**
- attend our **events**
- look through our **photo galleries**
- job opportunities and **careers** support



Scan the QR code above and join hundreds of other alumni.
By joining, you will enter in a draw to WIN one of three £10 Sixth Form Coffee Shop vouchers!
The draw will close on Tuesday 12th May 2026, so sign up today.

Register today by visiting: <https://connect.chigwell-school.org/register>

Join the OC LinkedIn group

The OC professional networking group on LinkedIn continues to grow as an important resource for OCs to communicate with each other as professionals. You may find a valuable OC contact in your chosen sector amongst our LinkedIn membership. Scan the QR code to join the private OC LinkedIn group.



Ways to be involved

OCA Committee

Old Chigwellians (OCs) have emerged since the School's founding in 1629. You are the newest generation, and the Old Chigwellian Association (OCA) welcomes you.

Today, the OCA is led by inspired volunteers committed to keeping former pupils – like you – connected with each other and the School. The OCA is governed by an elected Executive Committee in partnership with Mr King, Head. **Your new ideas, creativity, and ingenuity are welcomed and encouraged.**

As an OC you can participate in the OCA committee and help identify **forward thinking activities** to engage OCs to continue staying in touch with life-long friends.

The committee meets three times annually with one annual general meeting (AGM). Each meeting is held at 7.00pm online.

2026

- Tuesday 5th May – OCA Committee Meeting
 - Tuesday 6th October - OCA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- All OCs around the world – including you – are warmly invited.

Please express your interest in attending by contacting Lisa Mina, Philanthropy Officer, on 020 8501 5748 or email philanthropy@chigwell-school.org

Young Ambassadors

We are keen to know if you would be happy to act as a Chigwell School Young Ambassador at the university or institution you go to. Your role will include answering any questions our pupils or alumni have about the university or institution you will be attending, the course you will be studying, or perhaps the degree apprenticeship you take. If you wish to be a Young Ambassador at your place of further education, please email philanthropy@chigwell-school.org.



Careers

Our 'Meet the Future' programme is a series of informal talks between OCs and current students on topics including university, first jobs, changes of plan. In short, this is a chance for you to share advice to help younger current pupils decide upon their future.

There are also opportunities for you to take part in events like the annual Careers & HE Convention. If you are interested in sharing your experience or want to attend a careers event, please contact Roxanne Darkin, Head of Careers: rdarkin@chigwell-school.org.

OC Mitre Magazine

As an OC, you will begin to receive the annual **OC Mitre** magazine, published in December. It includes newsworthy articles from OCs spanning across the ages. Please share updates about your life that you would like to be considered for future editions. Submit your story to us at philanthropy@chigwell-school.org. You may view previous editions electronically at <https://connect.chigwell-school.org/resources>



Events

The OCA and Chigwell School work in partnership to organize social, professional, cultural, and sporting events throughout the year. Events provide ways to reconnect with old friends, **expand your network** and learn updates about Chigwell School.



Recent Leaver Visits

Mr Gower (former Deputy Head) and Mr Morris (former Geography teacher) have been reconnecting with Old Chigwellians from the class of 2021 to the class of 2025 at different places across the UK with a free dinner and drinks. This is an opportunity for you and others to catch up, share your post-school experiences and ask any questions you may have, or for any support you may need.



Reunions

Chigwell School hosts events to re-unite OCs to celebrate various anniversaries back at school. We are currently planning a reunion event for those who left school 10 years ago.

Sport

OC existing sporting sections include Football, Golf, Tennis, Netball and Hockey.

OC Football's strong reputation spans decades. They have historically celebrated being League Champions and Arthur Dunn Cup winners. Ongoing football matches occur most weekends at the OC Clubhouse in Roding Lane. The clubhouse offers a great social place for OCs to re-connect – especially during sporting sections.

The **OC Tennis** section meets weekends and evenings throughout the year.

The **OC Golfing Society** has various social meet-ups throughout the year along with regular annual events including competing in 4 major Public Schools' Cup competitions.



Would you like to join an OC sports team? Please scan the QR code or log in to the Connect website and visit <https://connect.chigwell-school.org/clubs> to join the club and contact the lead person.

If you have any creative ideas on what you would like to see us doing, contact Lisa Mina on 020 8501 5748 or email philanthropy@chigwell-school.org.

Shrove Tuesday Supper 2027

Since 1868, Old Chigwellians have gathered for a Shrove Tuesday Supper. This event was one of many innovations of Reverend Henry Mowld Robinson (Head 1868-76), who also introduced Speech Day and the School Motto. Keep an eye on the Events webpage for details of our 159th Shrove Tuesday Supper in 2027. <https://connect.chigwell-school.org/events>





Student Tool Kit

Transition to University

As you get ready to take the next exciting step in your education (which happens to also be empowering), it is highly likely you could be feeling a mixture of emotions ranging from excitement to nervousness. Don't worry! It is totally natural to feel anxious about moving on from Sixth Form.

Remember, Uni will be amazing, you will be able to manage your own routine (including what you eat and when you go to bed), make a new set of friends, find new interests, study a subject you enjoy and finally gain some real independence.

The information below is for you to consider/talk through with your teachers, friends and family, so in September you can tackle the move head on and get the most out of every day.

PRACTICAL POINTS

Important things to do before you go or in the first few weeks.

UK Unis

- Know who your support network is, and who you would call in an emergency. Save this into the 'notes' section on your phone (see page 10)
- Set up a bank account.
- Sort your student finance- To find out more visit www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/
- Find out where the closest supermarket is.

Overseas Unis

- Complete all the above, be mindful of differences overseas. Spend time beforehand researching websites, talking to your Uni about support services.

EXCITING

What is Freshers' Week / Welcome Week?

Freshers' Week is a welcome period for new students starting out at UK universities. It's a chance to make friends, blow off steam, and learn more about your course, campus and clubs.

Tips to navigate fresher's week visit

www.savethestudent.org/freshers/freshers-week-survival-guide.html

NEW BEGINNINGS

The first few weeks and settling in

Moving away from home and meeting new people can feel like a daunting prospect – but don't worry if you don't immediately fall into a friendship group.

Don't get worried if you don't make friends in Freshers' Week.

Remember that everybody will be in the same position as you. Few first-year students will know anybody else at their university.

Do things that enable you to meet people – join sports clubs, societies, talk to people in your accommodation, talk to people on your course... keep busy!

IMPORTANT

What will your Uni do or not do to help you?

Uni will support you with academic work, careers, accommodation, some may help you with things like counselling.

Unlike school, Uni won't act in what's called 'loco parentis'. They do not have a legal responsibility for their students beyond their academic studies.

Uni will not chase you if you miss lectures or deadlines, they won't call your parents - you are an adult in their eyes - you are now in charge of you!

Uni won't know much about your background, or support you have received in the past, they will offer you very little in the way of direct pastoral care.

MIGHT HAPPEN

What do you do if you miss home

Stay in contact with family and friends at home, decorate your room with things you like.

Keep yourself busy, try and enjoy your new surroundings.

Keep an evening and morning routine, get up, have breakfast, make your bed - don't lie in all day!

Reach out to your support network.

RESEARCH

What do you do if you need help at university?

Contact student support services, find out the number here: studentspace.org.uk/find-support

Find out what they can help you with.

Get general advice on supporting you through the uncertainty of student life at studentspace.org.uk

Overseas Unis – find out from your chosen uni all the info you need before you go!

YOU MUST KNOW THE ANSWER

What do you do if you don't feel well?

You must make your physical and mental health and wellbeing your priority – you must look after yourself now all of the time.

Use your support network - if you are not feeling well - call someone.

Talk about any worries with your friends – they probably have the same worries.

Ask yourself if you are looking after yourself? Make sure you eat and sleep well, set boundaries (learn to say no), make self-care a daily habit.

If you feel suicidal and out of control, go to A&E. If you can't get there safely, call 999 (112, 911).

VITAL

Looking after you and your friends

At Uni there will be no teachers keeping an eye on things – you must look after you! You must look out for your mates!

Be careful with the risks you take; contact your support network when you need to.

If a friend is missing lectures or you haven't seen someone for a while, check up on them. If someone needs support talk to them about their support network (see the table opposite). TAKE ACTION.

ACTION NOW

My Support Network (copy/paste/complete into notes on your phone)

My support network

Contact details/phone numbers

Student support services at Uni

Relative (Mum/Dad/bro/sis...)

Friend (old mate from home)

Another

My old school (email address)

philanthropy@chigwell-school.org

GP surgery at home

Health professional (if you have one)

Other

Life threatening emergency

999

Non-emergency support

101

NHS for medical advice

111

[Samaritans](#)

116 123

[HOPELINE UK](#) (suicidal thoughts)

0800 068 4141

[Crimestoppers](#)

0800 555 111

[Get Connected](#)

0203 993 5571

[Student Minds](#)

0808 808 4994

[Nightline](#)

Nearest A & E to me (address/postcode)

Created in conjunction, with thanks,
with the Pastoral and Safeguarding
Committee and Universities Committee.

Leading
Independent
Schools

HMC



SCAN ME

Useful website for support:
<https://hubofnope.co.uk/>

If you feel
suicidal and
out of control:
Go to A&E. If you can't get there
safely, call 999 (112, 911)



Chigwell School

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Your gateway to Chigwell School

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