

M|P|W

Empower

MPW London | Issue 1



Contents

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

LOOKING BACK

- 04 Richard Martin's MPW Memoirs, Part 2
- 06 Alumni Achievements: Tim Davies
- 10 Alumni Achievements: Catherine Brahams Melinek
- 12 'It Started With...' catching up with previous Prize Winners Alexia Roberts and Harleen Dhingra
- 14 Changing Careers by Amelia Lavington
- 16 Students Artwork

EVENTS

- 18 Alumni Network Launch Party
- 20 Creative Waves Art Competition
- 20 London Duathlon
- 21 Global Model UN
- 22 Creative Arts Competition Winners - Lo Gupta, Dominic George-Oppong, Liberty Wilson, Ed De Winton
- 26 Black Lives Matter
- 28 Poet 'Visit': Damian Walford Davies
- 29 Student Ambassador Day, by Apollo De Lacy

NEWS

- 30 Results and Destinations 2020
- 32 Retiring Staff Members
- 34 Upcoming Events



Welcome from the Principal

It is with great pleasure that I write this foreword for what is a fantastic magazine. My thanks firstly to Ellen Bowes who has put this together and to Jenny Gomes for her skills with the desktop publishing! There are some fabulous articles and some lovely pictures from our first reunion event.

This has been the most unusual and challenging 12 months in probably the whole of educational history. Our staff and students have been quite amazing in the delivery and receipt of online and hybrid lessons and their resilience has been commendable. As we return to some form of normality, it is so nice to see smiling eyes behind the ever-present face masks! How we have all relished the return to college post lockdown.

Please do keep in contact and let us know how you are willing to support the college and its students. It would be amazing, for example, to set up a scholarship fund for our leavers as they depart for university.

2023 brings with it our 50th anniversary and we hope that you will be able to join us for what will be a celebration of a significant birthday for MPW; it will also be such a pleasure to be able to socialise again face-to-face.

For now, I trust you and your families are safe and well. Keep in touch and do let us know what else we can add to future Empower publications.

A Note from the Editor

Ellen Bowes

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Empower. It is always wonderful to hear from you about your experiences of MPW London and the fantastic things you have gone on to achieve since you last stepped out of the door at 91 Queen's Gate.

I hope that you enjoy looking back over the various activities that have taken place over the last year or so. Although sadly we have been unable to put on any alumni events this year, I look forward to organising more soon.

You should now have received the exciting news that we are launching a new podcast series. We have already recorded a few episodes and hope that the

stories and advice of our guests will be of interest and inspiration to you. We are recording more episodes so please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. Our MPW London alumni have a wealth of knowledge and experience of different pathways after school, life skills and careers. We want to help share this with others, who can learn and be advised by it.

As always, if you would like to discuss any ideas you have for the alumni network, feature in the next edition of Empower or wish to share your good news and achievements with us, please do send an email to alumni@mpw.ac.uk and we would be very happy to hear from you.





Richard Martin's MPW Memoirs – Part Two

In part one we discovered how Richard first came to be a tutor and about MPW London in the 1980's. In part two we discover the surprisingly rock and roll side of being a tutor...

I remain very grateful to Rodney Portman for stretching a point and enabling me to meet Mick Jagger whose daughter, Jade was thinking of enrolling at MPW London. Robert Woodward, a very committed fan of the Stones, must have been on sabbatical since he would surely have bagged the interview had he been able to. Rodney with characteristic and eminent tact made himself scarce for my part of the interview process. Great honour as it was to meet Mick, it was however a little frustrating to have to discuss the finer points of the A level English syllabus with Jade when I rather wanted to talk to her father, resplendent in a mint green suit (how strange I can remember that!), about Exile on Main Street. 'Never meet your heroes', they say. Well in fact, I'm very pleased to have met Mick, though he probably forgot about me before he'd even left the building; he certainly couldn't get my name right in the interview itself, so 'Peter' it was for the duration. That is the prerogative of gods after all: they forget your name but only we remember that they did so - as well as the colour of their suits.

Click here to read part one of Richard Martin's memoirs.

I think Jade ended up at MPW Cambridge: her father was apparently anxious about the metropolis and its temptations.

Marlon Richards (Keith's son) did come to MPW and I loved the fact that correspondence was conducted on letters with the distinctive Rolling Stones' tongue logo. Marlon with infinite thoughtfulness gave me the suede tour jacket for the 'Steel Wheels' tour and I only later realised that this had been given only to members of the inner circle and was never made commercially available. I must admit to it being a bit of a tight fit. All members of rock bands that formed in the 60s were on the skinny side (blame it on post-war rationing) and probably had to remain that way. I think I read somewhere that it remains a stipulation in the Stones' contracts which, I imagine insist that they must only "(drink) the wind and (take) a mess of shadows for (their) meat." There was a reason why the Small Faces were so called after all. Incidentally, whether Mick was particularly diminutive or not would be difficult to say since his charisma made all objective judgements absolutely impossible.

For some reason Marlon was in possession of his father's Hard Rock Cafe card and gave it to me on semi-permanent loan. This was not a loyalty card (I'm not sure such things existed in the late '80s) so much as something that enabled one to walk straight passed the queues that formed at said superior hamburger joint. Quite why the instantly recognisable 'Keef', a.k.a. the 'Human Riff', would have needed such a thing, I never fathomed, but then nor did I fathom why I was able to use it with a 100% rate of success since I did not, even in my wildest, rock and roll dreams, bear any resemblance to Mr Richards - as noted above the tour jacket was a very tight fit! That year I frequented the Hard Rock Café with greater frequency than ever before, and certainly ever after, waving Keith's card aloft. I was never even challenged and impressed my wife-to-be no end in the process.

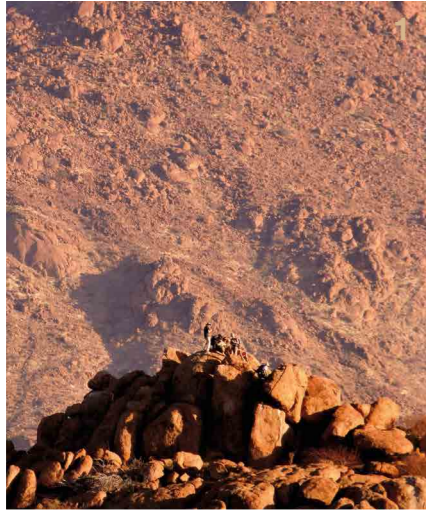
Mary McCartney also enrolled at MPW and very kindly made sure I had excellent seats for her father's Wembley shows and the Knebworth gig in 1990. Concerning Mary and Marlon I have rarely met two more well-adjusted students in all my teaching experience. Unphased by their illustrious parents they were the soul of discretion and I remember only one revelation from Mary, that her father and

“Mary McCartney also enrolled at MPW and very kindly made sure I had excellent seats for her father's Wembley shows and the Knebworth gig in 1990.”

mother had been given a mantra which they had to retrieve from a bank vault. That is how I remember the story anyway. An interesting snapshot and a luminous detail for any student of '60s counterculture, wouldn't you say? Strange, is it not, the things one remembers when all else is consigned to oblivion? I remember both Marlon and his friend Nick Spice(?) trying their best in lunchtime sessions to teach me to play guitar but it wasn't to be. They both achieved good grades, so they had the best of the deal, but then I was (musically) poor material to work with and they (academically) were not. Finally, I remember a wonderful student called Katherine Taylor inviting me to her 18th birthday party at Annabel's. I can still remember how good the Pomerol tasted and the incredible magnanimity of her father paying for my taxi home. You can see from the foregoing that there was a greater level of socialising between staff and students than would be deemed appropriate now, but these were different times. Tutors were younger (by which I mean, I was) and students generally older. Thus, it was only a matter of logistics (a holiday in the Dordogne already booked) rather than ethics that led me to miss Mary's birthday bash in Sussex. I've often regretted that. It would have been nice to chat to Paul.

My reminiscences have hopefully identified how different life at MPW was in the 1980s, but they haven't answered the burning question that all MPW students from the 'nineties onwards always ask: were students allowed to smoke in lessons? The answer is that they could with the tutor's permission. Not being a smoker myself and fearing that the finer points of an iambic pentameter might be missed in the time it took to ignite a cigarette, I only let students light up at break time. I don't remember this tradition extending beyond my first year, so the academic year '84-'85 must have represented its last gasp - not so shocking when one calls to mind that passengers smoked on London Underground until 1987.

Different times, as I said.



1. Namibia
2. Egypt (Eastern Desert)
3. Namibia (Skeleton Coast)
4. Oman (Wahiba Sands)

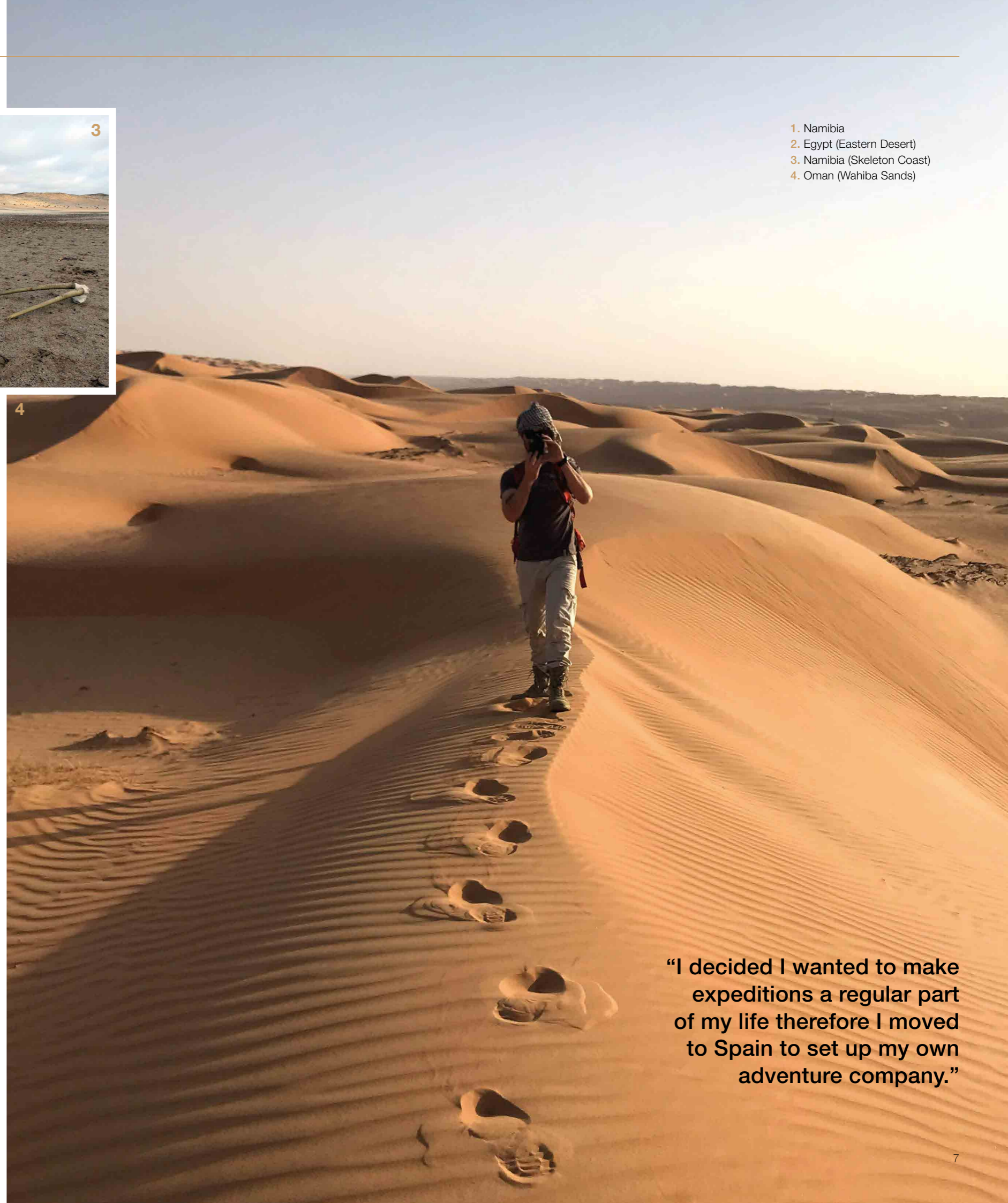
Alumni Achievements: **TIM DAVIES**

Intrepid explorer Tim tells us how he navigated his studies and went on to help others enjoy the great outdoors through his organisations and work with charities

I came to MPW London to study Ancient History and Classics on a One Year A level course as this is what I had applied to read at university. I had not studied these subjects before and therefore wanted to gain a solid base of understanding before I began my university course. I especially enjoyed studying Classics with Francesco.

I enjoyed the relative freedom we had at MPW in comparison with a more rigid boarding school environment. Since I had consciously decided to study at MPW I took more ownership of my studies whilst I was there, and this is something tutors picked up on and responded very well to. They treated us more like peers in learning rather than students.

Following MPW I studied ancient history for three years at UCL and after graduating I went on an expedition to Namibia with the British Exploring Society and was thrilled by life in the wilderness. ▶



“I decided I wanted to make expeditions a regular part of my life therefore I moved to Spain to set up my own adventure company.”



“I enjoyed the relative freedom we had at MPW in comparison with a more rigid boarding school environment.”



I decided I wanted to make expeditions a regular part of my life therefore I moved to Spain to set up my own adventure company. The result was MCXpeditions, which exists to help people explore what truly matters to them and inspire positive change through one-of-a-kind, adventure trips. This has given me many special moments including working with a turtle conservation centre in Oman, collaborating with a London based charity for disadvantaged children, raising awareness for the now critically endangered Andalusian Donkey and supporting Bedouin families in Egypt.

I also helped found the Lake Geneva Swimming Association which helps people to discover more about themselves and reconnect with the natural world by organising open water swimming events in Lake Geneva, Switzerland. Here we work with many

local businesses and organisations, including charities that monitor the water quality of the lake and help to maintain its excellent level of cleanliness.

Outside of work, I love camping, kayaking, swimming, climbing and playing the piano and learning the guitar.

One day I'd like to become a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society as well as to work in marine conservation.

Links

- [Instagram - @MCXped](#)
- www.mcxpeditions.com
- www.britishexploring.org
- www.lgsa.com

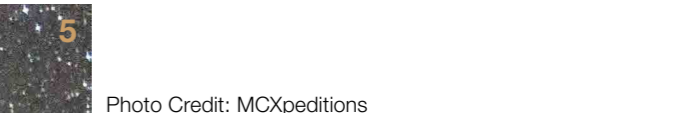
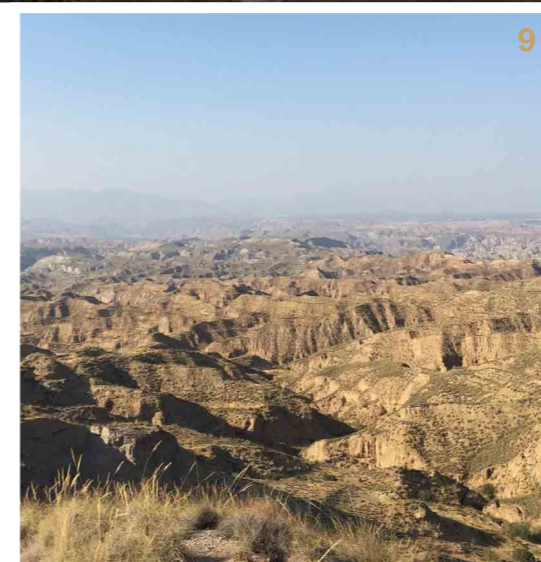
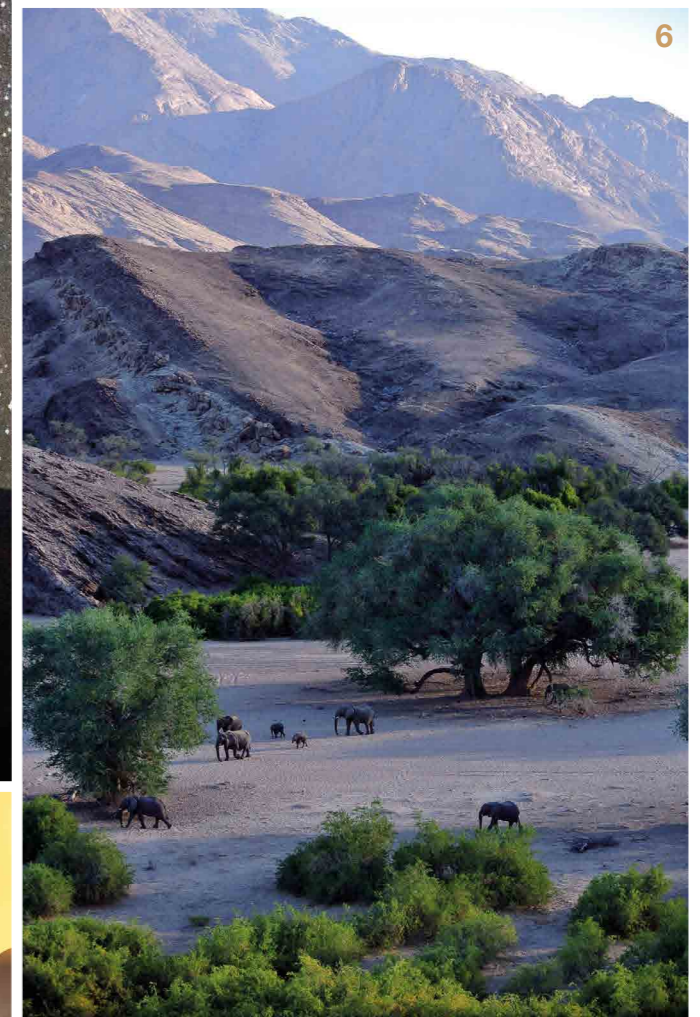


Photo Credit: MCXpeditions



- 5. Namibia
- 6. Namibia
- 7. Egypt
- 8. Namibia
- 9. Spain (Andalusia)

Alumni Achievements: CATHERINE BRAHAMS MELINEK

Catherine's trip down memory lane takes us down the road from Queen's Gate to MPW's former home in Wetherby Place.

Back in 1984, when we all thought that George Orwell's novel was a bleak but somewhat remote projection of the future, the arts faculty at MPW was based in a charming building in Wetherby Place. My tutor was Rodney Portman, an amiable, well dressed youngish gentleman whose study resembled a sitting room, most probably modelled on his own Kensington home. He explained the rules: call your teachers by their first names; be punctual; aim for 100% attendance and do your best. Easy. I couldn't believe how "nice" everyone was. It didn't feel like school at all which in my opinion was definitely a good thing.

I studied English, Politics and Art History for my A levels. Most of my teachers are still working at the College which means they were all fabulously intelligent teenagers masquerading as adults! MPW sport was non-existent unless you count running up and down to Dino's for frothy cappuccinos and popping into Seven Eleven for watery hot chocolate. There were no extra-curricular activities other than shopping in the King's Road and hanging out at the Hereford Arms after lessons. The past is a different country. We clearly did things differently then. And no one cared. I'm not even sure school inspections had been invented



in the late 1980s. If they had, they would not have approved of the dungeon in Adam's Court; this was a basement room at the bottom of a granny flat flanked between two buildings. Those of us who didn't live off the King's Road would congregate in the bowels of this insalubrious little building, desperately trying to complete homework assignments on A4 file paper.

There wasn't a gadget in sight.

I do have memories of a completely raucous Art History Abroad trip to Florence; this wasn't just for MPW students. We were lumped together with beautiful people from Wycombe Abbey and Winchester College. They were all charming, of course. Our Art Tutor, Anna Gendal, who was about half the size of most of her tutees, tried her best to imbue us with her treasure trove of knowledge. It was amazing to see Botticelli's Birth of Venus in situ though truly we were all completely hung over. We stayed in a pensionne, not unlike the one in Room with a View, only my room stank of vomit as one of my room mates threw up in the bin on the first day. We were in that room for seven days.

Inspired by all three of my brilliant teachers, I read English, Linguistics and Russian Studies at Durham University. I loved it there. And I felt that I was much more ready than many of my peers to take advantage

of the tutorials and societies. I became the President of the English Society which afforded me the opportunity of appearing in and directing plays up in the College and also in the Assembly Rooms.

I didn't plan to be a teacher. I spent a year working at the Hampstead Theatre after which I travelled across India and Nepal with a friend from university. I studied for my PGCE at the Institute of Education, which wasn't nearly as much fun as Durham, but I did meet a kindred spirit whilst there. I spent the next eight years teaching, mainly in Kensington, before studying for an MA which enabled me to escape from teaching and enter the auction business in Bond Street. Everyone there could easily have been a former MPW student. I felt completely at home.

But employment lawyers don't exist for nothing. Whilst Bonhams and Phillips Auctioneers merged, I found myself unemployed; this was a new experience for me as good teachers are never out of work. I applied for a job at Ashbourne Sixth Form College and, three days later, became the Director of Studies there before subsequently teaching A level English and becoming its Vice Principal. After about a year, I discovered that the Principal of Ashbourne started his career at MPW and that he had been friends with David Bainbridge, whom I hugely admired. Small world. So, our paths crossed when I was in my early thirties which I hadn't expected. I was despatched to MPW to obtain a copy of its glossy prospectus and also managed to join a tour group so that I could see if the college was a suitable place for my fictional daughter (I do have a real one now). Such subterfuge was commonplace, or so I gather. Suffice to say that even though we are talking many years after my stint at MPW, I still found myself running up the stairs to avoid familiar faces, most of whom were doing battle with the photocopier.

As for 2020, what a horrible year thus far!

My sole achievement has been to finish writing my debut novel, *Imprisoned by Love*, and have it accepted for publication. It will be distributed by Faber & Faber this summer. This was before self-isolation which is just as well as doing remote learning with one's own children is completely different from teaching in a real school.



Imprisoned by Love by C.S. Brahams

Trapped by duty, trapped by love.

Deputy Head, Sophie Boswell, is back from Croatia and set to tackle the new academic year in her independent school in Central London. As the term unfolds, husband Michael's altered state and erratic behaviour takes its toll on her. Everything is in a state of flux. Sophie's world is no longer safe.

How can she cope with Michael's confusion and violence at home whilst simultaneously maintaining authority and dignity at work?

Written in the first person, *Imprisoned by Love* gives its readers a compelling insight into living with dementia. This fast-paced novel puts the reader at the centre of Sophie's dilemmas. We lurch from crisis to crisis and place to place as we easily empathise with Sophie and her family. Even the carer, engaged to help the Boswells, proves to be more interloper than helper.

Compulsively readable, *Imprisoned by Love* will take you on an emotional and at times, a Hitchcockian rollercoaster of divided love and duty.



It Started With...

Two former Prize Winners share with us what they have gone on to achieve after winning their respective prizes...

ALEXIA ROBERTS (2016-2017)

**It Started with...The Sylvia Trott Prize for Languages
University of St Andrews | Master of Arts (Honours) French**

It Started With...the most wonderful year at MPW, that enabled me to become the person I am today. I came to MPW to complete my final year of A levels, having been badly bullied at my previous school; my parents pulled me out two weeks before the end of my Lower Sixth year, and I've never looked back! I arrived in September 2016 a very shy and trepidatious young girl. That all changed, however, after meeting my wonderful tutors – Richard Martin, Valeria Givone, Ana Abad Jara and Mat Carmody - they are, even to this day, the best teachers I have ever had, and we are still in contact. Classes were always immensely enjoyable, filled with endless laughter, learning and smiles. Going to MPW everyday never felt like a chore, only a blessing - each pupil was treated as an individual rather than an entity, and pushed accordingly, although it was never without an abundance of support, love, and guidance. I underwent a form of metamorphosis - I left a confident young lady, with fab results and friends, and, above all, truly happy. I will forever cherish those memories.

I won a place at the University of St Andrews to read French and Spanish (along with Latin for the first two years). MPW prepared me extremely well for university-style life and teaching - a St Andrews workload is very intense and unrelenting! In conjunction with earning a place on the Dean's list for Academic Excellence, one of my greatest

accomplishments at St Andrews was being awarded a place on a hyper-competitive Study Abroad programme to spend my third year living in the South of France, where I attended the University of Toulouse Jean-Jaurès. What a blast we all had: from the social café culture, to perusing around the historic Marché Victor Hugo, to the nightlife, the crazy early-morning metro commutes to my university situated in one of the toughest suburbs in France, to the wine – oh, the wine! – to strolls along the river Garonne at sunset. La Ville Rose was heaven for a year, and it will forever hold a very special place in my heart.

I am now in my fourth and final year and very much looking forward the next exciting phase of my life. My hope is to take a few months out after graduation to do a Fine Art course in Florence, before entering either into the world of Insurance Broking or Law - I would also love to be able to continue using my languages, as they are so applicable and relevant in any professional business environment. The advice I would give to anyone, not just MPW students, is to be happy - because if you are happy, you will thrive. Never be afraid to change something if it is not right - because it might just be the best decision you ever make. Time is momentary, fleeting, and precious, as is life. Be kind, courageous and content in whatever you do, and the jigsaw that is life will all fall into place.



BY HARLEEN DHINGRA (2016-2017)

It started with...The MPW Prize for Mathematics

It started with the question:
Where do I go to next?
I've got my basic A levels
In my top three subjects.

I enrolled at MPW
To quench my thirst to learn more;
I picked up Further Maths
And was welcomed through the door.

The staff treated me with kindness
And I was supported along the way;
The quality of teaching
Was more than I could say.

Not only were my academics
Well thought-out and planned,
But my well-being and mental health
Were supported hand in hand.

I was provided with mock interviews
And plenty of test papers to prepare;
I was in close contact with my Director of Studies
Who I could approach with any affair.

There were times I lost my confidence,
I wasn't quite sure what to do,
But my teachers' encouragement and help
Was enough to see me through.

I achieved an A* in Further Maths
And I was oh so proud,
But instead of leaving for university
I stepped out from the crowd.

I started to work at a tuition centre:
That's where my passion for teaching grew;
I realised I wanted to return the support
I had received at MPW.

Now is the next step of my journey
To fulfil my dream in education,
To use the knowledge I have been given
And inspire the next generation.

So here is my piece of advice to you:
There's more than one way to success;
It's about following your true passion
And doing what you do best.

It started with my curious mind
And inspirational teachers were the key.
For now I want to go on to share
And give back what was given to me.



“It's about following your true passion”

From Media **TO MEDICINE,** *a change of direction*

Amelia Lavington completed the Mature Medic programme with us last summer. Here she offers her advice to those considering a change of career

After an established career as a documentary director I had become increasingly interested in medicine, and I finally decided to make the move to become a doctor.

Like many people who want to switch their careers, knowing how to start navigating the world of education again can be a stumbling block. I think this is especially true of medicine, it is a competitive field and there are a lot of specific academic hoops you need to jump through to give yourself the best chance of being represented.

I researched courses and the MPW Mature Medic programme seemed to offer not only the science education I needed, but crucially support with UCAS, UCAT, MMI's and panel interviews - things I would have struggled to get confidently to grips with on my own.

I think the fact that the programme was intensive and condensed into a year also really appealed to me – as a mature student you want to make sure you can progress as quick as possible.



“This is where the infrastructure around the Mature Medics programme really worked for me - the teachers, Simon and Bushra, were fantastic.”

This being said, despite having worked in an industry where 70-hour weeks aren't uncommon, I really struggled with the amount of new information in the first term. Intensive learning is mentally exhausting, and I felt totally lost for the first few months. For anyone changing careers I think this can be daunting: going from being in charge and knowledgeable to being the one having to ask all the questions!

This is where the infrastructure around the Mature Medics programme really worked for me- the teachers, Simon and Bushra, were fantastic – they gave me extra time and support when I needed it, and the revision sessions MPW provided were invaluable.

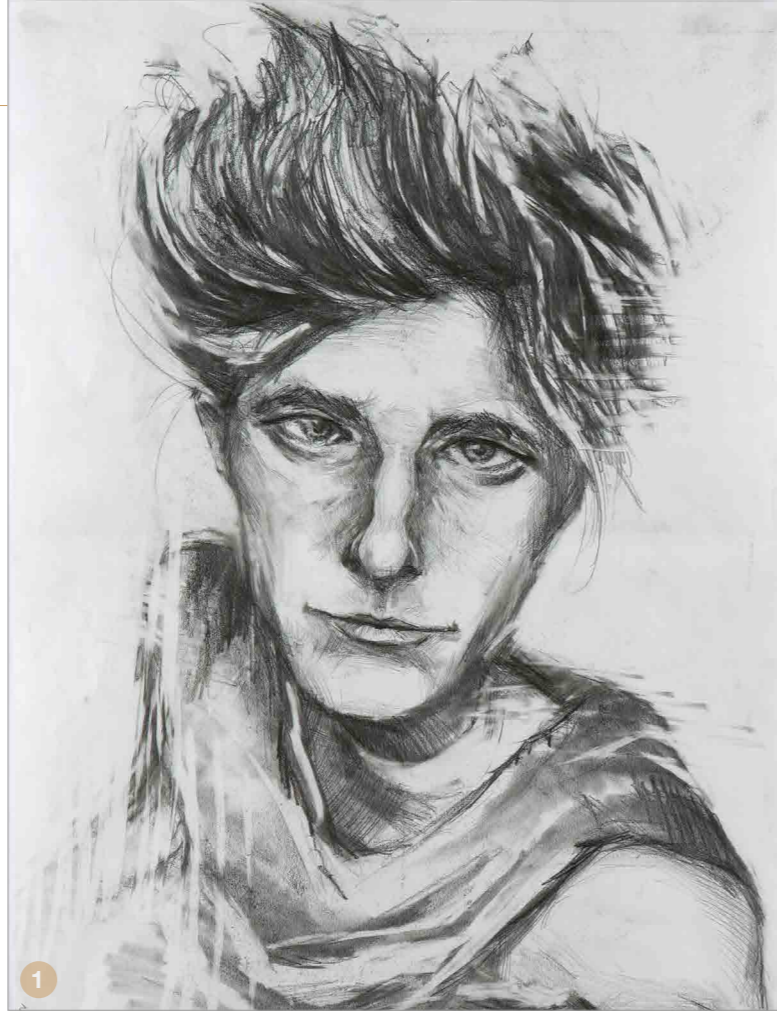
I would advise anyone considering a career change to do your research and get the right support – whether it's a tutor, a mentor or a structured course - it's a tough enough path as it is and doing it alone won't help.

I am currently studying medicine having been lucky enough to secure one of only 40 places on the accelerated Graduate Entry Medicine course at Barts.

The current landscape of the health crisis, with all the uncertainties that has brought, has made it an interesting time to be entering the medical profession. For me it feels an even more vital and rewarding path and I am really happy with my choice to switch careers.

MPW London
wins the ISA Award
for Excellence
and Innovation in
Fine Arts 2020.

*Congratulations to staff
and students for the recognition
of their excellent work. Here are
a few examples of our talented
student's artwork.*



1



9



7



8



10

- 1 Kexin Hu
Art

- 2 Emily Redhead
Art

- 3 Arna Chen
Art

- 4 Abdullah Al-Kazaz
Art & Design

- 5 Chloe Chen
Textiles

- 6 Lincoln Barber
Photography

- 7 Zinuo (Michelle) Liu
3D Design



2



4



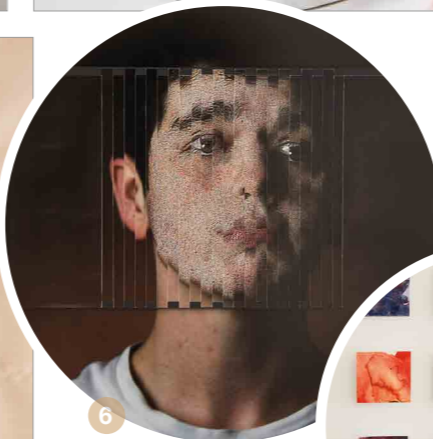
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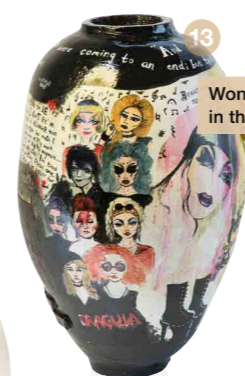
5



6



12



13 Won ISA Art competition in the 3D Design category



14



15

- 8 Isabel Rickets
3D Design

- 9 May Mahuttanatan
Textiles

- 10 Arna Chen
Art

- 11 Holly Ramsay
Textiles

- 12 Natasha Moss
Art

- 13 Scarlett Reeve-Tucker
Art

- 14 Khaled Dalloul
3D Design

- 15 Imogen Dunning
Textiles



To see more photos from the event please click here.



ALUMNI LAUNCH PARTY

A Night to Remember

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome so many former MPW London students to the MPW Alumni Launch Event. Held in the elegant Ognisko Polish Club, South Kensington, it was great to see students and tutors alike catching up on old times, sharing their stories and making new connections. We were also honoured to be in the company of Rodney Portman, one of MPW's founding members, and our guest speaker the legendary football commentator John Motson OBE.



The evening commenced with drinks and canapes, a chance to chat with tutors and fellow alumni, and an opportunity to meet and take a selfie with John Motson OBE. Dinner was then served in the ballroom, a room that has once hosted a dinner for the Queen...only the best for our alumni!

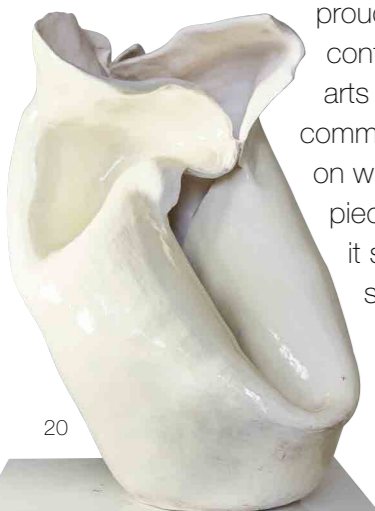
We very much look forward to the day that we can come together once again for our next alumni event. We will be letting you know as soon as we have plans to do so and hope to see you there.





Creative Waves Art Competition

At the new Creative Waves competition, several MPW students were invited to display their work. We were thrilled to learn that Nikan Arghandehpour won first prize in the main 16-19-year-old category and, as a result, the winning piece, a ceramic sculpture, will be displayed at the world-renowned Saatchi Gallery in July/August. This is a great achievement and opportunity for Nikan and not only are we very proud of him; moreover, this competition continues to showcase the work of creative arts students and staff at MPW. The organisers commented: 'Congratulations to MPW and Nikan on winning first prize for his beautiful ceramic piece. All the judges really liked it and said it showed 'Mature technical skill, with a satisfying creative title in an organic form.'



Duathlon

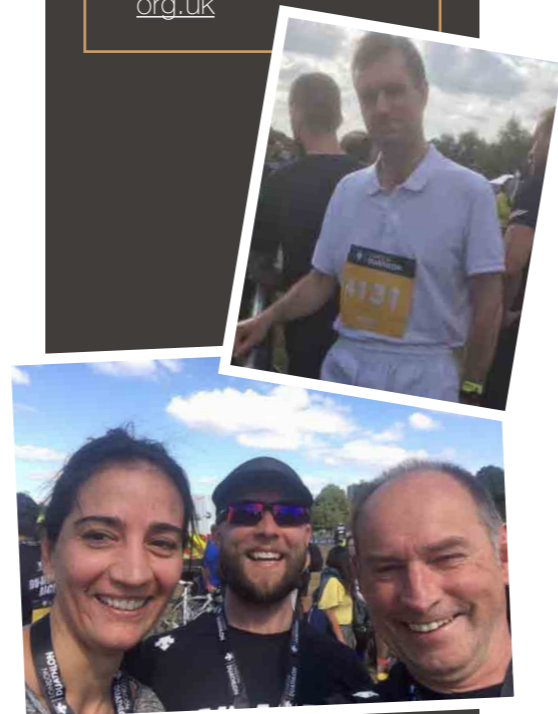
In September 2019 our staff Duathlon team John, Anna and Richard ran and cycled their way around Richmond Park, covering an impressive distance collectively of 59km. Andy entered the individual Half Duathlon, undertaking a 5km run followed by a 22km cycle and finished off with another 5km run. A commendable feat!

This was all done in honour of raising money for London's Air Ambulance, reaching a total of £320.

Information about the work that London's Air Ambulance does can be found on their website.

Links

- www.londonsairambulance.org.uk



Global Model UN



Our many thanks to Phil Carr for running this most valuable event for our students.



The 2020 Model United Nations Conference for London was held at St Paul's School during the weekend of 17-19 January and twelve delegates from MPW were among the 250 young people who took part. It took a lot of commitment on the part of our students. The conference organiser complimented MPW on the research the students had done. Each delegate sent a resolution to the Conference for debating. The opening ceremony address was given by Sir Simon Fraser OP, former Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. During the closing ceremony some of our students' comments during debate were praised. Some of the students' and parents' thoughts on the experience are below:

"The MUN was truly a memorable experience - from the heated debates that kept me on my toes to the hilarious discussions that had me gasping for breath. The three-day event enlightened me on several issues around the world and helped me develop a more analytical mind. I will also not forget the friendships created there." **NAFISA SULEIMAN**

"I think for my daughter it was an eye-opener about things outside her subjects of study. Importantly, she has seen her competition at A level - so she is working even harder. Well done for all the work you put in." **PARENT**

"A great opportunity to improve speaking skills, gain confidence and acquire knowledge alongside like-minded people!" **POLINA NAUMOVA**

"MUN was a very good experience, even though I was nervous about the public speaking at the start. By the end I was very happy to take part in the debating. It took me out of my comfort zone but helped me find a new interest in politics." **MIMI ALLEN**

"Thank you for organising this interesting event for the students and to such perfection. My daughter really enjoyed her experience and I am glad to hear they all got good feedback." **PARENT**

"Model United Nations is an experience that opened my eyes to what goes on behind closed doors in the UN. My experience over the course of the weekend equipped me with skills I can use in both my school life and personal life, such as formal debating and using the conventions of debate. I was fairly sceptical at first, unsure of what to expect, but after having been through it, I can without a doubt say I will be attending MUN next year." **SOPHIE DICKSON**



The MPW Competition In The Creative Arts 2020

*The winning entries of the MPW
Competition in the Creative Arts 2020:
Inspired by the title: A Door into Summer*

LO GUPTA Year 11

i want to fall in love in summer again,
i want to look through the leaves and branches
like sunlight onto-concrete. where your boots
drag beside mine.

i want to see your hair, haloed in light in
every possible colour and
i want to hold your hand over my shoulder,
i want to tiptoe,
i want everything¹

[¹see: fishnet stockings, pins and badges, bitten down fingernails, burning
tongues.]

i want to fall in love in summer again,
i want to fall in love in summer with your singing,
i want to see your laugh part your lips like a
doorway,

i want to wonder if you can see that look i give you,
i want to press inky fingerprints against your palm,
i want that feeling²

[²see: the feeling of smiling too hard for your jaw, the feeling of legs and arms
swinging, clumsy glances, tile floors]

i want to fall in love in summer again,
i want to fall in love with not-kissed cherry cola lips,
i want to see a ticking clock and fall in love anyway,
i want to know you'll be back,
i want to know safety in your lips opening with a
laugh like a door ajar,
beautiful melody behind it.

i want you³

[³see: all of you, the scabby knees, the pretty smile in sunlight, crinkled eyes,
desperate hugs, waving goodbye too long.]

DOMINIC GEORGE-OPPONG Year 11

Locked down together,
It is tricky endeavour
Time ticks and tocks, it seems like forever
When will it stop? it seems like never
One thing is the same and that is the weather.

Locked down together,
Anger everywhere. The key to displeasure
The fight for toilet roll, shops forced to lock
and surrender
Going to get groceries now a different type of venture
Staying inside so long one starts to feel the pressure.

Locked down together,
It has been a different kind of semester
One where I start to appreciate the professor
My gratitude to the teachers is not one that I
can measure
Coming to the end I am loving this adventure.

Locked down together,
This period is surely one that I will treasure
Clapping for the NHS sure was a refresher
United. My street now a unit altogether
This love is the key that will last forever.

After all this I peak through the door to summer
With all that I have learnt, this period was not an error.
As the next phase comes - I pray it will be for
the better
No longer will we be locked up forever.



LIBERTY WILSON Year 12

(Context- this poem is through the eyes of my dog called Olly.)

Hello my name is Olly,
And there's something I'd like to say,
Everyone keeps talking about this 'terrible virus',
But in my view I'd like it to stay,

You see I have most my family,
They're here all day and night,
I'm not used to such luxuries,
And I won't let it stop without a fight,

My middle sister Skye is home,
From University,
She sometimes wakes up early to work,
But always comes and plays with me,

My younger sister Liberty,
There's this thing called online lessons,
She sits there at her laptop,
I sometimes sit there too but remain hidden,

My mum is very busy,
From my sisters being at home,
One time I pulled a 'sicky'
To get some attention of my own,

You see it went terribly,
And off to the vet we went,
I don't think I'll use this tactic again,
The vet wore a terrible scent,

But I am very happy,
And I wish you would be too,
In my opinion my sisters are selfish,
For always asking when this will be through,

Family time is very special,
Though it can be easy to forget,
So Boris Johnson, from man to mammal,
Please don't rush this time,

As for many,
It's much more than we usually get.


ED DE WINTON Year 14

Part One: Imprisonment

'One does not expect to be comfortable in prison. As a matter of fact, one's mental suffering is so much greater than any common physical distress that the latter is almost forgotten.' **Emmeline Pankhurst**

"How could anyone commit a crime so heinous?" I thought to myself. "Was it a question of greed or ambition?" These were the questions I was asking throughout the drive with the 'Financial Times' propped on my lap. My heart was palpitating and punching my chest like a percussionist drumming, my stomach churning as if I was suffering from motion sickness. My complexion that day was described as pasty white and ghost-like. The headlines that day read: "Drake Regan (DOB- 25th June 1984) got his comeuppance in the end the dirty birdy," writes Annie Wilkes. The verdict was delivered but I only heard four words due to my sudden but temporary sensorineural hearing loss. These four words were: "Sentence twenty years prison."

Thursday 18th May 2023- The walk from the courtroom to the bus was a blur. I only started to pay attention to my surroundings when the bus zoomed over a speedbump where the bus mimicked a bouncy castle on wheels. The vibrant green grass swayed in the wind,

the cirrus clouds were dancing in the cobalt blue coloured sky looking like angel hair in the wind. The robins were chattering and the woodpeckers were drumming, creating a beautiful symphony.

The silhouette of the prison emerged out of the tree line. The stone wall had jagged bits of rock sticking out haphazardly which looked like shards of flint and the letters above the prison door spelt: Whisperwid Regioal Priso and I assumed the nature of entropy was strangely uniform as all the n's were missing. The crossing of the threshold from freedom to entrapment was indescribable, the sudden realisation that this is your new habitat for twenty years and you're the most endangered species in that habitat. This fear was then trumped by the slam of the cell bars shut which created a clanging in one's ears and the recognition that this is reality. Prison life was about routine: Awake, Shower, Breakfast, Hard labour, Lunch, Hard labour, Dinner, Lights out and suddenly the days

merged together and one wonders where ten years goes. The monotonous, backbreaking community service provided exceptions to the norm but the breaking of the routine has its sacrifice as one returned with skin burning and back cramps.

I wanted to keep track of how long I had been isolated in this facility. I wanted to tally up the months on my wall but that seems almost a cliché at this point. If I wanted to top this exhausted idea, I could put up a poster of Rita Hayworth or Raquel Wench. It seems like I have been here since the dawn of time, trapped on the inside with no sense of direction or time. I felt like a calf starved of light and enclosed so that they can harvest tender veal meat.

I have flashbacks every now and again of what life was like outside these four walls. My admiration of classical music knew no bounds on the outside. The most distinct and vivid flashback was the November night one: I had been sitting in my study with a crackling fire, the flames dancing and engulfing the wood. A copy of 'The Handmaid's Tale' lay open on the coffee table, along with a glass of Chivas Regal. I had lit up a La Palina cigar as fat as a candlestick and had

listened to Tchaikovsky's '6th Symphony' with the beautiful opening of the low double bass, then the crescendo transitioning into the bassoon solo which created a sensational rising motif. The fact that it was his last great work before his quasi-suicide had made me appreciate it even more. I changed the music to Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' and had drifted into a serene dream-like state and appreciated the nuances of the dynamic changes from piano to fortissimo throughout the piece.

The November night flashback had been the most vivid and distinct one and the prospect of music on the outside had been the only thing that kept me going throughout my incarceration. Inside Whisperwind Prison, music didn't exist and this created a cold, hard almost death-like silence. A silence in which you could hear a pin drop. I kept mostly to myself throughout my imprisonment. The penal system wanted to entrap me so I did my best to isolate myself from others. I was described as 'solitary as an oyster' by the other inmates.

**Please read part 2 on our website:
Part Two: Revelation**

Black Lives Matter

In response to the recent events in the US and this country, two students have written short pieces on kindness, respect, understanding and tolerance.

Piece 1

Respect is a vital quality to carry within yourself. It reflects maturity and acceptance and is very needed to achieve the outcome of world peace. Respect must be spread worldwide but the most important thing is that it must be handed out equally amongst people that surround us and handed out to everyone we meet. As you all may know the significantly tragic circumstances occurring in America and all over the world now are a reflection of what a lack of respect towards people look like. No matter race, gender, sexuality, religion or any orientation, kindness should be recognised and used all over the world to prevent inequality or discrimination. The world requires equality and world peace to sustain a peaceful environment. Nobody should be discriminated for the simple colour of their skin because that is a shallow and ignorant concept to focus on the colour of the outside rather than the content of the inside. It is sad and shameful how some people in our world carry hate in their hearts for people so wonderful and diverse due to their narrow mind and lack of education on the importance of content of character bared inside a person. I hope the world can unite and create a vision of world peace moving forward into the future to make the surroundings for ourselves and our future generations a loveable and safe place to express ourselves and live in unity.

Piece 2

It is easy to live life acting selfishly, easy to follow the crowd and easy to put people down for their differences. It is easy to be judgmental and stereotype people rather than being kind. Kindness is a skill that requires courage and strength. Although it is one of the only free aspects of life it can be difficult to find kindness among this unfair, cruel world that we live in. However, from experience, I know that a simple act of kindness like a smile or a compliment can make one feel an unforgettable warm feeling of happiness. A smile can be and should be spread more often because everyone is fighting their own battles that we do not know about. Just be kind. If you do not have something nice to say, then don't say it at all. This can be tough sometimes, as we cannot control other people's hurtful words or actions, but you can always count on yourself to choose to be a thoughtful person by simply thinking about other people's feelings as well as your own. Kindness is a form of respect in which I believe that everyone should be treated equally with more care, tolerance and love. Tolerance is also a form of respect, which is key for our world of various different communities to understand each other. This is important in preventing conflict and further spreading unconditional love and respect. A lack of tolerance can lead to violence and aggression, which destroys peace while creating unnecessary hate. The more we listen, the more we learn and appreciate about different religions, cultures and way of life. Everyone has different thoughts, beliefs and opinions but everyone deserves to be listened to, valued and respected. A few extra words may mean nothing to you, but it could mean everything to somebody else.

Poet 'visits' MPW

by Student Reporter, Jack Darlington

On Monday, the 28th September 2020, MPW held a virtual, socially distanced English Literature talk with Damian Walford Davies, an English author we're studying in our A level, who wrote *Witch*, the incredible poetical cycle, published in 2012.

Due to the severity of the coronavirus pandemic and the safety guidelines at these times, we have not been able to have the privilege to see plays for the course, so it's been an absolute pleasure to be treated to the extremely rare opportunity of being able to talk to the poet.

He gave us the invaluable opportunity to share with us the true interpretations and meanings behind his poetic style and narrative. Damian, an author, poet and librettist, kindly spoke to us of his influences such as the English Civil War in the 1640s, which was a key decade that surrounded the horrors of witchcraft, with the demonisation of women and men. He used this time period and the brutal hangings of thousands of men and women, as inspiration to help him advance on his narrative.

Damian wanted the opportunity to be able to animate history, excavating those voices such as the two only female characters in *Witch*, who were accused of being 'Witches' by the main protagonist called Nicholas Strelley. Strelley blanks his son's true identity, not perceiving him as weak and effeminate, and therefore blames his son's weakness on a



“He gave us the invaluable opportunity to share with us the true interpretations and meanings behind his poetic style and narrative.”

labourer, Clemence Addy, who he's convinced, has hexed his son and has therefore condemned him to death.

Davies' poems are full of spiritual war, optical illusions, sexual bating and are set in an East Anglian village between 1643 and 1644, inspired by a post 9/11 world of surveillance. Damian kindly read out one of his poems, which was a monologue from one of the two female characters in *Witch*.

Student Ambassador Day

Hello reader, my name is Apollo and I am a student ambassador at MPW London, and I would like to tell you about my day training for public speaking.

By Apollo De Lacy

I had applied to be an ambassador because

I really enjoyed being at the school and wanted to help represent it to prospective students and help new students to feel more comfortable at MPW.

On Wednesday the 7th of October, me and 17 other ambassadors went to a team building/public speaking workshop. Once we got there we were introduced to the leaders of the workshop: Alan and Phoebe. Both were incredibly engaging and helpful. We moved on to introduce ourselves to the group and played various games to learn more about each other. Once everyone got to know each other a little better, Phoebe and Alan gave us our first rule of public speaking. This rule was the one I found most interesting. It was about how posture and the space you take up can affect your confidence when speaking. Apparently, your confidence increases when you stand tall and wide, and you can speak to a large group more easily. We went on to discuss and practice how energy levels can affect your presentation. For example, if you stay at energy level 1 (very low energy) your audience will quickly lose interest as you will not be engaging enough, but if you

remain at a high energy level you will overwhelm your audience and will quickly become tired out. So, it is very important that you find a happy, easy level that you can remain at. The group also discussed other aspects of public speaking such as when you should breathe and how long you should focus on a member of the audience during a speaking event.

After a quick lunch break, we got back together and later, went on to do our second to last exercise; trying to sell a paper clip to everyone who was there. We needed to incorporate all the various techniques that we had learned throughout the day and market an everyday object as something very necessary and important. Everyone did very well and enjoyed this exercise. The final exercise was to present a speech of the struggles we had faced so far at MPW. Each person at the workshop was able to articulate and describe their experience so well, and we were all engaged as an audience. Everyone was so much better and more confident at public speaking in the final presentation. I feel much more prepared for public speaking, thanks to the workshop set up by Emma and given by Phoebe and Alan. Everyone had lots of fun and we were all tired out after a busy day!

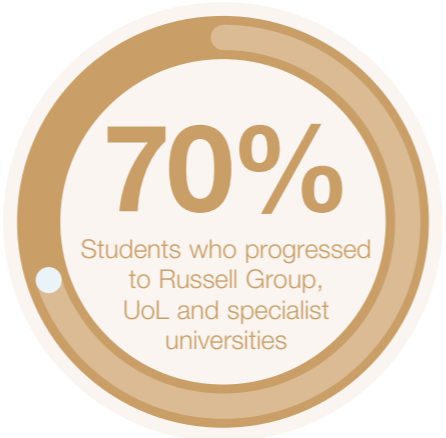


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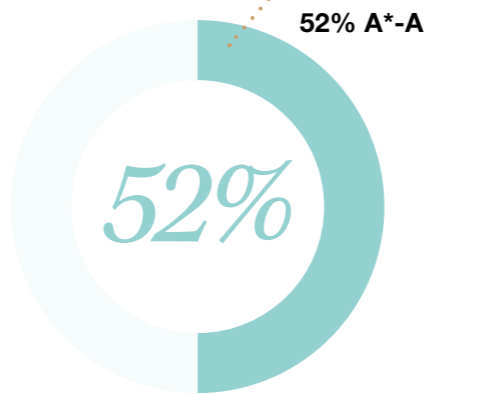
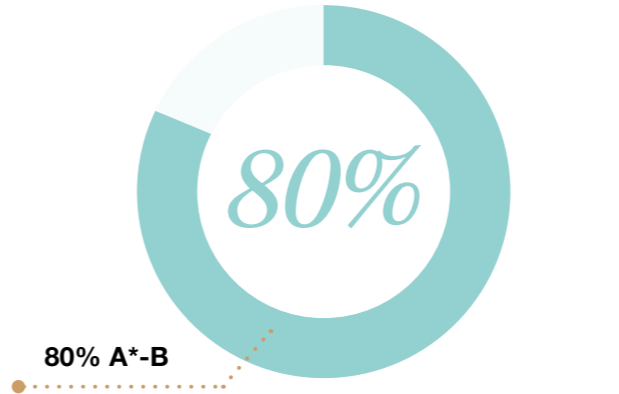


Results and Destinations 2020

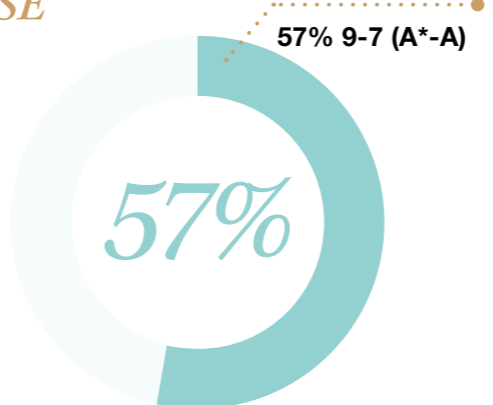
We were delighted with our exam results last summer and are happy to report that over 70% of our students gained entry to Russell Group and top tier universities. This included 41 students securing a place in medicine, seven in veterinary studies and five in dentistry. We also had five students gain places at Oxford and Cambridge. Our many congratulations to them all.



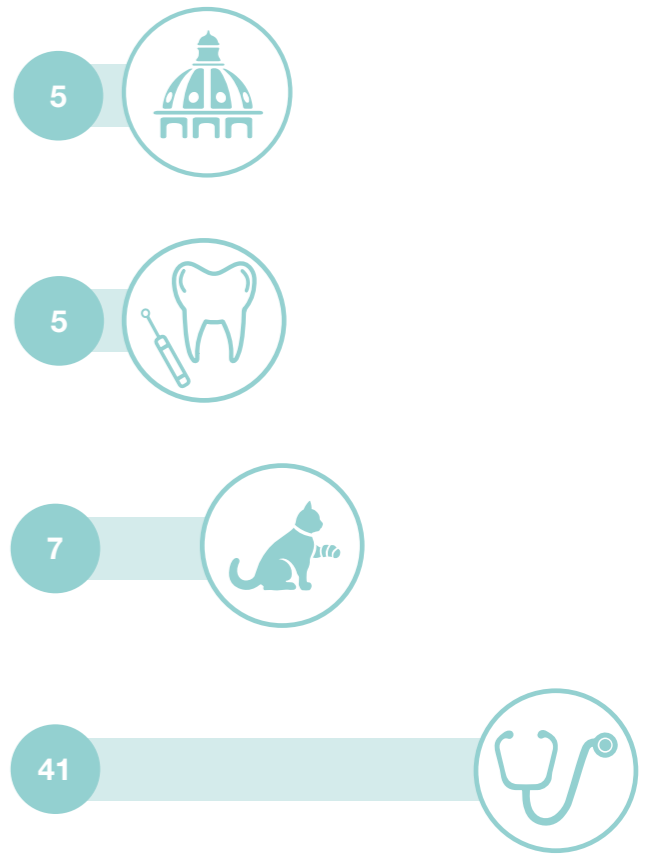
A levels



GCSE



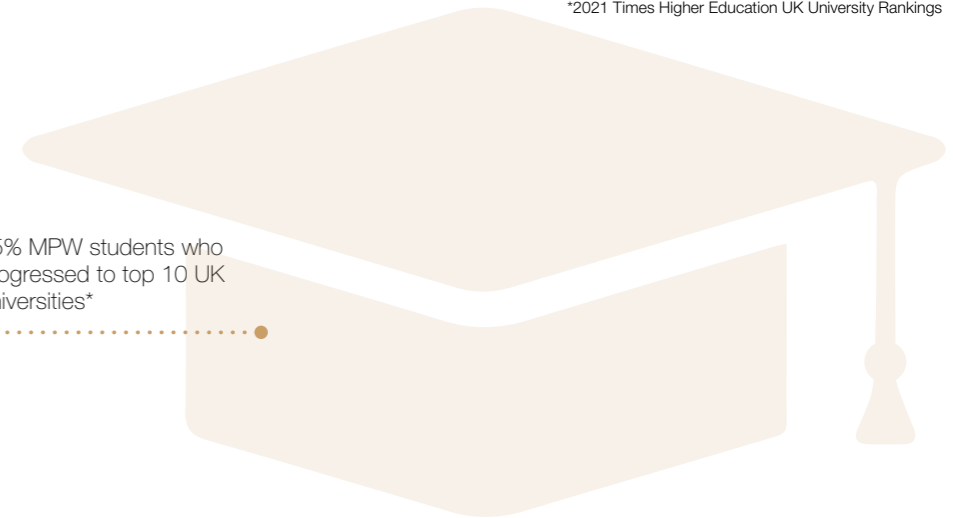
Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary School Placements



*2021 Times Higher Education UK University Rankings



25% MPW students who progressed to top 10 UK universities*



Retiring Staff Members

Three of our well-respected members of staff have recently retired. We wish them all the best in their retirement and future endeavours, they shall be greatly missed around the college.

NIGEL STOUT Chairman 1987 - 2020

By Joe Ruston

When in 1987 MPW opened a college in Cambridge we appointed an experienced teacher from nearby London tutorial college to run it. He explained that he worked very well with another member of staff from the same college and suggested that we appointed the two of them as joint principals. We were rather against the plan, arguing that no ship could have two captains etc. Just to add to the confusion, both the prospective Principals were called Nigel. The second one was Nigel Stout. Eventually we overcame our objections and appointed them both and I was to thank my lucky stars that we did so because nine years later Nigel Stout took over from me as Chairman of the MPW Group and allowed me to move on to my third career.

During those nine years Nigel had run the Cambridge college successfully and then opened a college for us in Bristol before coming back to MPW London in 1992 as Joint Principal. This time his partner wasn't another Nigel but a Fiona. Fiona



Dowding was a brilliant teacher of English, a popular administrator and an accomplished three-day eventer. Given that competitive horse riding was the most dangerous of all dangerous sports, I was always worried that her time with us would be cut short, but it wasn't, and the Nigel/Fiona partnership was a great success. So great in fact that when, a few years later, Fiona resigned from MPW to concentrate on her sporting interests, it came as no surprise to hear the happy news that she and Nigel had married.

In 1996 I was able to step down with every confidence in Nigel's ability to take MPW forward and build on the foundations that Robert Woodward, Rodney Portman and I laid down more than 40 years ago. It has been a great pleasure to watch from a distance as he has moved the London college into excellent premises in Queen's Gate, strengthened the group as a whole and rigorously maintained the reputation for excellent teaching on which the success of MPW was established.

MOYRA GRANT Politics tutor 1982 - 2020

By John Cameron

Apart from Roger Potter, the Principal, Moyra was the first person I ever met at MPW in September 1989 when I arrived in London hotfoot from working at the Edinburgh Fringe. This immediately endeared us to each other as it turned out that she is utterly devoted to the Festival in all its myriad forms. Subsequently one always knew every year she would return to work with tales from the fringe. Anyway, she interviewed me, and it was clear from the outset in my mind that (if she was the face of MPW then it must be quite good!) here was someone who was both efficient but also warm hearted. Moyra Grant had joined ten years previously in 1979 when MPW was based in Wetherby Place and where she was employed to teach Politics, Sociology and Economics. She had been educated in Edinburgh, both at school and University, before combining her post graduate work at the LSE with being PA to the Head of Canada Dry. At some point it was narrowed down to her specialism of politics, but this was far from her only role. Shortly after she became Head of an enormous Social Sciences department of Politics, Sociology, Economics, Business Studies, Psychology, Philosophy and Law. On top of that in 1984 she started timetabling college lessons, with Jane Hawkes and with no computer – just a giant big pinboard. Each August she, and Jane, presided over a table with a two-dimensional representation of the year's teaching to come, its rooms and its teachers. No one would suggest that computer programmes make this job a walk in the park (I think members of Registry might kill me for so much as suggesting it!) but to many Moyra looked like one of those young uniformed women in the operations room of a Second World War movie plotting and mapping the precise movements of enemy and allied shipping. It was a task as demanding - and for MPW each September - as crucial as that.

By 1989 she had been appointed Senior Tutor when it had a quite different meaning to today being essentially a Head of Operations charged with not only maintaining academic standards across the college but also the organising of all the mock exams, Oxbridge practice interviews, course outlines, open evenings, prize-givings etc. That this job has been subsequently divided up into four or five posts gives some indication of her levels of organisation on top of teaching and being a HOD! Anyone who encountered Moyra immediately understood two things: that she did not suffer fools gladly and that she could be fierce with students. However, those same students (and tutors!) were fiercely devoted to her. I can personally testify to untold acts of kindness throughout the years. Moyra also managed to fit in being an examiner for Edexcel Politics eventually being promoted to Principal Examiner under the legendary Andrew Heywood. However, even though she resigned as HOD in 1995, in order to spend more time writing, her true home remained the classroom where generations of public school boys who had so far got by solely on charm (and arriving with Ds in the process!) came to MPW and learnt, usually the hard way, that such charm was now less a passport to success. Moyra would only be swayed by their punctuality both of person and of work and their absolute commitment to the subject. It did not take too long for her reputation for discipline and hard work to spread far and wide so that parents who perhaps did not share her political enthusiasms were still very keen to entrust their offspring to her charge. Moyra's course notes and published works are justly celebrated as models of their kind by those who know about these things. Staff may come and go but practitioners like Moyra leave an indelible mark on those generations of students they taught and the colleagues with which they worked and who benefitted from her wise counsel.

MICHAEL COHEN

Mathematics tutor 1985 - 2020

By Michael Danzelman, Head of Mathematics

Way back in 1986, a young Mike Cohen joined MPW as a maths tutor to begin a career that would last nearly 35 years. Back then MPW was a very different place. Spread over three sites, one on Cromwell Road and two on Elvaston place it shared the ethos it retains today of small group tuition in an adult, collegiate atmosphere along with more liberal values including smoking in classrooms and drinks after school with students. How times have changed!

One thing that hasn't changed over the past three decades is Mike's warm, affable nature and his readiness to give his time generously to staff and students alike. A brilliant mathematician, Mike

has always been on hand to offer new tutors advice on a tricky mathematical problem – even if his first response was usually “Oh, that's obvious!” – and that includes me!

Sadly, the events of the past six months convinced Mike retirement was the best option and in August 2020 he hung up his board pens for the last time. There will be many students throughout the years whose success at university and careers were in no small part due to Mike's skilled teaching and encouragement while as a colleague and a friend, Mike will be sorely missed. From everyone at MPW we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Empower Podcast Coming Soon

Each episode features a different Alumni and we discuss their time at MPW, how this influenced them in their endeavours after and get some words of wisdom for those looking to follow in their footsteps.

For the first episode, we are joined by Dean Ahmad, a successful, young entrepreneur and a candidate in the 2019 series of The Apprentice. Dean is the Founder and CEO of Fine Edge Sports and Entertainment, a sports management agency. We find out what it is like to face Lord Sugar, hear about Dean's days as a rather outspoken student and we get some great advice for any budding entrepreneurs listening.

[Click here to listen to the Empower Podcast Trailer](#)



Virtual Open Afternoons

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions we are unable to hold our Open Afternoons in the college. While we await the day that we can once again welcome you through our doors, we are holding Virtual Open Afternoons. You will be able to take a virtual tour of the college, hear from our Principal and Heads of Department and take part in our live Q&A session.

To book on to one of the dates listed below, please call 020 7835 1355 or email london@mpw.ac.uk

- Tuesday 20th April, 4:15 – 6pm



Easter Revision

For over 30 years MPW has been offering exam board specific Easter revision courses for a variety of subjects for both A Level and GCSE. The dates for the 2022 Easter Revision programme are:

- Week 1: Monday 28 March - Friday 1 April
- Week 2: Monday 4 April - Friday 8 April
- Week 3: Monday 11 April - Friday 15 April

(Good Friday is 15 April; Easter Monday is 18 April)

Further information can be found on our website but if you have any questions or you would like to book onto a course, please email london@mpw.ac.uk and one of our Course Directors will get back to you.



If you think any of your former classmates would be interested in signing up to the MPW London Alumni network who have not yet done so, then please share the link to the sign-up form!
MPW London Alumni Network Sign-Up Form



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