

THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 2 NO. 2

EASTER TERM 2022



LEADERSHIP CHANGES

In January 2022 Stephen Withnell indicated his wish to retire from the College and from his role as Director of The Stonyhurst Foundation. Stephen will retire at the end of this academic year. Stephen has served the school as a Governor, as Deputy Head External and as the founder and first Director of the Foundation over a combined period of service of five years.

Stephen comments:

“The Foundation has been established with an extraordinarily accomplished Board of Trustees and with a robust Constitution. It is supported by highly dedicated teams in the Development Office and the Foundation Office. The Foundation has now completed two cycles of annual reporting to the Charity Commission, Companies House, donors, and other stakeholders. Its fundraising success is well-known. It was recognised by the IDPE in 2021 as a standout success in UK independent school fundraising. Its success was singled out as a defining element in Stonyhurst’s nomination for the Tatler Public School of the Year award in 2020.

In 2019, Stonyhurst granted the Foundation £300,000 in seed funding. That faith has been amply repaid: by the end of the current year, the Foundation will have made grants to Stonyhurst in excess of £2,000,000. This cash sum is in addition to the more than £8,000,000 of restricted, designated, and cash funds which remain, and which the Trustees manage independently from Stonyhurst.

It has been a great privilege to serve the cause of widening access to the sort of education that Stonyhurst can provide. I remain committed to Stonyhurst and to all that it can be, and I will continue to help the Foundation in any way I can. I am incredibly grateful for the many friendships gained during my time working at the school and for the Foundation. The challenge of setting up a new, independent UK charity from scratch is unique, and I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to do so. Stonyhurst will thrive with the school, the Association, and the Foundation working together, linked by charitable purpose, long into the future.”

The Foundation Trustees have set up a working group to recruit a successor, and the Trustees have engaged the services of Peridot Partners to lead the search. Peridot Partners are specialists in the recruitment of Directors for endowments. We aim to have the new Stonyhurst Foundation Director in post by September 2022.



The Stonyhurst Foundation Trustees wish to thank Stephen for establishing the Foundation and for his outstanding leadership. Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees, commented:

“In just 4 years Stephen has built an enterprise which, though not visible, means that hundreds of children are able to attend Stonyhurst regardless of their family circumstance. It is a wonderful legacy for which the whole of the Stonyhurst family now, and in the future, thank him.”

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

In January 2022 Ian Murphy also announced his intention to retire as Headmaster of SMH at the end of this academic year, after eight years in post.

We are delighted to confirm that Ian will be remaining at Stonyhurst as the new Director of Partnerships. Ian's role will see him working to secure additional funding for the Foundation as well as working closely with the Stonyhurst Admissions Team on the organisation and identification of recipients for Stonyhurst Foundation bursaries. Ian will also help track and measure the progress of bursary recipients – bringing to life, for donors and potential UK boarding families, the transformational impact of bursaries. As a member of the wider leadership team, he will be engaged across Stonyhurst, helping to support and contribute to the articulation of Stonyhurst's mission and identity.

Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees commented:

“We are delighted that Ian will be spending so much of his time working with the Foundation. He is ideally placed to help us advance our mission and his links with staff, parents, and pupils are unique. He is critical to our continued fundraising success. ”



NEWS



ODYSSEY OUT LOUD

On Wednesday 9th February, the Classics and Philosophy Society held a sponsored marathon reading of Homer's 'Odyssey' - one of the two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It follows the Greek hero Odysseus, King of Ithaca, and his journey home after the Trojan War. After the war itself, which lasted ten years, his journey lasted for ten additional years, during which time he encountered many perils.

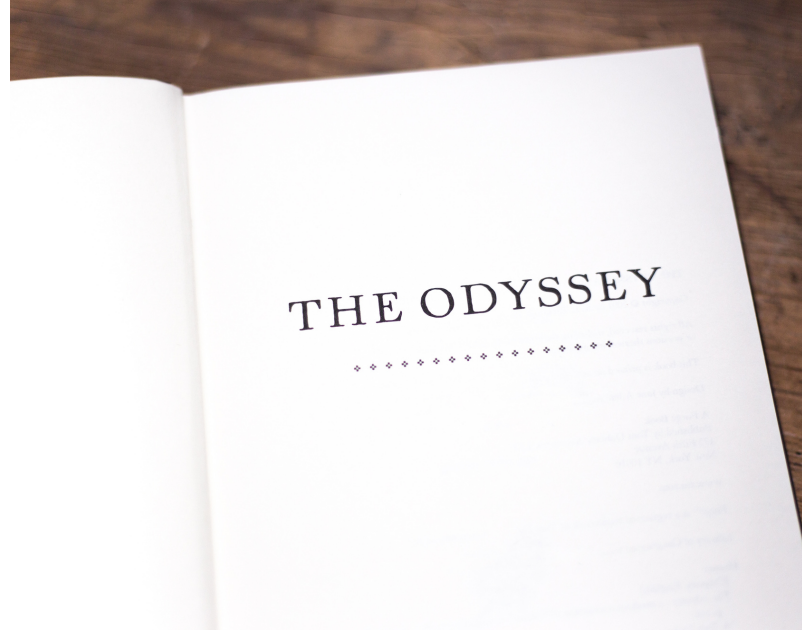
The Society aimed to raise £2,000 before the end of the reading. This sum equates to £100 for every year Odysseus was away from home. Thanks to the generosity of the Stonyhurst family the Society not only exceeded its target but did so before the reading began - the final amount raised totalling £3,605!

The Classics and Philosophy Society decided the money raised from this project will be going to the St Aloysius Rhetoric 2022 Bursary. This bursary will support the funds needed to cover the boarding costs for a pupil's time at the College, allowing the bursary recipient to join the Stonyhurst family and benefit from a Stonyhurst education.

Prior to the event, we were delighted to receive an inspiring and supportive message from Professor Mary Beard, which you can view [here](#).



NEWS



ODYSSEY OUT LOUD

The event started at 9am sharp and ran for over twelve hours. It was wonderful to see support not only from the wider Stonyhurst community but from the staff and pupils who remained until the final word - despite the late hour!

We were joined by 82 readers, 60 in-person and 22 via Zoom. This included pupils, staff, OS, parents, governors and a former member of staff. The youngest reader was aged just six - starting a love of Classics at a young age.

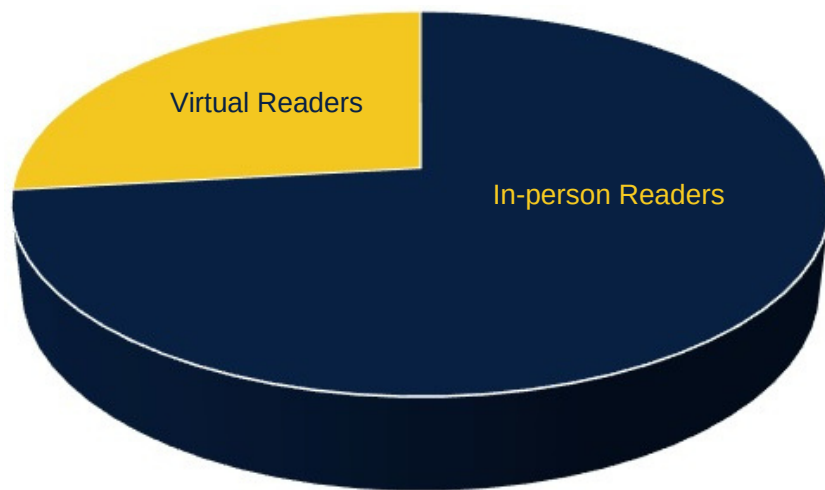
The support shown by our OS, from around the world, was exceptional, whether it be through supportive messages, donations or signing up to read. We even had one OS take on the challenge of reading in Greek!

No matter where they were in the world, their OS year or occupation, there was one common theme that appeared in the messages and conversations with the OS readers on the day, and that was how Stonyhurst ignited their passion for Classics, so much so that many of them went on to study Classics at university. They were delighted that Stonyhurst is continuing to inspire our pupils' passion for the Classics.

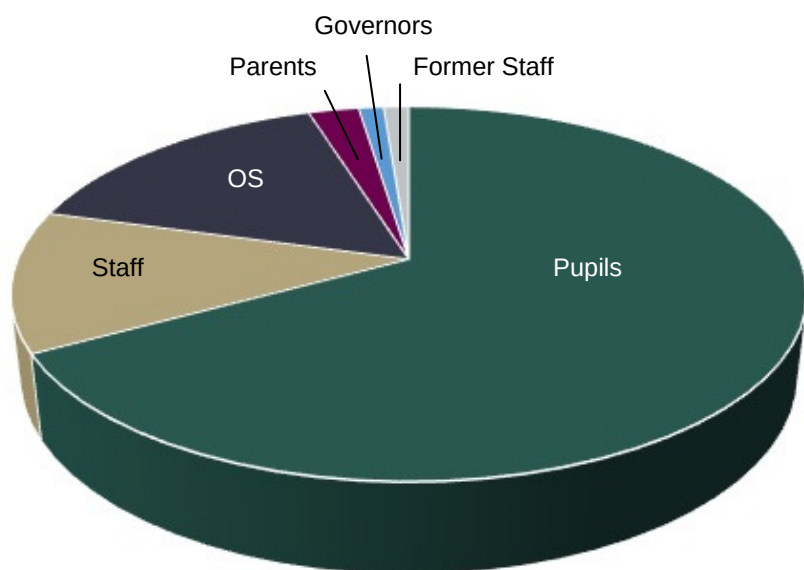
This exciting and unique event was initiated by Adrienne and Maddy in Rhetoric. They worked tirelessly to make this event a huge success. One that has brought members of the Stonyhurst family together to read this classic, from staff and pupils to OS and parents around the world.

Well done Adrienne and Maddy!

In-person and virtual readers



Readers' Role in the Stonyhurst Community



ADRIAN AYLWARD MEMORIAL

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SATURDAY 2ND JULY
2PM

THE CHURCH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
FARM STREET, LONDON

We are pleased, following the lifting of COVID restrictions, that a Memorial Service for Adrian Aylward will take place at 2pm on 2 July 2022.

Following a successful career in the City, Adrian became a teacher, starting a career path in Catholic education. His first posting was Head of RE and Housemaster at Downside.

In 1996, Adrian became the second lay Headmaster of Stonyhurst, serving in that capacity for ten years. His achievements whilst at Stonyhurst are many – he was responsible for extensive building projects, was key in enhancing access to, and use of, the Historic Collections, and in 1997, he oversaw the introduction of girls to Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, an important step in Stonyhurst's journey to full co-education. Under his leadership academic results improved, however, Adrian withdrew Stonyhurst from academic league tables, believing they were not compatible with the ethos of Jesuit schools. In 2003, he set up the Stonyhurst Access Appeal widening access to the College to those from lower income families. Departing in 2006, Adrian left behind a school well prepared for the future.

After Stonyhurst, Adrian became Headmaster at Leweston School where he is remembered as a man of deep faith and integrity. Following his retirement from Leweston, Adrian worked as an education consultant and became the first lay Chair of Governors at Downside.

Adrian had a profound effect on Stonyhurst, Leweston and Downside and we are delighted The Stonyhurst Foundation is coordinating with Caroline Aylward and family, Leweston, and Downside to help in planning the Service. We hope Stonyhurst family members will attend to give thanks for Adrian's life and the lasting impact his tenure had on Stonyhurst.

Further information will follow.



Portrait by: Anthony Connolly RP

NEWS

NEW HIGHER LINE BURSARY

We are thrilled to have received support from an OS family looking to provide a fully funded Higher Line boarding place enabling a pupil currently attending a Jesuit school in Europe to attend Stonyhurst.

The College Admissions Team are working with Dr John Stoer, the Delegate for Education, of the British Province of the Society of Jesus to enable this to happen.

We would like to thank the donor family for this generous gift of a Stonyhurst education.



LANX SHOES AND THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION

Stonyhurst launched the 'Stonyhurst' shoe in collaboration with LANX shoes on the 9th March, 'Made in the UK' day. The founder of LANX is Marco Vaghetti OS 2003.

This limited-edition 'mini range' includes a shoe and boot for men, featuring the 'Ribble Aster Tweed' used for the Stonyhurst College blazers. The Borrodale Tartan lines the interior with the Stonyhurst logo embossed on the sole.

20% of the profits, of shoe sales, will be donated to The Stonyhurst Foundation. To purchase a pair of these limited edition shoes, please visit:

<https://lanxshoes.com/collections/stonyhurst>

We are incredibly grateful to LANX shoes for its generosity!



UPCOMING EVENTS

RUGBY CENTENARY DECADES TOURNAMENT 3RD JUNE 2022

To mark this milestone in Stonyhurst's rugby history, and to celebrate what remains one of our proudest sporting traditions at the College, our two-day rugby celebration will begin on Friday the 3rd June.

The Decades Tournament will see ten OS teams taking to the pitches of Stonyhurst once more. Each team representing a decade of history.

We hope to capture the spirit of the Stonyhurst Rugby 7's, a highlight of every pupil's experience at Stonyhurst, rugby player or not. We look forward to welcoming many OS from all eras back to the College for a once in a generation celebration of our school.

Please join us on Smithfield at 11:30am on Friday 3rd June 2022 for the blessing and official opening of the new rugby pavilion, The Gibraltar Pavilion, which will be followed by the tournament start. Local artisan food and drink stalls will be available all day.

WE LOOK
FORWARD
TO SEEING
YOU THERE!



STONYHURST
ASSOCIATION
EVENTS

A special weekend of reflection, talks, and Easter Liturgy. It is a gathering of friends, united by a sense of shared faith and spirit of belonging within the Stonyhurst community. With a separate programme for children, from the age of four upwards, whole family attendance is very much welcomed. Please click the link for details of how to book: [Holy Week Retreat 2022](#)

Andrew Lubienski is organising a reunion at Theodore House, Stonyhurst. Please contact Andrew if you are interested in attending: andrewlubienski@gmail.com

A circular family walk, starting and finishing at Hobbitt Hill, where there will be parking and facilities. A tea will be provided at the end of the walk. This will be a charitable event, we will ask you to bring appropriate donations for the local food banks – we will feed you, if you will feed them! Further details and a booking form will be available in early spring.

After two 'grace years' dictated by the pandemic, we are returning to Lourdes this year. You are warmly invited to join us. However, despite our initial hopes, we have concluded one of the lingering effects of the pandemic is that we will be unable to provide medical or nursing support for adults on this year's CA pilgrimage.









Get in Touch

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