

Culhamni

Europa School UK Alumni Newsletter

Year 2020-21 Issue 1



Message from our Principal - Mrs Lynn Wood

Alumni Network

Working in School in covid - S8

S7 future plans. Our memories of Europa School

As Principal of Europa School UK I would like to welcome you to our inaugural Alumni newsletter. I previously worked as a seconded maths teacher and was the Deputy Director at the European School of Culham. There are still some members of staff who have worked in the two schools including myself, and I think that if you returned here as a student, you would find yourself in a school that has changed very little.

The school is currently undergoing massive change, however. Firstly, we have established ourselves as an IB World School, Brexit meant that we could no longer be a European School or offer the European Baccalaureate - our last EB Bacheliers will graduate this July. Our primary model is unique and is based on immersion teaching in English and another stream language (French, German, or Spanish) and will now lead into our IB programmes which allows us to maintain a broad and academic curriculum similar to the ES with a focus on advanced L2 teaching and study of humanities in L2. We still continue to celebrate all the regular events such as Bratwurst lunch, music soirees, talent shows, the cabaret and S7 celebrations (muck up day to most students)!

Secondly, the UK government has promised us a safe, warm and dry environment which I know most of you didn't experience during your time at Culham. But there were other compensations! The work currently underway involves amongst other things a new heating system and a glazed greenhouse. The DfE have also agreed to replace the infamous terrapins, which were installed as temporary accommodation in the 1980s and lasted for 40 years, finally succumbing to extensive water leaks in 2020. We will have a new two storey primary block by March 2022.

As you can see, the school has been very successful in surviving and thriving despite all the difficulties. And we are proud to continue with a school, which is unique, quirky, and different yet part of the UK state system.

For those of you who graduated from ESC, we do hope that you consider Europa School as a sort of adopted alma mater and recognise that what we're trying to achieve with the current students' cohort is similar to the education opportunities you experienced and hopefully are grateful for. We hope that you will continue to follow the school's progress over the years and support us.



Setting up our Alumni Network

What a year this has been so far and yet it has also highlighted many opportunities. Suddenly distance seems less of an issue in maintaining relationships as we are all now so familiar with technology. This highlighted to us the opportunity to begin to build our Alumni Network at this time and we would love your support to do this.

It is our hope over the next year that we can begin to build our alumni network and to run events for our alumni to bring everyone together and keep you up to date with all of the changes at Culham.

There have been a number of changes over the years as we became Europa School and most recently as we began delivering the IB but whether you attended the European School, Europa or even Culham College you have all been through the same site and have had many similar experiences.

We would love to have a group where you can share your memories, have a supportive network and share your experiences with our current students.

Please could you complete the attached google form to become part of our network and please do forward the form on to any other alumni that you know. We look forward to being able to create an Alumni Committee for our Culham and if this is a role which might interest you please do email alumni@europaschool.uk.

**Culhamni
Sign Up**

An S8's experience of working at school and how Covid-19 has affected my life

"Amelia, are you around in January to help us run a mass testing programme - only for about a month?"

This was the question posed to me in December while I was doing odd jobs around school, earning a bit of pocket money and giving myself something to do. I had just lost a job at a local pub and was watching the days tick by where I wasn't planning a life-changing, soul-defining, year-long travel experience around the globe.

My friends and I often joke about how the people at Europa are more like family than a school community, but I don't think any of us appreciated just how deep the support went until this year. It took one email from me, and Sophie and Anna were ready to offer any job they could find to those of us who were stuck on what was turning out to be a very uninspiring gap year.

The "month" I was offered to work as a Testing Operative at Culham Covid Control (the unofficial name for our Testing Team) turned into three months with two good friends and amazing Team Leader - Gabriel Kan - doing a job that gave us purpose... and the occasional dance routine. There is a lot to be said about learning a new job in a familiar environment. The teamwork and collective learning that grew from this experience was incredible; the feeling that



we were somehow facilitating the running of a whole educational institution during a pandemic endlessly rewarding.

After a, frankly, bizarre ending to my school career, and a daunting beginning of my gap year, my time as part of the testing team was a grounding and reassuring experience. Something I desperately needed in order to feel I had some semblance of control over plans that had been ripped out from under my feet. Overall, during a year of strange turns of events and uncertainty, the few months spent back at school were an unexpected joy.

Connect with us and each other on social media



The best things about our school are...

'The relationship
between everyone -
older students, younger
students and staff - it's
really relaxed'

'The feeling of
community and
openness to everyone'

'The overall happy
auro of everyone'

'Being able to connect
with many different
people'

'The kindness of the
staff'

'The diverse, inclusive
and friendly
environment'

Alissa S7 - 2021

'My name is Alissa and I've been at the Europa (formerly European) School since nursery. I'm currently in S7 working towards completing my final Baccalaureate exams. Having applied to university on deferred entry, I'll be doing a gap year. I plan to work for three months in Oxford, then travel in South-East Asia, and finish by living and working in Berlin for six months. Following my gap year, I hope to study Human, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge, for which I've received a conditional offer. After my degree, I would potentially be interested in pursuing a career in politics, my interest lying particularly in European politics.'

Our Time at Europa School Julia S7

What we love most about Europa is its relaxed and friendly environment, where student-teacher relationships are based on mutual respect and consideration. This idea of mutuality creates a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, which is greatly appreciated by students and teachers alike. The curriculum is broad and highly academic, but we are encouraged not on the premise of competition, rather cooperation, independence and self-reliance.

Our fun and extensive set of traditions and social events run by the S7 students bring the school together and set us apart from other schools. Although we have done things a bit differently this year because of the pandemic, our time as presidents has made us grateful to be able to continue our school traditions, from the Cabaret to Muck-up Day to the annual Bratwurst sale!

At Europa you'll find a great mix of people from all corners of the world, with big ideas, progressive thinking and a positive outlook on life. The wide range of cultures and nationalities teaches the students tolerance and acceptance of others. We could not feel luckier to be part of a school which is so original, exciting and welcoming.

S7 Future Plans

Max S7 - 2021

'After I finish at Europa, I'm studying for a degree in music at Oxford University! I'll be there for the next three years, learning all about different kinds of music from different parts of the world, while hopefully finding the time to make my own music, too - I'll continue to write and release my own songs together with my sister Silke, who also graduated from Culham.'



Touching Up the Artwork



Did you create any of the murals or artwork on the European School site? Our art students are busy refreshing them as they were starting to look a little tired.

Has it been 10 years already?

Once all Covid restrictions are lifted we would love to welcome the ESC students back to open their time capsules.

Please email alumni@europaschool.uk for more information

Europa School Gala Ball



Would you like to join us at Europa's Gala Ball and support the school. It is taking place at the Crazy Bear in Stadhampton.

We are raising money for our Capital Campaign for classrooms and sports facilities.

Join us for an evening of magic, music and fun.

Tickets are available here europaschooluk.org/gala-ball/

Time Capsules

Murals

Gala Ball

Music Soiree

2021 Music Soiree



The Music Soiree is still a highlight of the school calendar and this year the audience was digital. If you would like to see the amazing talent Europa fosters please use [this link](#).